



TARBERT CASTLE
EXCAVATION PROJECT DESIGN



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Tarbert Castle: Our Castle of Kings A Community Archaeological Excavation.

Many questions remain as to the origin of Tarbert castle, its development and its layout, while the function of many of its component features remain unclear. Also unclear is whether the remains of medieval royal burgh extend along the ridge to the south of the castle. A programme of community archaeological excavation would answer some of these questions, leading to a better interpretation, presentation and future protection of the castle, while promoting the castle as an important place through generated publicity and the excitement of local involvement.

Several areas within the castle itself readily suggest areas of potential investigation, particularly the building ranges lining the inner bailey and the presumed entrance into the outer bailey. Beyond the castle to the south are evidence of ditches and terracing while anomalies detected during a previous geophysical survey suggest further fruitful areas of investigation, which might help establish the presence of the putative medieval burgh. A programme of archaeology involving the community of Tarbert would not only shed light on this important medieval monument but would help to ensure it remained a *'very central place'* in the future.



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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Tarbert Castle	5
2.1 Location and Topography	5
2.2 Historical Background	5
3 Archaeological and Background	5
3.1 Laser Survey	6
3.2 Geophysical Survey	6
3.3 Ground and Photographic Survey	6
3.4 Excavation	7
3.5 Watching Brief	7
3.6 Recorded Artefacts	7
4. Castle Research: a summary	8
4.1 Tarbert Castle	10
4.1.1 Early Origins?	10
4.1.2 The later Medieval Castle	11
5. Project Research Aims	14
6. Proposed Excavation Trenches	17
7. Method Statement	27
8. References	35

1. Introduction

Tarbert Castle - Our Castle of Kings, a Community Excavation Project

In order to better understand the castle and promote it within the community and beyond Tarbert Castle Trust (TCT) aims to conduct an archaeological investigation at the scheduled site of Tarbert Castle, Kintyre, Argyll.

The project was initiated by the TCT (formerly the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust) who own Tarbert Castle on behalf of the community, maintaining the castle fabric and keeping the castle grounds open to the public as a Heritage Park. www.tarbertcastle.info

The excavation will be undertaken with a number of partner organisations including Kilmartin Museum along with local schools and other community groups and hopes to achieve the following broad aims.

- To investigate the ruined structures further and add to recorded information currently available including early beginnings of a fort on the site and surrounding community.
- To train and involve community volunteers in the techniques of Archaeological investigation.
- To introduce young people to historical research and archaeology through local schools and visiting youth groups.
- To add information to existing site interpretation for the benefit of the wider public who as visitors to the area now access the site in increasing numbers.

This further exploration of our community asset will benefit both adults and young people who directly will participate directly in the project and will increase community respect for our local heritage as well as adding to the accumulated historical record of our castle's royal history.

The project is the latest part of an ongoing programme of work that seeks to consolidate, conserve and enhance the understanding of Tarbert Castle. The work at the castle incorporates the aims of the Tarbert Castle Trust, namely:

1. To promote the historical importance and raise the awareness of the area's historical and archaeological assets to the local community, particularly young people.
2. To encourage the recreational use of the site with the use of heritage trails and dedicated picnic areas
3. To provide training opportunities to community members in archaeology, and local history research for local and unemployed people.

Other project aims include:

4. To further understand the history of the castle and its relationship to the town of Tarbert.
5. To enhance and promote understanding of the area's cultural heritage for visitors to the area, encouraging tourism.

6. To raise the local understanding of how to protect and care for historical landmarks, buildings and features within the area.

To achieve these aims the Trust, over the past 13 years, has undertaken a strategy involving an extensive community effort to make the site more accessible to the public and to save and consolidate the remaining built structures. This included creating a sustainable conservation plan and a major consolidation of the Tower House. The Trust has improved access to the site by upgrading and consolidating paths through the castle site and providing improved information signage to the castle itself. TCT has also created a Community Woodland and Community Orchard around the castle, enhancing visitor experience to the site, and these are regularly used by Tarbert Academy as an outdoor classroom for History, Art and Biology.

In order to achieve this, £1M has been donated or sourced from numerous grant giving organisations, including Historic Environment Scotland, HLF and Argyll and Bute Council. Many hundreds of hours of volunteer time have been invested in consolidating the ruins, clearing the site, interpreting the structures and opening up public access. Volunteers, including families and young people, are involved in our ongoing maintenance program at the castle that is part of the village 'Community Plan', this undertaken by regular community supported working parties.

The work of the Trust has involved the close cooperation of Historic Environment Scotland, Archaeology Scotland's 'Adopt-a-Monument' Scheme, Kilmartin Museum, Argyll and Bute Council local disability group organisers and Tarbert Academy. We will continue to work in partnership with these organisations and others throughout the project.

Throughout the consolidation and interpretation programme the Trust has been constantly asked by members of the local community whether it would be possible to further explore and understand the site through its archaeological remains, not only because people are interested in their history but because the castle is such a major asset to the local identity and economy.

With this in mind, in 2013 and funded by HLF, TCT commissioned a detailed desk top historical investigation and non-invasive survey of the monument (Explore Tarbert Castle - YH-12-03691) which sought to establish a research framework that would expand the current knowledge of the site through archaeological and historical analysis and survey of the castle remains, whereby this knowledge would be used by the local people of Tarbert, professional archaeologists and visitors to the town and castle.

This was done through four phases of work (these are more fully outlined in Section 3).

- i) The production of a Desk Based Assessment which collated existing information about the history and archaeology of Tarbert Castle
- ii) A laser scan of the castle
- iii) A geophysical survey of the castle
- iv) descriptive and photographic survey of the castle remains

The results of this work were combined in the subsequent report (Regan 2013).

This Excavation Project Design has been prepared by Kilmartin Museum.

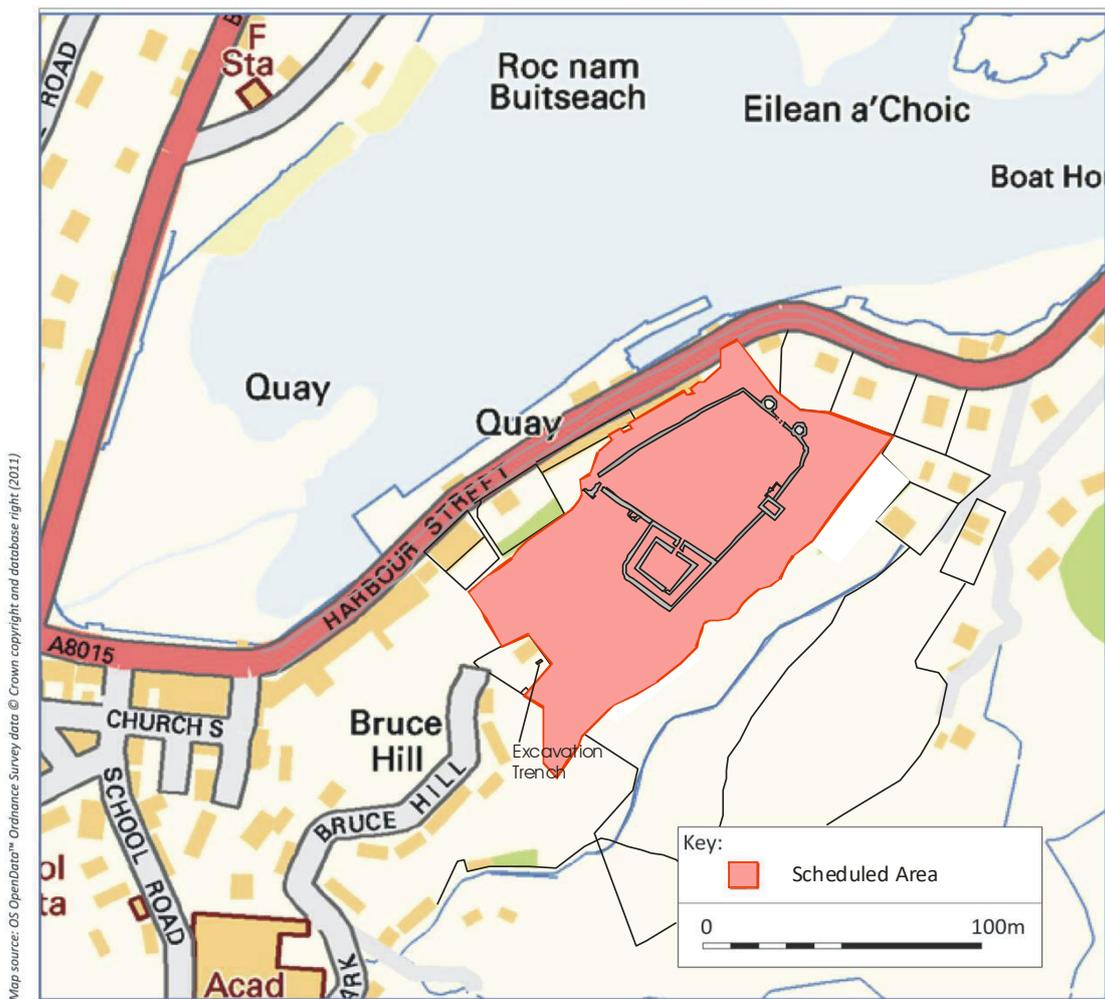
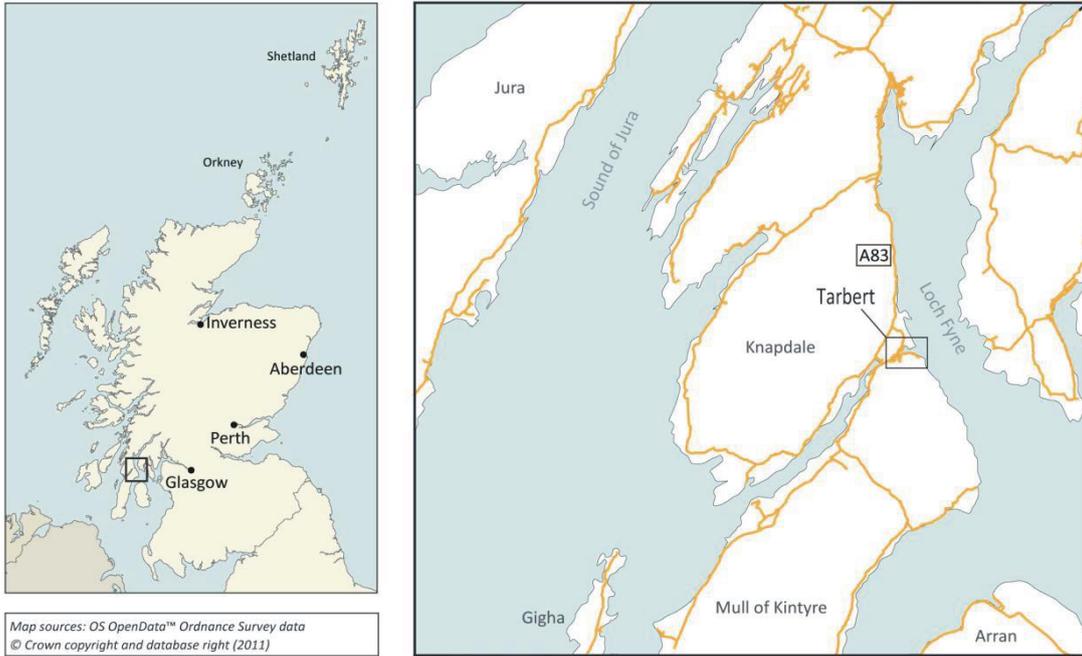


