

EMAS Easter Study Tour to Argyll, Mull and Iona



Iona Monastery

13 – 20 April 2017

Itinerary

Thursday, 13 April	Pick up at London Embankment; Penkrigde; Carlisle
Friday, 14 April	Leave Carlisle; Burnswark Hill; Dalserf; Luss; arrive Oban
Saturday, 15 April	Ferry to Mull; local minibus; erry to Iona; Iona Nunnery; St Mary's Abbey; return via Mull
Sunday, 16 April	Kilmodan; Ferry to Bute; Cnoc an Rath; Rothesay Castle; Clachan Ard Fort
Monday, 17 April	Ferry to Mull; Moy Castle; Lochbuie Stone Circle; Aros Castle; Eilean Na H-ordaig Dun
Tuesday, 18 April	Kilmartin, Ballymeanoch standing stones and henge; Slockavullin Cairn and Standing Stones; Kilmory Oib Deserted Medieval Settlement; Tayvallich Inn; Cairnbaan
Wednesday, 19 April	Leave Oban; Kilchurn Castle; Drovers Inn, Inverarnan; Repentance Tower, Hoddom Mains; arrive Carlisle
Thursday, 20 April	Leave Carlisle; Kirkby Stephen; St Mary's Church, Tutbury; arrive London Embankment



Argyll and Bute

St Michael's Church Penkridge

Penkridge dates to the Anglo-Saxon period when it was part of the Kingdom of Mercia. In 958 it was described by King Edgar as a 'famous place'. According to Domesday Book, most of the farm land at Penkridge was held from the king by the nine priests of St. Michael's, who had six slaves and seven villeins working for them.



During the later medieval period, the collegiate church of St Michael and All Angels was the wealthiest establishment in Penkridge. From 1226, the church had been headed by the Archbishop of Dublin as the result of a gift by King John.

Burnswark Hill

The earthwork complex at Burnswark consists of a Bronze Age cairn, Iron Age hill fort and settlement, Roman camps and a possible fortlet, medieval enclosures, Civil War battery and a triangulation station. The site was first recorded by antiquarians in the 18th century and surveyed by William Roy in the 1750s. The first excavations took place in 1898 and there have been three subsequent interventions, most notably by George Jobey from 1965 to 1970, as well as intensive aerial survey.



"It is not just the daunting physical presence of Burnswark that has fired the interest of scholars over the last 300 years.

Crowning the tabletop summit are the denuded ramparts of a 17-acre hillfort, which is held in a vice-like grip by two Roman camps. Both of these camps feature design oddities. The northern one displays an unusually elongated form, while the south camp is more conventional in shape, but was furnished with three wide gateways facing up the hill. Each of these gateways is shielded by a large tumulus-like earthwork, which are collectively known as the 'Three Brethren'. This configuration of Roman camps straddling a hillfort is unique in Britain, and attempts to understand its significance have provoked considerable controversy for over half a century."

(Current Archaeology Website, 1 June 2016)

Hogbacks

Hogbacks are stone-carved Anglo-Scandinavian sculptures from 10th to 12th century England and Scotland, generally accepted as grave markers, or stylized 'houses' for the dead.

The hogback was derived from a variety of sources, the two most influential being Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian in origin. Although hogbacks are not found in Scandinavia, they are considered a unique invention made by the Viking settlers in Northern England.

Hogbacks without end-beasts often resemble longhouses and their ornament consists only of architectural features. Some hogbacks are also decorated with 'shingles' on either side of the central ridge, known as tegulation.

Dalserf Hogback

This hogback stone has shingle-like carvings on the sides, but much of the decoration has eroded away.

"Like the hogback at Luss, the Dalserf hogback is smaller than those at Govan. Shingle-like carvings are visible on the sides, but much of the decoration has eroded away. The stone was probably originally located near the ford on the River Clyde as a marker of territory or a display of wealth and power, but now resides in the churchyard at Dalserf, after being discovered around 1897 by a gravedigger."



