

Scotland's Rock Art Project

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Inbox

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Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP)

We are delighted to announce that the Scotland's Rock Art Project is now underway. This five year project is hosted by Historic Environment Scotland, with funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Our project partners are Edinburgh University, Glasgow School of Art Digital Design Studio, Archaeology Scotland, Kilmartin Museum, and the North of Scotland Archaeology Society.

Why are we doing this project?

Around 2400 prehistoric 'cup and ring' marked rocks are known in Scotland – over a third of all the prehistoric carved rocks recorded in Britain – and many more carvings may still be undiscovered. The carvings, which probably date to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c.4000-1800 BC), are one of our most fascinating and enigmatic types of prehistoric monument. There have been exciting advances in our understanding of the rock art in the last 20 years, but we still have much to learn.

Inspired by the findings of dedicated amateur specialists, and building on the successes of recent community-based projects, this project will work in collaboration with local communities and individuals to enhance our knowledge, understanding and awareness of Scottish rock art.

What will the project do?

We aim to do several things:

- Locate all (or most) of the prehistoric carvings known in Scotland, and look for 'undiscovered' rock art
- Record detailed, consistent information about the carvings using a range of techniques, including photography and photogrammetry (3D photography)
- Use this information to analyse the rock art and its contexts, and to compare carvings from different regions and locations across Scotland
- Explore how people value and use rock art today
- Enhance awareness, appreciation, and sustainability of Scottish prehistoric rock art.

Who can be involved?

Anyone with an interest in rock art or the historic landscape can be involved! There are many different ways in which you could participate, including:

- Field survey to locate and verify known sites, or to look for new sites
- Field recording
- Archival research

- Data analysis
- Workshops and get-togethers to share results, ideas, and perspectives
- Creative activities

You can do as much or as little as you want. The Project Team will provide expert training, guidance and support, so no previous experience is necessary.

How to get involved

Please email or write to us at the address below if:

- You are interested in being involved with the project (this does not commit you to anything at this stage!)
- You would like us to give a talk about the project to your local group
- You would just like to keep in touch with what we're doing

If we don't hear from you, we will assume that you would prefer to be taken off our mailing list.

We aim to start training and fieldwork later this year, and we will send you information about this in the next few months.

We are currently developing the project website, which will include details about how to record Scotland's rock art, and our training events and other activities. The website and recording methods will be launched later this year. In the meantime, you can find more information about British rock art on the England's Rock Art website: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/era/> .

And finally...

We look forward to hearing from you - and hopefully to working with you in the future - and we welcome any comments or suggestions you might have about the project.

Contact details

Email address: Tertia.Barnett@hes.scot

Postal address: ScRAP, HES, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX

Telephone: 0131 651 6722

Best wishes

Tertia

Dr Tertia Barnett | Principal Investigator | Scotland's Rock Art Project | Commercial and Tourism

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