

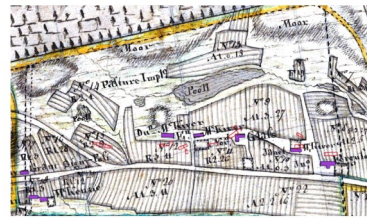
TARRADALE THROUGH TIME

An archaeological project to discover
the buried history of the Black Isle



Tarradale is at the west end of the
Black Isle, just east of Muir of Ord in
the Highlands of Scotland

This landscape was transformed by Agricultural improvements from the end of 18th century resulting in a pattern of larger enclosed fields, new farms and farmhouses as well as the reclamation of marshland on the north side of the Beauly Firth. The land is now mainly arable with patches of woodland and pasture. Today trying to envisage that the Tarradale area has been intensively occupied by settlers for thousands of years is very difficult as there is very little obvious evidence of archaeological heritage on the surface owing to intensive cultivation. Tarradale Through Time aims to continue to discover the hidden history of the area.

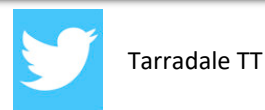


1788 estate map

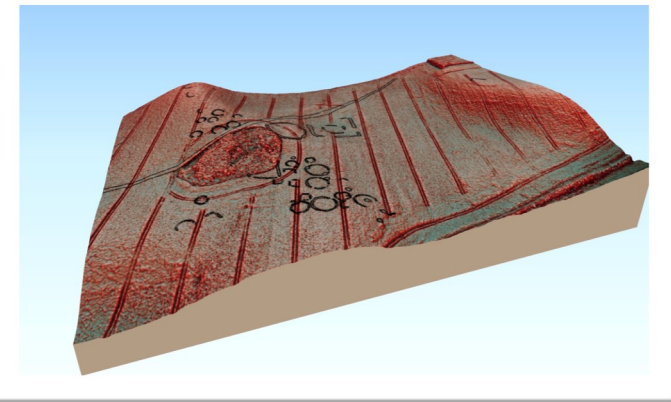


Open Day at
settlement site

If you want to become involved or already have information on the history of the area contact -
tarradalethroughtime@gmail.com
For the latest news on the project visit:
www.tarradalethroughtime.co.uk
Or via North of Scotland Archaeology Society:



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A'CHRANNCHUR
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The wealth of archaeology at Tarradale can be appreciated from aerial photographs. Geo-physical surveys and small scale excavations have shown the remains of houses and graves, old field boundaries and cultivation ridges underneath the plough soil. The ground above the buried archaeology is regularly ploughed which may unintentionally impact on the archaeology.

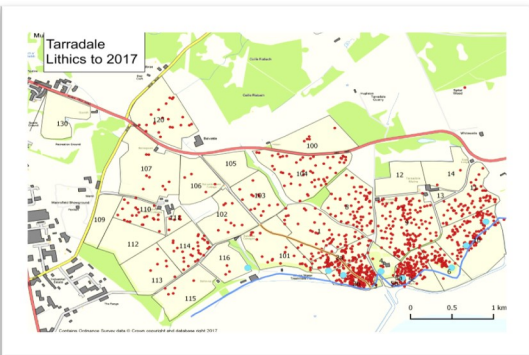


Foundation walls of House 5 settlement

Amateur archaeologists walking over the fields have discovered a large number of finds. All find spots have been GPS recorded.



Clear patterns of distribution of prehistoric lithics, slag, medieval and later pottery have become apparent on the distribution maps based on the data collected.



The finds include worked flints and food wastes of marine shells and animal bones that were left by the earliest settlers 8,500 years ago during the Mesolithic period. Flint scrapers and arrowheads and stone axes more than 4,000 years old are evidence of Neolithic activity and finds from the Bronze Age and Iron Age include prehistoric pottery and bronze axes.



Bronze Age Flint arrow heads

Antler harpoon



Antler mattocks



From later periods there is an increasing amount of pottery and other small finds that can be recognised and dated.

Below a medieval horse harness mount found near the castle site. It is made of gilded bronze with an enamelled fret pattern. The castle site was excavated in 2017 but nothing was not found.



Excavation trench at bottom of bank looking for the Bailey of medieval castle.