

SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 4: SPRING 2019



It is difficult to believe that it is nearly May! The six months since our last newsletter have been very busy, and the coming months are already fully booked up until October. Read on to find out what we and our Community Teams have been up to, and what we have planned for this year.

ROCK ART RECORDING

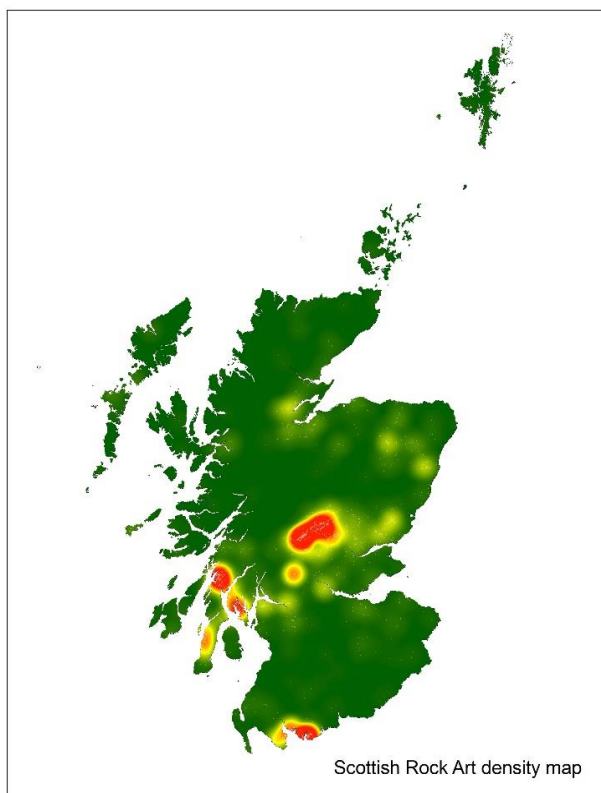
There have been some cracking conditions for rock art recording this winter/spring – dry and sunny, with low light highlighting the motifs. If you have any great rock art photos, we would love to see them!

We and our Community Teams have been out in all weathers recording rock art. Since February we have worked with our Teams in Highland, Dumfries and Galloway, Kilmartin, Stirlingshire, and Bute. In the next six months, our aim is to focus almost entirely on fieldwork and compile a big chunk of data by the end of this year. We can then begin data analysis early next year and start to develop a better understanding of the rock art.

PORT OF MENTIETH, STIRLINGSHIRE

In November, we spent two weeks recording at Nether Glenney and Ballochraggan near Port of Mentieth. We were joined by George Currie, and members of the three ACFA Teams and the Callander Team. It was full-on work and everyone did a fantastic job locating and recording over 60 panels. You can view all these on our website.

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Scottish Rock Art density map

Density of cup and ring carvings in Scotland based on Canmore data (red=most dense)



Some of the many fabulous carvings at Ballochraggan, Port of Mentieth



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

SCHOOL OF
SIMULATION AND
VISUALISATION
THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART



TRAINING AND AWARENESS RAISING

In the last six months, we have:

- Given 4 talks to local groups
- Given 1 conference presentation
- Held 4 'Get Togethers' with Community Teams
- Run 2 training sessions on 3D modelling, and enhancing and sharing 3D models
- Co-organised a 4-day Community recording and awareness-raising event



Faifley Community recording event, March 2019



Rock Art Bute Team clearing their new discovery

NEW DISCOVERIES

We have had some exciting new discoveries across the country in the last six months, including an unexpected find by the Rock Art Bute (RAB) Team. This massive sandstone outcrop features up to 100 motifs, making it the largest panel known on Bute!

The RAB Team requested landowner permission to remove the gorse bushes and vegetation covering the panel, revealing multiple cupmarks and hollows.



The newly discovered Lubas panel in southern Bute

PROGRESS

We now have over **400** completed records in our database. Well done everyone!

