



**KILMARTIN MUSEUM FINAL EDUCATION REPORT**  
**THE EXCAVATION & POST EXCAVATION DELIVERY**  
**PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL'S AND YOUTH GROUPS**  
**2019 - 2020**



*TARBERT CASTLE TRUST*  
*'OUR CASTLE OF KINGS' PROJECT'*



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#### *THE EXCAVATION & POST EXCAVATION DELIVERY PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL'S AND YOUTH GROUPS*

#### Introduction

Kilmartin Museum is a small museum in remote, rural Argyll and is a charitable organisation in its 21st year. We are presently in a redevelopment phase and are working towards the redevelopment of the museum, collection store and the education space.

The Museum provides a place where local knowledge and locally-found archaeological artefacts are collected, preserved, interpreted, and displayed – giving the local community a focus from which to gain a sense of continuity, place, and identity. The Education and Outreach Team are responsible for planning, promoting, delivering, and evaluating lifelong learning and outreach activities; for developing and managing volunteer opportunities, for widening access, understanding and enjoyment of the area's archaeological heritage and natural history. Project work enables the education service to address the diverse range of educational needs for children, young people and adults in such a large rural area. The service has a long tradition of engaging with local communities, and although based in Kilmartin Glen, the education team work with communities as far afield as the Southern Hebridean islands, Kintyre and Lorn areas of Argyll.

Regarding the education teams experience working in the field of archaeological excavations, the team over the past 9 years has planned, organised and delivered excavation practical activity sessions/days for schools and youth groups on excavations within Argyll and we were extremely pleased to be involved in planning, organising and delivering excavation and post excavation experience to local schools and youth groups.

It was agreed with Tarbert Castle Trust that for a period of 2 weeks in June 2019, local schools both High schools and Primary schools, and youth groups would have the opportunity to attend the Tarbert Castle Excavation. The Kilmartin Museum Education Team would plan, organise and deliver the archaeological excavation experience for young people on the working archaeological site and the team would also plan, organise and deliver Post Archaeological excavation sessions later in 2019 and early 2020 to those schools that attended the excavation. Time allowed for the planning and delivery of the schools/Youth groups excavation days and Post excavation days in school was a total of 33 days.

## **PRE -EXCAVATION PHASE**

The schools 'dig' commenced on June 5th 2019 for 2 weeks, but prior to the end of May 2019 the education team visited the Supported Learning Unit in Campbeltown Grammar school, Rhunahaorine Primary School and Achahoish Primary School to deliver pre-excavation workshops. Pupils had the opportunity to discuss the Tarbert Castle excavation and learn about the process of excavation with particular reference to past excavations.

## **EXCAVATION**



Five days in total were spent in planning the delivery of the excavation experience for the schools and youth groups. Once dates were confirmed, each school received a timetable and a full risk assessment for their day on site. Schools visited the site during the week and the youth groups visited at weekends. The children enjoyed a mixture of sunny and hot days followed by drizzly rain and clouds of midges! But the latter really did not deter from the excitement of the 'Dig'.

<b>Schools that took part in the excavation</b>	
Tarbert Academy Primary	P6 & 7 Pupils
Tarbert Academy High	S2 & S3 Pupils
Campbeltown Grammar Supported Learning Unit	S1 to S5 Pupils
Carradale Primary, Campbeltown	P5 to P7 Pupils
Castlehill Primary, Campbeltown	P6 & P7 Pupils
Clachan Primary, Tarbert	P1 to P7 Pupils
Achahoish Primary, Near Tarbert	P1 to P7 Pupils
Rhunahaourine Primary, Campbeltown	P1 to P7 Pupils
<b>Youth Groups that took part in the excavation</b>	
Kilmartin Museum Archaeology & Wildlife Club	
Tarbert Rainbow/Brownies & Girl Guides	
Cowal/Dunoon Brownies & Girl Guides	
Oban Brownies & Girl Guides	

During their day on site, pupils learned about the importance of the excavation and Tarbert Castle's association with Robert the Bruce, they also gained an understanding of how to dig/trowel in their designated trenches in a safe and responsible way.

Pupils either spent a half day or full day on the Castle site and each day the children had a guided tour of the Castle site and of the various open 'dig' trenches, followed by a viewing of some of the objects found on the site in previous weeks. They also had the unique opportunity to meet the various members of the excavation team including Robert McPhail and Roddy Regan, other professionals and volunteers involved on site and to also learn about the various procedures that were taking place. The highlight of the day for the children was to then excavate in their specified trenches. Finally, at the end of the dig session, the pupils gathered round to wash 'finds' and examine the objects no matter how big or small, they had each found. Over the 2 weeks, the children found a variety of broken pottery pieces ranging in age and style that included medieval and Victorian pottery, clay pipes, broken Victorian slate pencils, various colours and styles of glass and one silver 3d coin dating to the early 1900s.



**Washing the finds**



**Sieving the soil**

**George IV Coin**



**Mystery object?**





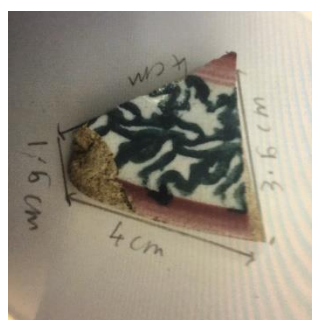
## POST EXCAVATION DELIVERY

It was important in the post excavation delivery sessions for pupils to receive an update on the Tarbert Castle Excavation project, and to discuss their involvement in the project. This was delivered in the classroom as 'Session 1' using a Power point presentation and allowing time afterwards for discussion. To compliment the Power point presentation, pupils had the opportunity to closely examine replica objects which could have been used during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, this again led



to lots of discussion. Following on from Session 1, the archaeological finds that pupils had found during the excavation from their designated trenches, were then made available for them to examine. The clay pipes and coins were very popular.

Delivery of Session 2, the object identification and recording activity, gave pupils the unique opportunity to learn how archaeological finds should be properly handled and cared for to minimise damage occurring. After observing a demonstration of finds recording, Pupils were each given a sherd of pottery and were able to record details (description, measurements, drawing) and take photographs of their sherd. Through this detailed observational task, pupils went on to discover that their small pottery sherd was perhaps once part of a plate/cup/dish.....



Finally, the most repeated question asked by all the children and adults was

***'When do we get to dig again?'***

## ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

SCHOOL	EXCAVATION PUPIL/CHILD/ADULTNUMBERS	POST EXCAVATION PUPIL/CHILD/ADULT NUMBERS
ACHAHOISH PRIMARY PRIMARY 1 TO 7	11 pupils/2 Adults	11 pupils/1 Adult
CLACHAN PRIMARY PRIMARY 1 TO 7	6 pupils/2 Adults	6 Pupils/1 Adult
CARRADALE PRIMARY PRMARY 6 & 7	7 pupils/1 Adult	18 Pupils/3 Adults (Primary 1 to 7)
CASTLEHILL PRIMARY PRIMARY 6 & 7	40 pupils/5 Adults	40 pupils/2 adults
TARBERT ACADEMY PRIMARY 5 & 7	37 pupils/4 Adults	25 pupils/ 2 Adults
TARBERT ACADEMY SENIOR S1 ( <b>2019 P7's</b> )	N/A	20 pupils / 3 Adults
TARBERT ACADEMY SENIOR S2 (S3 2020)	16 pupils/2 Adults	20 Pupils/3 Adults
TARBERT ACADEMY SENIOR S3 (S4 2020)	18 pupils/2 Adults	18 Pupils/ 2 Adults
RHUNAHOURINE PRIMARY PRIMARY 1 TO 7	9 pupils/3 Adults	13 Pupils/1 Adult
CAMPBELTOWN GRAMMAR SPECIAL LEARNING SUPPORT UNIT S1 TO S6	15 pupils/6 Adults	15 pupils/ 6 adults
<b>WEEKEND GROUPS</b>		
KM ARCHAEOLOGY & WILDLIFE CLUB (YAC)	8 Children/8 Adults	4 Children/1 Adult
ARGYLL GIRL GUIDES	79 children/12 Adults	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>246 Children/47 Adults</b>	<b>190 Children/25 Adults</b>

## **A SAMPLE OF COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS FEEDBACK/EVALUATION FORMS**

### **EXCAVATION DAY**

'Excellent day, children really enjoyed, great experience, friendly, helpful, knowledgeable staff. Thankyou!' (*Tarbert Academy*)

'It overtook my expectations. The site chosen for the children to dig was ideal. Friends have asked me if it was a set up with objects planted, but I assured them it was the real thing! Thank you so much for giving me and the children such an amazing experience' (*Rhunahaourine Primary*)

## **A SAMPLE OF COMMENTS FROM PUPILS EVALUATION FORMS**

### **EXCAVATION DAY**

**Question: The children were asked if they enjoyed the excavation and why?**

'I enjoyed it because we got to do lots of digging and learned about Tarbert Castle'

'I enjoyed this dig because I found a cork and that got me excited and I found lots of pottery and bits of iron'

'I enjoyed it because we were able to see what sort of things they had in the past'.

'I really liked doing the dig because it was interesting and fun. I wish it was longer'.

'I enjoyed it because we dug up old stuff and learned things we didn't know about the Castle'.

**Question: Would you recommend being part of an excavation to other children?**

'I think other children would love to do the dig because it is so exciting, you don't know what you're going to find!'

'Yes, I would recommend it to other children because it is really interesting/you're discovering history and it never gets boring'.

## **POST EXCAVATION SESSIONS**

**Pupils were asked 'what did you learn/enjoy?'**

### Primary pupils

'I loved learning about the Medieval age'

'I learned about the Portcullis gate'

'It was amazing how much pottery we found!'

'I enjoyed drawing the object'

'How to draw a piece of pottery to scale'

### Senior Pupils

'It has made history a little more interesting'

'It helped me know more about the history of Castles (Tarbert Castle) and how they are made.'

'Knowing that if we are at the Castle we know we are walking on history'

'I liked learning about OUR Castle'

'It has made me want to learn more about Scotland's history. It means a whole lot to me, history is now amazing'

'I want to be an Archaeologist' (2 pupils)



# **SAMPLE OF COMPLETED POST EXCAVATION RECORDED FINDS FORMS**

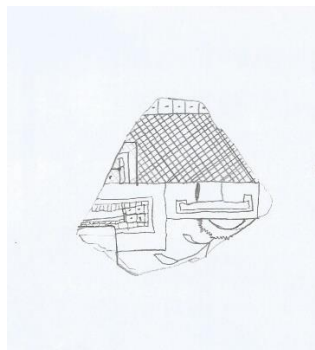
**KILMAR  
MUSEUM  
TIN**

Name: [redacted]

School: Tarbert Academy 53

## **Object Recording Sheet for Tarbert Castle finds**

Finds bag ID No	0111
Date	31/1/20
Name of object	Plate Pearlware 1795-1830
Description of object <i>(include the colour, decoration, patterns, interesting markings and is the object complete or just a fragment)</i>	Colour: light blue, Dark blue and white Patterns: Flower, squares, diamonds and rectangles
Material/Fabric <i>Pottery/ wood/ glass or other</i>	Pottery
What is the function of the object <i>What was it used for?</i>	Vase
Measurements <i>Height/ width/ length/ depth in cms</i>	Length 5cm width 0.9cm depth 4.5cm
Photographed	Yes/No      Scale used      Yes/No
Drawing completed on back of sheet Graph sheet	Yes/No Yes/No



Drawing of pottery sherd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Object Recording Sheet for Tarbert Castle finds

Finds bag ID No	TAR19002003
Date	31.10.19
Name of object	pottery
Description of object <i>(include the colour, decoration, patterns, interesting markings and is the object complete or just a fragment)</i>	green and white interlaced design broken soup bowl rim of a soup bowl made in 1820-2000
Material/Fabric <i>Pottery/ wood/ glass or other</i>	pottery
What is the function of the object <i>What was it used for?</i>	This piece of pottery is used for eating soup.
Measurements <i>Height/ width/ length/ depth in cms</i>	10cm in length 4cm in width 4cm in height 11cm
Photographed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/No      Scale used <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/No
Drawing completed on back of sheet	Yes/No
Graph sheet	Yes/No

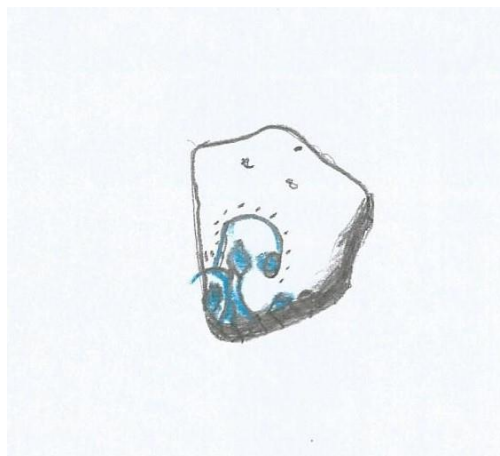


Drawing of pottery sherd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Object Recording Sheet for Tarbert Castle finds

Finds bag ID No	TAR19 002603
Date	31/10/14
Name of object	Pottery
Description of object <i>(include the colour, decoration, patterns, interesting markings and is the object complete or just a fragment)</i>	White with a blue pattern at the edge. It is just a fragment but looks to be a cup fragment.
Material/Fabric <i>Pottery/ wood/ glass or other</i>	Pottery
What is the function of the object <i>What was it used for?</i>	I think it might be a cup fragment which is used to drink out of
Measurements <i>Height/ width/ length/ depth in cms</i>	2.3 length, 2.5 width. 0.3 depth
Photographed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes/No      Scale used      Yes/No
Drawing completed on back of sheet	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes/No
Graph sheet	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes/No



Drawing of pottery sherd

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Object Recording Sheet for Tarbert Castle finds

Finds bag ID No	TAR 19<002> [003]
Date	31.10.19
Name of object	Pottery
Description of object <i>(include the colour, decoration, patterns, interesting markings and is the object complete or just a fragment)</i>	creamy white background and blue pattern, fragment, writing is on the back, chipped on left hand side.
Material/Fabric <i>Pottery/ wood/ glass or other</i>	Pottery
What is the function of the object <i>What was it used for?</i>	I think it was a soup bowl/plate.
Measurements <i>Height/ width/ length/ depth in cms</i>	Length: 9.3cm (longest side) height: 0.2cm, 0.5cm, 0.4cm, 0.3+0.2.
Photographed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/No      Scale used <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/No
Drawing completed on back of sheet Graph sheet	Yes/No Yes/No



Drawing of pottery sherd

Our grateful thanks go to The Tarbert Castle Trust and funders for allowing Kilmartin Museum the opportunity to be involved in such a brilliant and fascinating project 'Our Castle of Kings'.

Report compiled by Julia Hamilton

Kilmartin Museum Education & Outreach Officer (Team Lead)

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