Figure 1: Location of Tarbert Castle

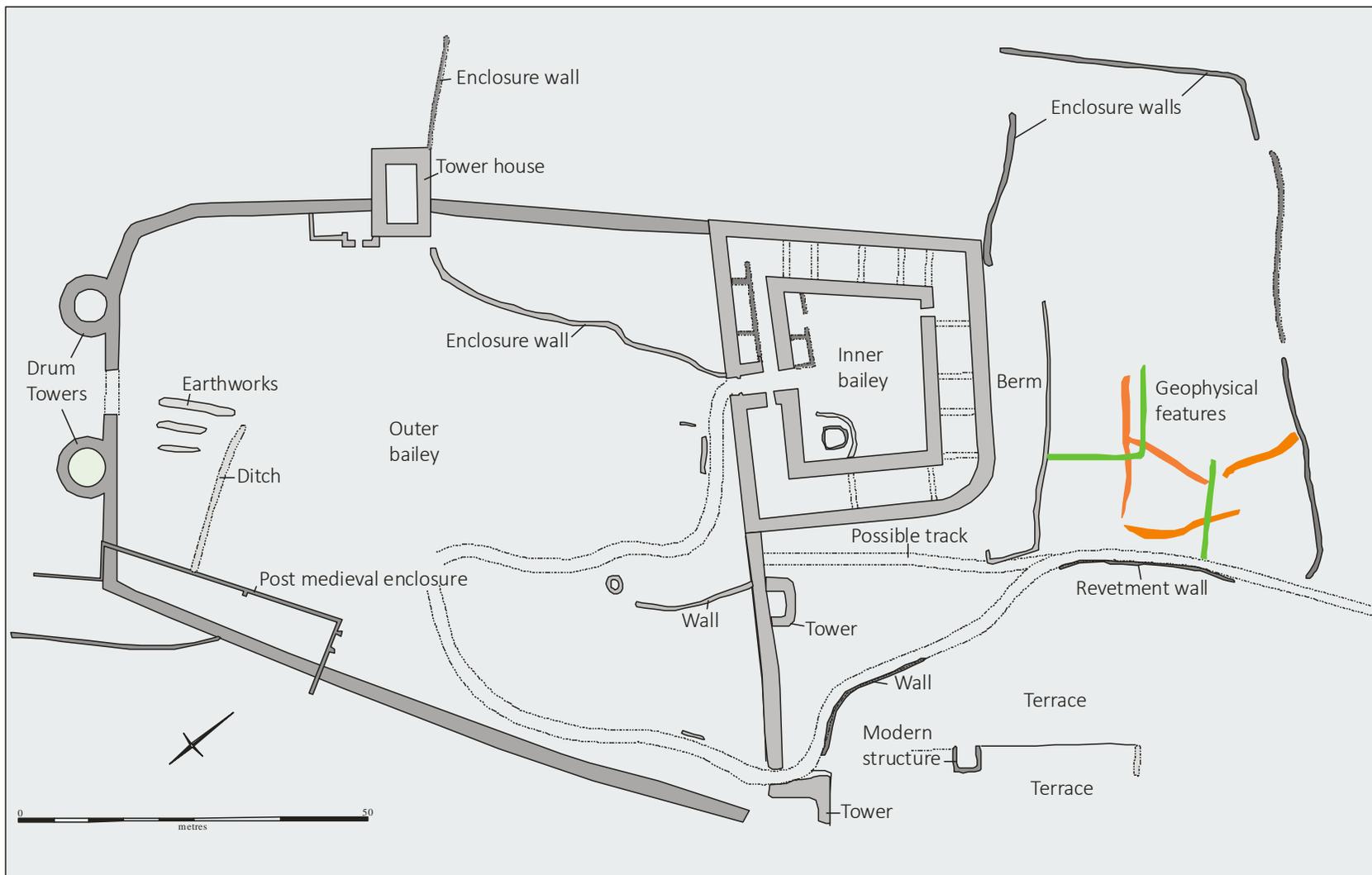


Figure 2: Tarbert Castle Layout

2. Tarbert Castle

2.1 Location and Topography

The castle occupies a prominent ridge on the SE side of East Loch Tarbert within the parish of Kilcalmonell. (Figure 1, Centred NR 86770 68730, NMRS No. [NR86NE 1](#), Canmore ID [39316](#)). Directly overlooking Tarbert Harbour and standing above the present town, the site of the castle is naturally defended all sides, except on the north west, by steep rocky scarps around the edge of the ridge, these sheer in places particularly on the west side. The south side of the castle overlooks a relatively flat area of marshy ground. To the south west the ground falls away from the castle in a series of ridges towards the present village of Tarbert.

The main nucleus of the Castle formed by the inner bailey occupies the highest outcrop on the ridge; the lower ridges are enclosed by a curtain wall (the outer bailey) including a tower house at the west. The site over the past six years has been steadily cleared of a substantial amount of scrub and vegetation cover by TCT. The castle grounds are now mainly covered in sheep-maintained grass cover, with a few gorse bushes.

2.2 Historical Background

The history of the castle has been outlined in several publications, the earliest being that of Dugald Mitchell in 1886, which sets the history of the castle beside the growth of the burgh town (Mitchell 1886). Thereafter David McGibbon and Thomas Ross wrote a detailed description of the castle as it survived in the late 19th century (McGibbon and Ross 1887). The archaeological remains of the castle, along with its history, are described by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland for their Inventory of Kintyre (RCHAMS 1971) while Dunbar and Duncan have outlined the history of the early Medieval castle (Dunbar and Duncan 1971). The history of the castle was summarised by Ian MacIntyre (MacIntyre 1974) and articles have appeared about the castle in the Kist (Campbell 1972 & 1987, Clerk 2002). Several of these works appear in full in the report of the survey of the castle which is accessible on the Kilmartin Museum website <http://www.kilmartin.org> (Regan 2013).

3. Archaeological Background

As mentioned above, the site has previously been surveyed and described by MacGibbon and Ross in the late 19th century (MacGibbon and Ross 1887). A second more extensive survey of the castle was undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland for their Inventory of Kintyre (RCHAMS 1971 No. No.316, pp 179-84).

The castle was scheduled in 1935 (SM 276) while the area of the presumed medieval burgh was scheduled in 1975 (SM 3410)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 1992 during the erection by of a fence by CFA (CFA 1993). In 2009 an architectural survey was undertaken on the tower house prior to its consolidation by Austin-Smith: Lord as part of the Tarbert Castle Project. Another watching brief along with a photographic survey was undertaken by Highland Archaeology in 2010 prior to the erection of scaffolding around the tower as part of the consolidation work (Wood 2010).

The RCAHMS maintains the 'CANMORE' (Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries) data base, which allows the user to access on-line the database of the

National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS). The RCHAMS collection contains historical and survey photographs and drawings of the castle.

As mentioned above a survey of the castle and surrounding grounds was undertaken in three stages the results combined in the subsequent report (Regan 2013).

3.1 Laser Survey

A detailed survey of the Castle and surrounding scheduled area was conducted in 2012 by Northlight Heritage using a laser scanner and some of the resultant images can be viewed online at www.northlight-heritage.co.uk.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

The results of the geophysical survey were dominated by modern disturbances and strong geological signals, most likely due to outcropping bedrock. However, some very subtle positive readings from the gradiometry survey possibly indicate that archaeological features do exist in the area which has been highlighted as the possible medieval burgh location. Even these readings, however, were obscured by the strong geological readings and the report recommends investigation of these features by excavation (MacIver 2013).

3.3 Ground and Photographic Survey

A photographic and measured survey of the upstanding structures and features was completed in the spring of 2013. The work measured and recorded all the features identified within the survey conducted by RCHAMS in 1971 while compiling more exhaustive descriptions for individual elements of the castle structure along with other features not included within the original survey. The exceptions to this were the individual elements of the Tower house, many of which were inaccessible during the survey period. Many of the individual features within the tower had been previously recorded and drawn within the RCHAMS survey, while many were also photographed by John MacPhail during the recent restoration work.

A few unrecorded features within and around the castle itself came to light during the survey. Running from a wet area just south of a series of enigmatic earthen ridges downhill to the west was a possible drainage ditch, although this may be of recent origin. To the west of the castle a series of enclosure walls were recorded, these dividing the area into small enclosed fields surrounding the castle and obviously reflecting past land use over a period of time. Whether any of these are contemporary with the use of the castle or are associated with any early burgh is open to question. Possibly also field boundaries were two rectilinear ditches lying to the south of the castle. These ditched features are readily apparent on an aerial photograph taken in 1967 as reproduced in Dunbar and Duncan's article on the castle (Dunbar & Duncan 1971). As these have no or little evidence of associated banks it is difficult to ascribe these as stock enclosures and their more formal layout may reflect horticultural use or represent relic garden features. There is also what appear to be artificially levelled terraces to the south west of the castle, these possibly past attempts at creating level planting areas or fields.

3.4 Excavation

A small excavation was undertaken as part of the Medieval Mêlée celebrations at the castle in June 2013. A trench was opened in the ground of a private garden that backs on to the scheduled area of the castle. A small trench measuring 4.90m by 1.10m was opened, which revealed a homogenous garden/plough soil containing post medieval artefacts down to natural bedrock which lay 0.28-0.30m below the present ground surface.

3.5 Watching Brief

A watching brief was conducted when the path that forms part of the Kintyre Way was upgraded in July 2017 (HES Reference/Case ID 300019132) although nothing of archaeological significance was noted (Regan 2017).

3.6 Previously recovered artefacts

During the survey and restoration work at the castle various stray finds have been recovered and these are listed below.

A broken schist spindle whorl, measuring 33mm in diameter and 7mm thick with a 10mm perforation. This was found between the steps leading up to the castle in 1993.

A brass button, measuring 21mm in diameter, with broken attachment. This was found by the path near the top of the stairs up to the castle in 2007.

A fragment of the bowl of a clay pipe with name '...CHELL' and '...BERT' (possibly MitCHELL and TarBERT). This was found near the steps up to the castle in 2007.

A pottery sherd, wheel turned reduced fabric with traces of glaze on external surface, possibly late medieval. This was found beside the path leading up to the castle on the SE of the inner bailey in 2013.

Fragments of iron slag, these were found in the sides of a modern drainage channel on the east side of the Bruce Hill road in 2013.

4. Castle Research in Argyll: a summary

As Richard Oram has previously outlined, castellology in Scotland has a history extending back to the mid-1800s when architects, as part of the wider Romanic movement, began to study and adopt medieval architectural styles (Oram 2008). As castle studies developed from the early 1900s analysis of their chronologies often concentrated on the military aspects of the architecture and layout of the castles, these often conducted from non-regional perspectives with comparisons drawn from English or continental examples (Raven 2005). This led to castles being dated and classified using two basic criteria, the first; structures typologically classified by their plan-forms and layouts and second; by comparisons of architectural styles and details.

Perhaps the most influential study of castle architecture was undertaken by the Edinburgh-based architects David MacGibbon and Thomas Ross, their work appearing in the five-volume *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland* (1887-92). Their chronological scheme was based on structural morphology and their work has continued to underpin much of our basic understanding of the phasing of castle structures. Their chronologically ordered scheme divided Scottish castle construction into four principal periods: 1st Period 1200-1300, 2nd Period 1300-1400, 3rd Period 1400-1542, 4th Period 1542-1700

It was MacGibbon and Ross who first drew attention to a group of distinctive castles lying along the western seaboard of Scotland in their five-volume *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*. Of the 35 Scottish castles they ascribed to their 'First Period 1200-1300', 11 were on the western seaboard areas of Argyll including Tarbert, Skipness, Castle Sween, Achadun, Dunstaffnage, Innis Chonnaill, Duntrune, Duart, Mingary, Rothesay and Tioram, the later formerly in Argyllshire. The majority of this group shared similar characteristics of high curtain walls or enclosures and irregularly-shaped or rectilinear stone and mortar built enclosures occupying commanding coastal sites.

While others refined the original model used by McGibbon and Ross castles were still categorised and typologised on broad comparative structural sequences.

Western seaboard castles were thus grouped into three main categories: enclosure castles; 'hall houses'; and tower houses. The first two of these categories are thought to belong to MacGibbon and Ross's 'First Period', that is, 1200-1300, while towers were generally recognised as belonging the post-1350 period.

Enclosure castles have also been sub-divided into those that have a rectilinear layout and those that have a more circular or polygonal plan. Towers have also been structurally divided, although this time using an alphabetical analogy on the basis of their ground plan (L, Z, T, etc.).

These broad criteria were used by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in its seven inventories for Argyll where castles were measured, recorded and analysed (RCAHMS 1971-92).

Ecclesiastical analogies; comparing windows, doorways and moulding profiles etc. have often been used to provide the best and most reliable points of dating and stylistic reference but, for the most part, this comparative evidence is relative.

There have been attempts to identify characteristics in building styles in Argyll with particular dates (Caldwell & Ruckley 2005) although as Raven amongst others have pointed out, problems remain.

The understanding of the early castle development in Argyll was, until recently, dependent upon the fabric and form of the surviving structures and is perhaps understandable given the comparative or entire lack of relevant documentary evidence. However, a growing number of researchers have seriously questioned the basic assumptions of dating by typology, style or comparison of details which are now recognised to be beset with difficulties.

The designation of many of the west coast castles to McGibbon and Ross's first period has been questioned with some pointing out that simplicity in plan of many 'enclosure castles' may not equate to 'early' 12th or 13th construction. For example, the detailed work undertaken by RCHAMS at Duntrune Castle and Old Castle Lachlan, has shown that the polygonal enclosure of the former and the rectilinear enclosure of the latter, which might suggest 'early' forms, based on 'traditional' chronologies, are demonstrably structures of later 15th-century date. Of course conversely it has been argued that some structures may be earlier than the dates that have been ascribed.

Both arguments, however, were based on the chronology of the castle plan which might be problematic given the potential retention of 'conservative' building traditions or the lack of finesse in understanding the development of architectural features.

Alongside this structural analyst approach, but often separate from it, was the study of castles examining their social, economic and political function, interpreting castles as components of a broader cultural landscape or landscapes of lordship, the principle exponents of this being William Douglas Simpson and Stewart Cruden who published papers on the major western castles, such as Dunstaffnage, Dunollie, Rothesay, Skipness, Castle Sween and Tioram (Simpson 1939, 1954, 1958, 1966, 1991; Cruden 1960). The foundations of historical research into the region were laid in a seminal paper by Duncan and Brown which focused on the 12th and 13th centuries and first suggested the links between the documented history and the castles of Argyll (Duncan and Brown 1958). Integrated studies of castles were rarer although in Argyll John Dunbar and Archie Duncan's discussion of Tarbert Castle adopted such an approach (Dunbar and Duncan 1971).

More recently in Argyll other researchers have begun to go beyond this with the examination of the castle as being just one component, albeit an important one, in a more complex interrelated system in the medieval period such as the work undertaken on the cultural significance of Castle Tioram and its place in the lordship of the MacDonalds of Clanranald (Stell 2014). Dunstaffnage has also been considered concerning its place within its cultural landscape, but this type of approach has been rare (Breen and Forsythe 2008).

It is however, still the case that the chronology, use and structural development of castles in Argyll and more widely along Scotland's Gaelic seaboard still remains poorly understood. While there are a few mentions within the documentary record it remains difficult to relate the majority of these sparse history documents to the fabric of the castles themselves, either in the form of layout or masonry phasing.

Despite these issues dating or compiling constructional phasing still represents a key issue for castle studies in Argyll although any future analysis of castles must also adopt a socio-economic or sociological approach examining its form alongside its function

As part of this we must also take into account new aids that may help in this task that would give us more accurate or nuanced dating for any occupation deposits or the castle structure itself using perhaps mortar dating and OSL on occupation or floor deposits.

There must also be a place for more theoretical approaches within castle studies such as spatial analysis in looking at divisions of public and private space, internal and external communication, and the social structures which these features reflect. Broader landscape approaches should also be considered with the examination of any other structures relating to the castle such as pre-Improvement settlements, and in the case of Tarbert castle, the burgh and other buildings that we know existed, such as the mill and the tower at West Loch Tarbert.

Tarbert is one of the few west coast castles that can perhaps be shown to be purpose-designed as a centre of royal administration in the later middle period. However, while we assume that the castle was constructed by Alexander II sometime in the first half of the 13th century, we are by no means certain, given the caveats of dating based on structural morphology along with the lack of any documentation associating Alexander with the castle. Similar problems exist in dating the construction of the castle at Dunoon which was also a royal stronghold. We know this castle was in existence by the first half of the 13th century when between 1230 and 1246 John is named as '*constabularious de Dunoon*' (Origines Parochiales Scotiae Vol 2. 1, 64-67). What we don't know is whether Dunoon was a royal castle at this time or whether it was held by the Stewarts. As with Tarbert and Dunoon, the origins of Rothesay Castle remain unclear, although, as a Stewart fortification, it became a *de facto* royal stronghold and used by that dynasty as their principle and possibly preferred residence when visiting the west.

Other Argyll castles of course were taken under royal control at various periods and some, like Kilkerran, built by James IV in the late 15th century, were new builds. A more comprehensive understanding of the chronology of when castles were under royal control might give us some insight into royal authority, or lack of it, in the west

4.1 Tarbert Castle

4.1.1 Early Origins?

It has been argued that nearly all Scottish western seaboard castles were likely to have been built on earlier sites such as prehistoric forts, duns and brochs (Raven 2012). Raven suggested that there was a significant phase of occupation beginning in the thirteenth century, accelerating in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but then declining although still occurring in the seventeenth century (Raven 2005). The work has thrown up a complicated picture of their use, from convenient places of refuge to communal meeting places, summer dwellings and even fishing lodges. There also appears to be a link between the re-use of sites with a desire to naturalise Gaelic familial lineages with a place, particularly after a period of Viking and Norse influence, these places seen as representing links to a pre-Norse past with legitimacy of occupation that perhaps stems from such claims. While the majority of duns, forts, brochs and crannogs in Argyll show no evidence of having been reoccupied, a number of excavated sites have, including the sites at Kildonan (Fairhurst 1939), Ugdale (Fairhurst 1956), MacEwan's Castle (Marshall 1982) and Dun Mhuirich (Regan 2013b). Few castle sites have yet produced evidence of earlier prehistoric use although this may be due to the lack of extensive excavation in and around existing castle sites in Argyll and elsewhere. It may also

be partially explained by the removal of any earlier evidence by the large scale groundworks and site clearance required during the construction of a castle.

Oram has also argued that while many smaller fortified sites in the western Highlands and Hebrides show a continuity of occupation between the earlier and later medieval periods, there is a discontinuity between sites that have associations with kingship or similar authority pre-800. For example, sites such as Dunadd were abandoned or declined in status with new royal centres of authority that were quite different in character developing between c.800 and c.1100.

While evidence of prehistoric occupation at Tarbert and other castle sites in Argyll still largely eludes us, there is the possibility that the site may be the *Tairpirt Boitter* mentioned in the Annals of Ulster, named alongside Dunollie (*Dun Ollaigh*), Dunadd (*Dun Att*) and Dunaverty (*Aberte*), these likely being strongholds of the Cenél nGabráin in the 8th century (Bannerman 1974). Certainly, in the examples of Dunollie and Dunadd, excavations have revealed these were places of importance in the early medieval period, underlining their mention in the historical annals.

If the present Tarbert castle is indeed the site of the *Tairpirt Boitter* of the annals, then where are the earlier remains? The other sites mentioned in the annals, Dunollie, Dunadd and Dunaverty along with many other duns and forts in Argyll are built on prominent geological stacks. If an earlier structure existed at Tarbert, and these geological determinants were followed, then the place most likely for the position of an earlier fortification would be on the rise now occupied by the inner bailey, and if so, its construction may have eradicated most if not all the evidence of any such building, although pockets of earlier occupation might survive.

4.1.2 The Later Medieval Castle

By the early 12th century the kings of Scots and their greater vassals were beginning to construct stone and mortar castles. These physical expressions of their lordship along with being high status residences became centres of administration, tax and tribute gathering and estate produce management that projected physical control over surrounding landscapes. Within western Scotland and the Hebrides these stone-and-mortar defensive structures have been seen as local manifestations influenced by Norman or Irish developments, while Oram has argued for a 'Scandinavian-filtered European influence'.

In the west by the early 12th century these projections of lordship had already made an appearance in the construction of Castle Sween, for example (built c.1200) and this may have been joined by others in the early decades of the 13th century such as Skipness and Dunoon, although the exact date of their construction is harder to gauge.

The absence of surviving royal financial records from earlier than 1264 prevents firm identification of major episodes of new building or repair at royal castles and residences. The first significant new royal building work may only have commenced late in the reign of William I (1165-1214) at Kinclaven, and possibly completed in the first half of the reign of Alexander II (1214-49).

Tarbert castle was likely commissioned by King Alexander II, after concluding his successful campaign against Ruaidhri mac Raonaill (great grandson of Somerled and Lord of Kintyre) in 1221 and 1222. Alexander's first campaign into the west and the Hebrides, possibly in Autumn 1221, was extensively against Ruaidhri mac Raonaill but was limited mainly due to

bad weather. However, the next year a more extensive campaign began on Whitsun (22nd May) 1222, which appeared to be swift, Alexander was in Roxburgh by 10th July, and successful with some rebels submitting before the king while others, including Ruaidhri mac Raonaill, fled. Immediately after the campaign royal control of the west was established through garrisons at Dumbarton and possibly Dunoon (Oram 2012 pp 78-81). Alexander sought to extend this control further to the north with the construction of Tarbert, a royal response to the potential threat posed by regional magnates in the west and also to counter any potential threat posed by the Norwegian crown. The castle would have dominated access into Knapdale and Loch Fyne, along with Kintyre and the islands either side of it.

Although it remains unclear when the first phase of construction for the present inner bailey was undertaken, Dunbar and Duncan and others have pointed out strong architectural similarities to the other royal castles at Kinclaven and Kincardine which were also built, or the case of Kinclaven completed, during Alexander's reign, this likely sometime between 1214-1230 (Dunbar & Duncan 1971). All three castles, Tarbert, Kinclaven and Kincardine were essentially royal new builds and as Oram has pointed out their architectural style derives from indigenous forms that had already been produced at Castle Roy or Balvenie (Oram 2012, pp 224 -226).

The main accommodation at Tarbert, Kincardine and Kinclaven was likely built against the inner faces of the curtain wall, or less likely in the case of a Tarbert free-standing within the courtyard. Oram suggests, given admittedly scarce and circumstantial documentary sources to the structural components of other Scottish royal residences Scottish royal castles, that that the enclosure would have likely contained a hall, a chamber block, a kitchen and chapel. He also speculates that any original buildings may have been in timber, which has been shown to exist at Castle Sween, Dunstaffnage, Achanduin and Rothesay, these in many cases were eventually replaced by stone buildings although timber buildings continued to be used at Rothesay into the 15th century.

The next major alteration to the castle we know of was undertaken by Robert I in 1325-1326, details of which appear in the account rendered by John de Lany, constable of Tarbert Castle, of the expenses of the works which were in progress during the years 1325 and 1326. This offers glimpses into the work undertaken on the fabric of the castle and some of the buildings that lay within and surrounding the castle.

If we examine the account, and giving some allowance for the transcription of the original Latin, we can perhaps differentiate between new building works and repairs to existing structures.

New work involved the building of a peel tower at West Loch Tarbert, which still hasn't been definitively located, and the construction of a new road between the two Tarberts. At the castle new walls were built, presumably these of the outer bailey. Within the castle itself a new kitchen, a house, presumably a workshop, for the goldsmith and a '*fabrilis*' for the 'plummer', if this taken as a literal translation meaning 'carpentry' then likely indicates a timber construction, perhaps a workshop or shelter. A house was also built for the '*pistrius*' likely a bakery (*pistrinus*). New works also involved the excavation of a mill pond and lade as well as a ditch, presumably defensive, below the castle along with a ditch around the brew house, this likely a drain.

A number of buildings which were likely already in existence were also repaired or upgraded. The building of a new kitchen, of course indicates a previous one, while making the mill 'anew'

and 'making good its walls' also suggests this building was already in existence. Also suggestive of extant buildings are 'making a house anew in the island, with roofing for it, and to the chapel'. There was also repairs to the brew house which was fitted out with a lead sink/tub and the making of a '*runderis*' (rubble) of stone and clay in the middle of the brew house, which may mean a cobbled surface or hard standing. A kiln was also made 'anew' although what type is not stated. The hall also seems to have been extensively refurbished at this time. That it was already in existence is indicated by the underpinning of timber supports of the hall by stone. Carpenters were also involved in 'raising the hall' with 'mowers' presumably providing thatch for roofing it. Clay and sand were used for the walls '*parietibus*' and birch branches collected to repair the hall and rooms, which suggests the use of wattle and daub type construction. The park was also repaired at this time.

Several trades are named in the construction and repair of the castle, these including, mason, smith, plumber, carpenter, plasterer, roofer and thatcher, while '*sarratoribus*', could translate as tiler? The smith was also paid for working 78 stones of iron, possibly indicating the production of construction materials (nails, door fittings, yetts etc.) on site although what these were remains unclear (Stewart and Burnet 1878.)

Apart from the work undertaken by James IV on the castle in the late 15th century we know little in the way of any alterations to the castle from the time of Robert I up until the 17th century when the Cromwellian garrison may have added the additional outwork to the tower house. Given its architectural style we assume that the construction of the tower house at Tarbert is part of the work by James IV although from the few documentary records which mention the '*the biggin of Tarbert*' and it being '*repaired at considerable cost*' we have little information on what was actually built or repaired.

Tarbert, as with the other royal strongholds, was held by the crown by various local agents including the MacDonalds of Islay and from the early 16th century increasingly the Campbells, although there is little in the way of mention in any extant documents as to what buildings lay within the castle.

Mitchell's 1888 publication on Tarbert tells us that '*According to Bell's 'Law of Scotland', royal burghs, as a rule, sprung up beside royal castles, and this is ... apparently the case with regard to Tarbert*' although he doesn't speculate beyond this as to where the burgh may have been. (Mitchell 1888). Dunbar and Duncan state it '*probably occupied the flat topped ridge immediately to the south west of the castle...*' and '*...there may be seen traces of buildings, bounded by a rock-lined ditch...*' (Dunbar and Duncan 1971, pp 15-16). While this may be the case, no definite building remains were identified to the south of the castle during the survey in 2013 and as such the location of the burgh still needs to be established.

Several Lordly fortifications in Argyll have undergone some degree of excavation. These include Castle Sween (Ewart and Triscott 1996), Dunstaffnage (Lewis 1996; Radley 2000; Stewart 2004; Breen et al 2010), Tioram (Stell 2014), Dunollie (Alcock and Alcock 1988; Regan 2017a), Brechacha (Turner and Dunbar 1973), Auchaduin (Turner 1975; Caldwell 2017) Gylen (Addyman 1998, 2001; Muirhead 2005), Carrick (Ewart and Baker 1998), Fraoch Eilean (Cross 1956; Millar and Kirkhope 1964) and Carnassarie (Regan 2017c). The results of these, given the various scale of excavation work have been varied, all provide material which could be used in comparative analysis to any evidence uncovered at Tarbert.

5. Project Research Aims

The Project Design has been compiled drawing on specific research themes outlined within the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) and the recently drawn up Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Argyll (RARFA).

RARFA Medieval research themes included working towards a better understanding of development of castle structures, particularly their relationship with ancillary structures which is poorly understood, and it is hoped the excavation will add to the understanding and position these structures occupied.

The project has also taken into consideration policies outlined by HES in Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland and Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

The project will deliver all the five high-level Strategic Aims as identified in Scotland's Archaeology Strategy;

1. Delivering Archaeology - By participating in active archaeology, all individuals taking part will have learnt more about their heritage and how what we learn from excavation can alter or add to the story of Argyll's past. The project will also be delivered through open days, guided tours and an online presence in a dedicated Facebook page and Twitter feed. A timeline film/video of the excavation and the participants' experience will be produced and presented through the museums' website.

2. Enhancing Understanding – The heritage of Tarbert Castle will be better explained through the excavation. After completion of the excavation, the knowledge produced will be disseminated by reports published online, through presentations and an exhibition of the artefacts at Kilmartin Museum. This will result in these remains of the castle being better explained and lead to their better protection in the future

3. Caring and Protecting - The project will enable the heritage of the site to be better managed, particularly if the presence of any medieval burgh is established. At present active rabbit burrows are present within much of the castle area and this has the potential to disturb any 'soft' deposits relating to the castle or burgh. The project will inform HES of any potential damage this activity may be causing to the underlying archaeological remains leading to the better long term conservation and preservation of the remains.

4. Encouraging Greater Engagement – Kilmartin Museum's Education Team has scoped out the involvement of local Primary Schools and Argyll High Schools, who are keen to participate. Other community groups we have consulted are the local Young Archaeologists Club, the 19th Argyll Scout Group and Duke of Edinburgh Award group, all of whom are keen to be involved. The Museum and TCT will actively promote the site in order to encourage more visitors.

5. Innovation and Skills - Through participation in the excavation, school age children will learn many new skills which will help in the development of their understanding of the history, heritage and culture of Scotland, and furthermore they will gain an appreciation of their own local heritage. These outcomes will complement many areas of the Curriculum for Excellence. Other young adults and members of the community will have a better appreciation and understanding of their past and will also learn new skills of archaeological excavation and recording during the excavation.

Several important questions remain at Tarbert Castle.

1. Our lack of understanding of the presence of any early medieval settlement relating to the *Tairpirt Boitter* of the Irish Annals.
2. The need to better integrate the known the history of the castle with the current castle remains, through direct dating of archaeological deposits.
3. The need to set the site within the wider medieval landscape of Argyll and Scotland.

The project has identified five key survey and excavation aims;

- a) To reveal and confirm the presence/absence of a southern entrance into the outer bailey.
- b) Investigate the NE range of the inner bailey to the castle in order to examine its function.
- c) To establish the absence/presence of the medieval burgh within the scheduled area.
- d) Place the remains within a chronological and wider cultural and archaeological framework.
- e) To investigate the presence/absence of any early medieval activity.

Beyond the above specific research aims have been identified for each of the proposed excavation areas and these are outlined below in Section 6.

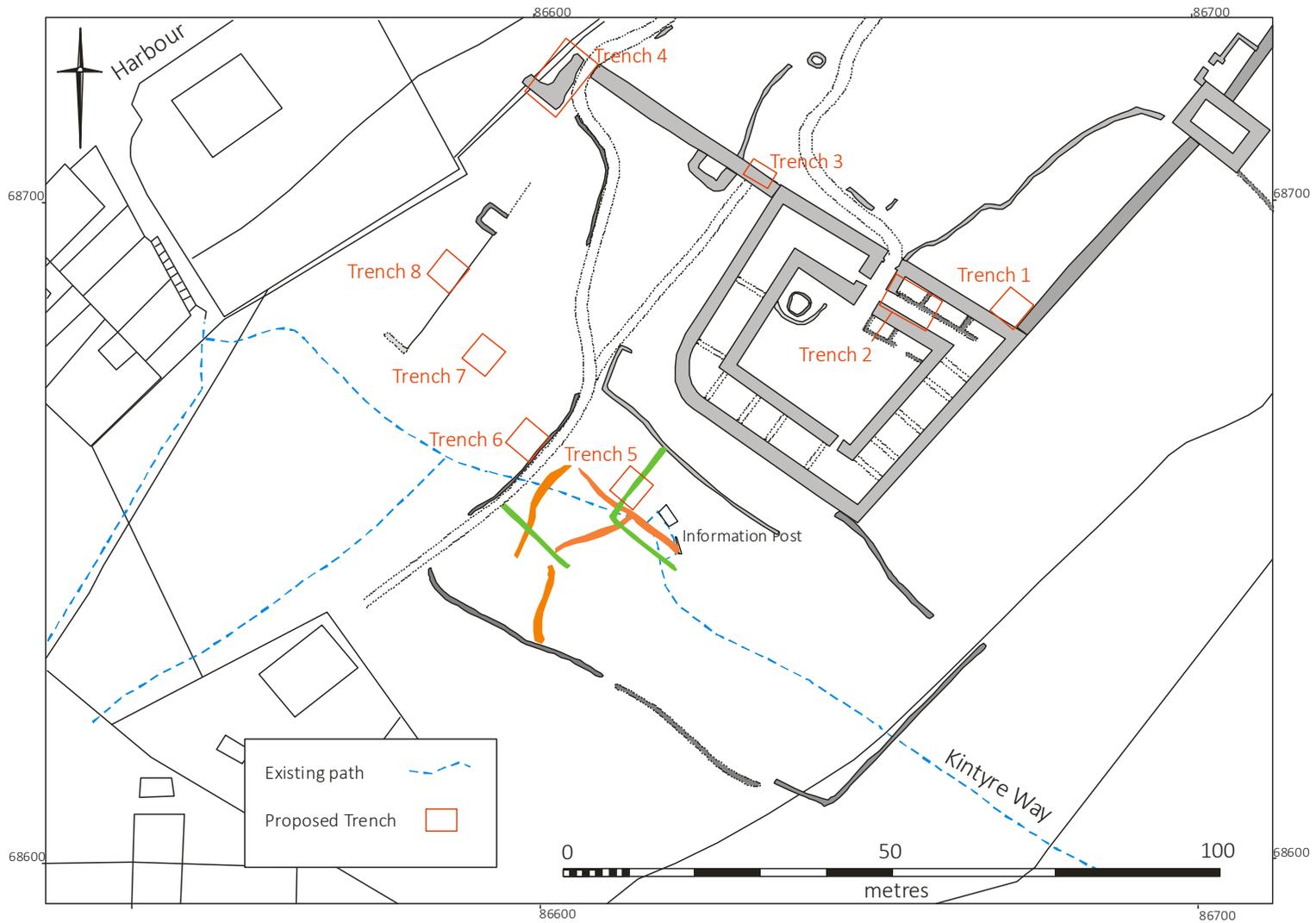


Figure 3: Location of Proposed Trenches

6. Proposed Excavation Trenches

The positions of the proposed excavation trenches are shown in Figure 3 and are outlined below.

6.1 Trench 1 (area 5m x 5m)

This trench will be placed on relatively flat ground at the junction of the inner and outer bailey walls and encompass two structural elements.



Junction of walls of inner and outer bailey looking south east

1. The SE wall of the inner bailey. The wall is oriented NE/SW and is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.58m x 0.36m) with no visible traces of a mortar. The Wall is 40.30m long and 2.30m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.86m above present ground level on its external side. Internally the wall stands to a height of 0.60m. No mortar bonding is now visible

2. The NW wall of the inner bailey. SE/NW oriented, the wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.66m x 0.36m) with traces of a mortar bonding. The wall measures 21.70m m long and is 2.55m in width standing to a maximum height of 2.50m above present ground level on its N side where facing stones survive in 3-4 courses up to 0.70m high. Internally the wall stands to 1.30m high where facing stones survive in 5 rough courses up to 0.90m high. The original bonding material appears to be a friable light brown sandy mortar with shell inclusions.

This trench has several aims:

1. To examine the relationship of the walls of the inner and outer bailey
2. To establish a chronology of construction based on associated deposits
3. To examine any potential use of this area for occupation or castle associated activity
4. To examine the possibility of early medieval occupation.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand. If occupation deposits are encountered these will be and sample excavated.

6.2 Trench 2 (area 8m x 6m)

This trench is located in the western part of the NE range of the inner bailey.



NE range looking north east



NE range looking south west

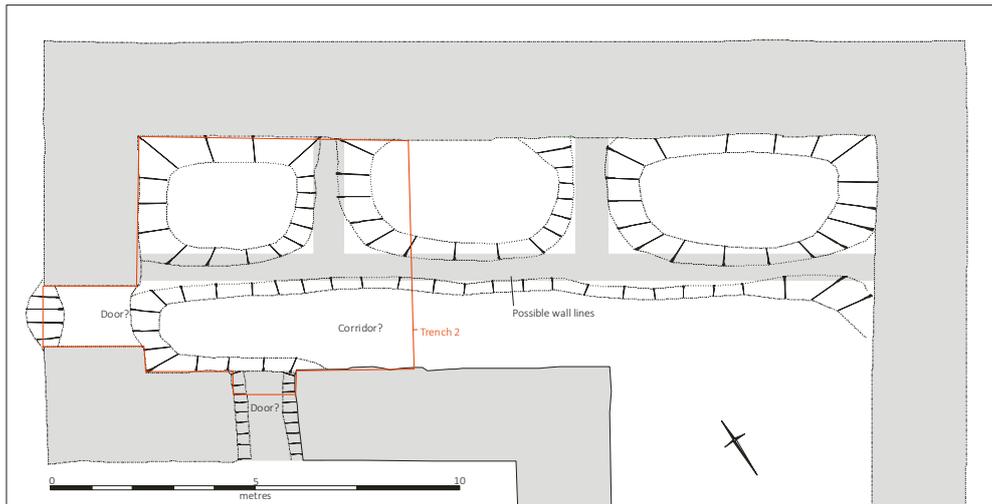


Figure 4: Position of Trench 2 within north east range

The western part of this range encompasses three walls;

1) The External north west wall of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.66m x 0.36m) with traces of a mortar bonding. The wall measures 21.70m m long and is 2.55m in width standing to a maximum height of 2.50m above present ground level on its N side where facing stones survive in 3-4 courses up to 0.70m high. Internally the wall stands to 1.30m high where facing stones survive in 5 rough courses up to 0.90m high. The original bonding material appears to be a friable light brown sandy mortar with shell inclusions.

2) The west wall of entrance passage to the inner bailey. NE/SW oriented, the wall is very badly denuded with few facing stones visible to give original dimensions. The wall measured 9.60m long and over 1.50m in width standing to a maximum height of 1.70m within the entrance passage, where some facing stones can be traced and standing only 0.50m high internally. A dip in the wall core rubble possibly indicates an entrance or doorway c1.20m wide. Some facing stones can be traced on its side. No mortar bonding is now visible.

3) The north wall of internal range of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented, the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.64m x 0.25m) measuring 12.60m long and 1.73m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 0.38m in height with 2 courses of facing stones visible at its present base. Internally the wall stands up to 0.70m in height with facing visible up to 5 courses high. No mortar bonding is now visible.

Between these walls are a series of earthworks indicative of a line of three rooms or bays, respectively from the east measuring c.4.0-4.5m by c.3.0-3.5m, c.6-6.5m by c.3-3.5m and c.7.0-7.5m by c.3-3.5m. These are against the north wall of the range and linked by what appears to be c.2m wide corridor running along their south side. A dip on the north end of the western entrance passage wall suggests an entrance linking the passage this range, while another dip in the south wall might indicate another access to the central courtyard area or other buildings lying along the south side of the range wall.

This trench has several aims

1. To confirm the presence on doorways in the south and west walls at this end of the range.

2. To establish the upper floor levels within the range.
3. To establish the form of flooring within the range.
4. To date the last use/occupation of the range.
5. To establish the relationship of the walls of the building range to the surrounded enclosure whether they are integral to the original construction or later additions.
6. To examine evidence of any earlier, possibly timber, structures.
7. To establish the preservation of any upstanding walls.
8. To establish the degree of structural preservation within the range.
9. To Establish the possibility of leaving any walls/floors on display to the public.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand.

It is expected that a good deal of the work will involve the removing of collapse or demolition material, mainly consisting of masonry rubble. This would be inspected on removal for any architectural fragments and hints what any structural elements may have consisted of. As we are not sure when this building went out of use we may encounter dumped occupation material within or between demolition/robbing episodes. It is also expected that occupation material may exist above any upper floor, given insights into the last period of use and possible last function of the building.

6.3 Trench 3 (area 8m x 6m)

This trench will be placed between the eastern wall of the inner bailey and the projecting tower situated along the southern wall of the outer bailey.



The 'gap' between the inner bailey and the tower from the north

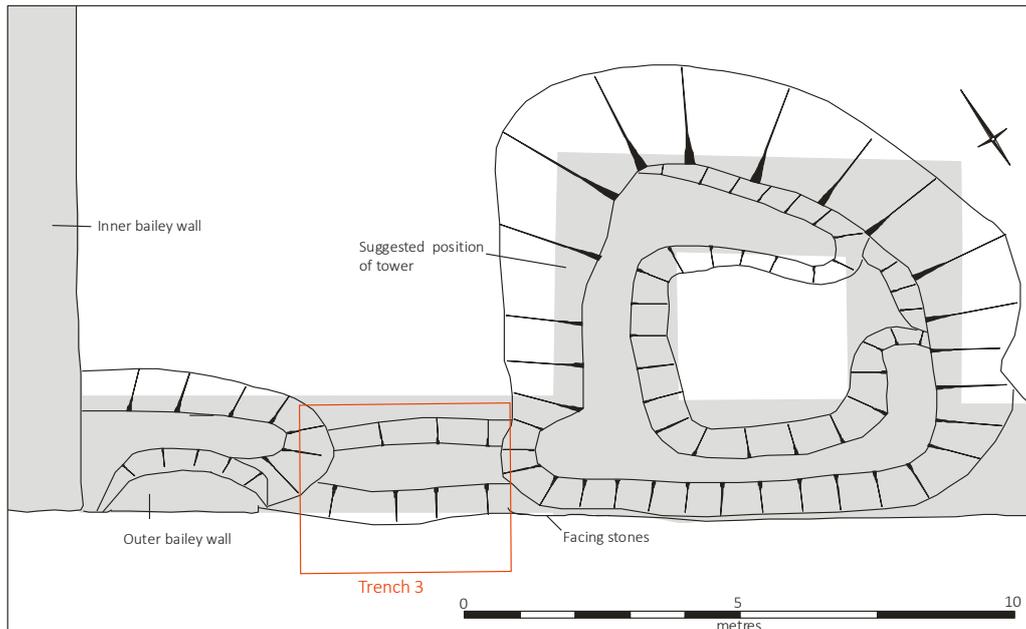


Figure 5: Position of Trench 3 over potential entrance

The trench encompasses two structural elements.

1. Remains of the Tower. Sub rectangular tower remains measuring 6.0m by 5.20m externally (3.90m by 3.10m internally). No internal faces are now visible except on its N side where its circuit is part of the outer bailey wall ([007]). The thickness of the rubble at the base of the wall is up to 4.20m tapering to 1.0m at upper extent with a maximum height of 3.40m above present ground level on its W side. At present the internal width of the tower is 2.41m although the true width is no doubt masked by rubble collapse. No mortar bonding is now visible.

2. South west wall of the inner bailey which is oriented south east/north west and is mainly constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble. The wall is 37.60m long and 2.50m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.95m above present ground level on its north face where lower facing stones are visible. No mortar bonding is now visible.

There is a distinct dip in the rubble between the tower remains and the inner bailey wall and while this may be due to stone robbing, could also indicate the presence of an entrance between tower and wall. This might be reinforced by what appears to be a ramp leading up from the lower ground to the south and this putative gap, which may be the remains of and access.

This trench has two aims

1. To define the extent and remains of the tower to establish the presence of an entrance into the castle or a continuation of the outer bailey wall
2. To determine the preservation of any structural elements within the trench

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand. It is expected that a good deal of the work will involve the removing/ of collapse or demolition material, mainly consisting of masonry rubble.

6.4 Trench 4 (area 4m x 3m)

This trench will be placed over the remains of the south west tower of the outer bailey.



Remains of tower from south east showing external south face. (the exposed rubble in the foreground may be from the insertion of the telegraph pole)

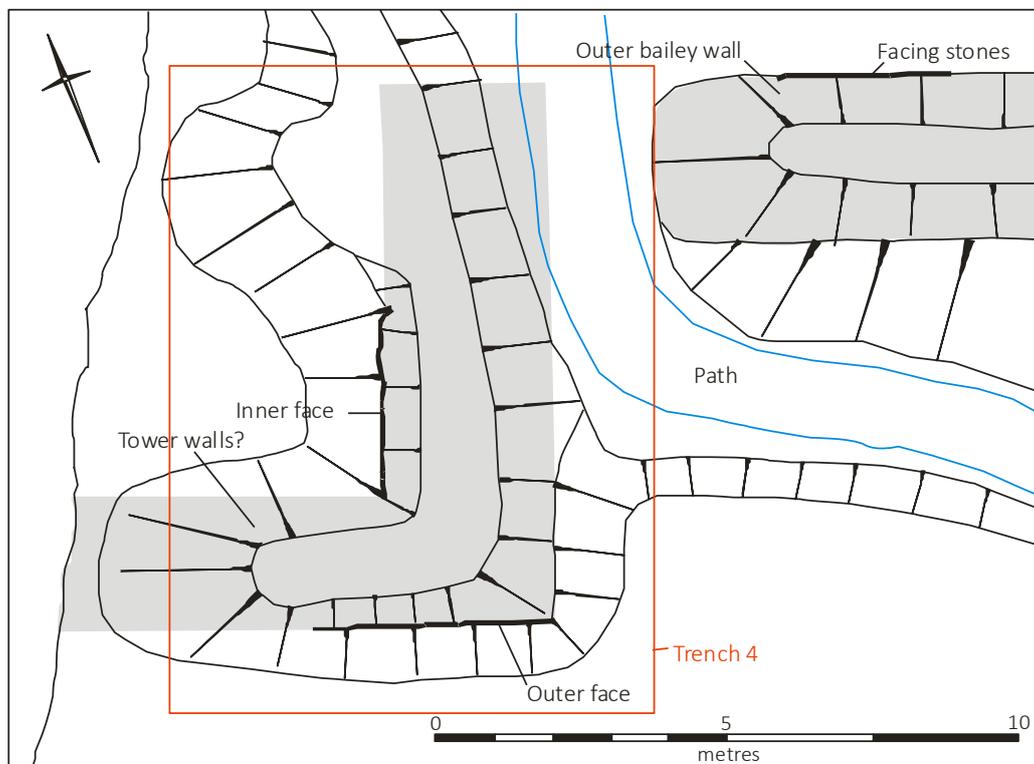


Figure 6: Position of Trench 4 over tower and gate

The trench encompasses two elements.

1. The remains of entrance tower on outer bailey wall. Only the south east angle of this tower is now apparent, surviving mainly as a rubble core. The east wall measures 11.40m long with the south wall 4.90m long. The top of the internal face of the east wall can still be seen while there are also a few facing stones apparent on the external face of the south wall (this standing up to 0.40m high). The extrapolated width of the walls was between 2.0m-2.10m constructed in angular schist rubble (maximum size 0.30m x 1.00m x 0.15m). No mortar bonding is now visible.

2. South west wall of the inner bailey which is oriented south east/north west and is mainly constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble. The wall is 37.60m long and 2.50m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.95m above present ground level on its north face where lower facing stones are visible. No mortar bonding is now visible.

It is currently unclear where the south east corner of the tower is, or whether the outer bailey originally extended to the east wall of the tower whether either is pierced by an entrance. The area has been partially disturbed by the insertion of a telegraph pole into the wall/rubble and some large masonry blocks lying in the grass to the south of this may be some of the blocks disturbed during its insertion.

This trench has several aims

1. To define the extent and remains of the tower
2. To establish the presence of an entrance into the castle.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand.

It is expected that a good deal of the work will involve the removing/ of collapse or demolition material, mainly consisting of masonry rubble. This would be inspected on removal for any architectural fragments and hints what any structural elements may have consisted of. It should be a relatively simple task to establish wall lines and the presence/absence of any entranceway, whether it is in the angle of the tower or the outer bailey wall.



Trench 5 will be placed over this ditch (looking south)

6.5 Trench 5 (area 5m x 5m)

This trench will be placed over the remnants of a ditch system lying to the south of the inner bailey and berm of the castle.

The ditch is formed by a linear depression running 14m S from the berm for before turning to the NE for another 13m. The ditch is up to 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with the slight traces of a former bank on its external side.

This area also produced geophysical readings that suggest the potential for buried features in this area. While some of the signals may have been due to the above ditch, others are on a different alignment.

The aims of the trench are;

1. To examine the nature of the ditch system
2. To test the geophysical results suggestive of buried archaeology
3. To examine the presence absence of any features that might relate to the mediaeval burgh.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand. If occupation deposits are encountered these will be sample excavated.

6.6 Trench 6 (area 5m x 5m)

This trench will be placed against the east side of a revetment wall.



Revetment wall looking south east



Revetment wall looking east

The revetment wall runs along the W side of what was likely the former track leading to the putative entrance at the south east corner of the outer bailey. Overall the wall is 24.5m long, but appears less substantial at the northern end, where it appears as no more than a band of rubble. At its southern end the wall is more substantial and stands up to 0.96m in height in 4-6 rough courses. The disparity in the construction used in its length might suggest that these originally were two different elements that now form the edge to the path. The northern end may be no more than a collapsed enclosure-wall with the more substantially built southern element providing a formal edge to a terraced area to the west.

The aims of the trench are;

1. To examine the nature of the terrace wall
2. To date the construction of the wall from associated deposits
3. To examine if the wall relates to the medieval burgh or is associated with formal delineation associated with the castle, i.e. gardens.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand. If occupation deposits are encountered these will and sampled excavated.

6.7 Trenches 7 and 8 (area (both) 5m x 5m)

These trenches will examine two areas of relatively flat ground to the south of the outer bailey.



Terraced area looking south



Terrace edge looking north

The area appears to be divided up NE/SW oriented artificial stepped ridge that could be traced running for 22m and standing up to 0.32m high.

The aims of the trench are;

1. To examine the nature of these terraced areas
2. To establish the presence/absence of any occupation related to the medieval burgh
3. To examine the damage and potential damage of rabbit activity.

The trench will be stripped and excavated by hand. If occupation deposits are encountered these will be sample excavated.

7. Methods Statement

7.1 Background Research

The setting and history of the Castle is discussed more fully in the accompanying Desk Based Assessment for the site and the specific research aims of the project are discussed above. Beyond this the occupation of the site will be examined within a contextual and comparative framework. Artefactual and environmental comparisons will be conducted on the results of the excavation to other relevant excavation work. Documentary and historical research will be conducted that may provide some insights into the owners and possible occupants in these periods. Research recommendations as outlined in the Scottish Archaeological Framework (ScARF) and the Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Argyll (RARFA) will inform the overarching research themes of the project.

The excavation and post excavation work will comply with the terms and conditions outlined in Historic Environment Scotland's Scheduled Ancient Monuments Consent.

7.2 Survey, Excavation and Recording

7.2.1 Field Survey and Surveying

Consolidation and interpretation of previous field survey work.

Excavation site surveying utilising a Total Station / EDM (and a dumpy level) for establishing site grid, location of artefacts and ecofacts in three dimensions, levels for sections and plans.

The site will be related to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum

Additional survey of whole enclosure utilising rectified and grid referenced aerial photographs

7.3 General Excavation Methods

Overburden (topsoil and vegetation) will be stripped by hand and the stripped surface will be systematically scanned and any artefacts plotted. All further excavation will also be undertaken by hand. All excavation will be under the control of experienced archaeologists and will be undertaken by hand, no excavation machinery will be used on site.

Preliminary sorting and assessment of finds will take place during the excavation phase.

Strategic and/or potentially rich soil contexts will be sieved on site.

The trenches are to be de-turfed by hand and the turf stacked for later re-turfing after backfilling and / or for use in re-establishing the site's profiles for reinstatement and display.

Any significant variations to the agreed Method Statement must be discussed and agreed with Historic Environment Scotland before they are implemented.

Consideration of the impact of scrub vegetation and erosion on the preservation of the archaeological remains should be assessed during the excavations.

Before commencing fieldwork, it will be determined that site and context numbering are compatible with Historic Environment Scotland and WoSAS.

Field recording will be in accordance with standards of the MoLAS Archaeological Field Manual.

Site records and precious artefacts must be removed from site at the end of each day and must not be left on site unattended or overnight.

7.4 Site Recording

7.4.1 Written Records

Site records will be kept for all features and deposits. Pro-forma site feature forms / context sheets will be used. Site notebooks / daybooks will supplement the pro-forma feature forms. Recording of features and deposits will be carried out using standard Kilmartin Museum context sheets based on an amended version of the Museum of London system (Spence 1990), which is single context recording, supplemented by section information.

Registers of finds, samples, drawings will be maintained

Sample forms will be used for all environmental, radiocarbon and special samples

A levels book and survey book will be maintained.

All site records and drawings must be removed from site at the end of every day's excavation.

7.4.2 Drawings

Drawings will be at 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections where appropriate.

Larger survey areas will be mapped at the appropriate scale (1:500, 1:1000, 1:2000).

All drawings will be allocated unique numbers and recorded in a register

All drawings will show the scale, north arrow, a key, site code, date and author and will be drawn on drawing film.

All drawings will be located on the site grid (tied to the National Grid)

All levels on plans and sections and all drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum

7.4.3 Photography

Photographs will be taken in digital format.

Digital photographs may be processed to .jpeg or .tif files.

7.5 Artefacts and Ecofacts

The site archive and finds will receive immediate conservation as part of the excavation process.

Further conservation requirements will be discussed following the fieldwork phase.

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retained.

Finds processing and cataloguing will take place concurrently with the excavation either on site or at a nearby secure facility (Kilmartin Museum).

The Site Director will be responsible for overseeing the processing, marking, cataloguing and archive standard packaging of all artefacts and ecofacts.

Kilmartin Museum's curator will be responsible for the excavation of fragile artefacts or using specialist excavation techniques.

Artefact treatment and processing will be in accordance with the Institute of Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No.2.

Precious artefacts – gold, silver, copper alloy items, coins, carved stones etc. must be removed from site at the end of the day's excavation.

All artefacts must be photographed and copies of photographs supplied to Kilmartin Museum.

7.6 Environmental and Dating Sampling Strategies

Samples will be taken from appropriate contexts (e.g. waterlogged or charcoal rich) and analysed for molluscan and macro-botanical remains (during the post-excavation phase).

In the event of preserved organic remains being found they will be dealt with immediately to prevent deterioration caused by their exposure to aerobic conditions. Where appropriate, samples will also be taken for pollen analysis and radiocarbon dating and analysed by the designated specialist.

A standard bulk sample of 10 litres for the retrieval of charred plant remains and faunal remains is required for all deposits except turf and modern humic topsoil.

Collapse and abandonment deposits should be sampled in order to provide comparative data for in situ occupation deposits and buried ground surfaces.

Bulk samples will be processed by flotation at Kilmartin Museum as part of the training programme.

Flotation should follow standard procedures and the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh and scanned at x 40 magnification.

Charred plant remains must be counted and identified. Charcoal should be identified and charcoal samples suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating identified.

Wood samples will be collected if wood is present.

Wood must be identified to species if possible, round or sawn wood identified and any suitable dendrochronological samples identified.

Pollen cores will be taken when deemed appropriate.

Charcoal should be collected as a matter of routine for possible radiocarbon dating.

All samples must be recorded on pro-forma record sheets and located in three dimensions.

7.7 Human Remains and Rights of Sepulchre

The discovery of human remains, which is not anticipated, must be reported to the Police in the first instance and also to the Procurator Fiscal in accordance with the laws of 'Right of Sepulchre'. Human remains must be treated in compliance with the Historic Scotland policy paper The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology.

7.8 Metal Detecting

It is recommended that spoil and open trenches are subjected to metal detecting during the excavation and as the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument S42 consent will be sought from HES if deemed necessary.

7.9 Database

All site data may be entered into a database programme Excel or another programme at the discretion of the Site Director) if required. All site data must be transcribed into a digital format.

7.10 Conservation Requirements

When on site conservation is required then Dr Sharon Webb from Kilmartin Museum will be consulted and advice will be sought from Will Murray of the Edinburgh Conservation Studio.

7.11 Organisation and Staff

The project is a collaboration between Kilmartin Museum, TST and Historic Environment Scotland.

7.12 Staff Roles and Responsibilities

The core excavation field team will consist of a Project Director and the team will be supplemented by visiting professional archaeologists, students and experienced volunteers.

Project Director - Responsibilities: Co-ordination of volunteers, co-ordinating guided walks, co-ordinating with Kilmartin Museums Education Team and other participating organisations, co-ordinating meetings with Historic Environment Scotland. In charge of all site activities. Reporting to HES and to Kilmartin Museum on the day to day running of the project with weekly reports and monthly reports in compliance with the programme of works and budget. Application for Scheduled Monument Consent and ensuring the conditions are met. Direction of excavations and management of professional archaeological team. Management of all off site archaeological and archaeological administrative tasks. Adapting excavation strategy in response to on site discoveries and liaison with specialists as required. Overseeing environmental and dating sampling strategies. Liaison with finds specialists. Overall final responsibility for accurate and complete site records and preparation of a Harris Matrix. Writing and co-ordinating the Data Structure Report, post-excavation research design and the final post-excavation report. Writing and submitting Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and OASIS entries. Final archiving of the project including Treasure Trove.

Site Archaeologists - Responsibilities: ensuring the instructions of the Project Director are carried out successfully, responsibility for accurate excavation and recording. All site archaeologists are expected to be experienced professionals with their own research interests in the period and site type.

Curator - Responsibilities: Ultimate responsibility for all artefacts recovered from the excavations, arranging and carrying out appropriate conservation to museum display standard and for long term storage of artefacts. The preparation of the Treasure Trove Report with the Project Director requesting allocation of artefacts to Kilmartin Museum.

7.13 Post Excavation Procedures

7.13.1 Site Reinstatement

Any exposed archaeology within the excavation trenches will be covered with a breathable geo-textile membrane (Terram) prior to being covered with excavated soil. Turf/vegetation cover will then be replaced and the trenches reinstated to their original profile. On completion of the backfilling any area not covered by reinstated turf should be prepared for grass seeding and seeded.

The actual requirements of reinstatement and final presentation would be determined by HES during and on completion of the excavations.

7.13.2 Artefact Analysis and Environmental Samples

Post-excavation finds work will be co-ordinated and undertaken by Kilmartin Museum and will conform to the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Guidelines for Finds Work. Local volunteers will be able to engage in supervised post-excavation work, for example finds washing and sorting.

There will be analysis and recording of all recovered finds and provision has been made for specialist reports to be prepared and included within the excavation report. A preliminary assessment of the environmental samples will be conducted on strategic soil samples from the site. This will take place immediately after the excavation phase.

7.14 Reporting

7.14.1 Data Structure Report

The full written report or Data Structure Report (DRS) will be produced within three months of the completion of the excavation and a draft will be sent to HES for comment before final dissemination. The report will define the location, extent and significance of archaeological remains and will be illustrated with relevant maps, plans, photographs etc.

The report will include the following sections:

- 1) Cover page
- 2) List of contents, figures, tables etc.
- 3) Non-technical summary
- 4) Introduction (aims and objectives)
- 5) Methodology
- 6) Archaeological and Historical background
- 7) Excavation Results
- 8) Mitigation and Recommendations
- 9) Conclusion

As a minimum it will contain the following elements:

Site location map

Site plan showing all areas of archaeological investigation

Introduction, circumstances and objectives of the work

Written description (narrative) of the results detailing the features identified and their date and purpose

Full feature list with description of deposits, dimensions etc.

Lists of all artefacts, drawings, photographs, samples etc.

Plan and section drawings as appropriate

Colour photographs as appropriate, integrated into the text

Copy of the Discovery and Excavation in Scotland entry

Contents and location of the archive

Contact names and addresses

General recommendations (Post Excavation Research Design will be a separate document)

The completed Data Structure Report of the excavation results will be forwarded to Historic Environment Scotland, the NMRS, WoSAS and OASIS. A summarised report will appear in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

The lay out and format of the Data Structure Report (DSR) will be at the discretion of the Project Director. The DSR will be produced on disk as a pdf and in hard copy for distribution to Kilmartin Museum, HES, WoSAS and HLF.

7.14.2 Post Excavation Research Design

The post excavation research design (PERD) will be produced within three months of the completion of the excavation and will accompany the DSR. The Method Statement for the project will identify all post-excavation specialists at the outset but it is recognised that no post-excavation work can be confirmed before the excavations take place. It is also anticipated that the research objectives of the project may be revised based on the actual excavation results.

The Project Director will be responsible for producing a PERD based on the results of the excavation, which will be detailed in the DSR.

The PERD will identify the various areas of research that may be pursued based on the excavation results and the value the various specialist works may contribute to the overall interpretation of the site. It may be necessary to tailor the post-excavation specialist work to available funding and it may be necessary to seek further funding depending on the excavation results.

7.14.3 Publication and Presentation

Updated excavation news will appear on the Kilmartin Museum website and in the Museum's newsletter. Kilmartin Museum will mount an exhibition of the excavation results that will feature displays of any recovered artefacts alongside photographs and interpretative diagrams of the site.

Formal presentations of the results of the excavation will be given as a talk to the local archaeological societies.

A report will be produced for conventional publication and electronic dissemination setting out the results of the survey and excavation work. Copies of any interim and full reports will be distributed to Historic Environment Scotland, WoSAS and the NMRS. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland will be informed of the results. Articles will also be prepared for local publications such as the KIST (the journal of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll) and Historic Argyll (the journal of the Lorne Antiquarian Society). The full results will be published as an article or monograph in a relevant archaeological publication such as the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (PSAS). The vehicles for final publication will be determined on completion of the post excavation research. An edited monograph containing specialist reports may be appropriate but levels of publication depend on the results of the excavations. Copies of published reports will be deposited in the Marion Campbell Library based at Kilmartin Museum.

7.14.4 Project Archive

On completion of all archaeological work including post excavation the complete project archive is to be delivered to the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) in accordance with their current guidelines.

A full copy of the project archive is to be deposited with Kilmartin Museum. A copy of the DSR, PERD, final report and photographs on disk is to be deposited in the West of Scotland SMR.

7.14.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland and OASIS

On completion of the excavations a summary of the results must be supplied to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. A full project record must be submitted to OASIS on completion of all archaeological work.

7.14.6 Treasure Trove

The project will be carried out in full accordance with Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and fulfil its responsibilities including reporting of all artefacts to the Finds Disposal Panel / Treasure Trove Secretariat and Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. Application will be made by Kilmartin Museum, which is an accredited museum, for the finds to be allocated to Kilmartin Museum.

7.15. Basic Procedures

7.15.1 Health and Safety

The site will also be visited by members of Kilmartin Museum and the Inspector of Monuments of Historic Environment Scotland to assess the condition and safety of the site for archaeological work before fieldwork commences.

It is not envisaged at this stage that safe working depths will be exceeded, but if a working depth of over 1.2m is achieved, shoring or stepping will be used to ensure safe working conditions.

Health and Safety on site will be conducted in accordance statutory health and safety requirements following guidelines in the SCAUM manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology. Kilmartin Museum in accordance with its own Health and Safety policy and that of the participating organisations will produce a risk assessment and accident plan prior to the excavation work. Participating members of the excavation will be made aware of the safety issues, through distributed safety literature and regular 'Toolbox' talks where any arising safety issues will be discussed and resolved.

A full Health and Safety plan is required, in accordance with relevant legislation (Construction, Design and Management Regulations 2007), which also takes cognisance of the fact that the excavation is open to the public and will utilise volunteer labour.

A staff member qualified in first aid will be present on site at all times and will be responsible for the provision of First Aid kits and general site safety.

7.15.2 Insurance

Kilmartin Museum holds Employers' Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

7.15.3 Professional Standards

Kilmartin Museum works in accordance with recognised standards of good archaeological practices including the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct; Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology; Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations; Standard and Guidance for Archaeological

Desk-Based Assessment; Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations and Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials; Historic Environment Scotland's Archaeological Policies and Associated Papers.

7.16 Legal Responsibilities

7.16.1 Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scheduled Monument Consent

The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM index Nos 276 and 3410) and thereby protected by law. Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) will be required before any intrusive fieldwork may take place. Historic Environment Scotland has been consulted about the project and has indicated that SMC may be granted on receipt of completed SMC application forms and an appropriate and acceptable Project Design and Method Statement. The Scheduled Monument Consent must be adhered to and any variation to the agreed works must have formal written consent from HES. HES will monitor the project to ensure compliance with the agreed Method Statement for the archaeological works.

Target excavation areas must be fully justified within the overall project research framework (this project design) and in the Method Statement.

The Project Director is responsible for liaising with Historic Environment Scotland and submitting the application for SMC and ensuring all requirements of SMC are complied with in full and within the agreed timescale.

Historic Environment Scotland is represented by Dr John Raven.

Project monitoring procedures will be determined with Historic Scotland upon initiation of the project and regular reports by the Project Director will be circulated to HES

7.16.2 Copyright

The copyright and intellectual property rights of all written, photographic and illustration work remains with Kilmartin Museum/ original authors under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. An exclusive licence will be provided to Kilmartin Museum and Historic Environment Scotland with regard to the reports and other written documentation. Acknowledgement is due to Kilmartin Museum/ original authors should any work be reproduced.

7.16.3 Human Remains and Rights of Sepulchre

The discovery of human remains is not anticipated but if discovered will in the first instance be reported to the Police and also to the Procurator Fiscal in accordance with the laws of 'Right of Sepulchre'. Human remains must be treated in compliance with the Historic Scotland policy paper The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology.

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