

# **EMAS Archaeology**



## **Study Tour to Kintyre and the Isle of Arran**



**24 April to 1 May 2019**



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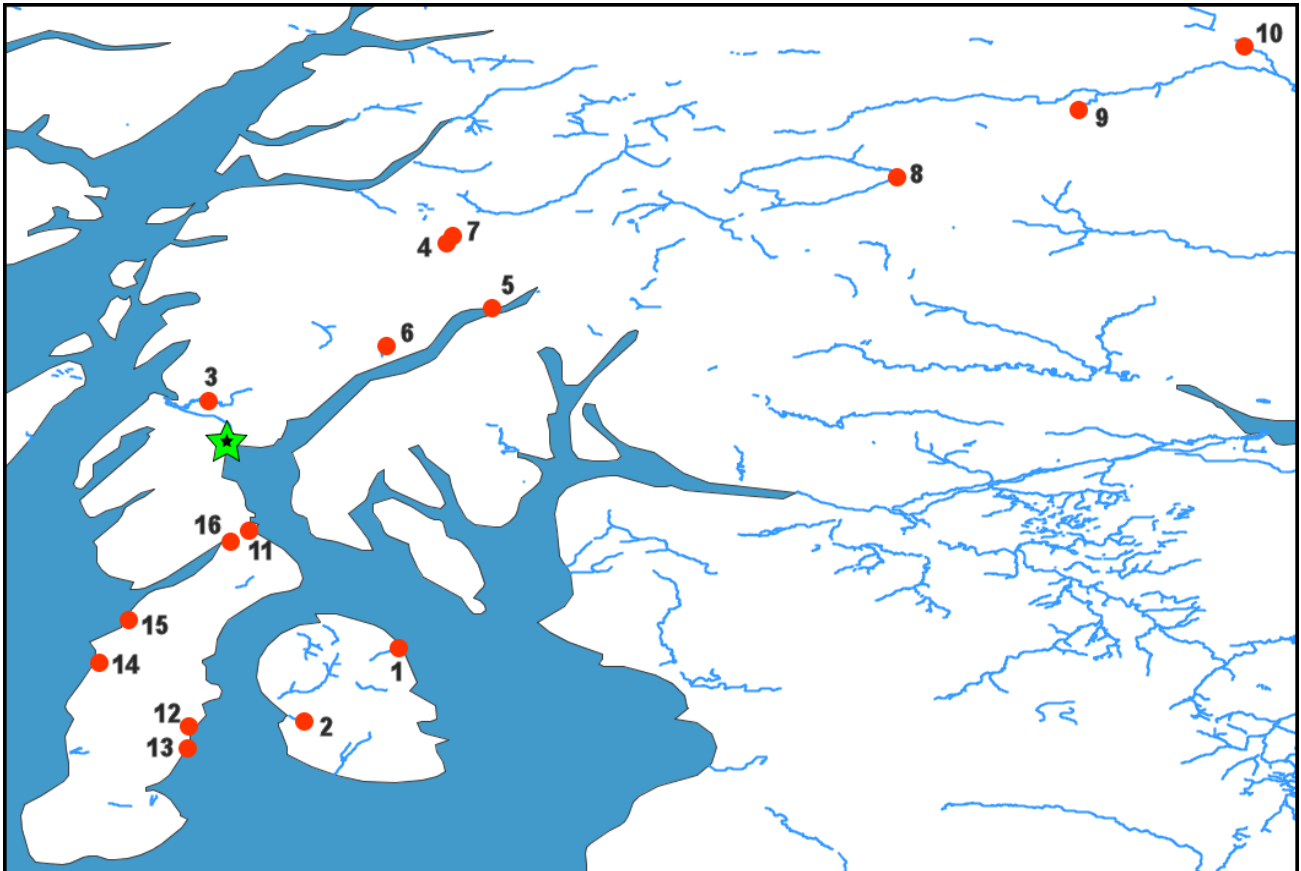
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## Sites in Kintyre and the Isle of Arran



### Grey Gull Hotel

- 1 Sannox Standing Stones, Fort and Chambered Cairn
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## Itinerary

Wednesday, 24 April	Leave Baker Street, Visit Gainsthorpe DMV, Visit Whitby Abbey, Overnight Middlesborough
Thursday, 25 April	Leave Middlesborough, Visit Lindisfarne Priory, Arrive Ardrishaig
Friday, 26 April	Claonaig Ferry Terminal to Lochranza Ferry Terminal, Isle of Arran; Sannox Standing Stones, Fort and Chambered Cairn; Machrie Moor Stone Circles Lochranza Ferry Terminal to Claonaig Ferry Terminal; Ardrishaig
Saturday, 27 April	Dunadd Fort; Cladich Chambered Cairn; Dunderave Castle; Auchindrain Folk Museum
Sunday, 28 April	Inistrynich Crannog; Killin Stone Circle; Kenmore Scottish Crannog Centre; Dunfallandy Cross Slab
Monday, 29 April	Tarbert Castle; Saddell Abbey; Kildonan Bay Dun; Killean Church; Balochroy Standing Stones and Cist; Escart Standing Stones
Tuesday, 30 April	Leave Ardrishaig; Visit Blatobulgium Roman Fort; Visit Penrith Crosses; Overnight Preston
Wednesday, 1 May	Leave Preston; Visit Bakewell Church and Crosses; Arrive Baker Street

## Gainsthorpe Deserted Medieval Village

is one of the best-preserved examples of a deserted medieval village in England. Former streets in the village survive as worn 'hollow ways'. Beside them are individual properties separated by low banks, with 'tofts' – frontage plots that once contained buildings and sunken yards – and garden 'crofts' stretching behind.

Some features of this small medieval village have been obscured by later stone quarrying, but much survives.



## Whitby Abbey

The first monastery in Whitby was founded c. 657. This was the site of the important Synod of Whitby which took place in 664 and led to the adoption of the Roman church for Christian Anglo-Saxon England.

The Anglian town and monastery were abandoned at some point in the 9th century, possibly as a result of Viking raids. By the time of the Norman Conquest the headland was abandoned, although a substantial town had developed down by the harbour.



In c. 1078 a monk called Reinfrid founded a new monastic community at Whitby. At a very early stage in its history this community split and the two parts each developed into a separate Benedictine monastery: one on the headland at Whitby and the other at St Mary's Abbey, York.

During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, a massive building programme was undertaken. The first phase of this dates to c. 1225–50. The eastern arm, the crossing and transepts, a central tower, and part of the nave were built, but funds seem to have run short and the work stopped.

Construction appears to have been resumed on the nave in the 14th century, but this work was not finished until the 15th century.

## Lindisfarne Priory

“This year came dreadful fore-warnings over the land of the Northumbrians, terrifying the people most woefully: these were immense sheets of light rushing through the air, and whirlwinds, and fiery dragons flying across the firmament. These tremendous tokens were soon followed by a great famine: and not long after, on the sixth day before the ides of January in the same year, the harrowing inroads of heathen men made lamentable havoc in the church of God in Holy-island, by rapine and slaughter.”

*Anglo-Saxon Chronicle anno 793*

Christianity gained a brief foothold in Northumbria in the late 620s from its base in Canterbury, but the gains were subsequently lost. The turning point was the accession to the crown of Northumbria in 634 of King Oswald. He had spent much of his youth in exile in what is now Argyll and had converted to the distinctive brand of Celtic Christianity which had taken root there after initial development in Ireland.



Oswald wanted his subjects to share his religion, and asked the centre of the Celtic Church, the monastery on Iona, to provide a suitable bishop to oversee the conversion of Northumbria. They sent Aidan, later St Aidan, who from 635 spent 17 years in Northumbria working alongside monks he brought in from Iona to establish a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne, granted to them by King Oswald.

Differences between the Celtic Church and the Roman Church were resolved at the Synod of Whitby in 664 when, after prolonged debate, King Oswy decided to follow the practices of the Roman Church.

On 8 June 793 the monastery at Lindisfarne was raided by Vikings. It was the beginning of the end, and in the face of further attacks the monks left Lindisfarne for good in 875, taking St Cuthbert's coffin and relics with them. They established a new monastery in an old Roman fort at Chester-le-Street, before in 995 moving again, this time to Durham. St Cuthbert's relics made a brief return visit to Lindisfarne in 1069-70 to avoid the post-conquest Norman rampage across northern England. Thereafter they became a permanent fixture in Durham, where the cult of St Cuthbert was used to legitimise the community of Benedictine monks introduced by the new Norman overlords.

The Benedictines at Durham were highly active in spreading their influence throughout north eastern England, and they did this by establishing small cells in various locations ranging from Coldingham in Scotland in the north, to Stamford in Lincolnshire in the south. One of these, established in the 1070s, was on Lindisfarne. Some time in the 1120s work began on the building of a large priory church on Lindisfarne, which forms the core of the present ruined priory.

## **Sannox Chambered Cairn, Standing Stones and Fort**

A beautiful part of the Isle of Arran with a number of prehistoric monuments.

### **Chambered Cairn**

The cairn is in a poor state of preservation. The upright stone is still visible on the east edge but there is no trace of the capstone to its east. There is, however, a flat slab 2.2m by 1.3m on the lower south side of the cairn, but this is rather large to have covered a short cist. The centre of the cairn is generally mutilated and there is no trace of a chamber or cist.



### **Standing Stones**

Nineteen century records claim that one of the standing stones once formed part of a stone circle. All that remains of this circle is a single standing stone situated on gently sloping pastureland near the edge of a steep slope. It is a plain weathered slab, 2.7m high, 1.1m broad and 0.4m thick.

A second standing stone is situated in the garden of Melandrigal. It is a plain weathered stone 2.7m high, 1.1m broad and 0.5m thick

### **The Fort**

The remains of a vitrified fort situated on the crest of an east-facing tree-covered coastal slope. There are two concentric banks, around the north-west and south sides (now evident as stony scarps 1.0m high) and steep natural slopes on the east. The outer bank has a 15.0m long stretch of wall-facing visible on the north but nowhere can a "wall" width be determined.

### **Machrie Moor Stone Circles**

The starting point for activity here seems to have been in about 3,500 BC, when pits were dug in the areas now occupied by Circles 1 and 6. The purpose of the pits is unknown, but ridged Neolithic pottery was recovered from them.

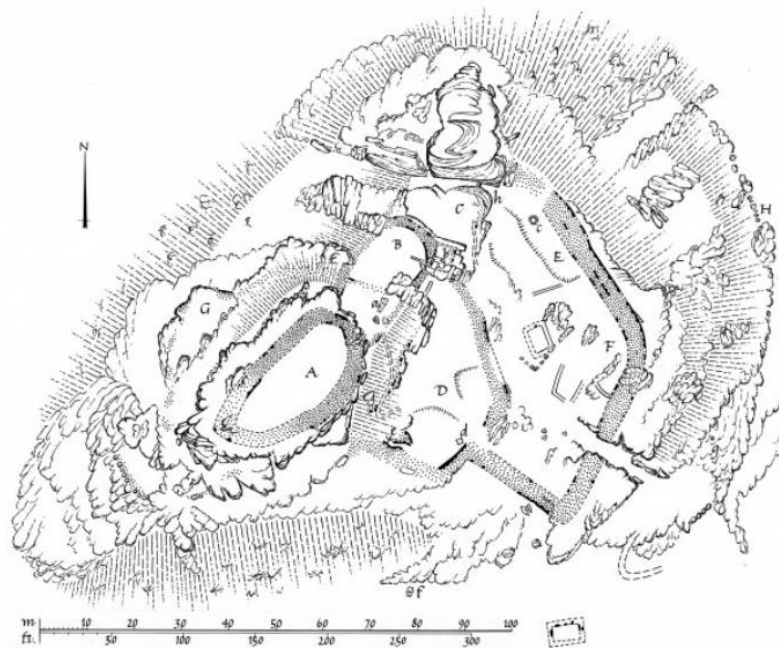
A thousand years later, in around 2,500 BC, timber circles were erected on the sites of the earlier pits. The timber circle in the area of today's Circle No.1 was especially elaborate, comprising a double ring of posts with more in its centre.



Over time, the timber forming the circles rotted away, and the land was subdivided into small plots and ploughed. Then, in about 2,000 BC, stone circles were built on the site of the two earlier wood circles. It is assumed that the four other stone circles were built at the same time.

## Dunadd Fort

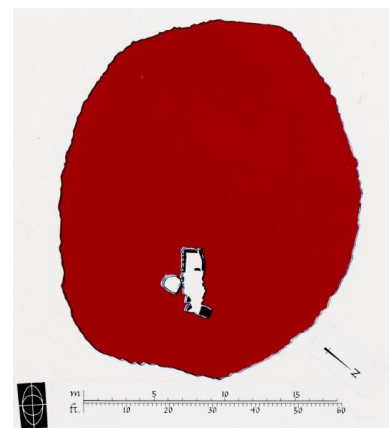
Dunadd is a rocky crag that was possibly once an island, but that now lies inland near the River Add. It was originally occupied in the Iron Age, the site later became a seat of the kings of Dál Riata. It is known for its unique stone carvings below the upper enclosure, including a footprint and basin thought to have formed part of Dál Riata's coronation ritual. On the same flat outcrop of rock is an incised boar in Pictish style, and an inscription in the ogham script. The inscription is read as referring to a Finn Manach and is dated to the late 8th century or after.



## Cladich Chambered Cairn

The remains of a Clyde-type chambered cairn standing on a slight natural knoll in a cultivated field.

The cairn has been so severely reduced by stone-robbing and ploughing that, without excavation, it is not possible to determine the original outline precisely, but it was probably oval in shape, measuring at least 25 by 21 metres with the longer axis aligned NE-SW. Towards the NE end the remains of a burial chamber can be seen. It is now roofless and measures about 4 metres by 1.1 metres internally, its longer axis being aligned with that of the cairn.



## Dunderave Castle

Dunderave Castle, built in 1596 and the chief seat of the Clan MacNachtan, until it was acquired by the Campbells about 1689. It has been an L-plan, crow-stepped tower house with a large round tower at the exterior angle.

The castle lay in ruins until the beginning of the 20th century when it was restored, with the addition of wings to the E and S gables. It is now a private residence.



## Auchindrain Folk Museum

Auchindrain is the only township to survive substantially unaltered from amongst the many hundreds that existed across the Scottish Highlands before the Highland Clearances of the late 18th and 19th centuries. Twenty-two buildings survive, 12 of which are mainly complete.



## Inistrynich Crannog

The crannog was investigated in 1972 by a naval sub-aqua team under the direction of Dr T D McArdle of Edinburgh University. This investigation confirmed that the island in Loch Awe located at this point, in a small bay sheltered by the Inistrynich peninsula, is a crannog. It was a wholly artificial construction in that it did not incorporate natural glacial mounds, ridges of bedrock or a natural island surface as a foundation. This was the smallest of the Loch Awe crannogs confirmed by the investigating team, measuring only about 13 metres in diameter.



## Killin Stone Circle

This stone circle is c. 10 in diameter and consists of six upright slabs, standing between 1.2m and 2m high, which have been set on the circumference of a flattened circle measuring between 9.5m and 8.5m in diameter. The northernmost stone bears three cup-marks.



## Kenmore Scottish Crannog Centre

(see the photograph on the cover)

Loch Tay was home to a particular concentration of crannogs, with the remains of over twenty having been found to date. No-one knows what the relationship between the residents of these crannogs was. One of them, the Oakbank Crannog, found near Fearnan by the north shore of the loch, was excavated by the Scottish Trust for Underwater Archaeology in the 1980s. In 1994 work began on construction of a replica of the Oakbank Crannog.

## Dunfallandy Cross Slab

The Dunfallandy Stone stands some 1.5m high and 0.6m wide. It dates to the 8th or 9th centuries, and follows the pattern found on many such stones of having a highly elaborate cross carved on the front face and a fine collection of symbols and figures carved on the rear face. The spaces above and below the side arms of the cross are filled by a series of panels with carvings of animals and angels.

The reverse of the stone carries a number of the symbols seen on so many Pictish stones. These include fish-tailed snakes forming a frame. Most interesting, however, are the three figures carved on this side of the stone. The two at the top are shown seated facing each other on ornate chairs. Between them is a cross on a table. Symbols seem to be associated with each of the figures, and it is tempting to suggest that these might mean that such symbols are, as has sometimes been speculated, indications of the identity of individuals.



## Tarbert Castle

The nucleus of Tarbert Castle is formed by a building of irregular courtyard plan. The remaining portion of the site, much of which is at a considerably lower level, is enclosed by a curtain wall to form an outer bailey. This curtain wall incorporates a number of projecting towers, and is interrupted midway along its SE sector by a tower house and forework, now the most conspicuous feature of the remains.



Neither the architectural nor the historical evidence is complete enough to enable the dates of the surviving buildings to be determined with any degree of precision. In view of its size and disposition, however, the courtyard building, or inner bailey, may be ascribed to the 13th century. The outer bailey is probably of early 14th century date, when large-scale building operations are known to have been carried out. The tower house likely dates from the turn of the 15-16th centuries, while the associated forework was probably erected later in the 16th century.

### **Saddell Abbey**

The story of Saddell Abbey began in the 1140s when Bishop Malachy of Armagh came to Kintyre to seek out a suitable site for a Cistercian monastery. Saddell seemed to offer the perfect location, and land was granted by Somerled, at the time a powerful noble in Kintyre. Building of the abbey began in 1148, and monks came to Saddell from the Cistercian Abbey at Mellifont in County Armagh, Ireland. Somerled proved a powerful benefactor, all the more so when in 1158



he freed the Highlands and Islands from Norse rule and proclaimed himself Ri Innse Gall or King of the Isles. Somerled was killed at Renfrew in 1164 and there is an enduring clan tradition that his body was brought to Saddell for burial in the south wall of the choir of the church: though other sources say he was buried on Iona.

### **Kildonan Bay Dun**

A well-preserved dun, crowning a rocky knoll and measuring 19.2m by 13.1m within a wall 1.5m to 4.3m thick, composed of a rubble core faced with boulders, and having an internal revetment. For a distance of 5.5m south of the entrance in the SW, this revetment is replaced by a narrow, curving gallery open at both ends. The inner face of the wall is set at a higher level than the outer and on the north stands to its original height of a little over 2.1m, but elsewhere is only about 1.2m high. The outer face exhibits a marked batter and is now 2.4m in maximum height but it may originally have been 3.7m high at the entrance, and as much as 4.6m in places along the east side. The entrance, 1.65m to 2.59m wide is paved and provided with door-checks and bar-holes.



## Killean Church

The remains of the former parish church of Killean, dedicated to St John and first recorded c. 1222. The church continued in use until it was finally abandoned as insecure in 1770. The greater part of the building is roofless, but apart from the W gable-wall, which has been entirely removed, the walls are in a fairly good state of preservation, although partially covered with a dense growth of ivy. The oldest portion of the structure is the nave.



## Balochroy Standing Stones and Cist

The most southerly of these three standing stones is situated 36.5m NE of cist NR75SW 2 (qv.). It measures 0.6m x 0.6m at the base, and rises fairly evenly to a height of 2.4m, before tapering to a pointed top, 3.4m high. The centre stone, 3.0m high, is 3.0m to the E. It is a thin slab, 1.5m x 0.3m at base, oriented NW-SE. The third stone, 2.0m NE appears to have been broken off at the top. It measures 0.9m x 0.3m at base, and rises with a slight taper to a height of 2.0m.



This cist is constructed of five slabs, four forming the sides and ends, while the fifth is a massive cap-stone 2.1m x 1.5m x 0.3m. Oriented NE-SW, it measures internally 1.7m x 0.8m x 0.6m. Much of the cist is above ground level.

## Escart Standing Stones

An alignment of 5 standing stones is situated immediately SE of Escart farmhouse. Stone A measures 1.0m x 0.3m at base and rises to a height of 2.85m. Stone B is 3.3m high, and 1.3m x 0.4m at base. Stone C, which has been tilted NE by a tree, is 2.44m high and 0.7 x 0.4m at base. Stone D measures 1.0m x 0.5m at its foot, and 2.06m high. Only part of stone E survives, the top having been broken off when the tree beside C was felled. It now measures 0.8m x 0.25m at base by 1.12m high; originally, it would have been at least 1.5m.



## Blatobulgium Roman Fort

Birrens was the first Roman fort in Scotland to be extensively excavated (in 1895), and, excavated again in 1936-7 and 1962-7, it has proved itself the most informative of all Roman sites in south-west Scotland. It is the only major fort in the region where there are unmistakable, if slight, visible remains, and it is the only one known to us by its original name, Blatobulgium. Its inclusion in the Antonine Itinerary (a Roman road map), where it is named, reflected its function as an outpost fort of Hadrian's Wall, 14 Roman miles on from Netherby (Castrum Exploratorum) in Cumbria. The road through Birrens was the main western route into Scotland.



## Penrith Crosses and Hogbacks

Outside the church stands a pair of 10th-century cross shafts, carved with much-worn designs including an Agnus Dei, and figures of a man and woman. The crosses have, unfortunately, together with four hogback stones been incorporated into an assemblage known as the Giant's Grave. Their positioning makes it difficult to see the details of the stones.

To the north-west is another 10th-century cross, known as the Giant's Thumb. This is slightly smaller than the others and has a wheel type head and carving of the interlace and scrollwork type.



## Bakewell Church and Crosses

All Saints' Church, Bakewell was founded in 920, although the present church was started in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was heavily restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by William Flockton.

Two Anglo-Saxon carved stone crosses stand in the churchyard, and a number of carved fragments of Anglo-Saxon stonework were found during the restoration work and are now displayed within the church.

The Bakewell Sculpture Project has involved a detailed study of the sculpture through looking at text records and antiquarian illustrations, and also a detailed laser survey to capture all the remaining detail, in partnership with Birmingham University. This has also helped to assess the condition of the stones, which is especially important with the two cross shafts that are open to the elements.

