

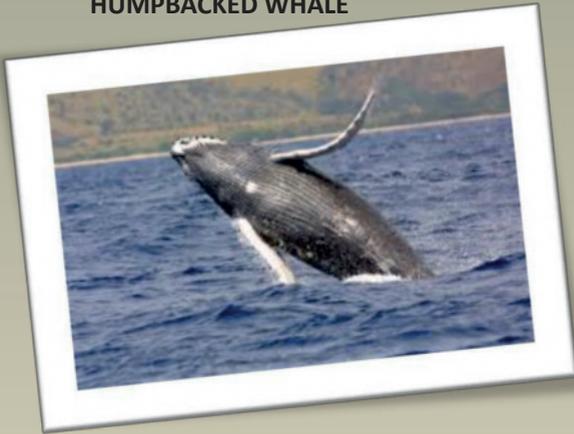
KILMARTIN MUSEUM



STRUCTURE AT CARNASSERIE MOR



HUMPBACKED WHALE



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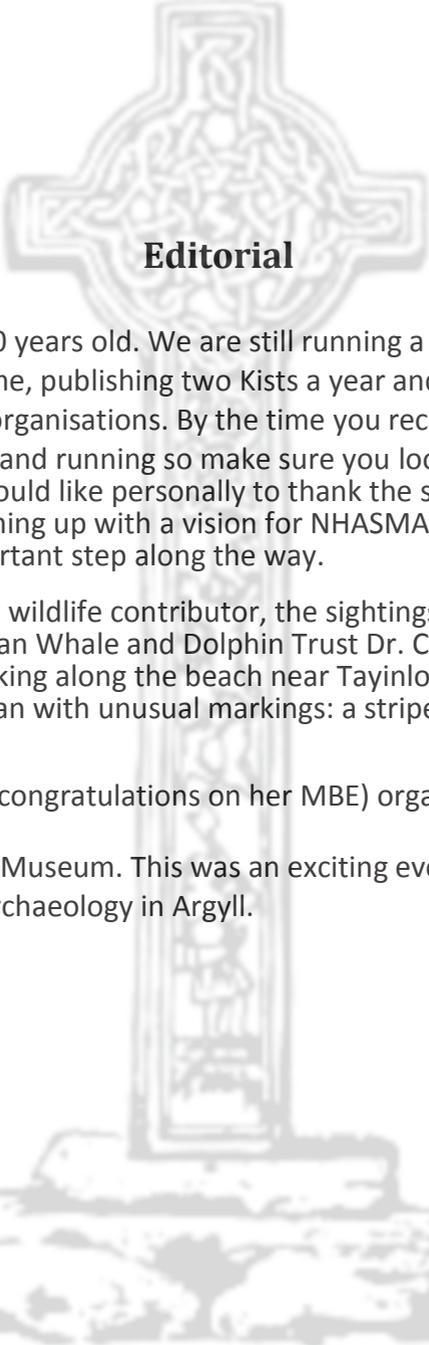
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Editorial

NHASMA is now 60 years old. We are still running a thriving winter and summer programme, publishing two Kists a year and supporting many local like-minded organisations. By the time you receive this issue our website will be up and running so make sure you look at www.kist.scot. I would like personally to thank the society's committee for coming up with a vision for NHASMA's future. The website is an important step along the way.

Welcome to a new wildlife contributor, the sightings and standings officer for Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust Dr. Conor Ryan. Recently I was walking along the beach near Tayinloan and found a washed-up cetacean with unusual markings: a striped dolphin perhaps?

Dr. Sharon Webb (congratulations on her MBE) organized a symposium based at Kilmartin Museum. This was an exciting event that bodes well for the future of archaeology in Argyll.

Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story

A Snapshot of the Symposium

Dr Sharon Webb MBE

In November 2015, Kilmartin Museum held a unique event, a symposium which we called Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story, which discussed our present understanding of the region's archaeology and where this knowledge might take us in the future.

Sponsored by Historic Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, the event also relied on the voluntary contributions of the researchers involved. We also received a huge amount of support from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Argyll has some amazing archaeology, but I was conscious too that there are a lot of unanswered questions and interesting threads of research yet to be unraveled. Embarking on the next stages of our £6.5 million redevelopment of the Museum has necessitated a closer look at the whole span of human history in Argyll, information which will feed into the evolving interpretation strategy and eventually the new exhibitions. In order to do this, we contacted leading academics who have been actively researching in the region and asked them to undertake a huge amount of work. Thankfully everyone responded with great enthusiasm.

The researcher's first task was to establish the baseline of our knowledge within their period specializations and summarize previous research themes. The next task was to tease out where our knowledge gaps were, and how we might address these using the tools, techniques and methods of archaeology. Considering what might be the most fruitful research questions to ask in the future was important. This work was then written up as a series of research papers which were made available before the Symposium, providing a platform for discussion and debate. The Symposium itself took place over two days with the period discussions conducted in chronological order from the Paleolithic through to the Post Medieval period. Each session was skillfully facilitated and mediated by a Chairperson, chosen for their broader Scottish perspective on the period in question.