(The Viking Heritage Trail: a Guide to Viking Sites around the Clyde)

Luss Hogback

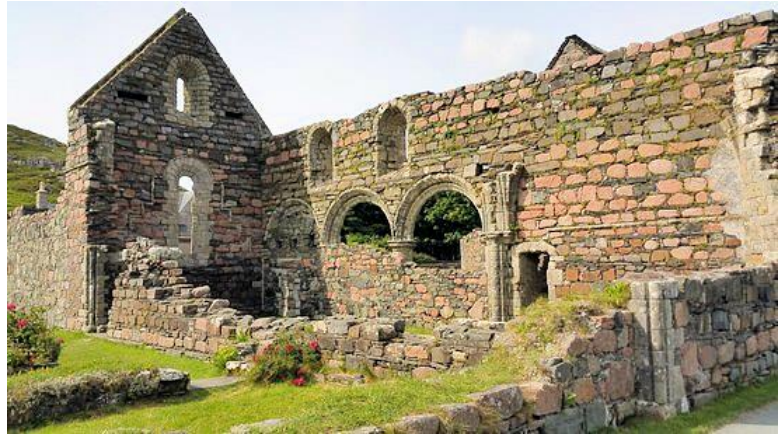
Most hogbacks in Scotland are less elaborate than the 'end-beast' types, and have decoration confined to tegulation. The earliest stage of hogbacks without end-beasts is represented by Abercorn, which has steep sides and a boldly curved ridge similar to those at Penrith.



The hogback at Luss serves as transition from this type to the second stage of the plain tegulated type, which resembles a fallen pillar, being long, narrow, with almost vertical sides and has a very slight curve to the roof. The Luss hogback fortunately possesses decoration which helps in dating it to the late eleventh century.

Iona Nunnery

The nunnery on Iona was established for an order of Augustinian nuns by Ranald, Somerled's son, who was also responsible for establishing the abbey at Iona. Ranald's sister Bethoc served as the first prioress of Iona. The nunnery church was called 'the black church', a reference to the black habits worn by the nuns.



Iona Nunnery became a popular place for ladies of noble birth from the entire Argyll region to retire, and many noble women were buried here. In the chancel is a much-worn grave slab to Prioress Anna MacLean (d. 1543).

Iona Abbey

In 563, Columba came to Iona from Ireland with twelve companions, and founded a monastery. It developed as an influential centre for the spread of Christianity among the Picts and Scots. The Chronicle of Ireland was produced at Iona until about 740, and according to Dodwell, the Book of Kells may have been produced by the monks of Iona in the years before 800.



The abbey was attacked by Vikings in 795, and again in 802, 806, and 825. During the attack in 806, 68 monks were massacred which led to many of the Columban monks relocating to the Columban Abbey of Kells in Ireland.

In 1203 Ranald, Lord of the Isles, invited the Benedictine order to establish a new monastery on the site.



Kilmodan Sculptured Stones

The Kilmodan Sculptured Stones comprise nine late-medieval West Highland grave slabs and one post-Reformation grave slab from 1636. An 11th stone was believed to be the head of the medieval Cross of Garvie, but is now thought to be a stone pillar worn to its present shape by its use as a tethering post.

The stones all come from a graveyard surrounding St Modan's Church in the village of Clachan of Glendaruel.



Cnoc an Rath

Cnoc an Rath, or Tom en Raw, consists of an irregular earthen circle, c. 28 m in diameter, and a 3 m deep ditch. It is surrounded by a stone wall, built by Lord Bannatyne, and planted with firs, among which is the tomb of James Hamilton of Kames, 1775-1849.

Recent excavation at this rather enigmatic earthwork has led to the theory that it may have been the site of a Viking Age thing, or parliament mound.



Rothsay Castle

Rothsay Castle has been described as "one of the most remarkable in Scotland" because of its circular plan.

The present castle dates from the 13th century and consists of a strong curtain wall, strengthened by four round towers, together with a 16th-century forework, the whole surrounded by a broad moat. Built by the Stewart family, in 1230 it survived a three-day siege by King Haakon IV of Norway which led to the castle's fortification with four round towers.



Clachan Ard Fort

The entrance to the Clachan Ard Fort is on the cliff top at Ardscalpsie Point. The fort is bounded on the north west by a cliff c. 18 m high which forms a natural defence on the seaward side, while the landward side is protected by broad walling.



The wall was much dilapidated, only a few facing-stones being visible, though excavations by Lord Bute in 1933 showed it to be 10ft thick. The entrance is in the east. A saddle quern was found, also part of a kitchen midden of bones and shells, during the excavation.

The wall was extensively rebuilt subsequent to the 1933 excavation.

Moy Castle

Moy Castle stands on a low rock platform at the head of Loch Buie and was built in the 15th century by Hector MacLean, brother of Maclean of Duart and the founder of the re-named MacLaines of Lochbuie who made it their home.

It is a 3 storey tower with a garret. On the centre of the ground floor there is a well with a depth of 1.8 metres. The well is cut into the solid rock but always has fresh water in it and is at a level much above the outside ground level. There is currently no knowledge of the means of water supply to this well.



The castle was captured from the MacLaines and garrisoned by Campbell followers but later returned to the MacLaines. It was abandoned as a residence in 1752 when Lochbuie House was built.

Lochbuie Stone Circle

The circle was originally nine granite stones, about 12 metres in diameter, with the tallest stone being about 2 metres high. It is mainly composed of granite slabs which have been positioned with their flatter faces towards the inside of the circle. One of the original stones has been removed and replaced in recent times with a low boulder.

There are 3 single stones in the field at differing distances from the circle. The nearest of these outlying stones is 5m away to the south-east, and is only 1m tall. The second outlier is a spectacular monolith 3m high and set about 40m away to the south-west. Also south-west of the circle, 107m away, is the third outlier, over 2 metres high. The stone is broken at the top and was probably taller when erected.



Aros Castle

Aros Castle was probably built by one of the MacDougall Lords of Lorn in the 13th century and was once the major stronghold of the Lords of the Isles. The first documentary record is from the later 14th century when it was mentioned as being in the possession of the Lords of the Isles. It appears to have been garrisoned by Argyll's troops in 1690, though it was described two years previously as 'ruinous, old, useless and never of any strength'.



The castle is defended on the seaward side by low cliffs, and originally by a ditch on the inland side. It commanded a strong defensive position; there is the ruin of a small chapel beside it.

Eilean Na H-ordaig

This dun occupies the summit of a low rocky knoll on the tidal islet of Eilean na h- Ordaig, just off the N shore of Loch Scridain. On the south-west side the position is protected by a rock face about 2.8m high, but on all other sides the immediate approach to the dun is over gently sloping or comparatively level ground.



Roughly circular in plan, the dun measures approximately 18m in diameter within a dry-stone wall from 2.7m to 4.3m thick. The wall now appears as a largely grass-covered stony bank, which stands at least 2m above the level of the interior.

Kilmartin, Ballymeanoch standing stones and henge

Ballymeanoch, a complex of ancient monuments, the most obvious being a parallel row of standing stones.

There are four stones in one row and two in the other. A third stone, known as The Holed Stone, lies near the remains of a kerb cairn to the north east of the stone row, this recumbent stone



has a hole through it, almost certainly man-made, and was recorded as being upright in the 19th century. As for the stone row, the line of four stones is graduated, from 2.75 metres to 4.1 metres. The middle two stones are covered with cup and ring marks; the largest has over 70 cup marks and over a dozen cup and rings.

The two stone alignment is smaller than the four-stone row; the stones measuring 2.75 metres and 3 metres tall.

Slockavullin Temple Wood Chambered Cairn & Standing Stones

There are c. 150 prehistoric monuments within a six-mile radius of the village of Kilmartin.

The most visible feature of the Kilmartin Glen is the linear arrangement of cairns, running over three miles south-by-south-west from the village. There are five remaining cairns in the alignment, although cropmarks and other traces suggest that there may originally have been more. The burial cairns are of Bronze Age origin, with the exception of Nether Largie South cairn, which is a Stone Age structure, rebuilt in the Bronze Age.



Kilmory Oib, near Bellanoch DMV

This hamlet, not far from the Kilmartin Valley, was abandoned sometime during the mediæval period. A holy well/spring in the centre of the village is decorated with crosses on both sides. The west face also has carvings of two discs, perhaps the sun and moon, two birds, and animals in a damaged area at the top.



Cairnbaan Cup and Ring Markings

At the southern end of Kilmartin Glen are four natural rock faces carved with an array of cup and ring marks. Three rocks lie close together while the fourth is 100 metres away up a winding path.

The rocks are decorated with a profusion of symbols including cup marks, grooves, and cup-and-rings. One particular carving has a series of multiple-ringed cups joined together.

One cup connects to an outer ring with radiating grooves, so that it resembles a sun symbol. The solitary rock is the largest of the four. It bears over 60 cupmarks, several cup-and-rings, and several long grooves linking cup groups



Kilchurn Castle

Kilchurn Castle was built in about 1450 by Sir Colin Campbell, first Lord of Glenorchy, as a five-storey tower house with a courtyard defended by an outer wall. By about 1500 an additional range and a hall had been added to the south side of the castle. Further buildings went up during the 16th and 17th centuries. Kilchurn was on a small island in Loch Awe scarcely larger than the castle itself, although it is now



connected to the mainland as the water level was altered in 1817. The castle would have been accessed via an underwater or low lying causeway.

Repentance Tower

Hoddom formed part of the Lordship of Annandale which was acquired by the Bruce family around 1124. They granted it to another Anglo-Norman family who took the name de Hodlem and probably built the first fortification within the manor shortly afterwards. Located on the north bank of the River Annan, this became known as Hoddom Old Castle. The manor remained part of the Lordship of Annandale and passed through numerous owners before being



acquired by Herbert Herries of Terregles no later than 1486. It remained with his family until 1543 when the then owner, William Herries, died without leaving a male heir resulting in his substantial estates being divided amongst his three daughters. The southern portion of Hoddom went to Anges Herries who married Sir John Maxwell of Terregles. His regional holdings were further enhanced in 1563 when the Scottish reformation enabled Sir John to acquire the adjacent lands of Trailtrow from the Knights Hospitallers. It was on this site that the new castle was built, re-using masonry quarried from the old fortification. Despite its location in Trailtrow, it acquired the name Hoddomstones.

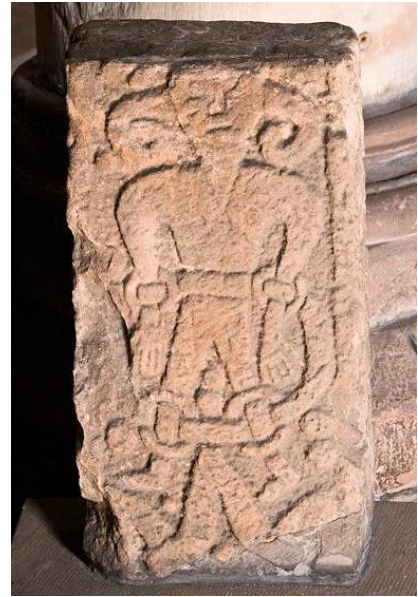
Repentance Tower stands on Trailtrow Hill, and forms part of a chain of defensive posts which warned against English raiding parties crossing the border.

This three-storey tower house was founded by Sir John Maxwell of Terregles in the mid 16th century.

Kirkby Stephen

The Parish Church of Kirkby Stephen is often referred to locally as the 'Cathedral of the Dales'. Its major point of interest, however, is part of a tenth-century cross shaft, known as 'the Bound Devil Stone' or 'the Loki Stone'.

The stone shows a bound figure, apparently with horns, and appears to be a depiction of the bound Satan (as in the Old English Poem 'The Fall of the Angels', or the bound figure of Loki, following his punishment for bringing about the death of the god Baldr, a scene which is also depicted on the Gosforth Cross.



Tutbury St Mary

The oldest surviving part of the church is the west end, which was built c. 1160-70. Most of the nave was rebuilt in the 13th century, and the south tower is a 16th century addition.

The church was originally the church of Tutbury Priory. At the Reformation the prior became vicar of Tutbury, and the western part of the priory church was retained as the parish church, the eastern choir being demolished.

