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Drum's lost gardens revealed

Excavations at Drum have revealed exciting evidence for the early 17th-century gardens which once surrounded the castle. The gardens, which have lain hidden under green lawns for nearly 250 years, were probably established in the early 1600s, when a palace wing was added to the medieval castle. The planting patterns would have been designed to be appreciated from the windows of a long gallery in the new, luxurious building.

Up to now we have known very little about Drum's early gardens. The 17th-century historian John Spalding recorded the destruction of 'a pleasant garden planting' in 1644 by the Marquess of Argyll's Covenanting forces. There are a few references in estate account books to garden produce in the mid 1700s, and to some payments for repairs to garden walls. The gardens were finally entirely swept away in the later 18th century, when changing fashions required sweeping lawns to surround country houses, with walled gardens removed to some distance from the house. But a geophysical survey undertaken on the lawns at Drum in 1988 hinted that remains of the early garden might have survived under the ground.

A team of professional and volunteer



Remains of several periods of garden development were found just below the turf.
Photo: Robert Grant, NTS

archaeologists revealed the foundations of very substantial walls and stretches of paved pathways, which would have provided the 'hard framework' of the garden. Garden beds are associated with these features.

There is also very clear evidence of landscaping work to smooth out the area after the demolition of the walls in the late 1770s – the stone from these was used to build a walled garden much further away from the castle. The soil used for this landscaping included a great deal of building debris and rubbish which is casting light on the lives of much earlier occupants of the castle. Medieval ceramics have been recovered, including glazed floor tiles and pottery fragments, alongside quantities of 17th/18th-century wine bottles, fine tablewares and clay pipe fragments.

We have very limited evidence in Scotland of what 17th-century gardens were actually like, so the results from Drum are really satisfying. The garden features revealed at Drum are among the oldest in the care of the National Trust for Scotland, and are providing important new information about this elusive period of Scottish garden history.

Shannon Fraser
NTS Archaeologist East

The excavations were led by Murray
Archaeological Services.

Archaeology Team welcomes new member

George Geddes has been appointed as the new St Kilda Archaeologist, and has been thrown in at the deep end, his first task being to assist colleagues from RCAHMS in their new GPS survey of the archaeology of the whole archipelago (see *Archaeology Bulletin* 27).

George comes from a background in commercial archaeology with a focus on the archaeology of standing buildings in Scotland. He is no stranger to working on Trust islands, having undertaken standing building surveys on historic farm buildings on Canna. His work on St Kilda will, however, be much more varied, from undertaking small-scale fieldwork, to repairing cleits and drystone dykes, to welcoming and guiding visitors to the islands.

Meanwhile the Team has been sad to lose Sam Dennis, the St Kilda Archaeologist for the last three seasons. Sam has decided to settle in Shetland and is putting the finishing touches to her PhD.



Right: The NTS Archaeology Team at a recent meeting at Culloden: Derek Alexander; Jill Harden; George Geddes; and Shannon Fraser

Plain sailing or all at sea?:

new plans for protecting our underwater archaeological heritage

Scotland is about to see major changes to the way we look after our marine environment, and the Trust has been at the forefront of the debate over what is best for underwater archaeology.

Despite the fact that nothing below low water mark is actually owned by the Trust, this type of advocacy is exactly in line with the founding purposes of the organisation – to promote the protection and enjoyment of Scotland's natural and cultural heritage.

In recent years it has become apparent that our underwater archaeology involves much more than just historic wrecks and chance finds: new research has shown that vast areas of prehistoric landscapes have been 'drowned' since the last Ice Age through rising sea level, and these submerged landscapes potentially hold clues to our past that have normally been lost on land – preserving organic remains like wood, leather and textiles.

The Scottish Government has now revealed its plans for the better protection of this heritage, and on the whole the Trust has been supportive of the proposals. We have very much welcomed the expansion of the types of site that can be protected to include drowned landscapes. We are also supportive of the proposals that 'historic environment assets' will be protected as an integral part of a new system of Marine Spatial Planning, just as natural features will. But we are less content



Ship's compass and associated wooden fittings from the wreck of the Cromwellian ship *The Swan*, sunk off Duart Point on Mull.

Photo: Colin Martin

with the suggestion that the number of designated marine archaeological sites will rise in the next few years from the current paltry 15 sites, to around just 30. With 15,000 sites already recorded, there will surely be many more than 30 that are of national or international importance, and thus worthy of designation.

The Trust will continue to be one of the key players in the debate over improving the protection of our marine archaeological heritage

It is hoped that the Trust's suggestions for improvements will be adopted in the forthcoming Scottish Marine Bill consultation, expected to be released this summer.

Robin Turner
NTS Head of Archaeology

The draft Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) on the protection and care of Scotland's marine historic environment can be found on the Historic Scotland website under 'Consultations'.

Smugglers discovered on Culzean map!

Continuing with our maritime theme, close inspection of Fowlis' 1750s map of Culzean estate has led to an unexpected discovery.

The detailed map shows the castle (before Robert Adam's remodelling), the terraced garden, and numerous other houses and fields. The house of the freed slave Scipio Kennedy is also clearly marked.

However, what were originally thought to be later doodles inked onto the map, might in fact date back to the late 18th century.

Just off the coast there is a faint little sketch of a boat and three barrels. The single jib and furled mainsail without boom strongly suggests that she is a lugger – the preferred vessel of smug-

glers, and the barrels clearly represent contraband.

Naval historian Eric Graham felt that the drawing style and hull shape seemed to be pre-1770, and was therefore quite likely added to the map at around the same time as it was drawn or soon after, but by a different hand.

The caves beneath Culzean Castle have always been known for smuggling, and there is believed to be a secret tunnel between the caves and the castle. The discovery of the sketch on the ancient map adds yet another piece of evidence to suggest illicit trading in the 18th century.

Derek Alexander
NTS Archaeologist West



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