Paleolithic and Mesolithic

The first session on the Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods was chaired by Dr Caroline Wickham Jones, who is based in Orkney, with the presentation undertaken by Professor Steven Mithen of the University of Reading. Beginning with the very earliest human occupation of Scotland following or during the end of the last ice age, Mithen focused on the use of carbon dating to establish a chronology. It was clear from his presentation that we cannot understand these early hunting and gathering population settlement patterns as uniform throughout the period and that the study of climatic change is also vital.

Some of Mithen's identified research priorities for the future would be to excavate what might be Scotland's earliest site of human occupation (12,200 BP) on Islay and provide better heritage management of early prehistoric sites in Argyll.

Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age

Professor Gabriel Cooney from University College Dublin chaired the next session on the Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age. Dr Alison Sheridan from the National Museums of Scotland was set the very difficult task of summarizing this long and extremely interesting period which begins when evidence of the introduction of farming can be detected in the archaeological record and ends when iron comes into use. A great deal of possible future research questions were raised, many of which relate to where and how innovations such as metal, other new items of material culture and farming itself came from. There was, of course, a focus on understanding rock art and how it fitted into belief systems as a whole during that time. Sheridan pointed to the Early Bronze Age, around 2200-1900 BC, as being a 'golden age' for Argyll & Bute in general. It would be of great interest to explore what the basis for this was as well as why it ended.

Iron Age

The session on Argyll's Iron Age was chaired by Dr Simon Gilmour, Director of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the presentation undertaken by Kilmartin Museum's own field archaeologist Roddy Regan.

The period begins around 700 BC although its end date is rather less clear as there is no Romanization providing convenient cut off dates. Regan highlighted that the period is dominated by large numbers of fortified sites, although only 8% have ever undergone any form of excavation work. Only a small percentage of these have yielded secure dates which tell us when they were used. It was proposed that future research should focus on a widespread programme of excavation intended to date potential Iron Age sites, particularly those with evidence of long occupation sequences. This would provide a dating framework that would also enable the re-examination of artefacts from previously excavated sites.

Medieval

The session on Early Medieval Argyll was chaired by Dr Sally Foster of Stirling University and jointly presented by Dr Ewan Campbell & Dr Colleen Batey of Glasgow University. The theme running through this period was the transition from a kin-based society to one of indigenous kingdoms. Themes running through this period are related to identity, contact, transformation and multiple ethnicities (Irish, Picts, British, Anglo-Saxon, Norse) as well as the adoption of Christianity and the impact this had on technology and crafts, as well as society. We have evidence of high status sites, Dunadd for example and although there are still really interesting research questions to answer here, we really know very little about the lives of people of lower status.

Dr David Caldwell, president of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, chaired the session on Medieval Argyll, the presentation undertaken by Dr John Raven from Historic Scotland. Raven tackled this complicated period underlining particular developments such as Dun reoccupation, the development of castles; lordly sites, abbeys, churches and chapels as well as West Highland monumental sculpture. It was also pointed out

that, similarly with other periods, we know little about lower status settlement sites.

Modern

The final session on the early modern and modern periods was chaired by Professor Audrey Horning from Queens University Belfast and the presentation was given by Dr Heather James from Northlight Archaeology. James summarized the period in Argyll and showed that as well as the more traditional methods



Recent excavation at Carnasserie Mor -
see article by Roddy Reagan p11

of study, which include documentary evidence, studying maps and early photography, archaeology can yield interesting results. James focused on research questions that might be relevant to contemporary society, including identity and the importance of place.

Conclusions

To add to these wide ranging discussions was an evening presentation given by Professor Richard Tipping of Stirling University, who summarized the current state of knowledge of the climate and environment through all periods.

Some main themes or research questions cropped up within all the period discussions; for example, there was widespread agreement on the need for more specific dating of different types of sites throughout all periods. We also need to try and examine where and how the bulk of the population lived beyond sites of high status and try to understand how these settlements fit into the broader landscapes.

Time and time again, the need to research and integrate environmental evidence to help us understand all periods of the past was highlighted, a point strongly made by Tipping. Dr Tipping looks set to be a very busy man!

Throughout the two day event, I was struck time and again by how different Argyll is from the rest of Scotland in almost every period. It was agreed that we need to look beyond Argyll if we are to understand what makes the region different, focusing on trade and cultural affinities.

The Symposium also reminded me of the importance of in particular, the earliest prehistoric to medieval periods, because this is where Argyll's prehistory and history can really make a great contribution to a wider understanding of Scotland during these times.

