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Coming up this Spring...

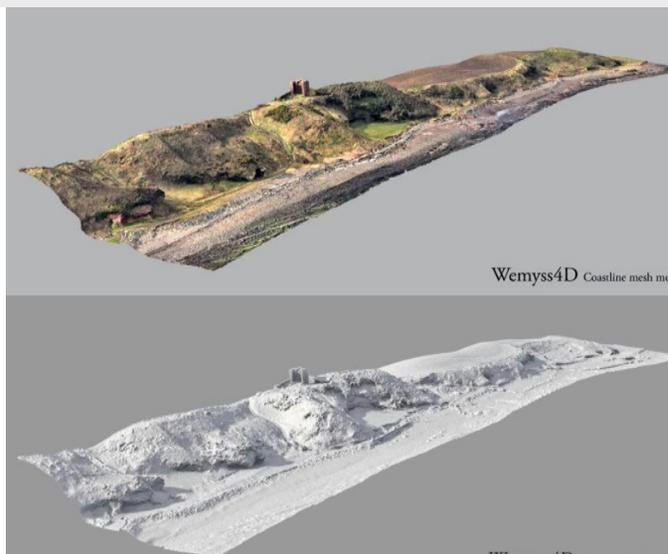
ShoreUPDATE training, surveys and fieldtrips in May in

- Sanday
- Westray
- Papa Westray
- Orkney Mainland
- Shetland

ShoreDIGs at :

- Meur Burnt Mound, Orkney
- Findhorn Bay Zulus

Check the SCHARP facebook for more details as events are finalised, or [get in touch with the SCHARP team](#) to find out more



Wemyss Caves 4D continues

After the success of the [Wemyss Caves pilot at Jonathan's Cave](#), the project has been rolled out to the rest of this stretch of coastline. The work involved low-level aerial photography and laser scanning of the coastline from Court Cave at East Wemyss to Gasworks Cave, including all five caves, several smaller recesses and MacDuff's castle. Look at the image on the left to see how the datasets have been combined to make a detailed 3D model. Meanwhile, Court Cave was the focus of in-depth recording as SWACS used the skills they learned at Jonathan's Cave to carry out RTI photography of the Pictish carvings. All the results will be showcased in a new Wemyss Caves website which will tell the story of the caves from their formation into the future. Read the [Wemyss Caves 4D blog](#) to find out more.

Recording RAF Wig Bay

We've just finished the first phase of the ShoreDIG project at RAF Wig Bay. The fieldwork involved a survey of the remains of the base on the shores of Loch Ryan. We had a great couple of days investigating the base and its crumbling structures, learning about what life was like there from people who lived on the base, and discovering occasional features surviving almost unchanged from 1957. We were very lucky to be joined by people who brought a wealth of knowledge about flying boats and the infrastructure of their bases which helped us to make sense of what we were seeing. Learn about some of our discoveries on the [RAF Wig Bay blog post](#).



Researching Embo's lost fishing fleet

Almost exactly a year ago, we spent a [muddy weekend on the shores of Loch Fleet](#) with volunteers from [NoSAS](#) and the [NAS](#) surveying the remains of Embo's herring fleet. Local people shared their knowledge, and brought along photos from 1932 showing some of these boats hauled up on the shores on the loch, which we were told was the safe haven used in winter by the local fishing communities. Last month we visited the archives at Wick (the port of registration for Embo) to delve deeper into the history of Embo's fishing boats. The fishery registers proved to be a goldmine of information, allowing us to piece together the story of each vessel in Embo's fleet. If you look closely at the picture on the left you might be able to make out the registration numbers of some of the vessels. We were able to trace these boats in the archives, unlocking details like when and where they were built, and the names of the fishermen who owned and worked on them.

Rediscovering Findhorn's Zulus

Continuing the fishing theme, our next ShoreDIG project will be a survey of the remains of the herring boats on the sands at Findhorn Bay. During our preliminary survey at the end of February, we realised that these boats have an interesting story to tell, [read our blog on the Findhorn Zulus](#) to learn about what we spotted and [visit our facebook page to have a look at photos of the some of the great surviving details](#). Later, it was standing room only in the James Milne Institute where a series of talks covered Scottish fishing boats, local Findhorn fisheries and the work we've done at Loch Fleet. Our weekend laid the groundwork for the next stage of the project and we're looking forward to going back in the summer to survey and record the surviving wrecks.



Meur post-excavation results are in - just in time for this season of fieldwork

We'll be back in Orkney next month to carry on with our work investigating the burnt mound at Meur, [have a look through last year's photos as a reminder of the site](#). Although we finished the reconstruction last year, we discovered some buried features when we dismantled the structures on the beach, indicating an earlier phase of activity on the site. We plan to finish off investigating these earlier structures, armed with new information from the post-excavation work. Radiocarbon dates have confirmed that the burnt mound was first used in the Early Bronze Age, while specialists have been busy examining the waterlogged sediment from the bottom of the well. On the left you can see Scott Timpany's photos of a small selection of the huge amounts of fish bone in the samples we recovered, and some of the charred seaweed which shows that seaweed was used as a fuel in the burnt mound.

While we're in Orkney we'll carry on doing ShoreUPDATE surveys of some of the vulnerable high-priority sites around the coasts of Sanday, Westray, Papa Westray and the Mainland. If you're local to any of these areas and you're interested in joining us, [get in touch with Joanna](#) to find out the details.



ShoreUPDATE roundup

Following the winter's storms, NoSAS organised a survey between Brora and Golspie, to update records of sites along this stretch of East Sutherland's coastline. A big group of intrepid NoSAS members updated several sites and added new ones to the record. In the Western Isles, Access Archaeology have been [deploying a range of techniques to record coastal heritage there](#), and have been visiting stretches of the coast which haven't yet been surveyed adding new sites to the record. Another area that hasn't yet had a Coastal Zone Assessment Survey is Caithness, so when Darren got in touch to report a structure that he'd spotted eroding from the coast edge between Thurso and Scrabster, we paid a visit. We recorded what we saw, but we're still not sure exactly what the site is, [check out the SCHARP record](#) and let us know if you've got any ideas.

Next up is Orkney and Shetland, where we'll target the remaining high-priority red sites.



SCHARP recommends...

With Spring here, the [Save Wemyss Ancient Caves Society](#) Open Sundays are once again running on the second Sunday of the month. By popular demand, there will also be tours of the caves every Saturday in July. Visit the [SWACS website](#) for more details and enjoy a day on the Fife coast learning about these caves and their history. If you can't make it in person you can still experience the virtual Jonathan's Cave on the [4D Wemyss Caves website](#) – the website will be updated with all the information we've recorded about the rest of the caves in the autumn.

The Scottish Heritage Angel awards were launched at the Community Heritage Conference at the end of last year. They recognise the work of volunteers to protect and celebrate Scotland's heritage. There are five different categories, and the deadline for nominations is 30th June. [Check the website for more information](#), and perhaps nominate a project you've been working on.

Could you be a citizen archaeologist of the coast?

The project is recruiting volunteers to help with coastal surveys and to develop ideas for local projects. [Find out more.](#)

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[SCAPE](#) developed Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project so that we could involve more people in effectively tackling this important national issue. Our philosophy is that eroding coastal heritage provides opportunities for everyone to enjoy and to benefit from taking part in archaeological and historical exploration and discovery.

The project will run until 2016 and is generously funded and supported by the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#), [Historic Scotland](#), the [Crown Estate](#) and the [University of St Andrews](#).

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