

SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

NEWSLETTER 9: WINTER 2021



Time has rushed by so quickly and we are now rapidly approaching the end of the project! Since our last newsletter we have been very busy getting everything completed, as well as analysing all the data co-produced with our Community Teams. In this final Newsletter we summarise some of the key outcomes of the project and look forward to what happens after ScRAP. You can read more about this in the following sections: **Completing Recording, Data Analysis, ScRAP Website and Database, and Project Legacy.**

COMPLETING RECORDING

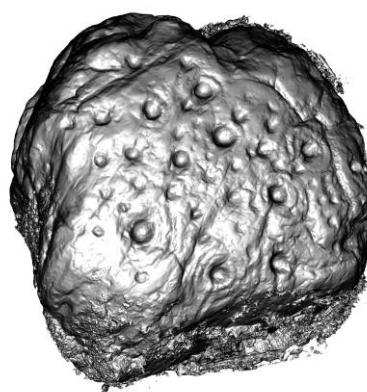
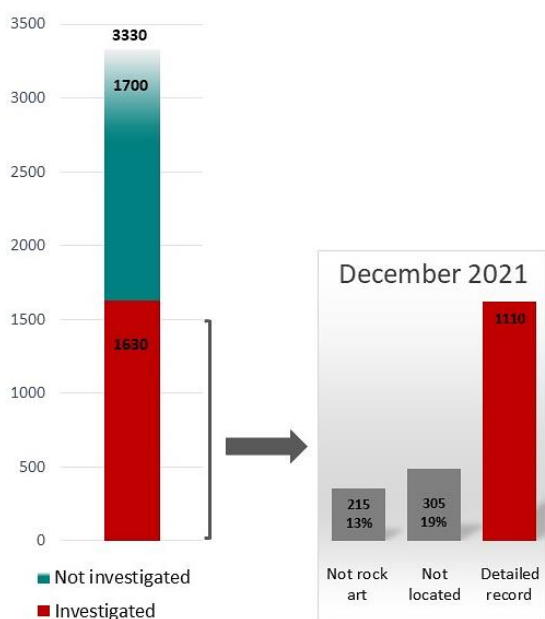
We had a deadline of 1 September for completing rock art recording and data upload to our database. Since our last Newsletter, we and our Community Teams have been working hard to finish off any partially completed rock art records, and some team have also been able to do more fieldwork.

As a result, together we have completed a grand total of **1630** rock art records (this would have been well over 2300 records if Covid had not happened!). These are publicly accessible on our website.

This takes the total number of rock art records in our database to 3330, although 1700 of these have not yet been investigated.

Not all the existing records we investigated are rock art – 215 were natural or later human-made features, such as bait holes or historical boundary markers. A further 300 or so panels were looked for but could not be found and verified. Some of these may have been hidden by turf or vegetation, others are likely to have been moved or destroyed.

So, in total, we have co-produced 1110 detailed rock art records and over 1000 3D models with our Community Teams. This is a fantastic achievement, and an incredibly valuable resource for studying, managing and enjoying rock art!



Left: Chart showing the number of rock art panels investigated and recorded in detail during ScRAP. 250 of the records were new discoveries, like Whitelaw Hill (above), found by Douglas Ledingham from the Edinburgh, Lothians and Fife (ELF) Team

DATA ANALYSIS

Since our last newsletter, we have been hard at work analysing the detailed data and 3D models collected with our Community Teams. Because we use a standardised recording methodology we can compare and analyse the data at different scales, from the motifs and rock surface, to the natural and archaeological contexts of the panels.

We will be presenting our results at our final webinar on **Monday 13 December 17.30-19.00**.

We really hope you can join us then! You will need to register for the event by 10pm on Sunday 12 December.