The transitions between periods, especially in the Prehistoric and early Historic periods, also seem to be fruitful areas to concentrate on. After all, the period divisions were created as ways to help us think about the past, but there is a tendency for interesting issues and questions to fall through the gaps.

The Symposium was deemed a great success by all who attended. The contributions in the discussions from active researchers and interested non-professional audiences has resulted in what was one of the most successful events Kilmartin Museum has ever held.

Regional Research Framework

We have gathered a huge amount of research and sources of information for our interpretation which can be used during the redevelopment of the Museum. But there was very much a feeling amongst the speakers, organizers and advisors that we didn't want to stop there, however. Our next task therefore is to produce a Regional Research Framework for Argyll. This will fit into the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework being developed by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and they have kindly agreed to help us progress with this.

The Symposium dealt with more than 12,000 years of human history and this article can really only scratch the surface of a fascinating and huge

area of research, so its aim has been to encourage you to find out more. The research papers themselves represent a snap shot of our knowledge of archaeology in Argyll as it stands right now. To make this hugely valuable body of knowledge as widely available as possible, we are also in the process of seeking funding to publish the papers as a monograph.

Cetacean Sightings

Dr. Conor Ryan

Going out to the coast in search of whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) is not a something that comes to mind during cold and dark months of winter and spring. But it can be very rewarding indeed, especially to those who put the time in. We tend to think of cetaceans as 'summer visitors', but perhaps we are the summer visitors?! On those rare occasions in winter and spring, when the wind calms down, it is possible to see several species of cetacean in the waters around Argyll.

Porpoises and Bottlenose Dolphins

Very little is known about where harbour porpoises overwinter, but at least some of them remain in our cold and wind-swept waters. Bottlenose dolphins can be seen year-round too: and occasionally in the Clyde, but generally around Islay, Mull and Skye. Although they are wide-ranging, we know that there are few bottlenose dolphins in this area and since the late 1990s less than 80 individuals have been recorded. These individuals have been tracked from Sutherland to Skye, to Mull to the Clyde, but Skye and Mull appear to be their favourite haunt. Some have even ventured as far as Cork Harbour in Ireland and the Moray Firth on the east coast. We know this information thanks to members of the public sending us photographs of dolphins allowing us to catalogue individuals based on unique scars on their dorsal fins.

Common Dolphin plus side-kick



A common dolphin breaching out of the sea, showing the stunning pigment pattern

One of the most fascinating findings from Argyll in the last year was the discovery of an unlikely pair of marine mammals in Loch Fyne. A lone common dolphin has been residing in the lochs of the Clyde for many years now. It has an apparent affinity to channel marker buoys from which it never strays far. In HWDT (Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust), we wonder if it has some sort

of sensory impairment such as poor hearing or ability to echolocate. This might explain the restricted movements and why it is alone (common dolphins usually occur in large groups in the open sea). As if that wasn't strange enough, we heard that this common dolphin had a side-kick, which photographs and video revealed to be a harbour porpoise. Underwater photos of distinctive scars on the porpoise revealed that the duo has been associating on and off between June 2011 and August 2015; first off Hunterston and now more recently off Otter Ferry. This is the first time such an association has been seen between harbour porpoise and a dolphin species so we have submitted a paper on this unusual finding for publication in the journal *Marine Biodiversity Records*. If you are curious about this pair, you can see a video on HWDT's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9OxM5KTrA8>.

Humpback Whales

The highlight of 2015 in Argyll was undoubtedly humpback whales in the Clyde which is generally a rare occurrence. Until 2015, HWDT received on average one record of humpback whale every other year from Argyll. However in 2015 we received six sightings from the Mull of Kintyre up to Loch Fyne. Between the 5th and 8th July 2015, there were several sightings of humpback, potentially of more than one whale. People were enthralled by a plethora of incredible behaviours including breaching

(jumping clear of the sea), pectoral-slapping and lob-tailing; where the whale pounds the water with its massive fins, creating a splash visible for miles. What remains to be seen is whether or not humpback whales are recovering in Scottish waters. Elsewhere in the world, conservation measures have apparently been effective and humpback whales are recovering at up to 7% per year in Australia and USA/Canada. However in UK waters, the species is still rare, indeed as it was in the 1920s when whaling operations were peaking here (whaling stations in the Outer Hebrides and Shetland). It is premature to say that humpback whales are 'recovering' here as we still don't have a population estimate, but certainly the increasing number of sightings is encouraging!

All of these findings involve reports and images submitted by members of the public. Although HWDT conducts dedicated research from our vessel *Silurian*, we cannot be everywhere at once and we rely on the observant and enthusiastic members of the public to record what they see. If you are interested in helping us, please do submit your sightings to us on www.hwdt.org. For the more intrepid folks, why not consider volunteering on our research vessel *Silurian*, where you will not only contribute to our visual and acoustic surveys, but also get to experience sailing through the Hebrides.



