

# **Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story: Research Framework Symposium**

Period Summary - Early Medieval (Ewan Campbell)

## **A) Research Areas identified in original paper:**

1. The discovery of undefended and lower status sites, of all periods.
2. The role of Iona in the creation of sacred Christian landscapes.
3. The chronology of crannogs.
4. How unique is Dunadd?
5. Early Christian Monuments – Landscape, monumentality and materiality.
6. Where is the evidence for the Norse on the mainland? And why is it so difficult to find? A combination of specialisms provides a much fuller view of landscape presence in the Norse period. For example, with the inclusion of Norse place name studies by Johnston (1995) for Coll and Tiree (with commentary of Islay, Mull and Lismore) forms a framework for naming the landscape by a Norse-speaking population. The physical identification of this population is long overdue.

## **B) Other Research Questions identified by discussions:**

- Did the population reduce about 600AD?
- What was the population?
- We need to understanding the maritime landscape/heritage

## **C) Action Points identified by discussions:**

- We need to have a more interdisciplinary approach
- A programme of aerial reconnaissance required to identify new sites across the area
- Coring land adjacent to crannogs
- Stone condition at Ellary
- Dunaverty under coastal erosion threat
- Need a lower status settlement site to research (which is not under development pressure)
- Re-analysis and isotopic analysis of skeletal remains (NMS and Kilmartin collections, shipwreck victims)