

Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story: Research Framework Symposium

Period Summary - Early Modern (Heather James)

A) Research Questions identified in original paper:

The lack of archaeological research for this period means that there are a huge number of avenues that need to be researched. Various themes have been identified in both the ScARF Modern Research Agenda for Scotland and the Archaeological Research Framework for Bute, which have been consolidated below (B. Simpson).

- 1) Power and Prestige – wealth and display, clanship, conflict, mansion houses, designed landscapes, planned villages
- 2) Religion - burial, Reformation, schools
- 3) Agriculture – droving, improvement, clearance, crafting, diaspora
- 4) Exploitation of natural resources - industry, commercialism, incomers
- 5) Landscape, infrastructure, and transport
- 6) Identity and language
- 7) Tourism and Recreation -hotels, hunting estates, paddle steamers, golf, curling.
- 8) World War I & II

One question posed by this paper asked:

Could research of the Early Modern period contribute to understanding current issues affecting Argyll today i.e. depopulation, infrastructure issues etc?

B) Other Research Questions identified during discussions:

- How do we convey this period within the museum?

C) Action Points identified during discussions:

- A synthesis of Scotland's Rural Past project is needed