HWDT's research vessel *Silurian*, conducting visual and acoustic surveys under sail off St. Kilda

Recent Excavations at Carnassarie Mor

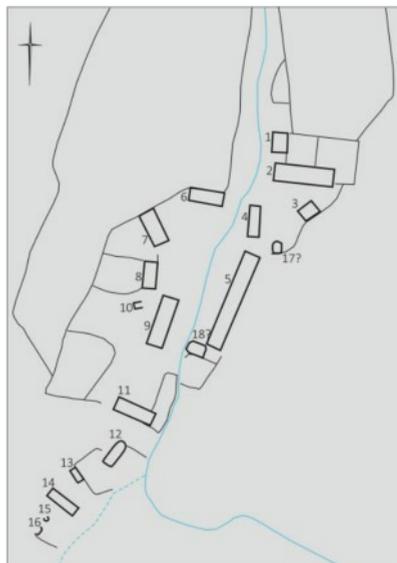
Roddy Regan

Introduction

During previous survey work undertaken by Kilmartin Museum at Carnassarie Farm, a group of five possible structures was noted lying just to the south of the deserted township of Carnassarie Mor. As none of these structures appeared on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of the settlement (surveyed in 1872-73) it was likely that these structures predated the mid 19th century. In order to examine these possible structures Kilmartin Museum undertook a two week excavation between the 8th and 19th of June 2015 as part of the *Dig It* festival run by Archaeology Scotland. The full excavation report will be available as a PDF document on the Kilmartin Museum Website www.kilmartin.org.

Location and Topography

The township of Carnassarie Mor lies within Carnassarie farm, is situated to the north west of Kilmartin parish and approximately 2kms north of Kilmartin village (centred NM 83500 02000). The farm covers approximately 1,200 acres of mainly sheep grazed hillside with more level terraces or glens running NE/SE between the steeper slopes of the higher ground. The eastern boundary of the farm runs west and parallel to the A816 road between Kilmartin and Oban. The southern boundary runs north of Carnassarie Castle and then north west past the southern slopes of Cnoc Creach and Sron an Tighe Dhuibh following the course of the Eas Mor burn. From here the western boundary runs north towards Lochan Fearphrom and from there runs south in the low ground between Barr an Daimh and Buachaille Breige and then continues east to



Carnassarie Layout

the eastern boundary of the farm. The farm is bounded by the farms of Tibbertich, Upper Largie, Creaganterve and Ormaig respectively, lying north, south, east and the west. Most of the farm lies above 100m AOD apart from the area lying immediately around the modern farm buildings at the south east. The land rises to over 230m on Cnoc Creach with Barr an Daimh and Sron an Tighe Dhuibh lying slightly lower at between just over 220m and 210m AOD respectively. The topography of Carnassarie consists of SW-NE aligned ridges of mixed geology including limestone, schist and basalt. The ground cover at the east of the farm is mainly close-cropped grass. The higher slopes and the land to the west are covered by more scrubby grass with heather cover, with reeds and sphagnum moss covering the wetter more boggy ground.

It has been suggested that the name Carnassarie is a combination of *carn*, possibly after the large prominent cairn, Carn Ban, that lies within the farm (NM80SW 28) and *airigh* Gaelic for a shieling or settlement.

The Visible Remains

There are the remains of 16 recognisable structures at that can still be made out at Carnassarie Mor with possibly the trace of three others.

The buildings of the township lie along a small glen created by the burn which runs through the centre of the township, bridged at two points by small stone-built footbridges.

The majority of the upstanding structures within the township (Structures 1-11) appear to date to the late 18th and 19th centuries suggested by the presence of square corners, high gable ends, triangular vents in the 'barns', features commonly associated with structures of this period. The fireplaces within two of the structures, if original features, suggest these date to the later part of the 19th century. These two structures were still occupied in the 20th century by the uncle of the current owner of Carnassarie Mor.

At the south end of the site there are the remains of five further structures (Structures 12-16) which are not depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map. These structures survived as slight, grass-covered

banks, less than 0.5m high, with no surviving architectural features that would indicate what their function had been.

Carnassarie Mor on Historic Maps

The first known depiction of Carnassarie Mor is on Timothy Pont's late 16th century map manuscript. Pont's map shows the two '*Canestre's*' along with the castle, Carnassarie Mor depicted as '*Carnastre m'*'. Roy's map of 1746 depicts what is probably Carnassarie Mor erroneously labelled as '*Sallachy*' (Sallachary) and here it is depicted as a group of four structures with two rectangular-shaped enclosures. The 1st Edition Ordnance map, surveyed in 1871-2, shows the extent of the '*Carnassary*' township at that time and is depicted as comprising of ten buildings. Seven of these are depicted as being roofed along with two partially roofed and one unroofed building. These structures are attached too and surrounded by six enclosures (Argyllshire Sheet CXXXVIII, published 1875). The township straddles both sides of a small burn and a sinuous head dyke runs through Carnassarie Mor and the neighbouring farm of Tibertich, parallel to the contours of the valley, separating the improved land to the east from the unimproved land to the west. By the time of 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, surveyed 1897-98, three further buildings are also shown as unroofed, while the long building at the south east has been reduced to two shorter structures.

