



Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service 2012/13

Summary

This annual report covers the period from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

During the report period the West of Scotland Archaeology Service dealt with 1963 new casework items, 161 more than in the previous year. This 9% increase builds on more modest growth in each of the last two years, but once again exhibits variation in the type of casework. Monitoring of the weekly lists of planning applications received from the eleven Councils and from the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority constituted 605 of the new work items. The lists were monitored to identify applications raising potential archaeological issues where these had neither been flagged up nor fully dealt with at the pre-application stage. From the weekly lists, and through direct referrals from our planning officer colleagues, 833 new planning applications were identified as potentially raising archaeological issues, and a further 525 other items of new casework were also dealt with or initiated.

New Casework 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Council Area	Total New Casework Items	Weekly lists	Planning Applications	Other
Argyll & Bute	523	51	244	228
East Ayrshire	153	50	51	52
East Renfrewshire	92	49	32	11
Glasgow	119	50	39	30
Inverclyde	77	54	15	8
North Ayrshire	127	51	45	31
Renfrewshire	83	49	28	6
South Ayrshire	168	49	94	25
South Lanarkshire	234	52	134	48
West Dunbartonshire	74	52	14	8
West Lothian	151	48	83	20
National Park Authority	158	50	54	54
General/Multi-Council	4			4
Total	1963	605	833	525

The number of new planning applications identified as potentially raising archaeological issues was 833, a decrease of 6.5% compared with the previous year, but within the range of variation shown in recent years. Despite this small drop in overall numbers of applications identified for assessment by the Service, the proportion which proved to raise archaeological issues (40%) was higher than in previous years, meaning that the overall numbers requiring archaeological intervention (332) remained fairly static.

Summary Table of Planning Applications 2008-2013

	Nos. Identified for Comment					Nos. Raising Archaeological Issues				
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Argyll & Bute	248	301	327	316	244	76	97	82	81	80
East Ayrshire	78	82	60	65	51	26	32	28	32	25
East Renfrewshire	28	29	15	29	32	12	12	6	14	8
Glasgow	73	51	35	40	39	23	13	14	10	10
Inverclyde	9	8	8	18	15	3	4	2	4	9
North Ayrshire	58	53	46	44	45	28	19	23	24	22
North Lanarkshire	52	--	--	--	--	15	--	--	--	--
Renfrewshire	34	50	23	30	28	10	20	12	17	9
South Ayrshire	83	69	54	56	94	25	35	20	31	36
South Lanarkshire	165	114	102	136	134	46	50	56	63	65
West Dunbartonshire	40	34	31	6	14	10	11	7	3	8
West Lothian	67	76	98	96	83	28	29	42	34	33
National Park	21	14	19	55	54	4	4	6	24	27
Total	956	881	818	891	833	306	326	296	337	332

In addition to casework items generated from weekly lists and planning applications, a further 525 items of other new work were initiated in the report period, an increase of 62% (see table below, figures for previous year in brackets).

Pre-planning application enquiries	215 (137)
Development Plan consultations	5 (10)
Permitted development enquiries	30 (28)
SRDP audits and other agri-environment matters	120 (71)
Other Archaeological Consultations	15 (13)
Historic Environment Record information management matters	119 (58)
General or SMR enquiries	19 (5)
Policy liaison matters	1 (1)
Other (includes items sent in error)	1 (1)
Total	525 (324)

This is the third successive year that this category of work has increased in numbers, with sharp upward trends in pre-application enquiries, agri-environment audits, and Historic Environment Record data management matters. Of these, the most significant is the rise in pre-application enquiries, which appears to show an increasingly positive response to recent changes to the planning system, where developers are encouraged to identify potential issues, and to deal with them where possible, before making an application for planning consent. Such pre-application engagement with the Service allows potential issues to be raised at an earlier stage, meaning that the developer can identify possible time delays and costs well in advance, and can address them before submitting an application. This in turn speeds up the application processing timetable, and can simplify the requirement for archaeological conditions.

In addition to these items of new casework, work was also carried out during the report period on a further 289 casework items which had been initiated in previous years. These casework items largely involve advising on the appropriate scale of fieldwork and reporting required to satisfy conditions on consents which have been granted in previous years, and monitoring such work when it is carried out by commercial archaeological organisations. This category of work for the Service had increased by 20% compared to the last reporting period, and some of

this increase may reflect greater commercial activity on “stalled” sites which had previously been granted conditional planning consent.

Work to digitise older paper-based casework file documents and incorporate these records into the Service’s computerised Consultations database was able to re-start with the assistance of a part-time volunteer. This backlog data entry work had halted in 2010 at the end of the contract of the Service’s former part-time administrative assistant. The file backlog for the 1998 calendar year, and approximately half of 1999 was scanned and cross-referenced within the Consultations database, and corrected and enhanced entries were made on a further 183 backlog planning application casework files which had previously been entered only as basic “skeleton records”.

In the report period 409 new site records were added to the Sites and Monuments Record database. Amendments or additions were made to 781 existing site records, and 204 archaeological events records were added. A total of 265 archive records (index to reports received by the Service in paper and digital formats) were created. There were 159 recorded archaeological events (excavations, surveys, watching briefs, desk based assessments etc) during the report period.

1 Running the Service

- 1.1 The Service's Steering Group met twice during the year to consider various matters in connection with the running of the Service. The Service's Joint Committee met on 12 April 2012 and on 24 January 2013.
- 1.2 A surplus balance in the Service's reserve account of £121,840 was achieved at year end (see Appendix 2). The accumulated surplus was slightly greater than had been projected, due to a slight increase in external income and the cumulative effects of modest savings in expenditure on travel and subsistence, printing and stationery, and IT equipment purchase and maintenance.
- 1.3 The level of external income to the Service over the report period was broadly as predicted. Officer time spent representing ALGAO:Scotland (Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers) at meetings discussing the review of national historic environment policy resulted in a reimbursement of £1,198 to the Service. There was a modest increase in income from grant-aid administered by Historic Scotland for advice provided to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). The Service received £5,204 in 2012-13 for the provision of archaeological advice to agricultural and forestry agents. Income from fees and charges made for the provision of mediated archaeological information and advice to commercial organizations fell slightly from the previous year's high level during the reporting period. The Service's hourly fee charge for the report period remained at £70 plus VAT.
- 1.4 The slight fall in the total number of planning applications which were flagged up from our monitoring of the weekly lists and through direct referrals from our planning officer colleagues when compared to the previous year's increased figures is not thought to be significant. Such variation has been seen in the past and tends to average out over a period. In addition, the number of applications which were assessed as raising archaeological issues in the current reporting period was very similar to the last year's figure. Of greater significance is the rise in pre-application planning enquiries, particularly those from developers of middle-to-large scale projects, who appear to have acted upon the recent changes to the planning system, where developers are encouraged to identify potential issues, and to deal with them where possible, before making an application for planning consent. Such pre-application engagement with the Archaeology Service allows potential issues to be raised at an earlier stage, meaning that the developer can identify possible time delays and costs well in advance, and can address them before submitting an application. This in turn speeds up the application processing timetable, and can simplify or negate the requirement for archaeological conditions. While this is advantageous to the developer, it also benefits the planning authority by reducing the time spent rehearsing arguments after an application is lodged. However, the scale of workload generated by this early engagement in pre-application enquiries is greater than that experienced in the past, and the contribution of the Archaeology Service staff to resolving the issues before an application is lodged may not always be apparent to our clients.

- 1.5 While the Service has continued to make extensive use of the Councils' e-planning systems for checking and responding to planning applications in a more cost-effective and time-efficient fashion, the increased workload experienced in the reporting period, and the lower staff levels since restructuring has meant that it is more challenging to meet current performance indicators. While baseline performance figures have dropped, some of this is a result of the Service staff trying to manage requested response times more effectively. Where the planning authority wishes a response on a complex case, such as a windfarm, a self-imposed 21-day response deadline is likely to be unrealistically and unnecessarily short. Staff have been attempting to agree more appropriate response deadlines which still match the clients' time requirements, but may not conform to the existing Service performance indicators.

2 Historic Environment Record Maintenance and Development

- 2.1 Following discussions within the Association of Local Authority Archaeological Officers and with other agencies regarding consistency in the terminology used in the heritage sector, and with the agreement of the Joint Committee, it was decided to rename the Service's Sites and Monuments Record the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record (HER). The term "Historic Environment Record" and the acronym "HER" have gained currency recently, particularly in England and Wales, and serve to differentiate records with a primary purpose as Local Authority cultural heritage management tools from other records. In addition, with the advent of marine planning, the acronym "SMR" is likely to become more used by central government and other agencies to describe the newly established Scottish Marine Regions. Alterations to the current print and online templates for the various West of Scotland Archaeology Service information sources are being implemented in accordance with the decision to rename the Record.
- 2.2 During the report period 409 new site records were added to the Historic Environment Record database, 781 existing site records were amended, 204 archaeological events records were added, and 265 archive records were created (index to reports received by the Service in paper and digital formats). This was a further substantial increase in Historic Environment Record enhancement work. In addition to these core activities undertaken by the Historic Environment Record Officer, additional work has been carried out on an unpaid basis by a volunteer with archaeological knowledge. During the reporting period the Service benefitted from 30 man-days assistance for Historic Environment Record tasks.
- 2.3 The Service's web site (<http://www.wosas.net>) was updated over the report period with a further 29 news items from throughout the WoSAS area, and with monthly updates of Historic Environment Record data. During the same period, there were more than 570,000 "hits" to the Service website.
- 2.4 The Service's Historic Environment Record map search has been made available online through the assistance of South Ayrshire Council's ICT team. Further development of these online resources have been made available to the public, and through the continuing assistance of South Ayrshire Council, the map search facility continues to develop incrementally to maintain its efficiency and user-friendliness in a rapidly changing online environment. Feedback from users of all levels continues to be positive. The map search allows members of the public and agents working for developers to obtain their own desk based information free of charge. While it was recognized that the introduction of the map search facility might have an adverse effect on the number of chargeable requests for extracts of digital data from archaeological consultants, this seems not to have occurred. The efficient provision of very large amounts of Historic Environment Record data in an easily manipulated format would appear to be worth a premium to consultants preparing large scale Environmental Assessments. Previous Service reports reported a decrease in requests for digital extracts during the period before 2008 to 2010, but the number of such requests has broadly stabilised over a three-year period. It now seems most likely that the decrease in requests for digital data was the result of the economic downturn and

the recession rather than because of the free availability of unstructured online Historic Environment Record data.

- 2.5 During the report period, two research students and three amateur archaeology groups requested Historic Environment Record data for academic research or survey project purposes. The Service provided data and assistance in kind and free of charge, in return for a commitment from the enquirers to provide a copy of any resultant information to the Historic Environment Record.

3 Advice to Argyll and Bute Council

Development Plan Advice

- 3.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 3.2 Over the report period 51 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 244 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff. Despite a moderate fall in the number of applications potentially raising archaeological issues when compared to the previous year, Argyll and Bute Council remained the largest Council user of the development management advice service over the report period.
- 3.3 The 244 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	3
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	6
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	19
Archaeological watching brief condition required	42
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	5
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	167

Altogether 77 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 3.4 Refusal of the planning application was recommended in respect of three proposals – one for the erection of a dwelling house with a garage and septic tank at Lochandhu, Taynuilt, where the proposals were partly located within a Scheduled Ancient Monument, which was contrary to planning policy for archaeological remains. The two other proposals were for single wind turbines at North Beachmore, Muasdale, Kintyre, and at Sgiob Ruadh Farm, Mull, where in each case the proposed turbine was judged to have an unacceptable impact on the landscape setting of one or more important archaeological sites.
- 3.5 Archaeological evaluation of a site for housing at Dunbeg near Oban was carried out by Argyll Archaeology Ltd in response to a planning condition. Prehistoric remains were found in the trial trenches. Full excavation of the area revealed evidence of five prehistoric round-houses and a scatter of pits and post-holes. It is likely that the settlement is of Bronze Age date.
- 3.6 Dr Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology Ltd, assisted by volunteers from the local community and the Mull Museum, also excavated at the early medieval chapel site at

Baliscate, on Mull, a site that previously featured on an episode of Channel 4's *Time Team*. The community excavation identified a large number of high quality worked lithics, including a finely-worked flint javelin head. These flints have been recovered from within a decayed turf wall, suggesting that the original building material for the early church may have been obtained by stripping a prehistoric site

- 3.7 In the autumn of 2012, staff from Guard Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological assessment of the Glebe Field, Iona, in advance of a proposed community housing development. The project was designed to involve volunteers both from the local area and from further afield, and recovered a large number of artefacts, including sherds of hand-made pottery, metal-working slag and a large number of flint and quartz tools. Of particular note, however, was the recovery of a medieval bronze pin, a small whetstone and the rim of a steatite bowl, all likely to date from the 9th to 12th centuries, and to be associated with Norse activity. These Norse period artefacts are of particular importance and have already generated a great deal of interest amongst researchers, as they represent the first time these type of artefacts have been recorded on Iona. All of these finds have could be interpreted together as indicating contact with the wider Viking World, with material perhaps derived from as far afield as Norway, the Northern Earldom region of Caithness and either the Irish Sea region or the northern Danelaw area of England.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 3.8 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 228 other items of casework, including 39 pre-application enquiries, 89 SRDP consultations, and 12 statutory undertaker enquiries.

4 Advice to East Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 4.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 4.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 51 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 4.3 The 60 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	5
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8
Archaeological watching brief condition required	11
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	26

Altogether 25 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 4.4 Refusal of the planning application was advised in one case. Proposals were brought forward for the development of three houses within the former Dunaskin Heritage Centre, an important industrial archaeological site, and a scheduled ancient monument. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, development within a scheduled monument is contrary to planning policies at local and central government level, and so refusal was recommended.
- 4.5 An extensive programme of desk-based study, archaeological walkover survey, historic building recording, field evaluation by trial trenching, and further mitigation fieldwork by CFA Archaeology Ltd continued in advance of open-cast coal extraction in the upper reaches of the valley of the River Nith west of New Cumnock. Three old farms were recorded before their destruction, and at one, several late medieval lintel stones were retrieved from the wall of a later barn, along with a commemorative stone. Trial trenching at all three farms revealed no evidence of earlier occupation outside the medieval farm steadings, implying a great continuity of settlement location in the valley.
- 4.6 Emergency repairs to the weir on the complex water management system known as the Catrine Weir and Voes works were undertaken by the Catrine Community Trust. The origins of this hydraulic system lie in the late eighteenth century, when water was first drawn off the River Ayr in order to power the Ballochmyle Cotton Works. The system was subject to modification in the mid-nineteenth century, when it was adapted to provide power for a set of Fairbairn suspension waterwheels later installed at the mill. These works have been conducted under Scheduled Monument Consent issued

by Historic Scotland on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Catrine Community Trust brought Ayrshire-based Rathmell Archaeology Ltd into their project team to monitor these emergency works to ensure a sound record of this historic structure was maintained. Liaison was maintained with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service throughout to ensure our Historic Environment Record kept a record of new discoveries

- 4.6 A trial excavation was undertaken on the linear earthwork known as Pickan's Dyke, near Dalmellington in East Ayrshire. This enigmatic monument has in the past been interpreted as a possible early medieval boundary, similar to Offa's Dyke on the boundary between Mercia and Wales, though it has also been suggested that it could represent a park pale or banked fence defining the margins of a hunting park associated with Dalmellington Motte, or marked a division between land held by the occupant of the motte and another medieval landholder, possibly based at the site known as Dame Helen's Castle. The work, which was commissioned by the Forestry Commission Scotland, was undertaken by staff from Rathmell Archaeology Ltd, supported by volunteers. Sadly, the date and function of this monument remain a mystery, but the work helped establish the scope of further work required when the Forestry Commission wished to lodge a planning application for the creation of a new car park next to the monument.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 4.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 52 other items of casework, including 40 pre-application enquiries, 89 SRDP consultations, and 1 statutory undertaker enquiry.
- 4.8 A detailed consultation response was provided after a request from Historic Scotland for comments on their proposed inclusion of the historic battlefield site near Loudoun Hill in their Inventory of Scottish Battlefields.

5 Advice to East Renfrewshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 5.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 5.2 Over the report period 49 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 3 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 5.3 The 32 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	2
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	1
Archaeological watching brief condition required	5
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	24

Altogether 8 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 5.4 During the report period a further stage of archaeological assessment and evaluation took place at Barrance Farm, Newton Mearns. Previous evaluation work there had identified small amounts of medieval pottery and possible structural features in the area of the modern farm buildings. This seemed to confirm the existence of a medieval steading of some importance that was referred to in documents from the medieval period. Unfortunately, demolition of the modern buildings so damaged the site as to make the recovery of any further medieval material impossible.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 5.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 11 other items of casework, including 7 pre-application enquiries and 1 SRDP consultation.

6 Advice to Glasgow City Council

Development Plan Advice

- 6.1 Advice was provided to the Council in assessing known archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential before for consideration in the Local Development Plan.

Development Management Advice

- 6.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 39 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 6.3 The 39 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	1
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	3
Archaeological watching brief condition required	1
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1
Standings buildings survey condition	2
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	2
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	29

Altogether 10 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 6.4 The Archaeology Service continued to provide advice to the Council and its project partners in connection with managing the completion of the archaeological work on the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village site, including during the developer's site preparation work for the construction of the Athletes' Village. Excavations on the site were successfully concluded, revealing important early industrial remains of the first Glasgow Water Works of 1809, the first industrial period municipal water supply.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 6.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 30 other items of casework, including 14 pre-application enquiries, 1 SRDP consultation, 3 statutory undertaker enquiries, and 2 complex consultations from Glasgow Life (Museums) Staff regarding the archaeology of the city.
- 6.6 During the report period the manager of the Service represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to two consultations on the current and future management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.
- 6.7 A detailed consultation response was provided after a request from Historic Scotland for comments on their proposed inclusion of the historic battlefield site of Langside in their Inventory of Scottish Battlefields.

7 Advice to Inverclyde Council

Development Plan Advice

- 7.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 7.2 Over the report period 54 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 15 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues by the Archaeology Service.
- 7.3 The 15 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	5
Archaeological watching brief condition required	4
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	6

Altogether 9 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 7.4 A hut circle of probable prehistoric date has been identified on the hills above Greenock and reported to WoSAS by an amateur archaeologist. The circle, which measures around 7.5m in diameter, still has the entry visible in the south-eastern quadrant. This is one of a number of potential features identified in this area by the surveyor, including two further circular features. A number of other sites relating to pre-Roman activity have been identified from Lurg Moor, in addition to the well-known scheduled Roman fortlet, indicating that what now appears to be open and inhospitable moorland was reasonably heavily occupied during the prehistoric period.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 7.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 8 other items of casework, including 3 pre-application enquiries and 1 SRDP consultation, and 2 from statutory undertakers.
- 7.6 During the report period the Historic Scotland Scheduling Team completed their work in Inverclyde on amending, and adding to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. The Archaeology Service integrated the new information into the Historic Environment Record.

8 Advice to North Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 8.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 8.2 Over the report period 51 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 45 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 8.3 The 45 identified planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	2
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	9
Archaeological watching brief condition required	9
Standings buildings survey condition	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	23

Altogether 22 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 8.4 Refusal of one proposal was recommended in the case of an application to site a single wind turbine close to a scheduled ancient monument at Craighdu Farm, Shannachie, Arran. Despite lengthy discussions and reiterations of the design, it was not possible to resolve the difficulties the turbine posed for the landscape setting of the nationally important prehistoric defended site.
- 8.5 Detailed discussions regarding the scope of mitigation fieldwork were held between the Archaeology Service on behalf of the Council and Rathmell Archaeology Ltd on behalf of the prospective developer of Old Knock Castle, a ruinous late medieval and early modern tower-house. Although the tower-house element of the ruins had previously been restored and had fallen into ruin again, there was scope for archaeological discoveries. Remains of features such as the kitchen associated with the earlier history of the building were uncovered, along with details of the building's original floor levels, wall-lines and foundations.
- 8.6 Planning consent was granted to the Council's project for a new leisure centre near to the site of the medieval market cross in Irvine. The site sits at the core of the historic settlement area associated with the medieval burgh, and the development requires careful programming to take account of the archaeological potential of the area. The Archaeology Service provided pre-determination advice to the developers' agents and engaged in detailed discussions with the appointed archaeological contractor to reach

an archaeological project design which fits within the development programme without compromising the recording of surviving sensitive archaeological remains.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 8.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 31 other items of casework, including 15 pre-application enquiries, 1 SRDP consultation, and 1 statutory undertaker enquiry. Particularly detailed discussions were held with a design team regarding the possible consolidation or restoration of the Brisbane House Observatory, an important site in relation to the history of astronomy near Largs.
- 8.7 A detailed consultation response was provided after a request from Historic Scotland for comments on their proposed inclusion of the historic battlefield site of Largs in their Inventory of Scottish Battlefields.

9 Advice to Renfrewshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 9.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 9.2 Over the report period 49 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 28 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 9.3 The 28 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	1
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	2
Archaeological watching brief condition required	4
Standings buildings survey condition	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	19

Altogether 9 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 9.4 Refusal was recommended in response to a proposal for the creation of a garden, a pavilion and landscaping at the Ingliston Equestrian Centre, Bishopton. The proposed development site lay adjacent to, and possibly within the confines of Whitemoss Roman Fort, a scheduled ancient monument. Despite a presence of other modern development in the area, refusal was recommended because of the additional effect on the setting of the Roman fort site and the possible direct impact of the development on features associated with the fort.
- 9.5 As the Council determined in favour of the proposal for the garden, pavilion and landscaping at the Ingliston Equestrian Centre, a negative suspensive condition was attached to the consent to mitigate any direct impacts. The excavation site found a ditch exhibiting the classic Roman V-shaped profile and containing Roman pottery. It seemed to form the west and south sides of an enclosure. No features were found to suggest buildings inside the enclosure. The most exciting find was the base of a Samian ware platter which was made in Gaul (France) and is not a common find in Scotland.
- 9.6 The major scheme of archaeological mitigation involving historic building recording and evaluation by trial trenching at the former Royal Ordnance Factory in Bishopton continued throughout the reporting period. Complex discussions between the Archaeology Service on behalf of the Council, and Rathmell Archaeology Ltd on behalf of the developers, established an agreed working method and monitoring

process for the implementation of the approved Archaeological Mitigation Strategy for the site.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 9.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 6 other items of casework, which included 1 pre-application enquiry, 1 SRDP consultation, and 2 statutory undertaker enquiries.
- 9.8 During the report period the Historic Scotland Scheduling Team completed their work in Renfrewshire on amending, and adding to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. The Archaeology Service integrated the new information into the Historic Environment Record.

