



## Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service 2014/15

### Summary

This annual report covers the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

During the report period, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service dealt with 1801 new casework items: 198 fewer than in the previous year. This 10% decrease is a result of reductions in three specific categories of preliminary or supporting casework, and disguises an overall picture of continuing growth in the main planning and development caseloads. Monitoring of the weekly lists of planning applications received from the ten Councils and from the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority constituted 549 of the new work items. The weekly lists are monitored to ensure that applications raising potential archaeological issues are identified for follow-up work where they have not been fully dealt with at pre-application stage. From the weekly lists, and through direct referrals from the planning officers within the member authorities, 886 new planning applications were identified as potentially raising archaeological issues, and a further 366 other items of new casework were also dealt with or initiated.

### New Casework 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Council Area	Total New Casework Items	Weekly lists	Planning Applications	Other
Argyll & Bute	349	50	208	91
East Ayrshire	154	47	84	23
East Renfrewshire	88	47	27	14
Glasgow	134	50	52	32
North Ayrshire	134	50	50	34
Renfrewshire	109	50	44	15
South Ayrshire	187	51	108	28
South Lanarkshire	215	51	122	42
West Dunbartonshire	96	51	33	12
West Lothian	190	51	104	35
National Park Authority	141	51	54	36
General/Multi-Council				4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1801</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>366</b>

The number of new planning applications identified as potentially raising archaeological issues was 886, a decrease of 4.5% on last year's number which had, however, been a high point in the trend over the previous five years. Nevertheless, the proportion of these applications which proved to raise archaeological issues (47%) was markedly higher than in the last five years, where the proportions ranged from 36% to 40% of cases. This 18% rise in the proportion of cases which raised significant issues in a single year meant that the number

of cases requiring archaeological intervention (417) is the highest recorded annual total for the Service.

The modest decrease in the overall numbers of planning applications which were assessed for potential archaeological impacts disguised more localised variations and development pressures. In most authority areas, the numbers of applications identified as potentially raising archaeological issues was similar to or slightly above the general trend of previous years. However, in the Argyll and Bute Council area, there was a substantial 34% reduction in the previously very large number of applications which had to be assessed for potential archaeological issues, but which were then discounted as raising no substantive issue. This number was successfully reduced following a significant fall in the direct referrals to the Service from the planning staff within the Council, who were able to rely more heavily on the Service's monitoring of the weekly lists of planning applications to identify those applications which would raise significant issues. This reduction in the number of "no issue" responses which followed assessment of direct referrals from the Council's planning staff was a contributory factor in increasing the casework efficiency of the Service, and also had a positive effect on the speed of processing the planning applications affected.

### Summary Table of Planning Applications 2009-2015

	Nos. Identified for Comment						Nos. Raising Archaeological Issues					
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Argyll & Bute	301	327	316	244	316	208	97	82	81	80	115	112
East Ayrshire	82	60	65	51	62	84	32	28	32	25	24	38
East Renfrewshire	29	15	29	32	21	27	12	6	14	8	6	12
Glasgow	51	35	40	39	51	52	13	14	10	10	16	16
Inverclyde	8	8	18	15	-	-	4	2	4	9	-	-
North Ayrshire	53	46	44	45	55	50	19	23	24	22	30	25
Renfrewshire	50	23	30	28	24	44	20	12	17	9	11	21
South Ayrshire	69	54	56	94	103	108	35	20	31	36	36	39
South Lanarkshire	114	102	136	134	134	122	50	56	63	65	58	66
West Dunbartonshire	34	31	6	14	17	33	11	7	3	8	7	10
West Lothian	76	98	96	83	79	104	29	42	34	33	36	57
National Park	14	19	55	54	64	54	4	6	24	27	30	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>417</b>

In addition to casework items generated from weekly lists and planning applications, a further 366 items of other new work were initiated in the report period. This was a significant fall from last year's record numbers, but was largely as a result of changes to two categories of work: Historic Environment Record information management referrals and the provision of advice on agri-environment matters. (See table below, figures for previous year in brackets).

Pre-application planning enquiries	131	(153)
Development Plan consultations	5	(6)
Permitted development enquiries	39	(26)
SRDP audits and other agri-environment matters	90	(158)
Other Archaeological Consultations	28	(18)
Historic Environment Record information management matters	46	(128)
General or SMR enquiries	21	(19)
Policy liaison matters	6	(4)
Other (includes items sent in error)	(0)	(0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>(512)</b>

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

The underlying level of work carried out in the other casework categories is similar to the high levels of last year, once the changes to the Historic Environment Record (HER) information management referrals and the provision of advice on agri-environment matters are discounted. The fall in HER information management referrals is a direct consequence of Historic Scotland's own workload, where their Designations Team concentrated on other areas of Scotland during the reporting period and therefore needed to confer or consult with our Service less often. Changes to the government's implementation of EU agri-environment schemes resulted in a marked drop in referrals or requests for information and advice after the end of the 2014 calendar year.

Pre-application enquiries continue to be a major and important area of casework, as they help the development management staff in member councils to facilitate the processing of planning applications which follow on from these enquiries. 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 minimises the archaeological issues still to be addressed at the application stage, and can sometimes remove the requirement for the attachment of archaeological conditions to planning consent.

In addition to identifying and initiating new casework, the Service carried forward work on 411 cases which had been initiated in previous years, including a significant number from last year's record levels of new casework. These continued casework items largely consist of providing advice on the appropriate scale of fieldwork and reporting required to satisfy conditions on consents which have been granted in earlier years, and of monitoring such work when it is carried out by commercial archaeological organisations on behalf of developers. The level of this activity therefore constitutes a better measure of sustained development activity than the number of planning applications lodged or consented. Over the reporting period, the number of such cases carried forward was almost exactly the same number as in the previous year. This continues the high level of such activity reported last year, where this measure had increased by more than 168% over a two year period, reinforcing the suggestion that this trend reflects a genuine increase in economic activity in the development sector,

The previous work to digitise older paper-based casework file documents which had been being carried out with the assistance of a part-time volunteer was supplemented this year when a commercial scanning company was contracted to scan backlog files in bulk so that the Service could complete a move away from paper-based archive and reduce storage requirements before moving office. Approximately 300,000 images of document pages, plans, 35mm slide photographs were digitally captured and indexed, but await cross-referencing and integration into the Service's computerised Consultations database.

Because of a marked increase in the planning application casework over the year, less staff time was available for updating the Historic Environment Record. During the reporting period 78 new site records were added to the Historic Environment Record database, and amendments or additions were made to 209 existing site records. These numbers were significantly lower than in recent years, but reflect pressures of work in other areas, such as the incorporation of new archaeological event records and archive records which are derived from reports received by the Service from archaeological contractors and contain new archaeological information.

During the reporting period 234 archaeological event records were created, an increase of 36% on the previous year. A total of 254 archive records were created, 67% more than in the previous year. The increases in these records are a result of the increased levels of

archaeological fieldwork carried out in recent years and reported on in previous annual reports. It is likely that this trend will continue as there were 163 recorded archaeological events (excavations, field surveys, building recording surveys, watching briefs, desk based assessments, etc.) during the report period, an increase of 28% on last year's total.

During the reporting period, the Service assisted two PhD candidates with data for their theses, and assisted or liaised with eleven local amateur archaeological or historical groups or individuals throughout the WoSAS area in their researches or local heritage projects.

