



Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion



FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

AUGUST 2017

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HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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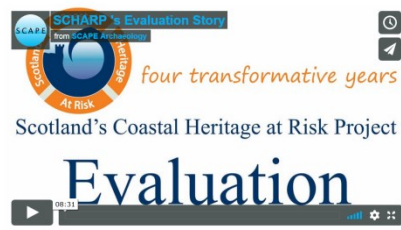
University of
St Andrews

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Project films

In addition to this report, we have made a series of films which present feedback from volunteers and our partners and tell some of the stories of SCHARP. You can watch these by following the links below and by going to <https://vimeo.com/channels/scharpevaluation>.



[An animated summary of the SCHARP story](#)



[Evaluation interviews with some of our volunteers](#)



[Evaluation interviews with colleagues and with the SCAPE team](#)



[Volunteers in Shetland tell the story of a newly discovered broch](#)



[Young people talk about their experience of film-making at the Flying Boat Base, RAF Wig Bay](#)



[Young people talk about helping to record Eyemouth Fort using 3D modelling techniques](#)



[Volunteers on Sanday talk about archaeology, storms and moving a burnt mound!](#)

Introduction - *four transformative years*

In 2012, the Heritage Lottery Fund granted the SCAPE Trust £307,000 towards the £649,900 delivery of the Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project, or SCHARP. The project has been transformative to SCAPE as an organisation; to how we share and manage information about Scotland's coastal heritage, and to our capacity to monitor, update and investigate eroding coastal heritage sites. SCHARP builds upon data collected through coastal archaeological surveys undertaken between 1996 and 2010. These Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (CZAS) were commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland, managed by SCAPE since 2001 and largely carried out by professional archaeological units. SCHARP was developed to address the need to review and update site condition data of important coastal heritage sites threatened by coastal processes in order to better understand what was at risk and where, and to inform future action. Our aim was to put volunteers at the heart of this process by recruiting, training and supporting volunteers in coastal communities to carry out site visits and surveys in their local areas.

The resulting project has exceeded our expectations. The outstanding, direct contribution of over 1000 volunteers enabled us to more than meet the project goals. Thousands more people are now aware of both the challenges and opportunities of eroding coastal heritage in Scotland.

SCHARP was delivered by a team of two full-time project staff, with considerable input from the SCAPE manager. In the first year of project delivery, capacity was increased by a trainee on a CBA-supported placement and, from 2015 an additional staff member of SCAPE was deployed to work on the filmed evaluation interviews. The team was supported by SCAPE Directors and an Advisory Group with representation from Historic Environment Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Local Authority Archaeologists, the National Trust for Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries for Scotland. The original 3 year project was extended by a year, but the project was delivered within the budget headings set out in the Activity Plan.

Cost Heading	Budget	Actual
Staff Costs	£245,445	£248,851
Staff training	£1,125	£843
Volunteer training	£17,150	£16,647
Staff expenses	£30,900	£30,401
Volunteer expenses	£18,900	£16,716
Equipment & materials	£15,200	£15,197
Printed materials	£7,150	£5,799
Other	£20,600	£20,588
Professional fees	£116,290	£116,156
Managing the Project	£3,300	£2,997
Recruitment	£100	£100
Publicity	£16,840	£15,986
Non cash contributions		
In-kind contributions	£78,000	£119,702
Volunteer time	£78,000	£118,650

SCHARP budget and spend summary

"I think a big part of the success of the project has been the expertise and the nature of the staff. I think they've been absolutely fantastic. They've thrown themselves into it heart and soul and they're universally loved by the community groups that they help and that has been a tremendous uplifting experience for me as a director of SCAPE as well as for the communities that are inspired by the work"

SCAPE Director

We have learned a great deal from SCHARP and have built relationships with our network of volunteers that will stand us in good stead for the future. It has been a journey of discovery for all of us and we have enjoyed everything about working with volunteers and our partners. Volunteers have also enjoyed working with us and have told us about their experiences in this evaluation report and the accompanying films.

"I've never done anything like this ever before, I've always wanted to...and it's been fabulous, I think it's been one of the best things I've ever done, it's just brilliant" Volunteer, Channerwick ShoreDIG



1. Evaluation methodology

Evaluation was integrated into the project from the beginning and enabled us to continuously monitor and adapt our activity. Through the SCHARP website we collected quantitative data to track the progress of heritage targets as well as basic demographic information about volunteers through the volunteer registration process. Feedback forms were used in every staff-led training event. Together these were an effective and efficient way of collecting the quantitative information which is presented throughout this evaluation report.

We chose to use filmed interviews as our main tool for qualitative feedback. This was a time-intensive process, but had the benefit of opening up an evaluation dialogue with volunteers and stakeholders, and creating an opportunity where volunteers could speak directly about their experiences. We were touched by many of the conversations we had with volunteers through the interviews.

Over the project period we conducted 50 interviews with volunteers. Some were filmed by SCAPE staff during project activities, and many ShoreDIG project films include a significant evaluation element. You can watch these at

<https://vimeo.com/channels/scharpevaluation>.



We also interviewed people at meetings and conferences e.g. the Community Heritage Conference and the Highland Archaeology Festival Conference in 2015. Nineteen interviews were highly structured and used the same set of questions in order to elicit consistent responses about the whole project. These were carried out by a SCAPE Officer recruited in 2015 who had not been involved in the main SCHARP activities. A short animated evaluation summary can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/coastarch/scharpevaluationstory>. The SCHARP Volunteer Evaluation Film based upon

the structured interviews can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/coastarch/SCHARPevaluationpart1>. In the closing stages of the project, we filmed structured interviews with individuals from partner organisation, including Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Local Authorities (LAs), as well as SCAPE Directors - and ourselves. The stakeholders' interviews can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/coastarch/SCHARPevaluationpart2>. We have used quotes from volunteers (*green italics*) and stakeholders (*purple italics*) to illustrate points throughout this report.

2. Aims and outcomes

SCHARP aimed to develop volunteering in a national project to update and improve information about Scotland's eroding coastal heritage (ShoreUPDATE) and to work with communities to research, investigate and interpret locally valued heritage sites (ShoreDIG). Widening participation in volunteering amongst young people and new audiences was also a specific aim. The intended heritage outcome of the work was a review of national and local priorities for action at eroding coastal sites, based upon the updated and enhanced information provided through site surveys by volunteers from local communities across Scotland.

Here we review our activities based upon our HLF approved purposes for learning and participation and our heritage aims.

