The Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk Project: An inclusive approach to a national heritage issue

Tom Dawson
University of St Andrews/The SCAPE Trust
Keeping History Above Water
Monday 11th April
What is at risk?
Prehistoric land surface, Redkirk Point, Dumfries & Galloway
Outer wall of Broch - c. 5m wide

Pier of inserted wheelhouse

Central hearths and floors of wheelhouse

Pier of inserted wheelhouse

Construction debris

Outer wall of Broch - c. 5m wide

Broch well

Area of robbed out broch wall
• Defend the line
• Defend the line

• Retreat the line
• Defend the line

• Retreat the line

• No active intervention (do nothing)
Value
Lascaux – Palaeolithic
Appendix 1 Erosion management options

Summaries

1. Adaptive management
2. Dune grass planting
3. Dune thatching
4. Dune fencing
5. Beach recycling and repiling
6. Sandbag structures
7. Beach nourishment
8. Gabion revetments
9. Artificial headlands
10. Artificial reefs
11. Nearshore breakwater
12. Groynes
13. Beach drainage
14. Rock revetments
15. Timber revetments
16. Impermeable revetments and seawalls
17. Novel coast protection methods

These summaries are intended as stand alone documents. They contain sufficient information to allow proposed schemes to be assessed and to guide non-specialists in the implementation of minor management projects. The summaries are not intended to replace the services of a competent coastal consultant for the design and implementation of larger schemes.

In order to provide a comprehensive guide to the options available for the management of coastal erosion all principle coast protection and erosion management techniques are covered. It must be recognised, however, that likely all of these can be...
Coastal Surveys
### Boddin Harbour

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Boddin Harbour</td>
<td>371200</td>
<td>753500</td>
<td>Harbour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coast Location**
- Intertidal

**Threats**
- Sea erosion

**Period**
- Modern

**Condition**
- Poor

**Recommendations**
- Survey

**DBA Description**

Remains of a harbour, still in use. A sheltered natural harbour augmented by a slipway and crab winch.

**Field Description**

Boddin Harbour is accessed via a concrete slipway with wooden tracks, which runs parallel to the coast edge and was destroyed at the bottom, where it had collapsed into the sea. Rock from the cliff above had collapsed onto the slipway. An abutting harbour wall to the south-east was also partially demolished by erosion. The crab winch not located.

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### Boddin Harbour Ice House

<table>
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<th>Northing</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Boddin Harbour Ice House</td>
<td>371300</td>
<td>753440</td>
<td>Ice House (remains of)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coast Location**
- 20m

**Threats**
- None

**Period**
- Post Medieval

**Condition**
- Good

**Recommendations**
- Nil

**DBA Description**

Remains of an ice-house. Described by Hume as: '18th to 19th century. A vaulted chamber built into a hillside, with a two-storey store abutting'.

**Field Description**

As described - building still in use.

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### Boddin Point Lime Kiln

<table>
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<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Site Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Boddin Point Lime Kiln</td>
<td>371340</td>
<td>753347</td>
<td>Lime Kiln</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Coast Location**
- Coast edge

**Threats**
- Sea erosion occurring

**Period**
- Post Medieval

**Condition**
- Poor

**Recommendations**
- Survey

**DBA Description**

Remains of lime kilns. They are depicted in use on the 1st edition OS map (c.1846) but appeared to have gone out of use by the (c.1888) 2nd edition. Recorded by Hume in 1977 as: ‘built c.1750 by Robert Scott of Duninald. A remarkable group of large kilns on a promontory which is being eroded. The main range consists of a four-draw kiln and another, possibly three-draw, and set back to the rear is a two-draw kiln. The draw arches are semicircular draw arches and the shafts are stone-lined’.

**Field Description**

Large lime kiln constructed from brick and red sandstone, rendered in places. The southern side, on the coast edge, has collapsed due to erosion and cracks were observed on other external elevations of the structure. Internal access prohibited. Brick vaulted ceilings were visible. Roof of lime kiln ruinous. No gun emplacements were visible.
12,500 sites recorded
Prioritising Action
Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk Project

www.scharp.co.uk
Welcome to the Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project
Sites at Risk
Projects

- Community-led
- 14 projects around the Scottish coast
  - Interpretation…
  - Survey…
  - Excavation…
  - Creative…
  - Experimental…

www.adwemysscaves.org
The Newshot Ship Graveyard Part 1: The Mystery of the Burned Schooners

While looking at Google Earth, a sharp-eyed SCHARP volunteer spotted numerous wrecks on the foreshore of the Clyde near the Erskine Bridge. A search on Canmore, the national online database of buildings and archaeological sites, revealed that the “remains of several mud punts (once commonly used for dredging operations on the River Clyde) and at least three other craft are recorded lying within the small creek…” and that “…initial research and contact with local people suggests that the craft were abandoned there after a wartime bombing incident in one of Glasgow’s docks had severely damaged them by fire.”
WEMYSS CAVES 4D

The Wemyss Caves in Fife contain the highest number of Pictish cave carvings in the world. This important monument faces many threats. Digital recording and interpretation of the caves and carvings is one way of preserving this unique heritage and ensuring it remains accessible.
BUILDING 8: elevations

external

internal
BUILDING 19: east elevation
A letter to the Honourable and Eleutherian Society of Boston, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, agreeable to the terms of the said Society.

November 30, 1793

To the Honorable and Eleutherian Society of Boston, in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to enclose a letter from the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, written on board the ship in which I am a passenger. The letter is addressed to the Honourable and Eleutherian Society of Boston, and contains a request for assistance in procuring a schooner for the purpose of conveying the British troops to the Cape of Good Hope.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Stamp]
Example of seed types recovered from the later well—indicative of open/waste ground.

Image: Scott Timpany, Orkney College
Involving the wider community
MEUR BURNT MOUND

A PLACE OF FIRE AND WATER USED OVER 3000 YEARS AGO

Three thousand years ago, people drew water from the well to fill the stone tank sunk into the ground. They heated beach cobbles on a peat fire in the hearth cell, rolled them along the stone passage and dropped them into the water to warm it. Over time the heat-shattered stones piled up forming what archaeologists know as burnt mounds.

There are 2000 burnt mounds recorded in Scotland and 21 on Sunday - but very few are like this one. Most date to between 1800 BC - 800 BC. Burnt mounds always contain evidence of fire-cracked stone, a fresh water source and a water tank. Meur is one of a handful of burnt mounds which are also like prehistoric houses with rooms and passageways. These are only found in Orkney and Shetland.

But nobody knows what they were for.

DID YOU KNOW?

Plants, seeds and insects preserved at the bottom of the well tell us about the local environment. We found nettles, thistles, forget-me-nots, dock and chickweed, all plants of an open cultivated landscape. Water, dung and rove beetles show it was also a mucky, muddy place with animal dung close to the well.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Lots of pumice and struck flint. Much of the pumice had worn and flattened sides. A few cobble pounders or hammers, some cattle and sheep bone and shards of very thick pottery. Peat and seaweed were used as fuel. The burnt mound was re-built and re-modelled at least twice, it was used for over 1000 years! There was an even older well beneath the tank.

Cooking, brewing, bathing, the working of animal skins and washing and dying wool are all theories that have been put forward by archaeologists who study burnt mounds. In this artist's impression we have shown people bathing, but we're sure they would have been doing other activities here too. What do you think?

The Meur excavation and reconstruction is part of the Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk Project. Coastal erosion affects thousands of archaeological sites in Scotland. SCAPE works with volunteers to update records of eroding sites, carry out fieldwork to rescue information they hold and share the stories they tell us about the past. www.scharp.co.uk