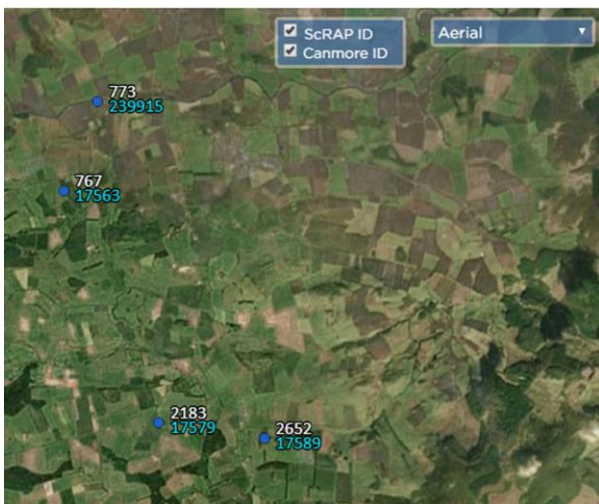
You can see the data, photos, sketches and 3D models for all these panels on our website – the recorded panels show as light blue dots on our website map.

There are also hundreds of panels currently being worked on by different teams and we hope to have well over 800 records in our database by the end of the year.

WEBSITE (WWW.ROCKART.SCOT)

We have made some improvements to our website map in the last six months:

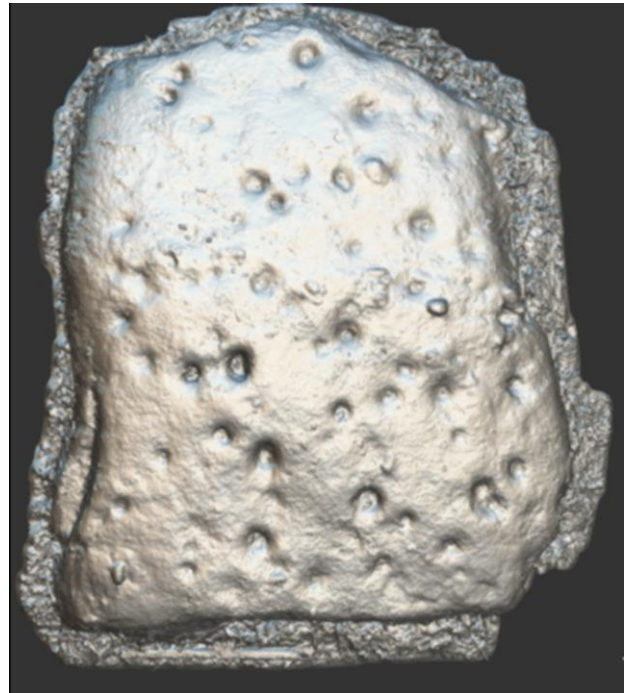
- Panels that we have not been able to locate appear as white dots
- Existing records that are actually natural features or not rock art appear as very pale blue dots
- You can view the Canmore and ScRAP ID numbers for panels by selecting the boxes on the top right of the map – you need to zoom in a bit before the numbers will display. The numbers should make it easier to find the correct rock art panel in the field.



We would love to hear what you think about our website! Please let us know if there are new features you would like to see added.

IS IT ROCK ART?

As our database grows, we are noticing some interesting patterns in the validity of the data. About 10% of the existing records are actually natural features (including one Scheduled Monument), and around 5% are other things, such as bait holes or other types of rock carvings.



Nether Glenny 16 (ScRAP ID 1806) is a large conglomerate slab, scheduled as a cup-marked stone with about a dozen motifs. However, the cup-shaped depressions are all natural features.

A number of other conglomerate boulders and outcrops in this area have also been recorded as rock art but are natural. Beware the conglomerate!

CREATING ROCK ART

Rock art is a source of inspiration for many people, and we are keen to encourage creative responses to Scotland's cup and ring carvings. We would love to hear from you if you are doing something creative, or interested in creating something based around rock art.



Creating community rock art: Motifs painted onto three dimensional 'rocks' by members of the Faifley community. The 'rocks' were made in felt and cardboard by Edinburgh College of Art student Lucy Killoran (shown here). Lucy has been working with ScRAP since last July, and is now completing her final degree work inspired by rock art. Good luck Lucy!

Panel sketches that form part of the record for each panel are another type of creative output. Maya's drawing of the wonderful Baluachraig 1 panel in Kilmartin is a work of art!

This panel is cared for by Historic Environment Scotland and is easily accessible to the public.

Baluachraig 1
Panel sketch
27/02/2019



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FACEBOOK

You can find out more about what we are doing by following our regular updates on the ScRAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ScotlandsRockArt/>

AND FINALLY...

Remember that this newsletter is sent to Team members and people who have subscribed via our website following the **Quick Link** to **Newsletters**.



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