

## NOSAS, SAM, HAF and The Year of Homecoming

Fraser Hunter tells the story of Birnie, September 2008

Colin Renfrew, former Disney Professor of Archaeology at Cambridge, once said that although the immediate aim of most archaeological research is to answer specific questions, the fundamental purpose of archaeology 'must be to provide people with a better understanding of the human past.'

In recent years charismatic archaeologists such as Mick Aston, Julian Richards and Fraser Hunter have made archaeology accessible to a wider audience through television and events like SAM and HAF. People have become aware that the 'past' is not confined to special, defined places but is literally all around and that each locality has its own unique historic character defined by both the visible and below-ground remains that can be enjoyed by all. In the words of John Triggs, the Canadian Archaeologist 'the past belongs to us all' and it is the task of the archaeologist 'to place these individual historical episodes within a larger context for people to fully appreciate their significance, whether on a regional or global scale.'

Scottish Archaeology Month (SAM), Highland Archaeology Festival (HAF) and the events associated with the Year of Homecoming give the community of armchair archaeologists the opportunity to explore their past in the field and NOSAS members are playing an active and crucial role in telling the story of the changing landscape around us.

### The NOSAS Contribution to Scottish Archaeology Month, Highland Archaeology Festival and The Year of Homecoming

Wednesday 23 September

10.00am-5.00pm

The Archaeology of Strathconon.

A fascinating exhibition of the results and findings of the NOSAS Strathconon project – it demonstrates the many aspects of a busy rural way of life going back hundreds of years in this once well-populated glen.

Strathconon Village Hall, Milton, Strathconon (NH307555).

NOSAS Tel: 01349 861824

Friday 25 September

10.30am –3.30pm

Archaeology Survey Day with SRP

Join Historic Assynt's Archaeological Survey Team for a surveying workshop on a current site.

The workshop will provide basic training in plane table survey and recording.

Gordon Sleight, Historic Assynt Tel: 01571 855207



SAM and HAF Programme

1-4

Glengarry

5

Auchindrain

5

Strathconon

6

Mulchaich and Rogie

7

Rosemarkie Update

8

SRP News

8

Laikenbuie and

Applecross

9

Lonemore

9

NOSAS Diary

10

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

**Saturday 26 September**

**10.00am-5.00pm**

**The Archaeology of Strathconon.**

An exhibition of the results and findings of the NOSAS Strathconon project - it demonstrates the many aspects of a busy rural way of life going back hundreds of years in this once well-populated glen.

Strathconon Village Hall, Milton, Strathconon (NH307555).  
NOSAS Tel: 01349 861824

**10.00am-12 noon**

**Walk to Caird's Cave**

People have used caves from the earliest prehistoric period in Scotland. We will walk along the beach from Rosemarkie, to look at Caird's Cave, one of the many caves along the Moray Firth shore. Find out more about people's occupation of caves, and in particular, Caird's Cave with its evidence of Iron Age bone-working and much later use by the Travelling Folk.

Meet at Rosemarkie Beach Car Park

ARCH 01997 421171

**Saturday 3 October**

**2.00pm-4.00pm**

**High Spy Archaeology at Carn Liath Broch, Golspie.**

A guided tour of the well preserved broch at Carn Liath - and a chance to use High Spy techniques for aerial photography.

Meet at Carn Liath car park (NC87040137).

Children welcome if accompanied by an adult. ARCH

**Sunday 4 October**

**11.00am-3.00pm**

**Three Hundred Years of "Living on the Edge" in Strathconon.**

Explore a complex multi-period landscape.

Walk 1 (medium): Stills and Shielings in Strathconon, discover how stills and shielings helped people make a living in days gone by - 6km of rough walking with some uphill sections.

Walk 2 (easy): pre- and post improvement settlements in Strathconon. Discover evidence of settlement going back centuries, with shielings, corn drying kilns and other sites to explore. 3-4km of flat walking, rough in places.

Meet at Scardroy car park, 17m west of Marybank

(NH227519). Booking essential for Walk 1.

Accompanying exhibition.

NOSAS Tel: 01349 861824

**10.00am-5.00pm**

**The Archaeology of Strathconon.**

An exhibition of the results and findings of the NOSAS Strathconon project - it demonstrates the many aspects of a busy rural way of life going back hundreds of years in this once well-populated glen.

Strathconon Village Hall, Milton, Strathconon (NH307555).  
NOSAS Tel: 01349 861824

**North Of Scotland Archaeological Society**

**Tuesday 6 October**

**7.30pm-9.00pm**

**Recent Archaeological Investigations on the Tarbat Peninsula.**

An evening talk jointly organised by Archaeology for the Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) and the Tarbat Discovery Centre Trust. A sharing of findings from recent archaeological investigations on the Tarbat peninsula by archaeologist Cait McCullagh, including a discussion of the recently recovered 14th century carved stone capital, currently on display at the Tarbat Discovery Centre.

Meet at the Centre - booking essential. ARCH & Tarbat

Discovery Centre Trust

Tel: 01862 871351

**Wednesday 7 October**

**10.00am-12.30pm**

**The Picts that were in Edderton.**

Join Reay D. G. Clarke for a tour of the places where the Picts left their mark in Edderton - including a standing stone, a stone circle and Pictish carved stones in graveyard and East Church.

Meet at Edderton East Church car park

(NH719842). Edderton Community Council

Tel: 01862 821206

**10.30am-4.00pm**

**Iron Age Assynt.**

A tour of some of Assynt's coastal Iron Age sites including brochs, duns and a souterrain.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park (NC039273).

Bring a packed lunch. To help with numbers, please book in advance.

Gordon Sleight, Historic Assynt Tel: 01571 855207

**Thursday 8 October**

**1.30pm-4.00pm**

**A Guided Tour of Lonemore Township.**

Join Gairloch Heritage Museum and Anne MacInnes for a guided tour of the Lonemore Township area being recorded for Scotland's Rural Past project (SRP).

Meet at Gairloch Heritage Museum.

Please bring wellies. Booking essential - max 12 places per tour.

Anne MacInnes and Gairloch Heritage Museum

Tel: 01445 712287

**Dig/Walkover Survey at Ardjackie Point**

(Ness of Portnaculter)

Contact Tain Museum

Tel: 01862 894089



## Friday 9 October

10.00am-12.30pm

### The Hill of Edderton.

Join Reay and Jane Clarke for a visit to Hill of Edderton to see old croft sites, cruck-framed cottage and photos and records of former crofts.

Meet at Edderton East Church car park (NH719842).

Reay and Jane Clarke Tel: 01862 821206

### Dig/Walkover Survey at Ardjackie Point

(Ness of Portnaculter)

Contact Tain Museum

Tel: 01862 894089

10.00am-12.30pm

### Rogie Township Walk.

Meet at Rogie Falls' car park, near Garve (NH441584) for a 10km walk through Torrachility forest to the scattered townships of Rogie.

Booking essential - please call 01463 791575. This event is supported by Forest Heritage Scotland which is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland and RCAHMS.

[www.forestheritagescotland](http://www.forestheritagescotland).

## Saturday 10 October

1.45pm-4.30pm

### A Walk in the Hills.

Anne Combs leads an exploration with Historylinks Museum and Rogart Heritage Society of the depopulated township of Leataidh.

Meet at Blarich Bridge by Rogart (NC696041).

No dogs please.

Historylinks Tel: 01862 811275

## Sunday 11 October

10.00pm-4.00pm

### Cattle, Herrings, Shielings, Champion Trees and More.

An introduction to the archaeology and history of Loch Hourn, Scotland's most spectacular sea loch. Pre-history to late Victorian. Minimum distance approx 5 miles, may walk further if the weather is good. Participants must be fit and sure-footed. Narrow uneven path with steep ascents and descents. Full hill-walking gear essential. Unsuitable for children under 10.

Bring packed lunch and binoculars. Meet at the day car park Lochourhead - small charge applies (NG94830670 on Explorer 414 / Explorer 413 also applies to the walk).

John Wombell Tel: 01997 423273

10.30am-4.30pm

### The Kilfeddermore Smiddy Rescue Excavation.

The River Brora is eroding a ruined building at Kilfeddermore Township, cleared in 1820. Slag has been found in the eroding face. A rescue excavation commenced in June 2009. Come and see the incredible site!

Meet at Brora Heritage Centre (NC897042) or at the site by prior arrangement.

Bring a packed lunch.

Nick Lindsay, Clyne Heritage Society Tel: 01408 621338

## Tuesday 13 October

2.00pm-4.00pm

### High Spy Archaeology at Conon Bridge Henge.

A guided tour of the small henge in Conon Bridge - and a chance to use High Spy techniques for aerial photography.

Meet at Conon Bridge Henge (NH542550) - park on Station Road. Children welcome if accompanied by an adult.

ARCH Tel: 01997 421171

## Wednesday 14 October

11.00am-3.00pm

### Recording Hut Circles.

Join a group of volunteers recording Hut Circles. This is part of a project for an Aberdeen University dissertation.

The aim is to collect, collate and study detailed data on hut circles and their landscape settings in Wester Ross. Bring a packed lunch.

Meet at Latheron car park, by Tesco, Ullapool.

Booking essential.

Anna Welti Tel: 01854 612647

## Thursday 15 October

2.00pm-4.00pm

### Bronze Age Burials from Seafield to Raigmore.

An illustrated talk about the important Bronze Age burials found under the present Inverness Retail Park and the A9 near Raigmore, followed by a walk to the relocated Raigmore cairn. Meet at Raigmore Community Centre (NH687450).

Children welcome if accompanied by an adult.

ARCH Tel: 01997 421171

1.30pm-4.00pm

### A Guided Tour of Lonemore Township.

Join Gairloch Heritage Museum and Anne MacInnes for a guided tour of the Lonemore Township area being recorded for Scotland's Rural Past project (SRP). Meet at Gairloch Heritage Museum. Please bring wellies.

Booking essential - max 12 places per tour.

Anne MacInnes and Gairloch Heritage Museum

Tel: 01445 712287

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society



Saturday 17 - Sun 18 October

10.00am-5.00pm

**What's New in Highland Archaeology?**

Conference at the Spectrum Centre, Inverness.

Organised by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, this event provides a platform for archaeologists who have recently been working in the Highlands to present the results of their work to local people and visitors alike. Entry is free, so drop in for as long or as little as you like. Coffee and lunches will be available for purchase during the event.

Tel: 01463 718 505.

## RCAHMS Homecoming Walks, Glen Bannocher and Strathconon

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) has organised three walks on 'Discovering Scotland's Rural Past' that will fascinate and enlighten in equal measures. The 'Stills and Shielings in Strathconon' walk explores the reliance of people on their cattle and the distillation of illicit whisky - Strathconon was a "no-go" area for the Excise man!

The 'Pre-improvement and Improvement settlements in Strathconon' walk explores the lower ground of Strathconon where the remains of sheep farming and deer stalking are still visible alongside shielings, corn drying kilns and other sites. Both of these fascinating walks are being led by the North of Scotland Archaeological Society.

'Rural History comes alive in Glen Bannocher' is led by Steve Boyle of the RCAHMS and Bob Powell of the Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore. The walk will comprise a fascinating tour of rural settlements in Glen Bannocher, abandoned in the 19th century and a visit and guided tour around the Highland Folk Museum where one of the settlements has been reconstructed.

The walks are on the 21st and 22nd of October and are FREE. Booking is essential as numbers are limited. Please contact SRP staff at RCAHMS on 0131 662 1456 or [srp@rcahms.gov.uk](mailto:srp@rcahms.gov.uk). Suitable outdoor clothing, general fitness and surefootedness are essential for all the walks which range from two to three hours duration.

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

Wednesday 21 October 10.30 am

**Discovering Scotland's Rural Past: Walk 1:  
Stills and Shielings in Strathconon**

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk>

**Discovering Scotland's Rural Past: Walk 2:  
Pre-improvements and Improvement Settlements in  
Strathconon**

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk>

Thursday 22 October 10.30 am

**Discovering Scotland's Rural Past: Walk 3:  
Rural History comes alive in Glen Bannocher**

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk>

## Geocaching in the Highlands

If you have a GPS device, you can then search for hidden caches at a number of archaeological sites and other locations throughout Easter Ross (and the Highlands) and learn something of the history of the site from the cache webpage. Visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) for more information and to register.

There should be no need to dig or move stones as the cache is not located at the archaeological site but nearby.

Contact [martin.hind@highland.gov.uk](mailto:martin.hind@highland.gov.uk) if you have registered and got involved in Geocaching through reading this note.

Geocaches with historical interest in Easter Ross and the Black Isle include David's Fort, Fletchers Rest, Ach yer trapped!, Redcastle Crannogs and Yairs of the Beaully Firth.



The 'moat', David's Fort, Conon Bridge



## Homecoming Expedition at Glengarry

On the 28<sup>th</sup> July Ruari Watt, a Forestry Commission ranger, and myself jointly led a party of 8 people on a visit to 3 settlement sites overlooking Loch Garry, 1 on the north side and 2 on the south. This expedition was just one of a number arranged by the Forestry Commission as its contribution to the 'Year of the Homecoming'.

I was first approached to assist with this project in the autumn of last year but it was not until December that we, Ruari and I, began working on a possible methodology.

It was quickly concluded that 3 sites gave more scope than 2 in developing a storyline and that the most practical way to access the sites on the south side, Laddie and Bolinn, was by water. This was particularly true of Laddie.

When approached, the manager of the Marine Harvest base at Ardochy was pleased to be able to help but could spare only 2 boats, which restricted numbers to a maximum of twelve. I was asked not to be too scholarly when developing a script but to use personal names and folk tales where possible. The title I chose – 'Clearances-What Clearances?' – was deliberately provocative because Parish Registers and Census Returns showed that the settlements were not emptied at the same time as the letters of eviction were issued but occupation continued for varying periods. Daingean remained occupied for over a century after the initial clearance.

Starting from the Heritage Centre at the Community Hall in Invergarry we went to the Farans viewpoint where we addressed the main issues of landscape change, settlement loss and folk tales. On to Daingean, where the evocative proximity of the early sheep fank (OS sheepfold) to the house sites and corn kilns, the transition from turf building to stone cottage and the Census Returns show a progressive change from farmer to shepherd to gamekeeper.

From the Marine Harvest base a boat took us to Laddie where it was possible to name the 1802 emigrants and identify the last house recorded as being occupied in 1861. Finally to Bolinn to see the remains of stone houses without cruck slots and hear about the emigrants of 1802 and the final abandonment of the settlement after 1819.

*Hector Rogers*



Loch Garry from Daingean

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

## Auchindrain



Auchindrain Township

In the last issue of the Newsletter members will recall Steve Boyle's warning that the Auchindrain Township Museum was under threat of closure.

Auchindrain is unique in the fact that it is not a reconstruction but is the actual township, preserved as it was when Eddie MacCallum gave up his tenancy in 1962.

The good news is that the Kilmartin House Trust has been awarded funding to employ an Education and Outreach Officer to develop educational and volunteer opportunities in Kilmartin House Museum, Auchindrain and Campbeltown Museum. Heritage projects, like Auchindrain, are still under threat with the squeeze on funding but, for the moment, the Township Museum appears to be safe and well worth a visit on the way to Kilmartin Glen.



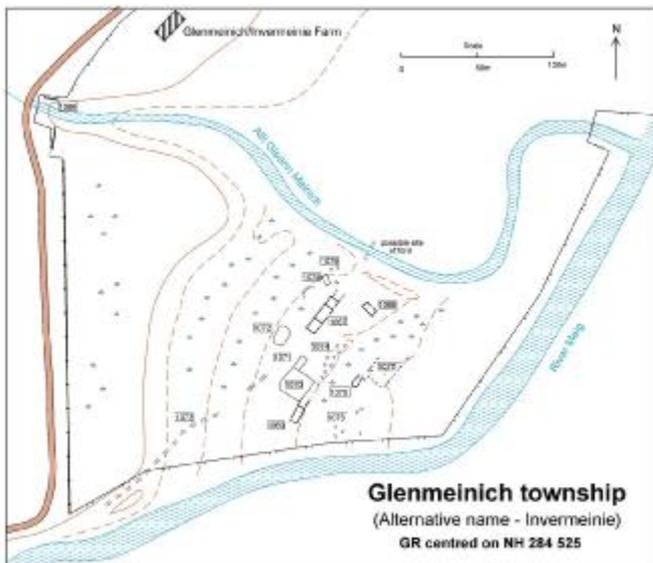
MacNicol's House and Stable



# The Strathconon Project

Several more field days have taken place in the last few months and the fieldwork for Phase 4 is now complete. Three more possible still bothies have been recorded in this part of the glen and a multitude of shielings above Inverchoran. An interesting and complex farmstead on several terraces was also located at Invermeinie and has been recorded.

The terraces themselves are of particular interest geologically, in that they are the remains of former floodplains that were formed when the river was at a higher level than at present. The farmstead is large, measuring 30m x 5m overall, and the remaining walls are substantial. In addition there were 19 pits, two possible corn-drying kilns and other features at this site.



A complex system of water management has been recorded at Milltown. As the name suggests there has been much management of water over the years and at least 4 phases of mills have been recorded here. The first is represented by the very wasted remains of a structure close to the main burn; a "mill" is marked on the 1825 estate plan. Phases 2 and 3 seem to be the main period of activity and are represented by the grain mill now renovated and used as the Visitor Centre and picnic place at Milltown. A very overgrown millpond and lade which extends for 800m to the Allt Mor is associated.

Phase 4 is more recent. A wheelpit, a second mill pond and grossly overgrown substantial stone lined lade comprise a sawmill and were probably constructed during WW2.

## Strathconon Dates for your diary

Help will be needed for the forthcoming events in Strathconon during September and October. Please let me know if you can help on any of these days and at which event - or even more than one perhaps? [Meryl.marshall@tesco.net](mailto:Meryl.marshall@tesco.net)

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

1. Following the very successful display of our project at the Strathconon Games last year we are putting on a more comprehensive and semi permanent exhibition in the Community Hall, Milltown, Strathconon for the period from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. The Hall will be open during this period for anyone to browse the exhibition but NOSAS will be holding "manned" days on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept (SAM events), Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (HAF event) and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct (part of Year of Homecoming 2009 day in the glen). Help will be needed to man the exhibition for these 4 days. You do not need to know the glen and its archaeology, just so long as you have the ability to chat with folk. More experienced people will be on hand for the difficult questions! There is the possibility of us providing cups of tea too!

2. HAF walk - Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Oct - this is a pre-"run" of the walk on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, see below

3. "Year of the Homecoming 2009" walk (part of the Inverness Conference "Scotland's Global Impact"). Two walks are to take place, both starting at the Scardroy car park at the west end of the glen at 10.30am and lasting 3-4hrs. Help will be needed for both walks to chaperone and generally look after folk

Walk 1 - 'Stills and shielings in Strathconon'. Requires a certain amount of fitness and surefootedness. Distance: 6kms, the walk includes some uphill sections and mostly involves rough stalker's tracks and possibly some short, boggy paths.

Walk 2 - 'Pre-improvement and Improvement settlements in Strathconon'. Shorter and less strenuous, this walk stays on the lower ground. Distance: 2-4kms.

Both walks will finish at about 2.00pm and a lunch will be provided by the local community at the Strathconon Village Hall, Milton. The exhibition on the Strathconon project will also be on display in the village hall on this day.

*M. Marshall*



Post Glacial Terraces and the present day floodplain of the Meig at Invermeinie.



## The Ferintosh/Mulchaich Project

Two more full field days have taken place at Mulchaich since the SRP training in March. Half the East settlement has been drawn up, but the vegetation cover in July prevented completion of the other half and it has been abandoned until the winter months.

At the West settlement however we were able to finish the planetable survey and it has been drawn up. Five of the six buildings are of similar construction. They have the remains of solid stone footings on substantial turf and stone platforms. The platforms have underbuild of as much as 1m at their lower ends. The wall footings are generally of stone and turf, although in some places they have double faced stonework with a rubble core, clearly they have been extensively robbed of their stone. Two of the six buildings are large kilns with barns and it is speculated that each of the buildings may have had a part to play in the process of whisky making. This may well be the site of the large distillery constructed c1782 as local knowledge has it, and perhaps it led to the uproar which caused "the privilege" to be withdrawn in 1784 meeting the other distillers complaints about the injustice of the competition from Ferintosh whisky.

Stirling University is interested in doing a multi-element soil analysis survey of the site to help us answer some of the questions that have arisen during the Project. This is likely to take place in the next couple of months and we may well need a squad of members to clean out the kiln bowl so that they can get down to the old activity layers of the bowl.

Twelve NOSAS members also undertook a walkover survey of the field in between the 2 settlements in April; nothing of great interest was found apart from a very worn George 111 penny. George 111 ruled from 1813 to 1819 and its finding fits with known use of the settlements.

*M. Marshall*

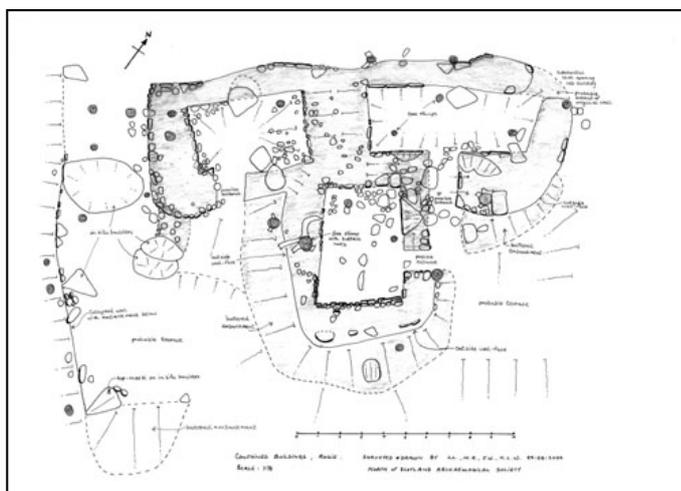
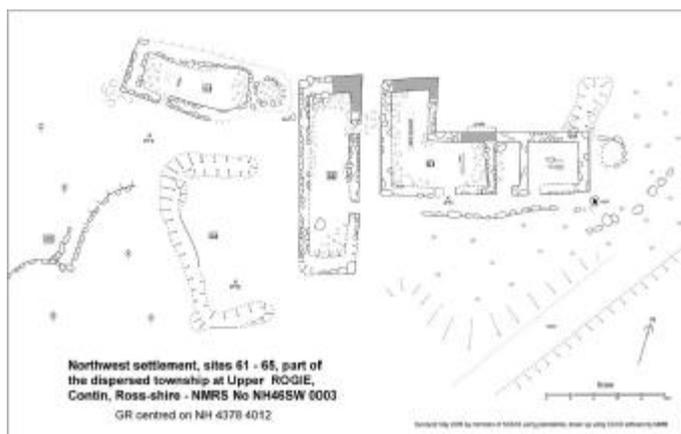


## Planetabling at Rogie



The Rogie project is almost complete, and in May teams of NOSAS members surveyed and recorded the western group of buildings, which comprises 4 buildings and an enclosure. While 'onsite' the opportunity was also taken to survey the mystery building on the ridge.

*M. Marshall*



'The mystery building'

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society



## Rosemarkie Coastal Caves Project

At a recent meeting of the project co-ordinating committee it was decided to seek funding and support for a small scale excavation of Caird's Cave, to the east of Rosemarkie under the cliffs at Scart Craig.

It is assumed that this is the cave excavated by Dr Maclean between 1907 and 1912 and whose finds now form part of the Maclean Collection at the National Museum in Edinburgh. Maclean, however, never identified the cave by name simply referring to it as 'a cave at Rosemarkie' or 'a cave in the Black Isle' and the primary objective of the planned excavation is to ascertain whether Caird's Cave is the site that Maclean dug.

It is also hoped that funding and time will allow for the investigation of the extent of the shell middens below the cave and lay the foundations for a more detailed study of 'traveller archaeology', given the documentary evidence of travellers using the caves at both Rosemarkie and Learnie.



The entrance to Caird's Cave, Rosemarkie

## RCAHMS/SRP Historical Document Research Training

The next historic document training course is set to take place in January 2010 at the recently built Highland Council Archive Centre in Inverness. This course introduces participants to the many archaeological, documentary and historic sources available to help research historic rural settlement sites. Details of this training course are on the SRP website *What's on* page and we are registering people who are interested in taking part. Information about our other courses will also be made available on the website as soon as we have our dates fixed. You can contact us about the Inverness training or any of our other courses by emailing us at [srp@rcahms.gov.uk](mailto:srp@rcahms.gov.uk).

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

## Scotland's Rural Past Conference November 2009

Saturday 14 November

**Gordon Sleight, Historic Assynt**

*Changing buildings in Assynt*

**John Dye, Ken and Jean Bowker, Moidart History Group**

*High Mingarry*

**Glyn Jones, Glen Muick SRP Group**

*The Glen Muick SRP project, Aberdeenshire*

**Maggie Hancock and Jennie Hynd, High Mathernock Project, Renfrewshire**

*The mills of Mathernock,*

**Dave Walsh, Kinnettles & District Heritage Group**

*A multitude of mylnis in Strathkerbet, Angus*

**Neill Malcolm, Appin Historical Society**

*Discovering Cuil*

**John Barrett, Strath Avon Survey**

*Doing a lot with a little: SAS Mission creep, Moray*

**Susan Walker, Sleat Historical Society**

*Rediscovering the lost turf townships of Baravaig and Camuscross, Isle of Skye*

**Dave and Carol Godwin, Bostadh Archaeological Group**

*Rediscovering the abandoned township of Bostadh, Isle of Lewis*

**Bill Patterson, Mull Historical & Archaeological Society**

*Teaching, Learning and doing -cascading the SRP way at Antium and Kildavie*

Workshops and events will be held throughout the day.

These will include:

- Site photography
- Woodland archaeology and your SRP project
- Living history with Walking Theatre

There will also be lots more going on, including an exciting range of SRP projects on display, demonstrations of survey equipment, short films, and a drop-in clinic dedicated to RCAHMS and SRP resources. SRP and RCAHMS staff will be on hand to show you how to access or enter data on-line.

Sunday 15 November

Optional guided walk to a local rural settlement site with specialists. The walk is free but places need to be booked. To apply, please complete the relevant section on the conference booking form.

Venue

Ben Nevis Hotel and Leisure Club

North Road

Fort William PH33 6TG

Conference details and booking forms available on our website.

[www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk](http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk)



## ACFA survey of Laikenbuie Cairnfield

The Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA) are a Glasgow based group and are very keen to meet up with members of NOSAS.

Ten of the group are coming to work at Laikenbuie Cairnfield (Grid Reference NH909520 just South of Nairn off the Nairn to Grantown road) between the 26th and 28th of September. They came for a couple of days in March and did a general survey of the site and in September they are intend to do a detailed survey of each of the cairns with a walkover survey of the surrounding landscape.

NOSAS members would be very welcome to take part in the survey and it has also been suggested that NOSAS and ACFA could meet at the 'Covenanters' at Auldearn for a more sociable evening.

Anyone interested should contact Ronnie Scott, at [ronnie.scott375@btinternet.com](mailto:ronnie.scott375@btinternet.com) or phone 01667493375

## Applecross Broch 2009

The Applecross Archaeological Society has been excavating a broch/round house at Applecross, and I am happy to announce that we have secured funding for a fifth season of excavation.

This year, under the direction of Cathy Dagg, we hope to uncover the final quadrant of the site and finally reveal whether it is indeed a broch or a round house.

In past years we have been very privileged to have the experience and enthusiasm of NOSAS members during the excavation and we would like to extend an invite to any NOSAS members to come and be involved in our 2009 excavation, from the 5th to the 20th of September.

The Applecross campsite has kindly made available 4 camping huts, as well as free camping/caravanning to accommodate helpers. Camping huts will be allocated on a 'first come- first served' basis, but unfortunately there are NO Camping huts available on the 11th and 12th. (i.e. the weekend in the middle of the dig).

If you are interested in attending this years dig, please either contact Mary Peteranna (on [ampeteranna@aol.com](mailto:ampeteranna@aol.com)) or contact me directly (on [owenkilbride@yahoo.com](mailto:owenkilbride@yahoo.com)) with the dates you would like to attend.

*Owen Kilbride*

*Chair- Applecross Archaeological Society*

Last year's interim report is now online on the HER and you can find it by following the below link, then click on the icon under "Reports":

<http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=EHG3006>

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

## The History and Development of the Lonemore Crofting Township

Lonemore Crofting Township lies on the western edge of the village now known as Gairloch. The township consists of 27 crofts, a definite head dyke, and it shares its common grazing with the townships of Smithstown and Mihol. Driving past Lonemore today all you would notice are the modern houses, however, amongst these are many ruins and evidence of crofting life, which along with the social history and memories from local families, provide an insight into its crofting past.

A small group of us decided to investigate further, so we have delved in the local archives, surveyed the ruins, mapped the crofts, including the field walls, and are now putting on an exhibition of findings. We have already given a presentation to the community. The final hurdle, still to be resolved, is putting all this information onto the SRP database!

Our SRP project group has an exhibition on the history and development of Lonemore in the Gairloch museum from 5th September until the end of October and we have organised two walks the township for HAF but if anyone is up at other times and would like to look at the site please phone me on 01445712447 or 07919311584. Please note that I am away 17th to 22nd September and 22nd to 27th October.

*Anne MacInnes*



The interior of a henhouse at Lonemore

### GLENGARRY HERITAGE CENTRE HAS A NEW HOME!

The Glengarry Heritage Centre now has a dedicated room in the new Glengarry Community Hall housing an expanding archive of local history.

At present the Centre is open from Easter to October on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 am. to 3pm. Admission is free. There is a small reference library, local census records and facilities for scanning and printing photos and pictures from their collection.

Telephone: 01809 501424



# The North of Scotland Archaeological Society 'Journal'

It is the intention of the committee of NOSAS to publish an annual journal. The aim of the publication is to promote the study and practice of archaeology through the publishing of suitably illustrated articles and short notes, of various lengths, about the archaeology and history of the Highland Region. The articles and notes should be based on previously unpublished, original work.

There will be no specified upper or lower limit to the length of articles but authors are asked to write concisely and in such a way as to make the article accessible and interesting.

Topics considered to be appropriate for inclusion in the publication could include interim excavation reports, syntheses and thematic studies such as that of an area in a specific period, studies of a class of artefacts or an assemblages of artefacts, new interpretations of existing evidence and reviews of events, conferences, exhibitions and books.

The journal will be published once a year, although the exact time of publication may vary.

Articles may be referred to independent specialist assessors for comment on their suitability for publication and authors will retain copyright to their text.

Further, detailed information can be obtained from Dave Rendell who is also keen to discuss any ideas about articles or notes for the journal.

Contact Dave on 03149 867006 or email:  
[dacamacsys@btinternet.com](mailto:dacamacsys@btinternet.com)

## NOSAS Officers and Committee 2008-2009

Chairperson - Emma Sanderson

Vice-Chairperson - Anne Coombs

Treasurer - Allan Mackenzie

Secretary - Meryl Marshall

Membership Secretary and Librarian - Trina Wombell

Social Secretary - Brigitte Geddes

Newsletter Editor - Dave Rendell

Committee members

Brian Duff, David Findlay, Lynn Fraser, Janet Hooper,

Paul Humphreys, Susan Kruse,

Cait MacCullagh and Alastair Morton

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

NORTH OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

in the Spectrum Centre, Inverness at 5 pm (approx),

Saturday 17th October 2009

Agenda to follow

North Of Scotland Archaeological Society

## NOSAS Barbeque

Despite the threat of rain NOSAS members flocked to Strathpeffer on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August for a barbeque hosted by John and Trina Wombell in their garden at Nether Kinellan.

A great time was had by all, talking over old times and digs and planning new adventures of an excavational nature.



Host and hostess hard at work

## NOSAS Christmas Dinner Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009

5.30 pm

Red Poppy  
Strathpeffer

More details and Menu in the next Newsletter  
*Brigitte Geddes*

## Next NOSAS Newsletter Deadline, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

Copy, as usual, to Dave Rendell  
01349 867006 or email: [dacamacsys@btinternet.com](mailto:dacamacsys@btinternet.com)