10 Advice to South Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 10.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 10.2 Over the report period 49 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 94 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 10.3 The 94 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	4
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	6
Archaeological watching brief condition required	22
Standings buildings survey condition	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	2
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	58

Altogether 36 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 10.4 Refusal of one proposal was recommended in the case of an application to site a single wind turbine close to a scheduled ancient monument at Little Pinmore Farm, Pinmore Bridge, Pinwherry. The degree of change to the baseline landscape setting of the nationally important archaeological sites in sight of the proposed turbine was felt to be too great, and incapable of being mitigated.
- 10.5 The archaeological excavation at Corton Farm, south-east of Ayr by Headland Archaeology Ltd, revealed what was thought to be the remains of a prehistoric farm or small settlement. Radiocarbon dates from two of the house structures have returned dates in the Roman Iron Age and the Early Medieval periods. As the site is in an area with quite heavy soils, previously thought to have been unsuitable for prehistoric settlement, it may be that the house-type excavated remained in use in this part of Scotland longer than in other areas.
- 10.6 Large area excavations in advance of housing development at Barassie and industrial development at Girvan have both revealed multi-period occupation with extensive evidence of round-houses, enclosures and other features. It is hoped that in each case post-excavation analyses will determine the date of the different phases of occupation.
- 10.7 Monitoring work conducted by HS Archaeology during construction of two new houses at Straiton, South Ayrshire, has identified the remains of a building that could

represent evidence for an early settlement associated with the nearby church. The plot under development is located immediately to the north of Straiton Parish Church, though separated by the line of the modern road. Although the majority of the present structure was erected in 1758, its fabric contains a medieval aisle of 13th or 14th century date, and a church is mentioned in relation to this site as far back as the early 13th century. Churches in the medieval period often acted as nuclei for the development of related settlements, and this appears to have been the case at Straiton.

Other Advice in the Council's Area

- 10.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 25 other items of casework, including 21 pre-application enquiries, and 3 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

11 Advice to South Lanarkshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 11.1 During the report period advice was provided to the Council in connection with two requests relating to the Local Development Plan

Development Management Advice

- 11.2 Over the report period 52 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 134 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 11.3 The 134 identified planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	3
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	10
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	24
Archaeological watching brief condition required	26
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	69

Altogether 65 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 11.4 Refusal of planning consent was recommended in respect of an application for the extension to Hyndford Quarry, Lanark, due to its potential adverse impacts on significant archaeological remains, an important garden or designed landscape, and the buffer zone of the New Lanark World Heritage Site. Refusal of planning consent was also recommended in respect of an application for a 6-turbine windfarm at Calla Moss, Carnwath because of its potential significant adverse impact on the landscape setting of a number of scheduled ancient monuments. An application for a house extension and garage at Corbielea Cottage, Ravenstruther, near Lanark sat within the boundary of a scheduled ancient monument, a Roman fort. Such development within a scheduled area is contrary to historic environment policy at local and central government level, and so refusal of the application was recommended.
- 11.5 A watching brief was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd during construction of two wind turbines at Parkhouse Farm, Quothquan, near Biggar. This work was requested because the modern farm lies on top of what appears to be a prehistoric settlement, identified on aerial photographs taken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in 1983. This showed the presence of three concentric ditches in the area to the south-west of the current farm complex. While the turbines would be located to the north-east, the cable trench running from them to the farm appeared likely to cross the projected line of these features, so

monitoring was requested to determine whether any trace of these ditches survived. Monitoring during the excavation of the cable trench confirmed that these ditches continued in the area to the north-east of the farm, and that they survived to depth of at least 1m below ground level despite later surface disturbance. The inner ditch was recorded in a yard adjacent to one of the farm buildings, and measured over 3.6m in width and was 1.3m deep. The middle ditch measured 4.2m in width and was 1.1m deep, and again contained three fills. In contrast to the two inner ditches, which were dug into boulder clay, the outer ditch had been cut into shattered bedrock and measured 3.2m wide and 1m deep, and again contained three fills. Any further work in the future on a larger sample of the ditch fills might reveal a date for this settlement.

- 11.6 A watching brief was undertaken by NG Archaeology Services during construction of a single wind turbine at Easton Farm, Dunsyre, in South Lanarkshire. During the course of monitoring of the excavation of the cable trench running from the turbine back to the farm, a number of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered. These were found in the same area as a 'worked' block of red sandstone, identified around 1.2m below the current ground level. The width of the cable trench limited detailed examination of this feature, as it ran under the sections, though evidence of a foundation cut was noted. The location of this material and its association with a possible *in situ* wall foundation suggests earlier phases of occupation on the farm site, perhaps extending back to the medieval period. Easton was depicted on Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55), on which it appeared as 'Easttown', indicating that a settlement existed in the area prior to the period of agricultural improvement in the later 18th and 19th centuries. As patterns of settlement in pre-improvement Scotland could be fairly stable and long-lived, it is possible that the material identified during monitoring work could provide evidence for continuity of occupation on the site over a considerable period.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 11.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 48 other items of casework, including 25 pre-application enquiries, 10 SRDP consultations, and 4 enquiries from statutory undertakers.
- 11.8 The successful survey of surviving burgh boundary stones for the royal burgh of Rutherglen by a local heritage group continued into a second season of work. Further advice and map extracts were provided to the group, who submitted their updated survey information to the Historic Environment Record to be available for future resource management purposes.

12 Advice to West Dunbartonshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 12.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 12.2 Over the report period 52 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 14 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 12.3 The 14 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	1
Archaeological watching brief condition required	7
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	6

Altogether 8 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 12.4 The mitigation fieldwork by CFA Archaeology Ltd in advance of construction of a new health and care centre at the Vale of Leven Hospital in Alexandria, continued into the present reporting period, and confirmed the importance of the site throughout its excavation. A series of unusual, if not unique features were uncovered across the prehistoric site. One of these was what the excavator described as an enigmatic circular feature comprising a penannular circuit of stones, between 0.75m to 2m in width. In the centre of the feature was a roughly triangular pit containing two fills, one half of the fill composed entirely of burnt and heat-fractured stone, while the other section had not been affected in this way. The whole site had been sealed below a layer of silt, and does not appear to have undergone significant damage from ploughing. No feature quite like this has been reported before. Work on the site continued to recover widespread evidence of Neolithic domestic occupation and ritual activity. The site has already been recognized as one of the most important Neolithic period sites in the Clyde Valley.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 12.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 8 other items of casework, including 1 pre-application enquiry, and 1 enquiry from a statutory undertaker.
- 12.6 During the report period the manager of the Service represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to two consultations on the current and future management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

13 Advice to West Lothian Council

Development Plan Advice

- 13.1 Advice was provided to the Council in connection with the Main Issues Report of SESplan, the Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

Development Management Advice

- 13.2 Over the report period 48 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 83 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 9 planning applications submitted in previous years.
- 13.3 The 83 identified planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Refusal of planning application recommended	2
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	8
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8
Archaeological watching brief condition required	11
Standings buildings survey condition	3
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	50

Altogether 40 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 13.4 Refusal of planning consent was recommended in respect of an application for an outdoor leisure centre at Duntarvie Castle, Winchburgh, a scheduled ancient monument. The proposals were judged to be out of keeping with the character of the monument, and would have a deleterious effect on its landscape setting and a direct adverse impact on any associated archaeological deposits within the footprint of development. Refusal of planning consent was also recommended in respect of an application for a windfarm at Camilty, Harburn, because of its potential significant adverse impact on the landscape setting of a number of scheduled ancient monuments..
- 13.5 Archaeological building recording, test pitting and monitoring was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd. during the restoration and conversion of Howden House, Livingston. The multi-disciplinary work has identified traces of what may be an earlier structure on the site. Howden House was completed in about 1770, possibly for Thomas Farquharson of Howden. In 1834 the house was purchased by Henry Raeburn, son of artist Sir Henry Raeburn. The historic building survey identified that the existing ground and first floors both had a wall in excess of 2.5m thick, which was unusually large for an 18th century building, and it was considered possible that these could represent the original re-used remains of an earlier 15th or 16th century tower as has been previously postulated by the RCAHMS. In order to identify whether any

remains of an earlier structure survived within the footprint of the current house the archaeology service recommended a programme of test pitting. In two of the test pits, a wall was identified. This wall survived to a height of 0.3m and sat on limestone mortar foundations, which had been built directly onto the bedrock, with no foundation trench visible. It was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and underlay the north-south aligned wall of the eastern wing of the house. It was not possible to determine categorically whether this was an earlier wall or part of the foundations of the current wall of the house, though its divergence in alignment from the current wall suggests that it represents a surviving element of an earlier structure.

- 13.6 The archaeology service continues to advise the project team dealing with proposals to develop additional leisure facilities at the Leisure Centre at Kettilstoun Mains, Linlithgow with regard to the outstanding issues arising from prehistoric features and finds made during evaluation of the area by trial trenching in 2011.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 13.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 20 other items of casework, including 14 pre-application enquiries.

14 The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority

- 14.1 Archaeological advice is provided to the National Park Authority under the terms of a chargeable Service Level Agreement. In the year 2012-13 the National Park Authority paid £16,550 to the Service for archaeological advice.

Development Plan Advice

- 14.2 There was one request for advice and assistance from the Park Authority in respect of the local development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 14.3 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 54 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues by the Archaeology Service or National Park Authority staff.

- 14.4 The 54 new planning applications received the following responses from the Service in terms of the advice contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	1
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8
Watching brief condition	10
Standings buildings survey condition	6
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	2
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	27

Altogether 27 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 14.5 Historic Building Recording work took place as the first stage of a multi-phase programme of mitigation on the former Royal Navy Torpedo Factory and testing site at Arrochar on Loch Long. The factory was a vitally important naval installation for most of the twentieth century, but had decayed badly since its closure. A new lochside holiday resort is planned, and the first stage of work was to record and interpret the remaining torpedo factory buildings before their demolition. Future work will include trial trenching to test the archaeological survival of a pre-modern settlement which once occupied the site.
- 14.6 During a site visit to the Balquhiddier area, staff from the Service noticed a circle of standing stones on a ridge above the modern road. Desk-based research established that this was to be a modern erection, one of a very small class of monuments of a prehistoric type set up in the last decade. Nevertheless, despite or because of its short history, the stone circle has been entered in the Historic Environment Record, but is recorded as a modern feature, so that future observers are not confused.
- 14.7 Following the successful implementation of the National Park Authority's decision to ask the Archaeology Service to extend the geographical scope of our service to them

to include the area of the park within the Stirling Council area from April 2011, we were invited to tender for a contract to supply advice for the whole of the National Park area. The contract was awarded in June 2012 to run from the start of July. We extended our existing Historic Environment Record for the National Park Authority to reflect this extension in our geographical remit.

Other Advice within the National Park Authority's Area

- 14.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including National Park Authority staff, in respect of 54 other items of casework including 35 pre-application enquiries, 8 SRDP consultations, and 2 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

15 Information and Advice to Developers/Agents and to Statutory Undertakers

- 15.1 There were 215 requests for information and advice from developers or their agents, including 52 requests for Sites and Monuments Record digital extracts. There were 30 requests for assistance in connection with Scottish Water, Scottish Water Solutions, ScottishPower, Scottish and Southern Electricity, and Transerve proposals. The requests for assistance from developers and their agents raised income of £3,640, a decrease on the previous year's sum of £4,911, but broadly in keeping with the levels of the previous two years.

16 Agri-Environment Advice

- 16.1 The Service received a grant from Historic Scotland of £5,204 in support of the provision of advice to the fund-holders of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) on request. The grant is distributed proportionally across Scotland in accordance with the total number of SRDP applications for which archaeological advice is sought and provided. The Service was consulted for advice on 120 eligible applications to the SRDP, a 70% increase in uptake compared to the number of applications in each of the previous two years. Despite the scale of this increase, there was a much smaller increase in the grant support made available as a similar total amount of grant money had to be disbursed amongst a larger total of valid applications. Although uptake from landowners has improved markedly, the previously stated concern that the system for providing archaeological advice to the SRDP is not fully reactive to agricultural threats to the historic environment still applies. It remains the case that only certain types of applications are being sent in for comment, mainly forestry proposals.

Appendix 1

Annual Performance Statistics 2012-13 (figures for previous year in brackets for comparison)

Weekly lists

The performance standard in the WoSAS Service Level Agreement for this area of work is 90% to be monitored and actioned within 14 calendar days of receipt.

Performance	90.4%	(91.1%)
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Planning and Listed Building Consultations

The performance standard in the WoSAS Service Level Agreement for this area of work is 80% to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.

Planning Applications

Argyll & Bute	80.40%	(81.27%)
East Ayrshire	74.51%	(81.54%)
East Renfrewshire	96.88%	(96.55%)
Glasgow City	79.49%	(85.00%)
Inverclyde	80.00%	(75.00%)
North Ayrshire	78.26%	(72.70%)
Renfrewshire	71.43%	(80.00%)
South Ayrshire	75.79%	(80.40%)
South Lanarkshire	75.56%	(85.20%)
West Dunbartonshire	86.67%	(80.00%)
West Lothian	83.91%	(86.21%)
Loch Lomond & Trossachs	75.47%	(78.60%)
Overall Planning Application Performance	79.07%	(81.96%)

Other Work Areas

The performance standard for this area of work is 80% to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.

SRDP Advice	84.17%	(82.75%)
Pre-Application Enquiries	82.79%	(88.89%)
Permitted Dev/Statutory Undertakings	72.41%	(87.50%)
Other Archaeological Consultations	81.25%	(66.67%)
General/SMR Enquiries	82.35%	(80.00%)
Overall Other Work Performance	80.59%	(81.16%)

Appendix 2

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2013

2011/12 £		2012/13 £
	<u>Income</u>	
140,703	Contribution from participating authorities	140,703
31,734	Fees & Charges	25,585
1,482	Interest on balances	1,390
<u>173, 919</u>	Total Income	<u>167, 678</u>
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
	<u>Employee Costs</u>	
187,852	Salaries, NI & Superannuation & Employee Related Costs	136,333
	<u>Administration Costs</u>	
205	Fees & Subscriptions	130
5,046	Travel & Subsistence	4,281
10,700	Rents	10,700
523	Printing & Stationery	91
6,565	Equipment Purchase & maintenance	2,988
43	Catering	458
55	Postage	0
88	Purchase of services (miscellaneous)	0
1,816	Audit Fee	1,771
<u>25,041</u>		<u>20,419</u>
<u>212,893</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>156,752</u>
(38,974)	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	10,926
149,888	Surplus Brought Forward	110,914
<u>110,914</u>	Accumulated Surplus	<u>121,840</u>

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire.