

Curator's Report

Two weeks' annual leave taken during this period.

Gaelic

- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO):
Completed partnership visit with Sofie, meeting a range of contacts and lecturers on site. The visit was highly productive, and SMO has already referred one of their students to us for her research. The memorandum focuses on practical steps to support ongoing collaboration. A press release and social media coverage have been issued.
- Gaelic Museum Network:
Met with Gaelic museum partners and Anna to share updates on each organisation's Gaelic work and explore continued collaboration.
- Met with Rory MacLennan More and Iain to discuss preservation and documentation needs for our Gaelic oral history collection and the radio's own Gaelic recordings (*Ceòl is Criomachan*). This remains a key development area which will strengthen our partnership with SMO and demonstrate best practice in collections management.

Acquisitions

- Late Isabel Dollol photographs:
Two visits to Isabel Dollol's home with Irene to assess her photographs for potential acquisition. Local images of interest were identified, particularly those relating to social customs and celebrations - many weddings and community events. Sofie has started cataloguing these into Axiell.
- Treasure Trove Unit:
Attended a networking meeting for information and guidance on the Treasure Trove process.

Grants

- ESGA:
Interim report edited and submitted.
- Post-Excavation Funding:
Drafted funding application to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland with Tom Gardner. Positive feedback received from the expression of interest stage, with an indication that the proposal is fundable. The grant would support Tom's time to complete the two outstanding post-excavation reports from the 2021 and 2022 Roundhouse 10 excavations.
- HES Monitoring Requirements:
Received a request from HES for the annual monitoring form relating to the

AAOR conversion grant, previously unknown to us. Pauline, Roy and I completed the form for the last three years, covering maintenance undertaken.

HES also requires a five-yearly architect inspection report and an active maintenance plan; failure to provide these can result in claw-back of funds. Roy has requested a cost estimate for the inspection from LDN.

Recommendation: Draft a full maintenance plan this winter to support compliance, budgeting, and good practice.

Roundhouse Project Update

- Training Delivery:
UHI are no longer able to deliver training courses due to capacity issues with Soren leaving, though they will continue to promote the courses and assist with accreditation and CPD recognition. I will consult my HES contacts for clarification on accreditation documentation requirements.
- University Engagement:
Tom Gardner and I delivered a guest lecture for students on Tanja Romanciewicz's *Archaeology and Architecture* module at the University of Edinburgh. Students will produce 1:50 scale models of Achtercairn Roundhouse 10, which we plan to exhibit alongside the roundhouse build or on completion.
- Funding:
 - SSE Sustainable Development Fund:
Held EOI meeting with Sarah Marshall and Alastair Stephen. Following review of the new funding priorities, the roundhouse project appears to have limited alignment. I will seek Sarah's advice before deciding whether to apply.
 - NLHF Application:
Submitted for £160,000 towards the roundhouse project. If successful, and with full HES support, no additional match funding will be required. Decision expected by end of December (eight-week turnaround).
- Education and Community:
Sarah, Jeremy and I hosted the SMART group visit to Roundhouse 10, marking the start of the roundhouse education programme. The visit was successful and received positive engagement on social media.
- Planning: The planning application is now going to committee, with officers requesting further information from ARC regarding site levels and elevations for their committee meeting on 26 November. This is due to the community council objection.