You can find more details about the talk and how to register on our website:

<https://www.rockart.scot/events/scrap-webinars/scrap-webinar-12/>

If you are not able to join us, we will be recording the webinar and posting the video on our website webinars page before the Christmas break:

<https://www.rockart.scot/events/scrap-webinars/>



SCOTLAND'S
ROCK ART WEBINAR 12
PROJECT

**Not Set in Stone: New Perspectives
on Scotland's Rock Art**

The ScRAP Team

Monday 13 December 2021, 17.30-19.00

for details and registration see:
www.rockart.scot/events/webinars
or contact: scrap@hes.scot

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA | Arts & Humanities Research Council | SCHOOL OF SIMULATION AND VISUALISATION THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ARTS

SCRAP WEBSITE AND DATABASE

All our data, digital images and 3D models will continue to be publicly accessible on the ScRAP website for several years after the project finishes.

In the longer-term, the plan is to integrate our website into **Heritage Hub**, an online portal currently being developed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). However, our database will be static from now on, and will gradually diverge from Canmore which will be continually updated with new material.

To ensure that all our data and digital images form part of the dynamic record of Scotland's historic environment, and are publicly accessible in the longer-term, our digital archivist, Freddie, has spent the last eight months transferring copies of the entire database to Canmore, the HES digital archives, and Edinburgh University DataShare, as well as sharing relevant data with regional Historic Environment Records.

This has been a complex and lengthy process, and we are delighted that everything is now appropriately archived at HES.

The ScRAP collection in HES contains over 100,000 digital image files, including sketches, conventional photographs, 3D model snapshots and exports, and original photogrammetry photos.

16,000 of these are publicly viewable on Canmore. The rest are the 3D model exports and the original photogrammetry photos – there are too many of these to display on Canmore, but you can request copies of them from HES Public Services).

You can access the whole ScRAP collection here:

<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/2173094>

Freddie is also putting together some guidance about how to access the ScRAP data on Canmore, which you will soon be able to download from our website Guidance page:

<https://www.rockart.scot/resources/guidance1/>

PROJECT LEGACY

After ScRAP

We very much hope that our Community Teams and others will continue recording rock art after ScRAP finishes. To help with this, we have produced some guidance on what to record, and a revised recording form that aims to capture as a wide range of detail in a standardised way, based on the ScRAP recording methodology.

You can find the updated guidance notes and recording form on our website Guidance page here, along with all the rest of the ScRAP guidance for reference:

<https://www.rockart.scot/resources/guidance1/>

We also hope that you will want to share your records with others by uploading them to Canmore. There are two main routes for this:

MyCanmore: for anyone to add information and images to existing Canmore records. This information is not validated and does not go into the Canmore archive, but is displayed publicly on Canmore. You can register to upload data via MyCanmore here:

<https://canmore.org.uk/contributions>

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES): for anyone to report new discoveries. These will be published in the DES journal each year and added to Canmore annually. Images uploaded to DES are currently not displayed on Canmore, but this system is undergoing review and may change. You can register to upload data to DES here:

<https://des.rcahms.gov.uk/>

We have also established two 'ScRAP Legacy Officers' in HES who will be able to provide longer-term support for our Community Teams and help with data upload and verification of rock art.

If you have any enquiries about rock art, please send your email to HES Customer Services:

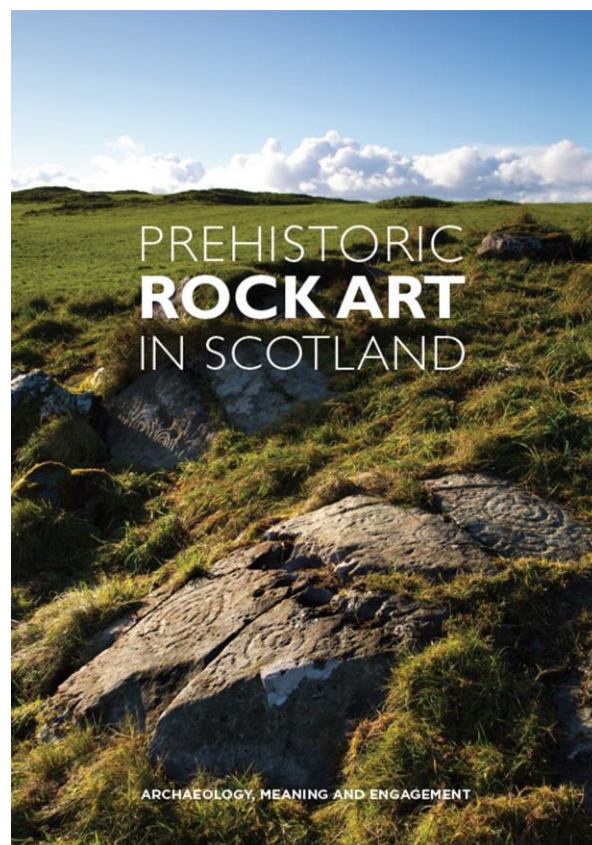
customer@HES.scot who will be able to direct your enquiry to the appropriate person in HES.

Sharing our Results

A key aim of ScRAP is to share the outcomes of our research as widely as possible. In the last few months we have given several conference presentations (Archaeological Research in Progress, British Rock Art Group, and European Association of Archaeologists), and been featured in a number of non-academic publications, including the recent Archaeology Strategy magazine: Celebrating Archaeology in Scotland, which you can [download here](#).

We have submitted an academic article on the Dunchraigaig deer carvings, discovered last year in Kilmartin, and are currently working on three further academic articles focussing on different aspects of our research and planned for publication in 2022. All our academic publications will be Open Access, and will be free for public access online.

We are very excited that our booklet about Scotland's rock art has just been published! You can [download it from our website here](#).



SCRAP PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

Our **Photography Challenge** closed for entries on 30 September. We had lots of fabulous photographs submitted, so thank you to everyone who took part! Our expert judging panel had a hard task shortlisting the entries but eventually decided on the winner for each category. You can see all the winning entries on our website [Photography Challenge Winners page](#).

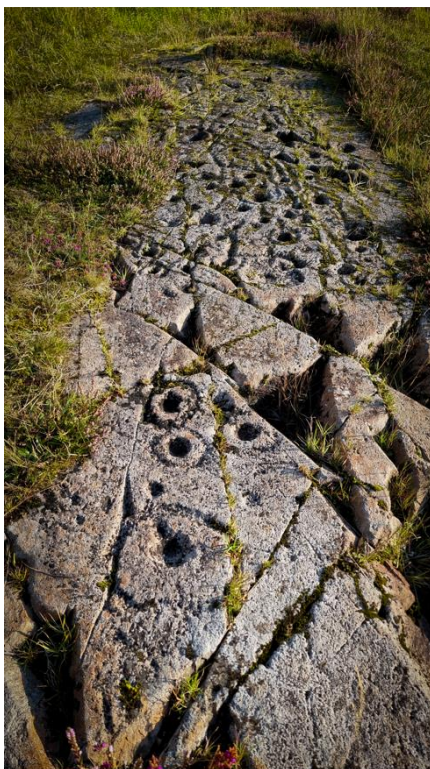


ScRAP Photography Challenge First Prize Winners

Left: In the Landscape **First Prize Winner – Douglas Scott**

Below Left: On the Rocks **First Prize Winner – Stephanie Summers**

Below Right: Engaging with Rock Art **First Prize Winner – Douglas Ledingham**



AND FINALLY...

This has been a fantastic (challenging!) five years for us. Together with our Community Teams and the many others who have generously contributed their time and expertise to the project, we have been able to cover a huge amount of ground. Although ScRAP is ending, the project has laid firm foundations for future rock art research, management, and enjoyment that will last for many decades.

Goodbye! Thank you for sharing this exciting journey with us, and we wish you all the very best!

Tertia, Joana, Linda, Freddie, Stuart, Guillaume and Maya (the ScRAP Team past and present)



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

SCHOOL OF
SIMULATION AND
VISUALISATION
THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART

