

# Clan MacFarlane Survey and Excavation 2016

Project Design (v2) 10/2/2016



*The 'Black Village' (Stuc na Cloich) Tarbet, overlooking Loch Lomond (©Sue Furness)*

## 1.0 Introduction

Northlight Heritage propose to undertake an archaeological survey of the lands of Clan MacFarlane, Arrochar parish, Argyll & Bute, with the aim of shedding more light onto the history of the clan. Clan MacFarlane had control of lands at the north end of Loch Lomond by the 13<sup>th</sup> century and held them until debt forced them to sell in 1784/85.

Archaeological work already undertaken in the area includes the *High Morlaggan Project*, the *Hidden Heritage of a Landscape Project*, which concentrated on the isthmus between Arrochar and Tarbet (see <http://www.hiddenheritage.org.uk/>), and an unpublished Masters thesis (Johnson-Smith 2002). In addition, an excavation in 2015, on Tarbet Isle, discovered a stone-built structure dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries (James 2015). These studies, along with other works (see Whyte 1998 and Starbuck 2011) have highlighted the great potential for archaeological remains in the area. The evidence, so far identified, consists of relatively untapped documentary sources and the physical remains of strongholds, townships, mills, corn-drying kilns, shielings, animal pens, enclosures and field boundaries in the landscape.

The MacFarlane strongholds within the territory are thought to include -

1. Ardleish. At the top of the loch there are unroofed buildings occupying a headland on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map. These, or an adjacent island, may be the site of a dwelling referred to as Yle Eunlich (Pont 1596) and Ellan henrig (Ross 1777).
2. Inveruglas. Castle. This stone castle was the main MacFarlane seat until it was destroyed by Cromwell's troops in 17<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Island I Vow. A stone castle was built in 1577 by Andrew MacFarlane and described as a 'dwelling' by Pont.
4. Clattochmore. This house was said to be near the Manse in Tarbet and its foundations were visible in 19<sup>th</sup> century.
5. Inverioch House. This house was built in 1697. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century it sat within a designed landscape with offices, stables, coachhouse, laundry and mill. Part of the original building is now incorporated into a hotel.

(The castles of Inveruglas and Island I Vow are currently the subjects of other projects and so it is not the intention to include them in this project.)

Other sites of interest include an almshouse at 'Croiteaphurte' built by John MacFarlane in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, a mill at Port a'Chaipuill and numerous deserted settlements for which there is pre-19<sup>th</sup> century evidence, including Tynalarach and Stuc na Cloich (see Table 1). As the previous surveys of Inveruglas Farm (Starbuck 2011) and the Arrochar to Tarbet isthmus (James 2014) have shown, there are many unrecorded remains in the landscape which are all evidence of past landuse. While many of these remains date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is important to record and understand these remains so that the potentially earlier structures can be identified and then investigated further.

## **2.0 Research questions**

1. What evidence is there for the occupation of strongholds by the Clan MacFarlane chiefs during the medieval period and up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century?
2. What evidence is there for where and how the ordinary clan members lived during this period?
3. How can detailed examination of historical documents, such as the Hill Collection, contribute to the history of the clan?

## **3.0 Phase 1: Survey**

The field survey will target areas of highest potential within the parish of Arrochar. The survey will include visits to known deserted settlements that have not yet been recorded archaeologically, as well as exploratory surveys of areas where there are no known sites but where there is potential for remains to be located. In consultation with the client, areas of highest potential will be initially selected from the above list of known sites and documented place-names (Table 1). The structural remains will be recorded through written record, scale drawings, sketches and photographs as appropriate, in accordance with conventional practice in Scotland (see RCAHMS 2011 and <http://www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk/>). While the focus of this project is on the period from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, other remains will be recorded if they are unknown in the archaeological record and it is thought that they would contribute to the history of the area. The survey will take place over 15 days.

#### **4.0 Phase 2: Excavation Methodology**

A site will be selected for excavation based on the anticipated date of the structure and information that it could provide on MacFarlane activity between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. An initial hand-drawn offset plan of the site will be undertaken in order to establish a temporary bench mark and grid points from which all other plans and sections will be related.

All excavation will be done by hand and trenches will be backfilled to the pre-excavation level at the end of the excavation. All archaeological features would be planned, photographed and recorded using *pro-forma* record sheets and digital photography. Plans and sections will be undertaken at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate. Bulk samples will be taken of archaeological deposits that have potential for artefacts or macroplants. The trenches will be dug no deeper than 1.2m.

Specific methods may be required depending on the environmental and archaeological sensitivity of the site and these will be addressed when a site has been chosen.

#### **5.0 Reporting**

Frequent feedback on the survey will be given to the Clan members and to the community in the form of short reports, photographs and video clips (if appropriate) which can be used on Facebook and other social media. At the end of the survey fieldwork a brief report will be prepared summarising the results and recommending a site which has the best potential for producing information about the Macfarlanes and therefore subject to an excavation.

Once chosen and an excavation underway, frequent feedback would again be provided. At the end of the excavation a short report will be prepared for distribution to the client and landowner. would be followed by a DES entry and a full Data Structure Report which will be completed within 6 weeks. It is thought unlikely that the excavations would produce a particularly rich artefact assemblage, however the Data Structure Report would list all the finds and samples and put forward any further costs for their analysis which would be required to bring the excavation to full publication. If the excavations were particularly productive funding for further excavations would be sought.

A lecture will be given locally about the project probably in Arrochar, where the finds would be also be exhibited.

#### **6.0 Human remains**

Human remains are not anticipated. However all works undertaken by Northlight Heritage will be in accordance with *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology Historic Scotland Operational Policy Paper 5 1997 (2006)* and *The Conservation of Historic Graveyards Guide for Practitioners 2. Historic Scotland 2001.*

#### **7.0 Staffing**

The survey and excavation will be led by Dr Heather James (Northlight Heritage) accompanied, possibly at different times, by members of the Clan MacFarlane, the local community and members of the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists.

## **8.0 Timetable**

The survey will take place intermittently between March and the end of May, including some weekends, to allow for volunteer and local participation, for a maximum of **15** days.

The excavation would take place over **seven** consecutive working days.

## **9.0 Insurance**

York Archaeological Trust (trading under the name of Northlight Heritage) has all appropriate public liability insurance.

## **10.0 Archiving**

The archive for the project will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of completion of fieldwork if no additional post-excavation work is required, or at the end of the post-excavation research programme. The project archive would contain all relevant details in connection with the planning and execution of the project.

## **11.0 Finds Disposal**

All finds will be reported to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel through its secretariat the Treasure Trove Unit. All artefacts would be stored temporarily until a decision has been made by the Panel regarding to which museum the finds would be allocated.

## **12.0 Health & Safety**

All work would be carried out in compliance with current Health & Safety at Work Legislation. Risk Assessments are undertaken prior to all fieldwork. Specific issues to be considered would include the use of boats to access sites, disposal of waste and emergency procedures.

## **13.0 References**

- James, H F 2014 *Hidden Heritage of a Landscape: Vengeful Vikings and Restless Rustlers*. Northlight Heritage Report No 79.
- James, H F 2015 *Tarbet Isle, Loch Lomond*. Northlight Heritage Report No 121. Unpublished Report.
- Johnson-Smith DJ 2002 *"Barbarous, and yet mixed with some shew of civilitie:" The Clan MacFarlane of North Loch Lomondside c.1570-1800*. Unpublished masters thesis. University of Glasgow.
- Starbuck, D R 2011 *An Archaeological Survey of Inveruglas Farm: A search for Clan MacFarlane*. Institute for New Hampshire Studies, Plymouth State University, USA.

### *Other useful documents*

Adamson, D & Bailie, W 2015 'Excavating a Highland Inn'. *History Scotland* Jan- Feb 2015, 11-13.

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Firat, 1997 *Loch Lomonds Island Survey Phase 2*. FIRAT archaeological Services.

Fraser, Sir W 1869 *The chiefs of Colquhoun and their country*, Volume 2. Edinburgh.

W H Hill Collection, The Royal Faculty of Procurator's Library, Nelson Mandela Square, Glasgow.

MacFarlane, J 1922 *History of the Clan MacFarlane*. Glasgow. Accessed on 2/1/15 at  
[https://archive.org/stream/historyofclanmac00macf/historyofclanmac00macf\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/historyofclanmac00macf/historyofclanmac00macf_djvu.txt)

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RCAHMS 2011 *A Practical Guide to Recording Archaeological Sites*. Scotland Rural Past.

Whyte, D 1988 *Walter MacFarlane Clan Chief and Antiquary*. Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society, Aberdeen.

### *Maps consulted*

Robert James Gordon (*Lennox Argyle*) 1636-1652.

Timothy Pont, Loch Lomond (No. 17) & Gare Loch, Loch Long and Holy Loch (No. 16) National Library of Scotland. For accompanying transcripts see  
<http://maps.nls.uk/pont/texts/transcripts/ponttext150v-151r.html>.

Charles Ross 1777 Map of the Shire of Dumbarton.

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6inch & 265 inch to the mile OS map.

William Roy *Military Survey of Scotland*, 1747-1755.