2.1. Learning and participation

Capture local heritage significance and site condition information about Scotland's eroding coastal heritage, aiming to engage 200 volunteers and covering 940 priority sites. Hold 16 catalyst events and four focal surveys to engage and train volunteers in ShoreUPDATE records

2.1a Create a new website and app as an interactive recording tool for volunteers

Existing coastal heritage records were made available through a web-based, interactive, Sites at Risk Map, each site colour-coded according to their priority status. Each site record is a portal from where survey forms can be downloaded, and completed surveys and photographs uploaded to the project database. Over the course of the project, nearly 3,500 unique visitors made nearly 10,000 visits to the website.

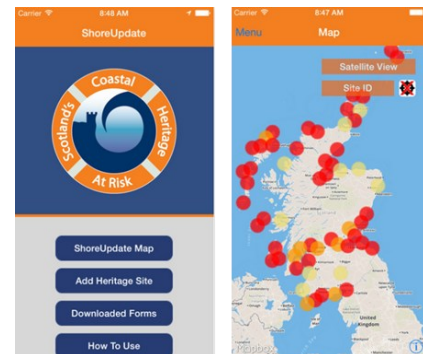
"I really valued the technical sophistication of SCHARP. The website and the apps and all that- I think at the time - was very leading edge" ShoreUPDATE volunteer, Highland



www.scharp.co.uk/sites-at-risk

The interactive map formed the basis of an [Android](#) and [IOS](#) ShoreUPDATE app, which also contains all existing coastal heritage site records, colour-coded by priority and linked to a survey form. The app democratised participation by making the data as widely available as possible using familiar technology. The app removed the need for volunteers to own cameras, hand held GPS instruments or even use paper maps. Volunteers were able to use their own devices to download site records and maps to take into the field, while the built-in GPS helped volunteers to navigate to sites. Photos taken on the app using the devices' camera were linked to the site survey records, which were then submitted using Wi-Fi or 3G connectivity. Between 500 and 1000 apps have been downloaded.¹

“for me the thing that has been sort of a game changer was the use of the app - the fact that the technology which was relatively new for what SCAPE and SCHARP were trying to do when it started. The technologies worked and people have been able to use it and it's proved effective and people have learnt a lot from that exercise” HES stakeholder interviewee

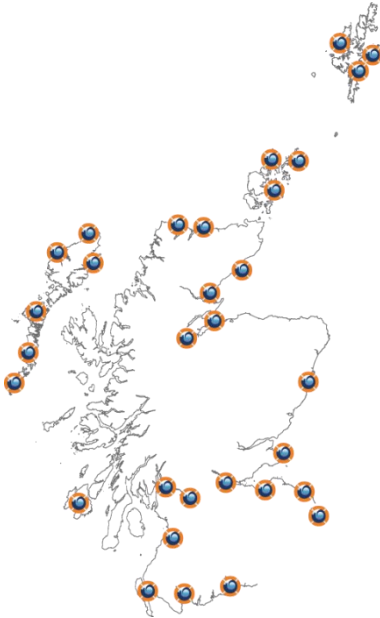


“Using the app ... allowed us to ... I suppose go for a walk with a purpose. It really meant then you do go from looking at a beach landscape that you can see there are a couple of ruins - to actually starting to understand people lived there, people worked there... It really did just bring the landscape alive.”

ShoreUPDATE volunteer, Highland

¹ Download data from Apple / Android app stores, more detailed figures not available.

2.1b Recruit, train and support 200 volunteers to become ShoreUPDATE surveyors



Location of ShoreUPDATE training events

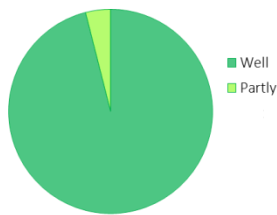
From 2012 to 2016, we delivered 43 training events around Scotland. The one-day training (called ShoreUPDATE catalyst events) introduced the aims and objectives of the project, how to use the website and app and included a site visit to practice a survey in the field. Eighteen of these training events involved extended periods of field survey (called ShoreUPDATE focal surveys) with groups of volunteers to develop skills and confidence in archaeological observation and recording, and to achieve consistency in volunteer-submitted records.

Over the course of the project period, 249 people attended ShoreUPDATE catalyst training events and a further 155 volunteers took part in ShoreUPDATE focal surveys, meaning 404 volunteers were recruited and trained to become ShoreUPDATE surveyors. Up to the end of December 2016, volunteers contributed 695 days to coastal surveys and submitted 1074 ShoreUPDATE records. Volunteers also submitted over 400 new site records.

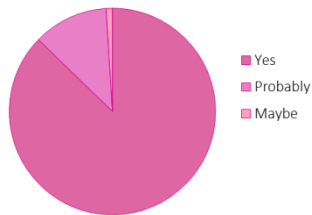
“Excellent team and a really good idea to get community involvement where amateurs can feel that they can make a real contribution” feedback following training event in North Uist



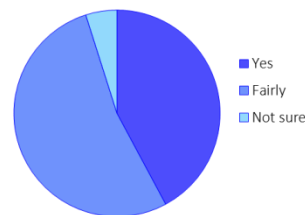
“Just want to say how much I enjoyed Saturday...the training was excellent...a most profitable and delightful day.” email following Falkirk training event



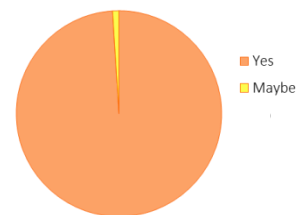
How well did the training meet your expectations?



Are you encouraged to participate?