Historical References to Carnassarie Mor

The existence of a place of some significance, perhaps the castle, is suggested in a document of 1436 when John MacLachlan of Strathlachlan grants a charter at '*Carnastre*' to Allan (his cousin and son of John '*Riac*' (the Grizzled) MacLachlan), to the post of Seneschal and Toisechdeara of the Glassary lands. Allan was possibly one of the MacLachlans of '*Keilaneuchanich*' (or Dunadd).

Carnassarie, as with much of the land surrounding it in the 15th century was likely held by the Campbells of Lochawe, although we have no documentary evidence of this.

In 1529 Carnassarie, along with neighbouring lands, was granted by King James V in *'Life rent to Helen Hammyltoun, daughter of the deceased James Earl of Aran, the lands of Carnartre, Tibberchit, Salauchaure, Craiginterrif, Correnbeg (or Torreinbeg), Innerbeg, Awrenachtane and Awrecammise and other lands in the barony and seriffdom of Ergile, resigned in her favour by Archibald Campbell Master of Ergile, the future 4th Earl of Argyll as part of a marriage settlement.*

Carnassarie is also mentioned in a precept of sasine dating to 1533 by the Earl of Argyll, this addressed to his *'beloved John Campbell of Carnassarie and Gilbert McNicol for the infeftment of John McAllister VcEwin VcKaviss and his son Dugald'*. This was witnessed by *'Arckinglass, Maclachlan and Pennymore'* (Colin Campbell of Arckinglass, Lachlan MacLachlan and Iver McIver of Pennymore) and Archibald Campbell of Clauchan. (Dunardry writs).

In 1559 John Carswell as the *'Domine'* and *'familiari servitori suo'* (his familiar servant) of Archibald Campbell, the 5th Earl of Argyll, was given a grant of the eight merklands of the two *'Carnestris'*, with the custody of the castle, and the six merklands of Auchinellan, as well as other lands in the same area to be held in *'blencheferme'* (a small or nominal quit-rent). (RMS, iv (1546-80), no. 1592).

The castle along with Cranassarie Beg and Carnassarie Mor continued to be held by the Carswell family until at least the earlier half of the 17th century when it appears that the settlements became part of two different estates.

In 1633 the lands of Carnassarie Mor (possibly along with the mill) passed via the Carswell family to the MacLachlans of Creaganterve.

'Sasine of the 6 merk land of Carnassarie mor in Ariskeodnish, given by Donald Campbell of Stroneskir, as baillie, to John M'Lachlan, lawful son of Archibald M'L of Craiginterve...with the consent of his wife Christine Campbell, and also with the consent of Niall Carswell of Carnassarie and his wife..signed at Kilmartin before Duncan Campbell of Duntroon, Mr Niall Campbell of Ederline, rector of Glassary, and Alexander Campbell, of Kilmartin. Christine C signed at Dunoon before Hugh Boyd, lawful son of said bishop. Witness to sasine: Duncan dow Carswell in Ormaig and

Archibald M'Ilmachessag in Carnassarie mor.' The Carswell family continued to maintain an interest in the property as it was redeemable by Niall Carswell of Carnassarie for 3,000 merks and he also reserved his turf-rights on Carnassarie Mor.

Another sasine dated to 1648 refers to '*Carnassarie mor with mill, &c in Ariskeodnish*' (Argyll Sasines I No 288; Campbell 1933, 96). Carnassarie Mor and the mill continued to belong to the MacLachlans of Creaganterve until at least 1751 when the property of the township is valued as £8.5.4 with 43 acres arable and 22 acres pasture. The township and the mill (valued at £1.14.3) being the property of '*Colin McLachlan of Craigentarve*'.

By the time of the 1872 valuation role both the Carnassarie Mor and the mill have been sold out with the Creaganterve family, the former belonging to John McInnes and Mrs Hugh MacLellan, the latter by Malcolm Campbell.

While the ownership of Carnassarie can be traced with some ease, the names of those who actually resided there is less easy to discern from the extant documents, although further study may add some information to the currently scant evidence.

The Commissariat of Argyll mentions a '*John, in Carnasrie*' and a '*Gilbert M'Vurich*', in '*Carnasriemore*' in 1685, while a '*Donald Campbell, in Carnasremoir*' is mentioned in 1677.

