

Fieldwork update December 2018.

Tam.

2018 has been another busy year organising and carrying out various strands of fieldwork, and as usual much of it continues to roll on, as some projects are quite long term in their outlook. This short report will help you to understand what is going on, and as always you are invited to join in and contribute in any way you feel you can. You are reminded that all reports are deposited on our web site and also in 'local history' boxes in both Helensburgh and Cove Libraries.

Millbrae Pottery.

A web report has been produced regarding the 18th century pottery from Millbrae and comparing it to similar pottery Biggar Archaeology has excavated in Clydesdale and Tweeddale. The 19th C pottery from Millbrae is nearing completion of a more comprehensive catalogue (by Carole) which will be fully illustrated and then our specialist Hugh McIntyre will look it over and produce a special report for the Scottish Pottery Society.

Military surveys.

Apart from new discoveries of roads and drains at Portkil WW I camp made in our search for 'coffins' there (below), the military aspect of our fieldwork is not completed, as we hope to investigate some of the landward defence sites of Portkil Battery, and much will still remain to be done in writing it all up.

Portkil Coffins.

The search by excavation continues with no result so far. We shall excavate large areas of ground to find them if we can. This work however is proving interesting as far as the WW I camp goes as we have found nothing of a military nature in the ground, we now wonder if the camp was ever completed or occupied.

Loch long surveys and histories.

The surveys of various Loch Long sites on MOD land is now completed as well as comprehensive histories of the sites by Alistair McIntyre. We are currently in negotiation with the MOD for permission to dig on these abandoned settlements (more anon).

Glen Fruin and Glen Douglas projects.

We shall resume work on both these surveys during the winter months and then hopefully prepare a submission for excavations. What we hope to achieve is a more comprehensive overview of life *before* the 19th century on these and the Loch Long deserted settlements.

Beach surveys.

Pressure of other projects means this one has been put on hold, but it may be possible to complete the survey of all beach sites this winter, these stretch between Dumbarton and the Peninsula.

So there is a lot going on and even more fieldwork projects are being explored, have a look at the web site for details and reports, and, please join in if you feel you can manage it.