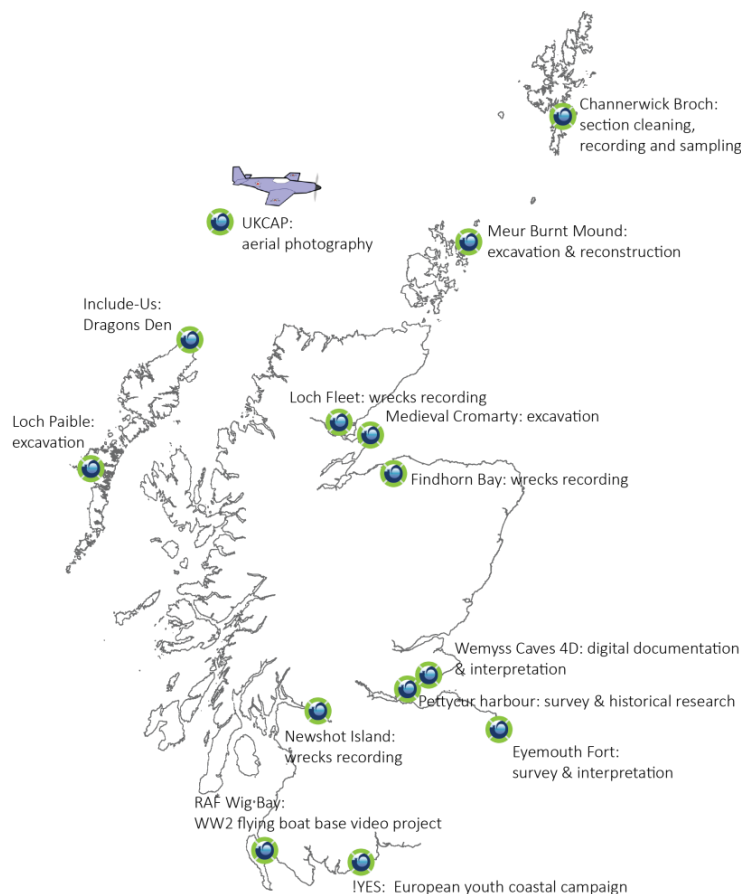
Do you feel confident to do a survey?



Would you recommend joining in to friends and family?

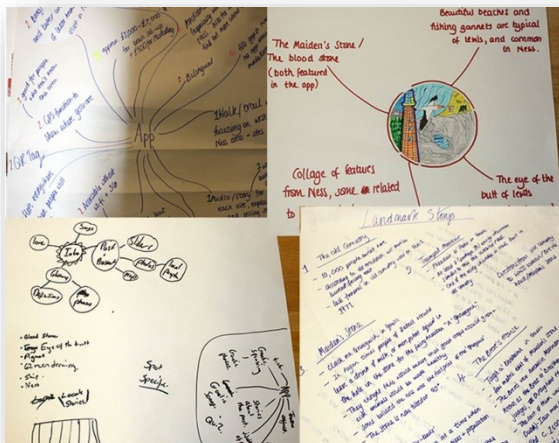
Quantitative feedback from ShoreUPDATE catalyst training events questionnaire respondents $n = 102$

2.1c Work with communities to select and carry out 12 ShoreDIG investigations to provide training opportunities and interpretation of locally valued sites



Location of the 14 ShoreDIGs

Over the course of the project, 14 ShoreDIG projects were completed. Communities nominated 11 coastal heritage sites threatened by erosion for ShoreDIGs. These provided opportunities for more in-depth research, investigation, recording and interpretation of locally valued coastal heritage. A further 3 projects were brought into ShoreDIGs: UKCAP 'Coasts from Above', a programme of low-level aerial photography of coastlines by volunteers from the UK Civil Air Patrol; and two youth focussed surveys of coastal heritage in Dumfries & Galloway and Lewis. In Ness, Lewis, this culminated in a 'Dragons Den' style event to pitch an interpretation idea. In Dumfries & Galloway a group of young people explored and made a film about the impacts of climate and coastal change upon coastal heritage in Solway as part of a European youth campaign for better protection of coasts and seas.



As intended, the majority of ShoreDIG sites were put forward by local communities as a result of contact with SCHARP through the volunteer recruitment process. ShoreDIGs provided opportunities for volunteers to develop a wide range of skills whilst addressing the management interpretation and research needs of locally-valued sites identified by communities.

“it feels like something is really happening at the caves when there are people who take them seriously and realise the threat they’re under and want to do something about it”. Volunteer, Wemyss Caves ShoreDIG

Summary of ShoreDIGs undertaken in SCHARP with links to project information and outputs

	ShoreDIG name	Type	Description
1	4D Wemyss Caves	Digital documentation, interpretation	Scanning and photography techniques used to record unique and endangered Pictish carvings in the Wemyss Caves. Enhanced by digitisation of community archives and memories. A 3D digital replica of the caves filled with interactive content about their history, local traditions, and the Pictish carvings will bring this remarkable heritage to a global audience. https://scapetrust.org/4d-wemyss-caves/
2	Eyemouth Fort	Survey, research, interpretation	Community research and interpretation to bring the hugely important 16th century fort at Eyemouth to a wider audience. An interactive digital reconstruction of the fort in its heyday has been created in Eyemouth Museum, on-site interpretation installed and a series of events held to celebrate the site. https://scapetrust.org/eyemouth-fort/

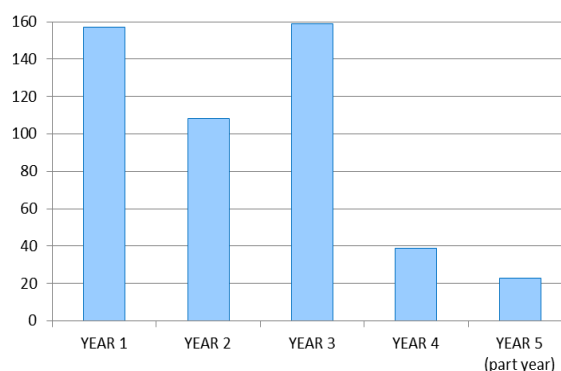
	ShoreDIG name	Type	Description
3	Findhorn Bay Safe Haven	Survey, historical research	Community survey and historical research into the remains of more than 30 unrecorded wooden fishing boats in Findhorn Bay. https://scapetrust.org/findhorn-bay-fishing-boat-graveyard/
4	Include Us	Research, interpretation	Young people pitched great ideas in the Dragons Den for interpreting local coastal heritage sites.
5	Loch Paible	Community excavation	Community rescue excavation of an Iron Age settlement, chunks of which are literally falling into the sea at every tide. https://vimeo.com/coastarch/lochpaible https://scapetrust.org/loch-paible/
6	Medieval Cromarty	Community excavation	Evaluation of Cromarty's medieval fishing quarter, damaged in storms of 2012-13.
7	Meur Burnt Mound	Community excavation, reconstruction, interpretation	Community rescue excavation of a Bronze Age complex burnt mound from the intertidal zone. The site has been reconstructed at the new Sanday Heritage Centre and interpretation boards installed. https://vimeo.com/coastarch/meurburntmound https://scapetrust.org/meur-burnt-mound/
8	Newshot Ship Graveyard	Survey, historical research	Survey and historical research into the remains of mud punts and schooners at Erskine. Also the remains of a 19 th century diving bell barge; the earliest and only known surviving example in the world. https://scapetrust.org/newshot-island-boat-graveyard/
9	The Embo Zulus	Survey, historical research	Survey and historical research into a previously unrecorded group of 19 wooden herring Zulu type drifters abandoned in Loch Fleet at the turn of the 19 th /20 th century. https://scapetrust.org/loch-fleet-boat-graveyard/
10	UKCAP Coasts from Above	Aerial photography	Volunteers from the UK Civil Air Patrol Lowland and Highland Units are providing an invaluable contribution to our data by photographing inaccessible coastal sites and targeted stretches of the coastline at low tide. An on-line interactive map of highlighted sites photographed by UKCAP has been created. https://scapetrust.org/ukcap-coasts-from-above/
11	YES! Coastal Campaign	Research, filming, creation of campaign video	Young people from Scotland and across Europe created a coastal campaign video with SCHARP.