In the 1685 List of Rebels '*Dougall Roy Campbell, Malcolm Clerk*' and '*Dougall McKellar*' are listed in '*Carnaserie*' referring to Cranassarie Moras. They appear later in the 1694 hearth tax list (see below). For their part in the Duke of Argyll's rebellion they were respectively forfeited 1, 2 and 4 cows. The names of '*Malcolme Clerk*' and '*Dougald Campbell*' again appear in the list of Fencible men in 1692 and an '*Ard: (Archibald) Mc oa heavnan*' is listed between them presumably the '*Archibald McAchinma*' of the 1694 hearth tax list.

In the 1694 Hearth tax records '*Carnassariemor*' is listed as having eight dwellings each with one hearth, the tenants '*Donald McQuorie, Dougall McIllelan, Dougall McKynich, Donald McBain, Malcom Clerk, John Clerk,*

Archibald McAchinma and Donald Campbell. A John McArthur is also listed as a tenant of a dwelling with two hearths and a 'milne' which likely refers to the mill site. A Kiln is also listed but it is not specified whether this was attached to the mill or refers to some other structure.

After this and prior to the 1841 census few records exist of names of those living in the township. The names of two tenants appear on gravestones in Kilmartin graveyard, John Jackson (died 1810) and Neil Campbell (died 1817).

Some individuals named at Carnassarie More within the Statute of Labour List of 1834-35 are: Archibald Orr, Duncan Gillies, Archibald McLullich, Donald Sinclair and Duncan Orr; all paid 12 shillings in cash, apart from Duncan Orr who paid half in cash and half in labour.

Both Duncan Gillies and Archibald MacLullich appear in the 1841 census and this gives us the first indication of the size of the settlement and how many people lived here. This tells us that 46 people inhabited 7 households, and 4 of these were occupied by tenants, 2 by cottars (agricultural labourers) and one household possibly occupied by a pauper (that of Anne Brock) although of this we can't be sure.

The decline of the settlement can perhaps be seen in the census of 1891 when there is only one household at Carnassarie Mor, that of Archibald MacTavish, with a total of 6 people. The last known inhabitants were the MacKichan family who lived here until 1936/37 the farm subsequently bought by the present owners family (Begg 1998).

Excavation Results

In all 6 trenches were opened over the six structures (Structures 12-16) at the south of the settlement.

Structure 12

This structure was aligned NE/SW and 14.2m externally (12m internally) by 6.0m externally (4.0m internally). The structure had been built over and between two near parallel ridges of bedrock which formed the bulk of the eastern and western walls, the bedrock modified with stone facing

filling in the less even gaps. More substantial walls had been constructed at the north and south, the northern wall distinctly curved while the southern wall had only slightly rounded corners. The doorway lay on the western side, this indicated by large cobbles lying over bedrock that also formed part of the entrance surface. A hearth area at the northern end of the building and a drain constructed at the southern end indicated this was a byre building.



Structure 12

The earliest deposit exposed within the northern end of the structure was a dark grey silty clay deposit overlying bands of uneven natural. This appeared to be the remains of mixed floor deposits despite being very uneven (due to the underlying natural) but that it comprised the floor at the

northern end of the structure was indicated by a circular burnt hearth area. To the south of this was another patch of burnt, fire reddened material that may indicate another hearth position although this appeared disturbed. Few objects were recovered from this deposit, although an iron object was associated with the hearth area. What may be the remains of an iron lock and key were also recovered from just above this floor deposit.

To the southern end of the building a drain was uncovered that ran under the southern wall, indicating that this end had been utilised as a byre. The drain was partially constructed from large blocks of stone



Structure 12 Drain

irregularly lining either sides the base of the drain, utilising a natural gully in the underlying bedrock.

The threshold and entrance into the building was located on the western side of the structure, this consisting of a natural ridge of bedrock and laid stones forming a cobbled surface to the western side of the building. Sealing the floor at the north of the trench was a mixture of rubble collapse/demolition and dark grey brown silty clay. Similar deposits also sealed the southern end of the trench. The external cobbled surface was also sealed by a post use demolition/collapse deposit. The relative lack of rubble from around the walls of the structure suggested that much of the wall material may have been robbed, although it is more likely that the upper walls of the structure was composed of turf.

Structure 13 and Midden Area

Structure 13 was constructed at the south western corner of an enclosure wall that also connected with Structure 12 at the north east (Figure 8). The building was aligned NW/SE and measured 8m in length externally by 4.5m externally (2.8m internally), with a slightly curved SE corner.

A trench was placed over the eastern end of Structure 13 and continued east of the structure encompassing an area that lay south of an immediately adjacent enclosure wall. The trench established that Structure 13 was a later addition to the enclosure, its



Structure 13

walls abutting the enclosure wall at the south. The earliest deposit within the structure was a mixed floor deposit; this contained fragments of slag or iron working waste. A relatively large post hole was uncovered cut into the floor and may have supported a roof structure, but whether this was an original feature to the building or a later addition or repair has to remain speculative. The primary floor was sealed by a darker grey

deposit that also contained fragments of slag and iron working waste. Neither of these deposits showed any signs of direct heating or scorching, possibly indicating any heat source used in the iron working lay in the unexcavated part of the structure to the west. The floors were sealed by a mixture of silty clay and demolition/collapsed stone, the later likely derived from the walls of the structure.

Beyond the Eastern wall of the structure and lying against the enclosure wall were a series of dumps forming a midden area. The midden contained frequent slag and iron working waste along with numerous small to medium stones. The iron waste no doubt derived from nearby Structure 13 while the stones likely derived from stone clearance from the working of a horticultural soil within the enclosure. This worked soil was exposed within a small sondage on the northern side of the enclosure wall. This soil was sealed by the rubble from the collapsed enclosure wall, this rubble in turn lying under a dark brown silt.

Structure 14

This was a NW/SE aligned structure (Figure 9) that measured 14m in length externally by 6m externally (4m internally). The walls of the structure had been severely robbed especially at the western and northern sides where their presence was indicated by slightly raised lines of rubble. The presence of hearth areas at the western end of the structure and a drain at the eastern end indicated this was another byre building.



Structure 14

Trenches were placed over the eastern and western ends of the end of the structure. The eastern trench revealed that this end of the building contained a central drain running under the eastern wall of the structure, this filled with a dark grey brown silt. The walls on the northern side of the structure had been almost totally removed, their line indicated by a

slight linear rise running down that side of the building, consisting of no more than small stone fragments, the likely debris of the wall robbing activity. To either side of the central drain lay a rough cobbled and clay surface. The surface appeared to continue on the east side over what would have been the original wall line, this perhaps indicating a wide entrance on this side. A second, smaller, doorway is also indicated in the south-east corner of the building, where the wall line is interrupted by a rough cobbled surface.

The western trench revealed the hearth area of the building along with the remains of a rough cobbled floor, a threshold in the north wall with a possible second entrance in the southern wall. The walls within this part of the structure had again been almost totally robbed. Three fire reddened areas indicated hearth positions or placements. Two of these, formed overlying ovals of burning, while the third lay to the north of these forming a smaller circular burnt area. The main threshold consisted of horizontally laid stones and immediately to the western side of this was the base of an upturned bottle, this inserted into the ground and most likely providing a pivot for the door. A second doorway was suggested by the abrupt stop of walling on the southern side of the building and while this may have been produced by wall robbing, rough cobbling where any wall line would have been suggests this was indeed a doorway. Three post positions formed an alignment that ran down the central part of the floor and these have been interpreted as roof supports. The middle post setting included two pierced stones that would have surrounded the timber upright. The floor consisted of yellow brown clay silt which had patches of rough cobbling with small and medium stones. Also utilised in the floor around the hearth area were two quern stones (upper and lower stones).

Structure 15

This was the remains of a small sub circular limekiln measuring 3m in diameter externally and between 1.4m-1.6m wide internally (Figure 10). The western side of the structure and the base was formed by natural bedrock, which may have been quarried prior to construction of the two arcs of walling forming the southern and northern sides. Between the

walls on the eastern side was the entrance or flue, which measured 0.40m wide.



Kiln Structure 15

The earliest exposed deposits within the structure were the thin and scattered remains of mixed lime and the peat charcoal, the later the remnants of fuel. Within the entrance or flue was a thicker and very compacted deposit of lime or lime mortar. The walls of the kiln and the bedrock had been turned red by burning. The walls and possibly the roof of the kiln appeared to have been sealed by a layer of clay, part of which had ultimately collapsed over the infill of the kiln after it had been robbed and partially demolished. The internal area of the kiln had been backfilled with large blocks of limestone, which had numerous voids between them suggesting rapid backfill. Some of the limestone blocks showed signs of being partially burnt and may originally been the raw material for the kiln. Some rubbish had also been deposited during the backfilling of the kiln, this suggested by two near complete bottles along with some animal bones. A quantity of bones were articulated and possibly belonged to a lamb burial /disposal. A similar deposit of rubble and kiln debris was removed from the area on top of the walls and around the kiln on the outside.

Structure 16

This was the remains of a rectangular limekiln measuring 5m long and 2m wide (4m by 1.40m internally) with two flues or entrances on the eastern side (Figure 10).



Kiln Structure 16

The western side was formed by a natural ridge of bedrock.

The walls of the kiln and bedrock were both heat reddened. The kiln contained the remnants of the last firing, this comprising of relatively small fragments of burnt and partially burnt limestone this up to 0.15m thick. The limestone deposit overlay the remains of the fuel used in its reduction, which appeared to be peat. The kiln was then filled with a mixture of stone debris, some likely wall derived, mixed with a mid brown silty clay.

The Recovered Artefacts

A relatively large quantity of iron working waste in the form of slag was present within the midden located to the west of Structure 13. The presence of slag within this structure and absence elsewhere suggests that this was where the material derived, the waste including fly ash and heavier smithy bases. Burnt material in the form of fly ash was also recovered from the area around Structure 15.

Apart from the large quantity of slag present on the site the second most common artefact recovered in terms of number was glass. The bulk of the fragments were green bottle glass, the base profiles of some suggesting both onion and mallet bottles being present. Fragments of a wine or claret glass was also recovered, suggesting some degree of ostentation.

The greatest number of pottery fragments came from material infilling the buildings after they had gone out of use, the sherds in the main were small and abraded with most industrially produced products of white glazed earthen wares, some with sponge, transfer print and banded decoration. Some fragments of what may be earlier red wares were also recovered including the fragments of a vessel, possibly a small cup, with clear glaze associated with the byre end of Structure 14. The earliest vessel is perhaps a green glazed reduced vessel that came from the midden associated with either Structure 12 or Structure 13. These reduced wares however have a long use life in Scotland and could date anytime between the 15th to 17th centuries. Fragments of window glass were also recovered from the site as were small medicine bottles. Two of

these came from the backfilling of one of the kilns, Structure 15, as did a complete wine or beer bottle all of which are likely 19th century in date.

The iron objects recovered were in fairly bad condition, being corroded, and few items apart from nails can be positively identified. These included; two keys, a possible lock fragment and some badly corroded blades that may be sickle fragments.

Two copper coins were recovered from the site, both unfortunately badly corroded, however these are most likely a Charles I two penny piece or turner, possibly dating to the 1640s or 50s, the second possibly a Charles II farthing dating to the 1670s. A decorated copper alloy buckle, possibly for a shoe, was recovered from the floor of Structure 14.

Two near complete quern stones were recovered from the floor of Structure 14 along with the fragments of two others, these no doubt used as paving. Another quern fragment was recovered from the backfilled material within Structure 12 and this may have derived from the collapsed wall of the structure. Other stone objects included a whetstone or knife sharpener, two smooth stone rubbers and a slick stone. Two schist discs were also recovered, one oval in shape while the second sub circular disc may have been intended as a whorl.



Hearths and floor with querns - structure 12

Two pieces of flint were recovered from the excavation, one a fragment of an end scraper of prehistoric origin and the other a small struck flint pebble that may have been used as a strike-a-light.

Discussion

The documentary evidence indicates that that Carnassarie Mor was in existence by the mid-16th century while Hearth tax records indicate that this was a fairly substantial settlement with eight households by the late-

17th century. By the 1841 census 46 people lived within 7 households, this at the high point of population expansion in the 19th century.

Given the numbers of structures and households recorded for the settlement, Carnassarie Mor can rightly be described as a township. This now consists of the remains of 16 definite structures (with perhaps two more) located on either side of a small burn, which appears to have been diverted from its original course at the southern end of the site. Why this was undertaken is not yet clear but it may have been to make the limestone ridge on its eastern side more accessible for quarrying.

Of the excavated buildings, Structure 12, a byre dwelling, would appear to be the earliest structure. The dating of the construction and subsequent occupation of the building is difficult given the paucity of closely datable finds directly associated with it. The building however appears to predate, or is contemporary with an attached enclosure. The enclosure in turn predates Structure 13, which appears to have been a forge or smithy. Along the southern wall of the enclosure on the south side a midden dump subsequently built up. The bulk of the recovered artefacts recovered from the midden consisted of slag, no doubt deriving from Structure 13, given the presence of slag within the building itself. The midden also contained large fragments of co-joining green glazed pottery dating to the 16th or 17th century. The pot could have come from either building and while it only represents one vessel it does indicate a likely date for the use and occupation of both structures.

To the south of this group of features was Structure 14, another byre dwelling. Again directly attributable finds were few in number but recovered finds possibly suggest a slightly later date of occupation between the 17th and 18th centuries.

If the dates of occupation are correct then it is possible that both of these structures were in use in the late 17th century and are two of the single hearth households listed in the Hearth tax of 1694. The remains of other six households very likely lie beneath or were erased by the later buildings of the township structures lying to the north. When the buildings in the southern end of the settlement were abandoned is again difficult to ascertain although it seems likely they had gone out of use

when the settlement to the north was extensively modified, probably in sometime in the 19th century.

While the southern end of the settlement is abandoned as living area it however continued to be used in the production of lime as indicated by the presence of two small lime kilns built up against a natural scarp, Structures 15 and 16. These are situated close to a prominent limestone ridge, which has definite signs of quarrying activity, indeed there may be the site of another small kiln to the west and lying above the sites under discussion. Structure 16, perhaps the earlier of the two, was a relatively crudely built rectangular construction with a double flue. The second was a sub circular construction with a central flue and bottles recovered from its post use infill suggested it was last used sometime in the 19th century, the lime perhaps used within the still extant buildings at Carnassarie Mor that have lime mortar in their construction.

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