## **1 Running the Service**

- 1.1 The Service's Steering Group met four times during the year to consider various matters in connection with the running of the Service. The Service's Joint Committee met on three occasions, on 1 May 2014, 6 November 2014, and on 19 March 2015.
- 1.2 The Service relocated its office during the year and this move to smaller, more suitable accommodation was made possible by contracting out the scanning and indexing of archaeological archive and planning documents. This reduced the Service's former document storage requirements by more than 95%. The one-off costs of the document scanning project, and of the office relocation, were met from the Service's financial reserves.
- 1.3 The balance in the Service's reserve account at year end stood at £103,562 (see Appendix 2). The reduction in the level of financial reserves at the financial year end was less than had been predicted as the commercial scanning project was completed under the budget estimates, and because in line with previous years, other contingency spending was not called on.
- 1.4 The overall level of external income to the Service over the report period was broadly as predicted. Officer time spent representing the Service and its member Councils at ALGAO:Scotland (Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers) meetings and contributing to ALGAO:Scotland's policy liaison work with Historic Scotland and other national agencies resulted in a reimbursement payment of £575 to the Service. After national-level discussions with the Forestry Authority, transitional payments administered and part-funded by Historic Scotland were made to the Service for providing advice through the final stages of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). The Service received £5,563 in 2014 for the provision of archaeological advice to agricultural and forestry agents.
- 1.5 Transitional payments for SRDP advice and information from the national agencies covered the 2014 calendar year, with an agreement that any fees to the Council archaeological services for providing this information and advice from January 2015 could be recouped from the overall fees paid to the forestry agents. Despite guidance to this effect from the Forestry Authority, uptake from the agents to date has been minimal. Consequently, consultations from forestry agents declining a fee charge have been treated as un-resourced work, and removed from our priority work-load lists.
- 1.6 The Service's existing Access to Information and Charging Policy was revised and, after receiving Joint Committee approval on 19 March 2015, was put in place at the end of the report period.
- 1.7 The record increase in the proportion of planning applications which raised archaeological issues from among the number flagged up from our monitoring of the planning authorities' weekly lists and through direct referrals from our planning officer colleagues is unprecedented. As the scale of increase over a single year is particularly high, it is unlikely that this rate of increase will be sustained. The extremely high yearly total may however represent a continuing genuine increase in enabling activities associated with economic development.

- 1.8 As noted in last year's report, the Service had adapted its operating procedures to make more efficient use of the Councils' e-planning systems through a new archaeological impact mitigation system. This revised paperless working method received a Commendation at the 2014 Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning. This is one of the Scottish Government's most prestigious events, and celebrates achievements in planning, from high-level visions to development on the ground. The Commendation, which was in the Development Management category, was in recognition of the Service's very deliberate commitment to deliver an improved level of service to planning officer colleagues. The Judges also stated that whilst archaeology is not necessarily a mainstream part of the planning system, they felt it was important to raise its profile and significance. They also commended how the Service had created a much more streamlined system which was sophisticated but still accessible to others.

## 2 Historic Environment Record Maintenance and Development

- 2.1 During the report period 78 new site records were added to the Historic Environment Record database, 209 existing site records were amended, 234 archaeological events records were added, and 254 archive records were created (index to reports received by the Service in paper and digital formats). This was a further increase in the enhancement of the Historic Environment Record, but because of workload priorities was concentrated on the integration of records arising from current archaeological fieldwork rather than on the identification of previously unrecorded but currently unthreatened sites in the landscape.
- 2.2 The Service's website (<http://www.wosas.net>) was updated over the report period with a further 7 news items from throughout the WoSAS area, and with monthly updates of Historic Environment Record data. During the same period, there were just over 550,000 "hits" on the Service website.
- 2.3 Continuing liaison between the Service as a member of the Association of Local Authority Archaeological Officers (ALGAO:Scotland) and the national heritage agencies has allowed the Historic Environment Record (HER) to continue to contribute on a cost-neutral basis to shared data sources which are being developed under the Scottish Historic Environment Data Strategy (SHED Strategy).
- 2.4 Contact with the spatial information programme team of the Scottish Government's Improvement Service continues to ensure that the Historic Environment Record meets with the nationally-established protocols required to comply with the European Union's Inspire Directive concerning data access. The Service has also been in discussion with other Council services regarding shared access to digital data for which licenses had previously to be purchased from Service resources.
- 2.5 During the report period, the Service assisted two PhD candidates with data for their theses, and assisted four amateur archaeology groups with Historic Environment Record data for survey project purposes, in return for a commitment from the enquirers to provide a copy of any resultant information to the Historic Environment Record. The Service also provided data and assistance to seven other individuals and community groups who had need of historic environment advice, but who had no archaeological expertise.

### 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 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 208 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff. The number of potentially significant applications assessed fell significantly as a result of a reduction in direct referrals from Council staff which resulted in “no issue” responses. The more streamlined system of identification means that the proportion of potential cases which actually raised significant issues rose considerably. The level of casework continues at a high level, meaning that Argyll and Bute Council remains the largest Council user of the development management advice service over the report period.
- 3.3 The 208 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	4
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	17
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	44
Archaeological watching brief condition required	39
Standings buildings survey condition	1
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	96

Altogether 112 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 submitted planning application was recommended in respect of four new proposals for the erection of dwelling houses in rural areas, where the proposals were located close to a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In each case the detailed location or the scale of the development was assessed as being likely to significantly affect the landscape setting of the nationally important monument in a way that could not be adequately mitigated. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted applications was recommended.
- 3.5 Given the density of surviving archaeological remains throughout Argyll and Bute, it is no surprise that large numbers of quite modest developments require some form of archaeological mitigation. This is particularly true where modern developments take place in historically significant locations. Small-scale development at The Glebe on Iona resulted in the recovery of medieval pottery and a bronze pin, metalworking debris and worked flint artefacts, all of which required off-site analysis. The full date-range of the artefacts has still to be reported, but it is likely that the dates extend

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beyond the known historical occupation of that part of the island in the medieval period. The costs of post-excavation analysis is often overlooked, but can unexpectedly add to the complications of development management in historic areas.

- 3.6 During the reporting period, initial preparation for a further phase of the long-term sand and gravel extraction at Kilmartin Quarry got underway. The concomitant phase of the archaeological work that was built into the development programme when it was first granted consent in the 1990s started with archaeological monitoring of the stripping of topsoil from the site. This uncovered a continuation of the long prehistoric cursus monument found in earlier phases, along with several small cairns, a prehistoric roundhouse and a wealth of other features. The excavation and recording of these features was projected to occur after the current reporting period and will be reported on at later stage.

#### **Other Advice within the Council's Area**

- 3.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 91 other items of casework, including 22 pre-application enquiries, 41 SRDP consultations, and 9 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

## 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 47 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 84 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 4.3 The 84 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	2
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	11
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	12
Archaeological watching brief condition required	13
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	46

Altogether 38 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 submitted planning application was recommended in respect of two new proposals for the erection of renewable energy projects: a 19-turbine wind farm at Dalmellington and a two-turbine development near Patna. In each case the detailed location and/or the scale of the development was assessed as being likely to significantly affect the landscape setting of important monuments in a way that could not be adequately mitigated. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted applications was recommended.
- 4.5 Archaeological excavation and recording took place at Dumfries House near Auchinleck on the World War II site reported on last year. The site had been part of a Royal Tank Corps training camp, which had been converted to a Prisoner of War camp in 1943, and later to a post-war repatriation centre for Polish servicemen. Sites like this are now increasingly rare and, because they have typically been poorly recorded in the past, deserve recording before they are removed for new development.
- 4.6 Development of a disused church site in New Cumnock for new housing included archaeological control over the demolition and subsequent examination of the cleared site. The site was that of the medieval castle which had formed the historic focus for the formation of the village, and remains of its walls and surrounding ditch were identified and recorded.

### 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 23 other items of casework, including 12 pre-application enquiries, 3 SRDP consultations, and 2 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

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## **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 47 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 27 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 5.3 The 27 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	3
Archaeological watching brief condition required	7
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	15

Altogether 12 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 5.4 The Service advised on, monitored, and received reports on the results of a number of archaeological evaluations in advance of development, but no major sites requiring further excavation were discovered during the reporting period. Although such results seem negative, part of the work of the Council archaeologist is to develop better predictive modelling techniques and a better understanding of past land-use patterns. For these analytical purposes, identifying genuine gaps between the sites of former human activity across all our Council areas is almost as important as locating the sites themselves.

### **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 14 other items of casework, predominantly comprising 8 pre-application enquiries, and 5 statutory undertaker enquiries.

## 6 Advice to Glasgow City Council

### Development Plan Advice

- 6.1 Advice was provided to the Council in two instances regarding archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential during consideration of 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 52 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 6.3 The 52 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	7
Archaeological watching brief condition required	6
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	36

Altogether 16 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 6.4 The Service was consulted at the pre-application stage of the latest phase of a new development on the banks of the Kelvin near Partick Cross. The development site included the most likely location for the medieval summer residence of the Bishops of Glasgow. Later described as a castle, the Bishop's residence is more likely to have been a strong, stone-built defensible house with extensive gardens. Following detailed discussions between the landowner, the developer, the Council's planning service and our Service, a programme of site investigation was agreed, to be followed by more extensive archaeological fieldwork if the early results showed that the survival of the medieval residence was possible.
- 6.5 The Service recommenced discussions with the developer of a farm steading conversion, immediately adjacent to the Roman Antonine Wall Fort site at Balmuildy to the north of the city. The proposed development site includes part of the Scheduled area of the Roman fort and its associated bath-house, so discussions on the development, and how to minimise and mitigate its effects on the Roman Frontiers World Heritage Site are particularly complex, and involve the Council, the developer, and Historic Scotland.
- 6.6 Development on a site with a small footprint at Airds Lane off Bridgegate, close to the medieval burgh of Glasgow's south-western edge resulted in the identification of quite substantial stone walling. This was interpreted as remains of the foundations of the former Briggait Kirk, a relatively late building that was demolished in 1918. Although this church was not of great archaeological interest in its own right, the survival of its

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foundations in an area which had been extensively redeveloped illustrates that substantial remains from the past can survive below our modern towns and cities.

**Other Advice within the Council's Area**

- 6.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 32 other items of casework, including 9 pre-application enquiries, 3 enquiries regarding statutory undertakerings, and 2 queries from engineers dealing with site investigation works in the vicinity of structures of known archaeological significance.
  
- 6.8 During the report period the manager of the Service represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to a consultation on the future research priorities of archaeologists working on the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

## 7 Advice to North Ayrshire 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 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 50 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues by the Archaeology Service.
- 7.3 The 50 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	7
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	13
Archaeological watching brief condition required	5
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	25

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

- 7.4 Development work around the Hunterston Power Station was preceded by extensive archaeological evaluation, which found an extensive multi-phase late Bronze Age and early Iron Age palisaded settlement overlooking Hunterston Bay. As well as providing evidence of different phases of occupation continuing over a long period, the site also produced evidence of metalworking and a wealth of other pits and post holes that make this site a major new prehistoric find. Close liaison between the Service and the archaeological consultant and their archaeological contractor also allowed a development in a sensitive and secure area to be successfully carried out without compromising the detailed recording of the high density of important archaeological remains which had been identified during the evaluation phase.
- 7.5 Relatively small-scale development work at Blackwaterfoot on Arran found a Bronze Age roundhouse, a large circular palisade and early Neolithic "pit groups" which may be the scant surviving remains of timber houses which have been more heavily damaged by ploughing in later centuries. Despite its modest site area, this development demonstrated that sites which are considered suitable for development in the modern period are also likely to have been considered suitable for occupation over a long period in the more distant past, and that evidence of such continuing occupation may still survive below ground level to be discovered by archaeological techniques.

### Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 7.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 34 other items of casework, including 11 pre-application enquiries, 9 SRDP consultations, and 2 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

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## **8 Advice to Renfrewshire 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 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 44 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 8.3 The 44 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:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	4
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	12
Archaeological watching brief condition required	3
Standings buildings survey condition	2
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	23

Altogether 21 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 8.4 The continuing phased redevelopment of the former Royal Ordnance Factory in Bishopton meant that, during the reporting period, further elements were carried out of the major archaeological mitigation scheme involving historic building recording and evaluation by trial trenching at the former. The complex discussions which had taken place at the start of the project between the Service on behalf of the Council, and the developers' archaeological contractor meant that new detailed applications have been processed more speedily as they have complied with the approved Archaeological Mitigation Strategy for the site. Two further areas of the former factory were "signed off" after archaeological recording had been completed.
- 8.5 Monitoring of the demolition of the modern offices at Cotton Street, Paisley in preparation for redevelopment revealed fragmentary structural evidence of a late eighteenth century churchyard wall. The church and its graveyard had been identified as having been present on the site, but despite documentary records suggesting that all remains had been disinterred before the intensive 1970s development of the site, human remains were subsequently discovered and retrieved by the archaeologists for reburial.

### **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 15 other items of casework, including 7 pre-application enquiries, 4 SRDP consultations, and 2 statutory undertaker enquiries.

## 9 Advice to South Ayrshire 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 51 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 108 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 9.3 The 108 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	8
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	14
Archaeological watching brief condition required	12
Standings buildings survey condition	2
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	2
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	69

Altogether 39 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 9.4 Continuing archaeological mitigation work for William Grant & Sons Distillers at the Curragh, near Girvan, revealed further phases of prehistoric activity in the area. A late prehistoric palisaded enclosure with a roundhouse inside it has been established as being of Bronze Age date and appears to have been built on an alignment facing seaward towards Ailsa Craig. A wealth of other prehistoric remains have also been found in the area in the ongoing works, including a Neolithic pit alignment and a number of Burnt Mounds. Burnt Mounds typically comprise large quantities of fire-cracked and reddened stones, ashy deposits, near to some form of water-trough close to a burn. They can be from a wide range of dates, and are not fully understood, but a popular interpretation is that they are prehistoric communal cooking and feasting sites, so the proximity of this site to a Neolithic pit alignment may be significant.
- 9.5 Evaluation of a development area at Ayr College found several groupings of features forming possible prehistoric roundhouses and a large number of other features and pits with evidence of burning. In common with other recent work within modern built-up areas, this has shown that fragile and fragmentary prehistoric settlement remains can still be found in areas which have been subject to more modern development.

### Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 9.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 28 other items of casework, which included 16 pre-application enquiries, 4 enquiries from statutory undertakers, and 2 SRDP consultations.

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.



## 10 Advice to South Lanarkshire 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 51 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 122 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 10.3 The 122 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	5
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	27
Archaeological watching brief condition required	30
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	56

Altogether 66 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 10.4 Refusal of the planning application was recommended in respect of three proposals – two of these were related to the erection of single wind turbines, at Medwyn Park, Carnwath, and adjacent to the historic battlefield at Drumclog. In each case, the proposals were adjudged to adversely affect the sensitive landscape setting of nationally important monuments to an unacceptable degree. The other proposal was for an agricultural shed within a Scheduled Monument, a Roman Camp which would have directly affected any surviving Roman remains within the development footprint. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal was recommended in all three cases.
- 10.5 The implementation of one phase of an archaeological mitigation strategy for quarrying operations at Newbigging near Carnwath revealed Neolithic and Bronze Age activity close to a henge monument outside the quarry. The alignment of pits and other features within the landscape setting of a large ritual monument such as a henge has been seen elsewhere in the Council area quite recently, during archaeological mitigation work for the Clyde Windfarm, near Crawford. Recurring patterns of findings such as these may be evidence that henges and other prehistoric ritual sites should be more generally seen as the focus of a range of wider activities in the broader landscape rather than as more localised activity areas themselves.
- 10.6 Relatively small-scale development on a previously-undeveloped site at Nairn Street, Larkhall revealed evidence of a small prehistoric settlement which is likely to be of Bronze Age or early Iron Age date. The roundhouse and pits that were found show that important prehistoric remains can survive within more modern settlements.

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

### **Other Advice in the Council's Area**

- 10.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 42 other items of casework, including 21 pre-application enquiries, 8 SRDP consultations, and 3 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

## 11 Advice to West Dunbartonshire Council

### Development Plan Advice

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

### Development Management Advice

- 11.2 Over the report period 51 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 33 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 11.3 The 33 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:

Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	6
Archaeological watching brief condition required	4
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	23

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

- 11.4 A number of small-scale archaeological evaluations occurred in the Council area over the reporting period, but no major archaeological discoveries were made. Pre-application discussions on a number of new large-scale developments in Clydebank and the Dumbarton to Bowling area were initiated by developers and by the Council's staff, and advice was given to prospective developers on the archaeological implications of future development of the non-designated parts of the Roman Antonine Wall terminal fort site at Old Kilpatrick.

### Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 11.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 12 other items of casework, including 4 pre-application enquiries, 2 SRDP consultations, and an enquiry regarding statutory undertakings.
- 11.6 During the report period the manager of the Service represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to a consultation on the future research priorities of archaeologists working on the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

## 12 Advice to West Lothian Council

### Development Plan Advice

- 12.1 There was one request for assistance from the Council relating to the Local Development Plan during the report period.

### Development Management Advice

- 12.2 Over the report period 51 weekly lists of planning applications were received from the Council for monitoring by the Service and 104 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, either by the Archaeology Service or by Council staff.
- 12.3 The 104 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	2
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	15
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	26
Archaeological watching brief condition required	13
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	47

Altogether 57 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 12.4 Refusal of the planning application was initially recommended in respect of two proposals at Kirkhill, Broxburn, where, despite detailed advice, the developer had not submitted any supporting information to illustrate the extent of visual impacts of the developments on an adjacent Scheduled Monument; this meant that the suitability of the design was impossible to assess. In accordance with national planning policy, as insufficient information had been provided with the application, refusal was recommended.
- 12.5 Archaeological mitigation fieldwork in advance of housing development at Mossend by AOC Archaeology Ltd. resulted in the excavation of a farm steading from the period before the Agricultural Revolution of the eighteenth century. Farm sites like this have not survived well in the modern farming landscape, and are typically very difficult to identify and excavate because the remains are usually heavily damaged or fragmentary. These sites are still poorly understood, but they may represent the last phases of the form of land-use and occupation that was widespread in lowland Scotland in the medieval period and are therefore important because they contribute information that cannot be retrieved from other sources.

### Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 12.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 35 other items of casework, including 14 pre-application enquiries, 6 SRDP consultations, and 6 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

### **13 Advice to the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority**

- 13.1 Archaeological advice is provided to the National Park Authority planning service under the terms of a chargeable Service Level Agreement covering the whole of the National Park area. In the year 2014-15 the National Park Authority paid £16,667 to the Service for archaeological planning advice, and an additional £1,750 in fees for historic environment advice on other Park projects.

#### **Development Plan Advice**

- 13.2 There were two requests for advice and assistance from the Park Authority in respect of the local development plan over the report period.

#### **Development Management Advice**

- 13.3 Over the report period 51 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, 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.
- 13.4 The 54 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:

Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	3
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8
Archaeological watching brief condition required	8
Standings buildings survey condition	1
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1
No issue, no action possible or necessary, including no issue after further work	33

Altogether 21 of the identified planning applications required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 13.5 In addition to the previously unrecorded prehistoric Chambered Cairn identified during a walkover survey in advance of a hydro-electricity scheme on the Burn of Mar and reported on last year, archaeological work during the implementation of the scheme uncovered the elaborate remains of a prehistoric Burnt Mound nearby. Burnt Mounds typically comprise large quantities of fire-cracked and reddened stones, ashy deposits, near to some form of water-trough close to a burn. They are not fully understood, but a popular interpretation is that they are prehistoric communal cooking and feasting sites, so the proximity of this site to a chambered cairn is particularly interesting. This case continues to demonstrate that significant monuments still remain to be discovered across the country, both above-ground and below.

#### **Other Advice within the National Park Authority's Area**

- 13.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including National Park Authority staff, in respect of 34 other items of casework including 7 pre-application enquiries, 17 SRDP consultations, and 3 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

## **14 Information and Advice to Developers/Agents and to Statutory Undertakers**

- 14.1 There were 131 requests for information and advice from developers or their agents, including 55 requests for Sites and Monuments Record digital extracts. There were 34 requests for assistance in connection with Scottish Water, Scottish Water Solutions, Scottish Power, Scottish and Southern Electricity, and Transerve proposals. The requests for assistance from developers and their agents raised income of £4,210, a modest increase on the previous year's total.

## **15 Agri-Environment Advice**

- 15.1 The national agencies for forestry and for the historic environment re-confirmed that any charges levied by the Council archaeological services for providing information and advice with regard to agri-environment schemes should be recouped from the overall fees paid to the applicants and their agents by central government, rather than from separate grant-aid from Historic Scotland. In order to facilitate this change Historic Scotland and the Forestry Authority agreed to jointly fund transitional payments to Council archaeological advisers for the provision of advice on applications to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) up to the end of the 2014 calendar year. The Service received a grant of £5,563 in transitional payments for this period. As in previous years, the grant was distributed proportionally across Scotland in accordance with the total number of SRDP applications for which archaeological advice was sought and provided.
- 15.2 In the run-up to the changes referred to above, guidance on the requirements for, and funding of the inclusion of historic environment information and management advice in new agri-environment grant applications was re-issued by the Forestry Authority to forestry agents. From January 2015 onwards requests for information and advice have been received from the agents, but quoted fee-charges for the provision of the service have been declined. Consequently, except in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park area where the National Park Authority has underwritten the costs, any such consultations have been treated as un-resourced work, and removed from our priority work-load lists.
- 15.3 The consultations with central government agencies regarding the inclusion of historic environment assets within the new European agri-environment grant scheme referred to in last year's report have continued, but remain unresolved. The inclusion of a formal requirement for archaeological advice to be integral to the assessment criteria for future schemes has not yet been secured, and a heightened threat to known but non-designated historic environment assets from subsidised agricultural practices may be an unfortunate result.

## Appendix 1

### Annual Performance Statistics 2014-15 (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.

<b>Performance</b>	<b>95.96%</b>	<b>(97.84%)</b>
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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	81.64%	(83.86%)
East Ayrshire	83.33%	(83.87%)
East Renfrewshire	92.31%	(85.71%)
Glasgow City	84.62%	(84.31%)
North Ayrshire	88.00%	(80.00%)
Renfrewshire	90.91%	(87.50%)
South Ayrshire	87.04%	(86.27%)
South Lanarkshire	88.14%	(78.36%)
West Dunbartonshire	81.25%	(87.50%)
West Lothian	90.00%	(81.01%)
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs	92.59%	(81.25%)
<b>Overall Planning Application Performance</b>	<b>86.19%</b>	<b>(82.90%)</b>

#### Other Work Areas

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

SRDP/Forestry Advice	77.01%	(84.28%)
Pre-Application Enquiries	88.55%	(80.39%)
Permitted Dev/Statutory Undertakings	92.31%	(88.46%)
Other Archaeological Consultations	100%	(72.22%)
General/SMR Enquiries	100%	(88.24%)
<b>Overall Other Work Performance</b>	<b>87.54%</b>	<b>(82.58%)</b>

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.

## Appendix 2

### WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2015

2013/14 £		2014/15 £
	<u>Income</u>	
132,467	Contribution from participating authorities	128,095
28,451	Fees & Charges	26,425
887	Interest on balances	797
<u><b>161,805</b></u>	<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>155,317</b></u>
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
	<u>Employee Costs</u>	
140,469	Salaries, NI & Superannuation & Employee Related Costs	144,332
	<u>Administration Costs</u>	
0	Fees & Subscriptions	270
4,627	Travel & Subsistence	3,256
10,700	Rents	4,458
192	Printing & Stationery	0
2,900	Equipment Purchase & maintenance	2,900
142	Catering	212
0	Postage	0
0	Building repairs and security	2,402
85	Purchase of services (miscellaneous)	14,655
1,890	Audit Fee	1,910
<u>20,536</u>		<u>30,063</u>
<u><b>161,005</b></u>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u><b>174,395</b></u>
800	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(19,078)
121,840	Surplus Brought Forward	122,640
<u><b>122,640</b></u>	<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<u><b>103,562</b></u>

The Archaeology Service of the Councils of Argyll & Bute, East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian, and of the Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority.