

Unfolding Argyll's Archaeological Story: Research Framework Symposium

Period Summary - Palaeolithic/Mesolithic Period (Steve Mithen)

A) Research Questions identified in original paper:

1. Exploring the Late Glacial: When, where and how did people arrive in Argyll?
2. Exploring the Mesolithic---Neolithic transition: Population replacement or colonisation?
3. Refining the early prehistoric chronology: by a programme of radiocarbon dating and Bayesian analysis and testing the 8.2ka event model.
4. Heritage management of early prehistoric sites.
5. Writing the history of archaeology in Argyll: a systematic study and interpretation of the history of archaeological research in Argyll

B) Other Research Questions identified during discussions:

- How do we understand the 8.2ka environmental event and how did it affected population numbers?

C) Action Points identified during discussions:

- There needs to be an increased recognition of how much the public contribute to this period.
- More information (GIS and text) about the potential location of sites so that Local Authorities are equipped to ensure that developers contract commercial archaeologists to evaluate area in advance of development.
- Work with Forestry Industry to identify ways in which areas can be evaluated in advance of planting
- Research needed in other areas of Argyll