

CRSB/01



COLINTRAIVE AND RHUBODACH SLIPWAY IMPROVEMENTS, ARGYLL AND BUTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Balfour Beatty Regional

17/00949/PP

January 2018

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project info

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PARISH Inverchaolain
LOCAL AUTHORITY Argyll and Bute Council
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ARCHIVE REPOSITORY National Record for the Historic Environment for Scotland

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ARCHAEOLOGY**
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PROJECT SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd in an area of agricultural land which is to be developed for slipway refurbishment and improvement to parking and marshalling facilities at the Colintrave ferry crossing to Rhubodach on the Isle of Bute. This report outlines the results of the archaeological watching brief.

The archaeological watching brief took place on the 6th and 7th of June 2017. No archaeological features were identified within the area of land to the east of the proposed new ferry slipway.

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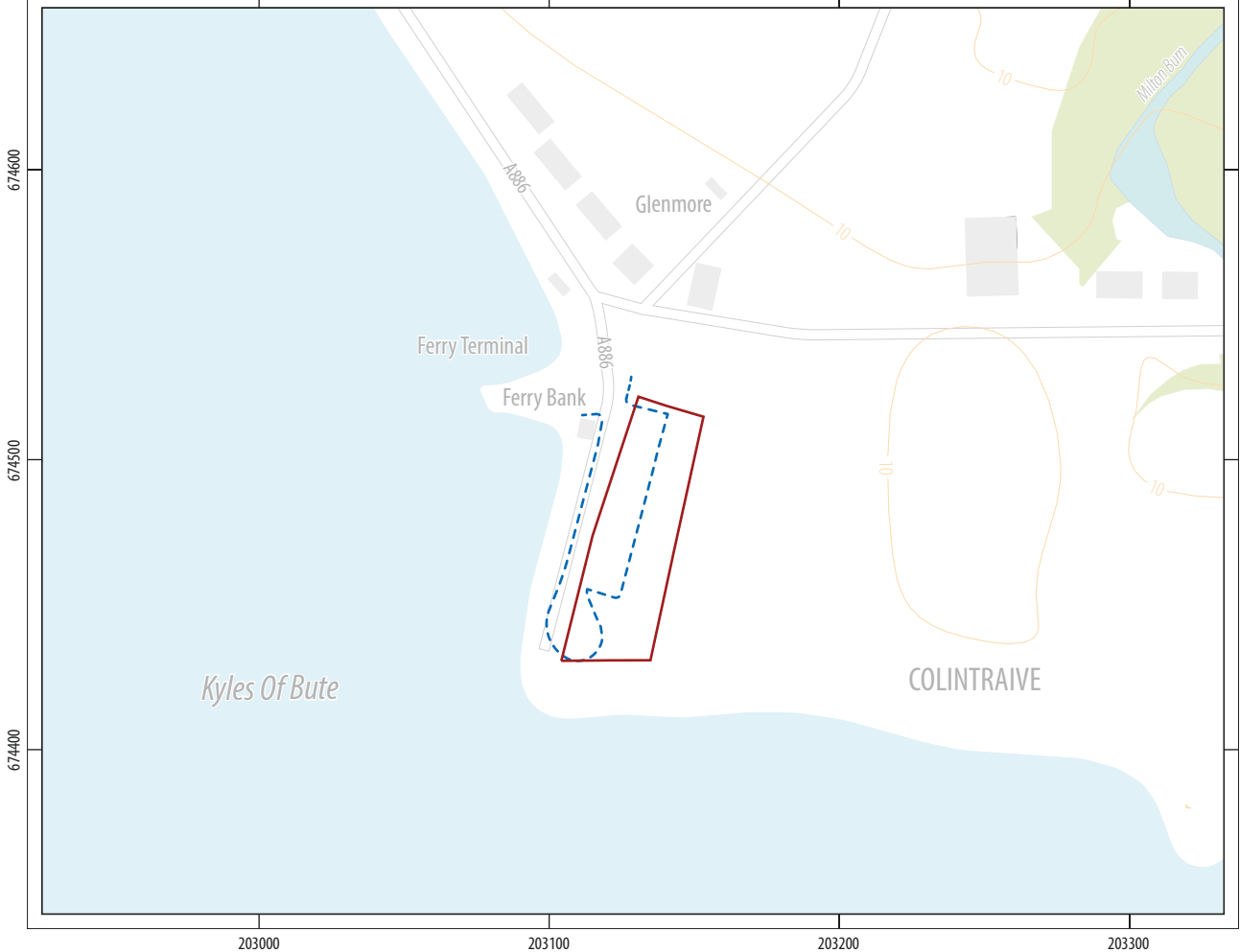
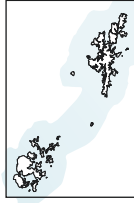
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CRSB/01
 land at Colintraive
 Argyll
 Argyll & Bute

0 200km
 1:10,000,000 @ A4

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0 50m
 1:2,500 @ A4

— monitored area
 - - - development footprint

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COLINTRAIVE AND RHUBODACH SLIPWAY IMPROVEMENTS, ARGYLL AND BUTE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Balfour Beatty Regional to undertake a programme of archaeological works in connection with slipway refurbishment and improvement to parking and marshalling facilities located at Colintraiive, Argyll and Bute (Planning Reference 17/00949/PP).

The client commissioned Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd to agree a programme of archaeological work with the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) and to detail this work within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The work comprised an archaeological watching brief in an area of agricultural land to the east of the current slipway at Colintraiive. This report details the results of the work.

2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development is located at Colintraiive on the Cowal Peninsula and Rhubodach on the north-eastern coast of the Isle of Bute, however the archaeological risk from the works at Rhubodach was minimal and no monitoring was required. Monitoring was undertaken within the development area at Colintraiive, which is currently occupied by a ferry terminal in the west and pastoral land in the east. The site lies between 2m and 5m AOD and is underlain by Beinn Bheula Schist Formation (NERC 2017).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within the footprint of the development area, however a large cairn (Colintraiive; NS07SW 1) is present within the grass field to the east of the development area, approximately 50m from the southern shoreline

(Illus 2). The cairn measures 13m by 12m and is c.1m in height and is situated on a stony platform raised c.1m from the level of the field. Previous investigation of the cairn identified possible curb stones within the platform which appear to have been damaged by ploughing. Assessment of the centre identified possible damage. It is reported that the cairn was opened in the early 20th century and contained bone.

A cup and ring marked stone (NSW07 9) was found during the demolition of the remains of an inn to the east of the development area and it is possible that this is linked to the cairn. The local area contains further evidence of prehistoric activity in the form of a stone axe (NS07SW 2) and a cup marked stone (NS07SW 5) in Ardentraive, to the north of the development area. On the Isle of Bute, close to the slipway at Rhubodach, a prehistoric burial cairn and short cist (NS07SW 3) were located approximately 50m to the north-west. A number of possible fish traps of unknown date were also located along the shoreline.

The ferry crossing between Colintraiive and Rubodach is itself of some antiquity, dating back to 1685 (Maclagan 1995), with post-medieval settlement identified on both shores.

4 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief was to mitigate the effects of the development on any archaeological, sub-surface deposits. More specific aims were to establish the location, nature, extent and date of archaeological features or deposits subject to ground-breaking and preserve them by record.

The resulting archive will be deposited in the National Record of the Historic Environment for Scotland.



ILLUS 2 View looking east towards cairn 'Colintraive' (NS07SW 1) prior to topsoil stripping ILLUS 3 South facing view across the stripped development area

5 METHOD

The archaeological work comprised monitoring of ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a replacement slipway at Colintrave and the construction of the temporary slipway and parking and marshalling facilities.

Stripping of the area was undertaken by a 20 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. The area was excavated in controlled spits to the depth required by the client which exposed the geological subsoil across the majority of the site.

All recording was in line with the ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological watching briefs (2014) and in accordance with the written scheme of investigation. All contexts were given unique numbers and recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards. A full photographic record comprising digital photography was taken and a graduated metric scale was visible in all images.

6 RESULTS

The grassy field in the eastern part of the development was stripped of topsoil and vegetation across an area of 2,480m². Topsoil (0001) was relatively uniform across the site, ranging from 0.25m to 0.35m in depth. The geological subsoil (0002) was comprised sands and gravels and contained occasional large schist and sandstone boulders which were more common towards the north. No archaeological features or finds were identified within the development area (Illus 3).

7 DISCUSSION

The monitoring successfully mitigated the impact of the development. No archaeological assets were present within the stripped area.

8 REFERENCES

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 *CIfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Paper No7
- Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd 2017 *Method Statement for Archaeological Watching Brief on Slipway Refurbishment and Improvement to Parking and Marshalling Facilities, The Ferry Terminal, Colintrave, Argyll and Bute* Unpublished client document
- Maclagan I 1995 'Harbour quays and ferry ports, (North Bute, Rothesay & Kingarth Parish); Sea communications' in *Discovery and Excavation in Scot*, p67
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) 2017 *British Geological Survey* [online] accessed 8th June 2017 from www.bgs.ac.uk

9 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 SITE REGISTERS

Appendix 1.1 Context register

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
0001	Topsoil. Medium brown sandy silt with turf. Contained small, rounded gravel inclusions.
0002	Geological subsoil (natural). Sandy gravels, mid orangey brown with very frequent small to medium sized rounded pebbles of quartz, schist and sandstone. Larger schist boulders (moderately rare) present in the northern area.

Appendix 1.2 Photographic register

PHOTO	DIRECTION	DESCRIPTION
0001	N	Pre-works
0002	NE	Pre-works
0003	SE	Pre-works
0004	S	Pre-works
0005	N	Pre-works
0006	E	Stripping in south-east of area
0007	SE	Stripping in south-east of area
0008	E	Stripping in south-east of area
0009	N	Stripping along north-south running fenceline
0010	NE	Stripping in centre of area
0011	E	West facing section of (0001) and (0002)
0012	S	Continuation of stripping across area
0013	SW	Continuation of stripping across area
0014	NW	Continuation of stripping across area
0015	NW	Continuation of stripping across area
0016	S	Completed stripping
0017	NE	Completed stripping
0018	N	Completed stripping
0019	S	Completed stripping

APPENDIX 2 DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Colintraive and Rhubodach Slipway Improvements, Argyll and Bute
PROJECT CODE:	CRSB-01
PARISH:	Inverchaolain
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sue McGalliard
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	—
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	—
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	—
NGR (2 LETTERS, 8 OR 10 FIGURES)	NS 03127 74569
START DATE (THIS SEASON)	06/06/17
END DATE (THIS SEASON)	07/06/17
PREVIOUS WORK (INCL. DES REF.)	—
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM OTHER FIELDS)	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd undertook a watching brief within the proposed development area for slipway refurbishment and improvement to parking and marshalling facilities at Colintraive, Argyll and Bute. The works did not identify any archaeological features or deposits.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	No
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	—
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Balfour Beatty Regional
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Headland Archaeology, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (INTENDED/DEPOSITED)	National Record for the Historic Environment for Scotland



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