	ShoreDIG name	Type	Description
12	RAF Wig Bay Flying Boat Base	Survey, film making	Bringing the young and young-in-spirit together to record and remember the WW2 flying boat base at Loch Ryan. A gazetteer and condition survey of all extant RAF Wig Bay buildings has been submitted to Dumfries & Galloway Historic Environment Record. Working with teenagers from Apex, Stranraer, three short films about the WW2 flying boat base have been made. https://scapetrust.org/raf-wig-bay-flying-boat-base/
13	Channerwick Broch	Section cleaning, recording, sampling	Community project to reveal and understand a newly revealed broch in Shetland. https://vimeo.com/coastarch/channerwickbroch https://scapetrust.org/channerwick-broch/
14	Pettycur's Old Harbour	Survey, historical research	Shifting sands reveal Pettycur's Old Harbour, destroyed in a storm in March 1625. https://scapetrust.org/pettycurs-old-harbour/

Ten ShoreDIGs mainly focused on survey and recording using a range of techniques from traditional archaeological drawing to the latest digital documentation technologies. Four ShoreDIGs were based upon excavation. Most involved considerable historical research and all had an interpretation element appropriate to the work. Interpretation ranged from a blog to films to the very substantial outputs of the 4D Wemyss Caves website; on-site and museum interpretation for Eyemouth Fort; and the re-location and reconstruction of Meur Burnt Mound as a visitor attraction at the Sanday Heritage Centre.

Volunteers were involved in every aspect of each project. Specific and on the job training in archaeological techniques and practice was provided by SCHARP, but we also benefited from the skills volunteers brought to the projects. The scale of what was achieved in ShoreDIGs within the four year project period was only made possible because of the local knowledge and support of volunteers.

Four hundred and eighty six individual volunteers contributed over 1,100 days to ShoreDIG activities, and this only captures the time spent directly on the projects. We relied upon volunteers for local coordination, logistics and local recruitment; and all the peripheral activities that go on before, during, and after projects have finished - including local research, organising talks and events and providing information to local media and community networks.



Number of volunteers involved in ShoreDIGs per year ***n=486***

“definitely learnt new technical skills... and also I’ve been testing the skills I’ve already got, pushing them to their limits- really having to look at the archaeological research side has been fascinating”. Volunteer, Wemyss Caves ShoreDIG



“I learnt skills of how to actually get people - who would normally not be interested - to sort of set them alight so that they were interested and I found that a great skill.” Volunteer, Eyemouth Fort ShoreDIG



“we spent two days learning a bit more about the wrecks out on the beach, learning to draw them and subsequently we had to digitise them. It was an extremely useful and worthwhile exercise. I was comparatively new to archaeological drawing surveying - so those two days of training and drawing were really useful personally to me and I have gone on to use those skills at excavations and surveys in a number of different ways. I’ve also learnt an awful lot about the local history of Golspie.” Volunteer, Loch Fleet ShoreDIG



"I think the best thing about it (Meur Burnt Mound reconstruction) is that you can actually go and touch it - and you know - it's not fenced off and especially if you've got kids, then they love playing around it and I think that's really good because it's not behind a screen, if you know what I mean, its accessible to everybody". Volunteer, Meur Burnt Mound ShoreDIG



"what was most fun was making the films because that was such, that was such a good laugh and you know just - well I love the chance to dress up and act silly so that was just brilliant". Volunteer, Wemyss Caves ShoreDIG



“it’s really important getting local people involved it’s just...they have bits of the jigsaw that maybe’s kind of missing... also just putting the word out that they are welcome on site - and I think it’s really important as well getting school children involved, I think the physicality of the project and of the work really appeals to children as well as adults.” Volunteer, Loch Paible ShoreDIG



“the flying was challenging, it was good fun too...I didn't know anything about cameras, I didn't know about shutter speeds and aperture priorities and light levels and all that and it was a steep learning curve”. Volunteer, UKCAP ShoreDIG

ShoreDIGs have resulted in the creation of significant new archaeological information, partly through the reservoir of knowledge in local communities not necessarily accessible in formal professional heritage or academic networks. A good example of this are the two boat graveyards investigated at Loch Fleet and Findhorn Bay, which relate to the decline of wooden sailing drifters used in the herring fisheries at the turn of the 20th century; and the ship graveyard at Newshot Island, used by the Clyde Navigation Trust to dump damaged or obsolete vessels. At Newshot lie the remains of a unique, and until the ShoreDIG project, unknown survivor – the first diving bell barge commissioned by the Clyde

Navigation Trust in 1852. As a result of the ShoreDIGs, these important archaeological sites and their stories have been documented and researched and the information made available to all.

New archaeological knowledge has also been created as a result of the intrinsic potential of new discoveries at eroding coastal heritage sites, even those that have been investigated before. At Meur Burnt Mound, Orkney, the ShoreDIG project's objective was to disassemble and re-locate the previously investigated Bronze Age structure from the beach to the Sanday Heritage Centre. However, the work resulted in the discovery of an underlying Neolithic site containing waterlogged organic remains of enormous research potential. At Channerwick in Shetland, structures exposed in the coastal section in a winter storm in 2012 were revealed to be the remains of a completely unknown broch. Scientific dating of the construction phase to the 4th to 6th centuries BC provides one of only a handful of dates available for the beginning of the use of brochs in Scotland, and important new evidence to support that this was earlier than previously thought.

"The site has taken us slightly by surprise, there's more here than we expected...but as we've cleaned it back we've got a whole picture emerging of a classic Shetland broch!" Volunteer, Channerwick ShoreDIG

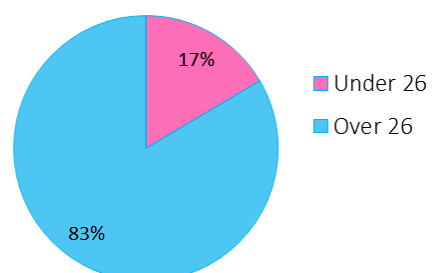
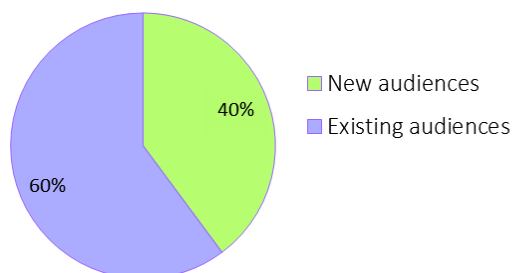
2.1d Attract new audiences, such that one-third of volunteers and participants will be from new audiences, particularly young people

Our approach to encouraging people who had not volunteered in heritage activities before to consider taking part in ShoreUPDATE surveys was focused on the marketing and timetabling of training events, ensuring that events were welcoming, and emphasizing that interest and enthusiasm were the most important requirements of learning archaeological survey. We advertised opportunities for involvement in local media, such as newspaper and radio and related social media, as well as going through established groups; and we developed a one day training programme that was delivered at weekends, and a compressed 2 hour training that could be held in the evening so that busy people had more opportunities to take part.

Two ShoreUPDATE focal surveys were targeted at young people (17-25) with one in Lewis and one in Dumfries and Galloway. In Lewis, we worked with Donald Macsween, a youth worker in the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) with a close connection to the Comunn Eachdraidh Nis (Ness Historical Society) and a group of local young people. In Dumfries and Galloway, we worked with Nic Coombey, the *Making the Most of the Coast* officer at the Solway Firth Partnership and a group of young people from Scotland and elsewhere in Europe on a campaign to conserve coastal heritage and habitats as part of a European youth project.



In smaller communities, such as on Sanday, Orkney and Lewis, families with children and teenagers joined in ShoreUPDATE training and focal surveys.



Audience and age profiles of volunteers attending a ShoreUPDATE training event and focal survey $n = 349$

Both the Lewis and Dumfries & Galloway ShoreUPDATE surveys which focused on young people developed into more substantial ShoreDIG activities. Two further ShoreDIGs, Eyemouth and RAF Wig Bay, incorporated activities specifically for young people although in both cases these were integral to the wider ShoreDIG project for people of all ages.



Eyemouth Fort ShoreDIG included activities specifically for young people, recruited through the local schools and Eyemouth youth group.

"I told all my family about it - I really enjoyed learning about all the old things" Young volunteer, Eyemouth Fort ShoreDIG

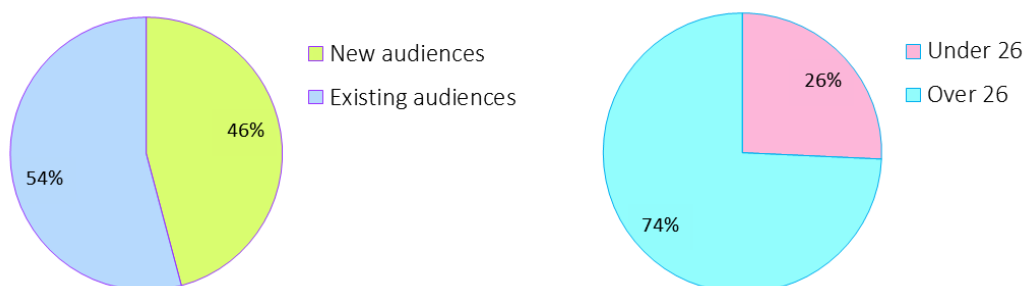
In the RAF Wig Bay Flying Boat Base ShoreDIG, we worked with young adults through Apex Stranraer.

"what we've done is using old people and young people from the community, bringing them together. I think it's a really good idea, from old stories to young stories, different perceptions... it's a good idea because I think a lot of young people have a bad name and I think it's good for old people to see that they're not bad, they're lovely!" Youth Leader, Apex



"I did find some of it interesting ... I would love to find some more about it, so it's kind of interesting to be honest". Young volunteer, Wig Bay ShoreDIG

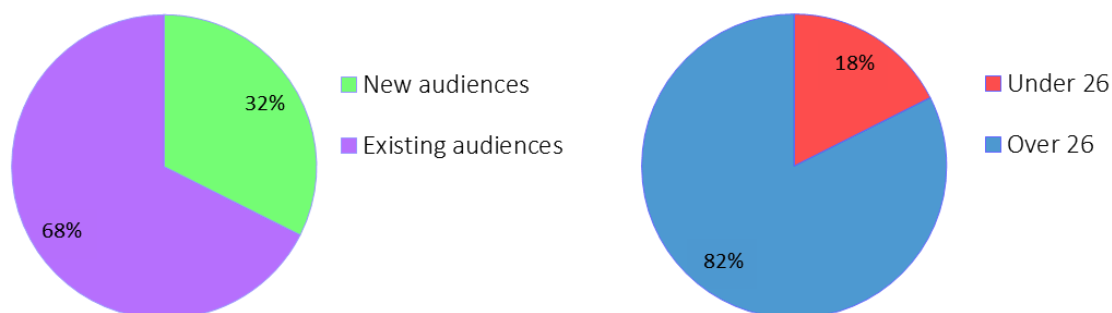
Creating activities within ShoreDIGs specifically for young people was effective in ensuring participation amongst a 17-25 year old demographic. ShoreDIGs were also very successful at attracting new audiences. Our experience and feedback from volunteers suggests this was a success because the projects were sustained pieces of work within a local community; were suitable for family participation; and, because the range of heritage subjects and activities taking place appealed to many interests. When working for a period of time in a local community, word of mouth and recommendations from friends or family is also an important mechanism for encouraging people to try something new.



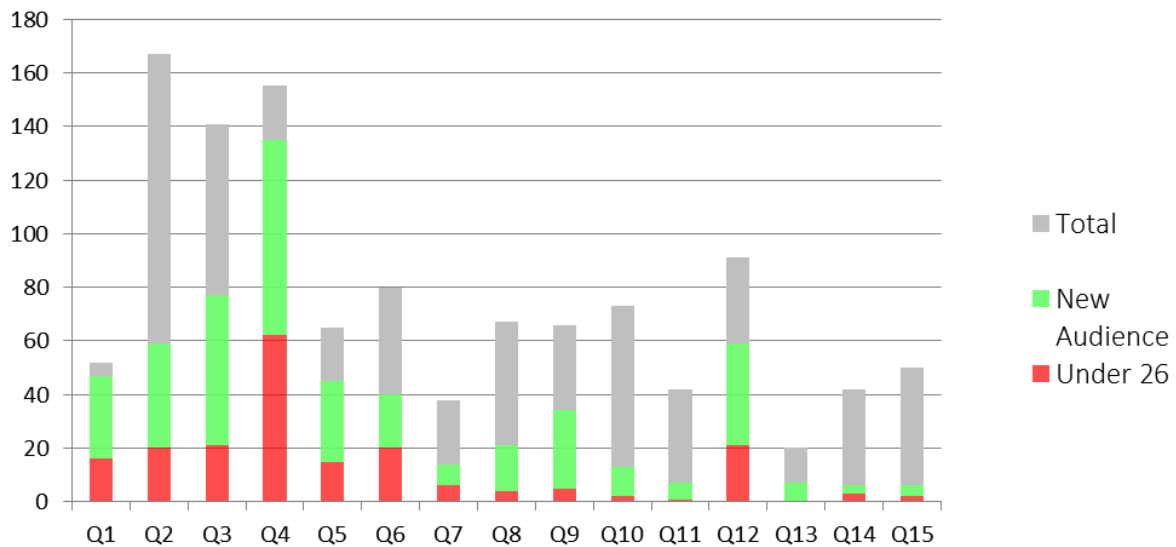
Audience and age profiles of volunteers taking part in ShoreDIGs ***n* = 486**

"I know loads of people would be involved - they just feel a wee bit uneasy - maybe just kind of going to site and maybe they just need ...the nod. You could see that the other night at the Paible School - just so many people turned out". Volunteer, Paible ShoreDIG

SCHARP met its audience participation targets, and was particularly successful at attracting new audiences. The range of opportunities for different types of involvement and the diverse heritage subjects which attracted interest amongst a wide audience were significant factors in accounting for this. We knew it would be challenging to involve young adults (17 to 25) because this age group has very little spare time, are unlikely to have transport, and may not be very aware of heritage or motivated to pursue heritage activities independently. We worked with local youth leaders and existing youth networks to develop interesting, fun, and time-limited activities with a clear purpose. Our main aim for our young volunteers, some of whom have challenging daily lives, was for them to take away happy memories, learn something, and plant a seed of interest in heritage.



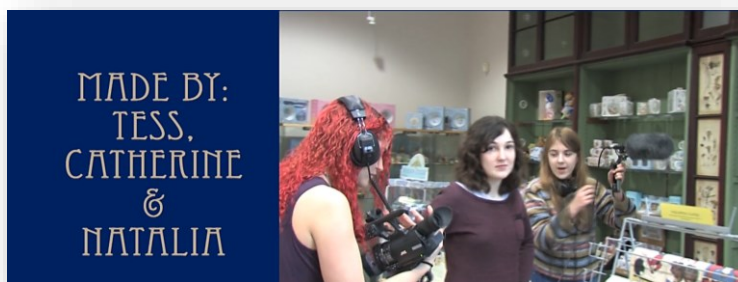
Total audience and age profiles of all SCHARP volunteers recorded between September 2012 and June 2016. ***n* = 1150**



Audience and age profiles of all SCHARP volunteers between September 2012 and June 2016 by quarter *n* = 1150

2.1e Create ShoreMOVIES on heritage career paths and other project films. Sign-post volunteers to further learning

We used video extensively throughout SCHARP to record activities and capture immediate feedback from our volunteers. Right at the beginning of the project, three 6th Year students created the **Askaeology** series of films; light-hearted interviews about careers in heritage with professional archaeologists attending the Community Heritage Conference in Birnam in 2012. Three of the 5 films were shared on the Past Horizons TV channel and attracted between 35,000 and 40,000 views.



<https://vimeo.com/channels/askaeology>

Information on further learning was incorporated into our ShoreUPDATE training and, from the beginning of the project, up-to-date information on just about all continuing education opportunities in archaeology in the UK has been available on the SCHARP website RESOURCES page.

“we did the two day course - I think what my husband and I both really enjoyed was that it gave you the confidence to actually look at it in that context, go back and check the HER records, which is something we didn't know anything about - and during the training it was brought out these things so it took us deeper into the kind of online resources that are available ... and it really did for me reinvigorate my desire to get involved in the archaeological world.” feedback following Durness training event

In the middle of the project, we held an archaeological skills conference called *Ask an Expert* in Glasgow, where archaeologists from a range of specialist disciplines presented their subject in 8 minute talks followed by a ‘careers fair’ style afternoon for volunteers to talk with professionals about techniques and services. The talks covered topics from scientific dating to website design, and each was filmed, creating a learning resource in their own right available on our vimeo channel

<https://vimeo.com/channels/askanexpert>.

“The best conference I have ever been to” captured the tone of the feedback on the day for this unique event. The conference was also mentioned in filmed interviews as having an impact on people’s knowledge of the range of archaeological techniques and career paths possible.



“I went to the (Ask an Expert) conference in Glasgow with the SCAPE Trust and various other people - so that was a very good way of learning about all different archaeological survey techniques ... one of the cool things that I learnt from SCHARP is the RTI imagery and photogrammetry techniques that I've used and enjoy using myself. I do it just for fun. So yeah that's something, definitely, that's been added to my repertoire.”

ShoreUPDATE volunteer, Edinburgh

2.2 Heritage aims

Our heritage aims were inextricably linked with our participation and learning aims. By developing a coastal heritage volunteering network, we were able to dramatically increase our capacity to carry out site visits and condition surveys of at-risk coastal heritage. This is an important project legacy for the future.

2.2a. Capture local heritage significance and site condition information about Scotland's eroding coastal heritage updating 940 sites.

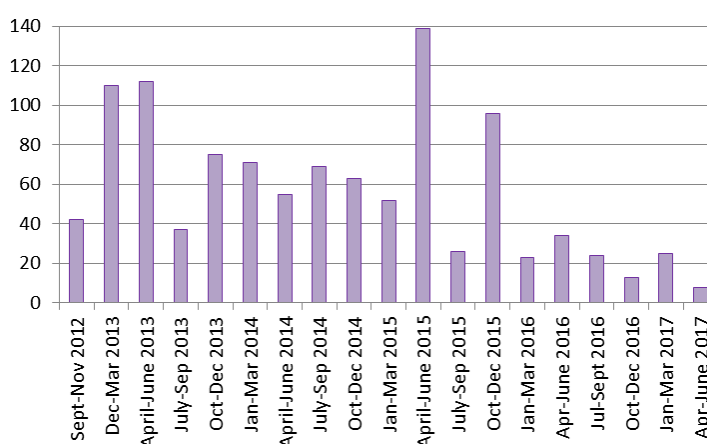
This challenging target was surpassed and to date; volunteers have submitted 1074 updated condition surveys of existing site records and over 400 new site records – a total of nearly 1500 surveys.

An important project goal within the updating objective was to visit the 322 sites already identified in a previous assessment as the highest priority for action due to their archaeological significance and actual or potential vulnerability to coastal

erosion. These were identified by red dots on our sites-at risk web map and app.

Volunteers were encouraged to explore all

sites, but there was a clear project focus on updating records of the 322 priority to achieve as great a sample size as possible upon which to review Scotland-wide information about the sites at most risk. As a result of this focus, volunteers visited an impressive 282 of the original 322 priority 1 and 2 sites; a sample of 86%.



Number of ShoreUPDATE site surveys submitted by quarter, *n*=1074

2.2b. Working with national agencies and local authorities, produce a policy paper that outlines national and local priorities and actions

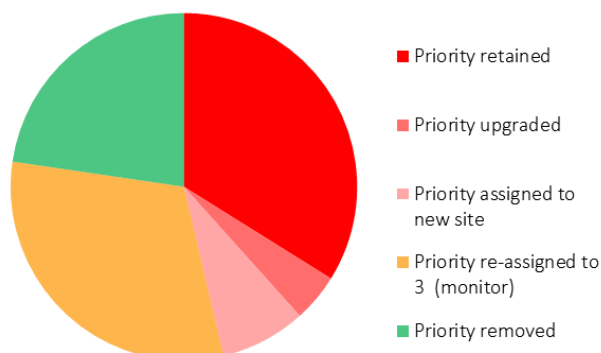
All data was shared regularly with Local Authorities and with Historic Environment Scotland, and a complete copy of the final dataset was shared at the end of the fieldwork period in January 2017. This has been uploaded to the national Historic Environment Record, Canmore. Prior to the final data sharing, every Local Authority archaeologist was consulted over our proposed review of the priority status of sites in their areas. Consultation was done in person in the majority of cases.

We were most interested in assessing what had happened to the 322 sites already prioritised as most at risk, and the large sample size enabled a comprehensive analysis of the data. This has been written up in

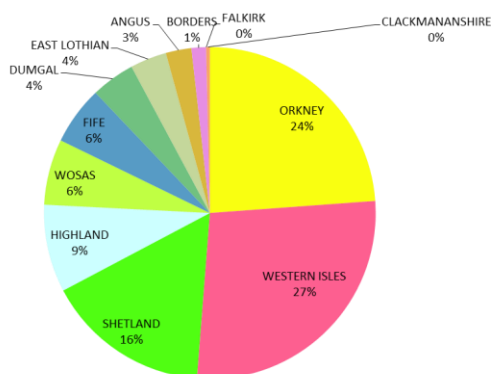
the report, [A Review of Heritage at Risk from Coastal Processes](#), which presents the data and analysis upon which to base local and national priorities for action. This report is currently out for consultation. A summary of the headline results and conclusions is provided here.

As a result of the analysis of the ShoreUPDATE surveys:

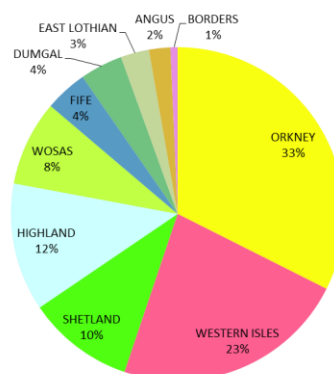
- The new total number of high-priority sites = 145.
- A new highest-priority 1* category has been created for 8 sites, reflecting the urgency of the threat.
- 39 sites have been raised to high priority status, of which;
 - 25 are new sites,
 - 14 have been elevated from lower priorities.
- 97 sites have been re-assigned from high priority for action to monitor.
- 71 sites are no longer regarded as a high-priority (see below for explanations).
- Following this review, the proportion of priority sites in every local authority area remains broadly similar when compared to the results of the original analysis. The most change is seen in Shetland, where there is a % decrease and Orkney where there is a % increase.



Summary of revisions to priority sites, n=313



Proportion of original priority sites (visited) by LA area n=282



Proportion of revised priority sites by LA area n=145

- The results confirm the findings of the original CZAS analysis that together the Northern and Western Isles and Highland region contain the overwhelming majority of vulnerable priority coastal heritage sites.

There are a number of reasons suggested for the reduction in the overall number of priority sites:

- Achieving greater parity of records across the survey areas is probably the most important factor in explaining the reduction in priority sites. The ShoreUPDATE survey overcame some of

the main inconsistencies of the original surveys by assessing the relative condition and vulnerability of sites at a *national* rather than regional context and over the relatively short period of time that this project lasted for. This national focus helped correct regional discrepancies in the assessment of site condition and vulnerability to provide a more consistent judgement of priority status for sites across the whole of Scotland.

- The second possible factor in explaining the reduction in numbers of priority sites in every region is, we think, a general (possibly short-term) trend of stabilisation of the coast edge. Stabilisation of sites previously described as eroding was commonly observed in surveys of priority sites. Factors to explain this are complex, but natural cycles in weather patterns, land management, and the timing of some of the original surveys could account for this change.
- Some of the reduction or removal of priority status is explained by a change in the condition or understanding of a site. Of the original priority sites, eight are known to have been destroyed, six had been conserved, defended or comprehensively excavated and 14 were not located by the ShoreUPDATE survey. A further number of sites had been partially investigated, with the impact of erosion being mitigated by recording and rescuing information.

The consistency of the ShoreUPDATE survey and moderation of records, and the parity this has introduced across survey areas, adds weight to the identification of the most vulnerable priority sites on the revised list. These sites, presented in *A Review of Heritage at Risk from Coastal Processes*, represent the most urgent priorities for mitigation action in Scotland. These sites also represent a vulnerable yet valuable resource with considerable social potential as foci for community research, investigation and interpretation, together with considerable research potential - as demonstrated in the achievements of ShoreDIGs.

SCHARP has demonstrated that a large scale volunteer input is compatible with high quality information and research outcomes, and new knowledge has been created and shared through ShoreUPDATE and the ShoreDIG investigations.

“the SCHARP project has worked with those inconsistent and very different records across the islands to make them much more consistent ...so we now have a fantastic consistent prioritised database which we can use for future research and which sets the research agenda for the islands for years to come.” SCAPE

Director, Western Isles

3. Quantitative monitoring summary

3.1 Involvement

ACTIVITY	Agreed target	Actual achieved	%
ShoreMOVIES & Resources			
Produce training videos	3	7	233%
Peer-led videos by young people.	8	6	133%
Total number of films	9	35	389%
ShoreUPDATE			
Number of ShoreUPDATE Catalyst Events	16	25	156%
Number of Volunteers participating in ShoreUPDATE Catalyst events	160	249	156%
Number of ShoreUPDATE Focal Surveys	4	18	450%
Number of Volunteers participating in ShoreUPDATE Focal Surveys	32	155	484%
Number of unique volunteers submitting ShoreUPDATE surveys	80	128	160%
Number of CZAS sites surveyed and updated	940	1074	114%
ShoreDIG Projects			
ShoreDIG Consultation Events	12	12	100%
Number of Volunteers attending ShoreDIG Consultation events	120	271	226%
ShoreDIG projects completed	12	14	117%
Number of Volunteer participating in ShoreDIG projects	200	486	243%
Participation			
Total number of volunteers		1,233	
Volunteer contributions	£78,000	£138,215	177%
In-Kind contributions	£78,900	£161,269	204%
Events			
80 people attend launch of SCHARP	80	66	83%
100 people attend Ask and Expert Conference	100	117	117%
150 volunteers attend Project Conference and Award Ceremony	150	104	69%

3.2 Engagement

Engagement data not included in targets	
Talks, conference presentations & other events	108
No. of people reached through talks, conference presentations & other events	7,535
SCHARP e-newsletter recipients	661
Press articles (newspaper/magazine)	58
Press (TV/radio)	21
Registered users of the website	767
Website visits	9,633
Website unique visitors	3,364
No of apps downloaded	500-1000
Facebook likes	2,024
Facebook engagement (No. of people who click on a post)	51,517
Blog engagement (No. of people who read a blog)	26,606
Followers on Twitter	1,144

4. Qualitative feedback

We asked volunteers about skills they had learnt, what was most enjoyable, what was challenging and whether they had any advice for us. We captured this qualitative feedback through interviews filmed over the project period. We asked stakeholders about the impact of the project on SCAPE and on the sector through interviews filmed towards the close of the project. The SCHARP Evaluation Films are available at <https://vimeo.com/channels/scharpevaluation>.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Most challenging for volunteers was getting to grips with the technology, a view shared by project staff also. Nearly every interviewee described the most valuable aspects of their involvement in SCHARP in terms of: skills and personal development; meeting new people; having locally-valued heritage being taken seriously; having access to expertise; feeling supported; and, feeling part of a network of like-minded people, even if they were from different walks of life. Below is a representative sample of typical volunteer feedback.

“I suppose it, you know, revitalises skills, you know, skills that have been dormant, you know, brings them back to life”.

“We’ve come to recognise things and there is definitely this sixth sense you develop about spotting things in the landscape, suddenly you get this feeling at the back of your neck when you’re looking at something that shouldn’t be there. We’re becoming better at the recording is what I’m saying.”

“I suppose the wonderful feedback; you actually have great access to the people involved and that really makes it worthwhile”

“The main thing was, I think, being able to tap into expertise that we would never ever, ever have been able to do. I met people who were exciting and had done things and I learnt from them”

"Well I would say without a doubt my favourite bit of the project was the interaction I had with other interested people."

"It's been an absolutely fantastic site to work on - we've had some really, really interesting stuff coming out... and also it's been really good to get together with a bunch of like-minded people and have some good fun looking at some really interesting archaeology"

"I've actually found a new lease of life with this project and I think that's been very useful. As you get old it's rather nice to be, be involved in something else, yeah it's been great."

"the main thing about SCHARP was a really true and honest sense that you were connecting with your communities"

5. Project Impact

SCHARP as a whole, together with individual ShoreDIG projects, has been recognised in a number of awards. These provide external validation of the achievements of the project, motivation for SCAPE and our volunteers, and acknowledgement to our funders and supporters. In the biennial British Archaeology Awards 2014, SCHARP won in the Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project category; the ShoreUPDATE app won Best Archaeological Innovation Award; and the 4DWemyss website was one of three projects shortlisted for Best Public Presentation of Archaeology (only beaten by Channel 4!).



Winner: Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project



Winner: Best Archaeological Innovation



Highly Commended: Best Presentation of Archaeology

In 2015, Save the Ancient Wemyss Caves Society (SWACS) and the Sanday Archaeology Group were shortlisted for the Scottish Heritage Angel Awards for their ShoreDIG projects, 4D Wemyss Cave and the Meur Burnt Mound Reconstruction.

"I think a lot of what SCAPE is about is showing what can be done and giving them tool kits and expertise to make it happen elsewhere - and that's happened internationally and with some very important UK projects". SCAPE Director

We are also proud that SCHARP has inspired volunteer-centred coastal heritage projects in the UK and further afield, including CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network) our English sister project (started in 2015) which uses the same style Sites at Risk map and app; and our friends at the Florida Public Archaeology Network's new coastal project HMS (Heritage Monitoring Scouts) Florida, launched in 2016.



<http://www.citizan.org.uk/>



<https://www.fpan.us/>

Over the past 4 years, members of the SCAPE team have talked to thousands of people about SCHARP at local, national and international conferences and meetings. The positive message of the opportunities presented by threatened coastal heritage for community engagement and learning has been extremely well-received, especially internationally. Highlights have included invitations to present keynote addresses at the Presidents Forum of both the 2016 and 2017 Society of American Archaeology Conferences in Florida and Vancouver. SCHARP was also singled out as an example of best international practice in the opening address of the World Archaeology Conference held in Kyoto in 2016.

"I suggest that our professional organisations can and should develop just a few long-term collaborative strategies for integrating archaeological knowledge of human history. Two examples of tactics show how archaeology and climate change concerns intersect at community and global levels. The first is SCAPE where archaeologists have reached beyond traditional heritage management to empower local communities to document, excavate and conserve coastal archaeological sitesThe key here is archaeological empowerment of local communities as not only first responders but also true knowledge producers." Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, Opening address of the World Archaeology Congress, Kyoto, October 2016



The SCHARP team and ShoreDIG projects have also featured on radio broadcasts. TV news and several TV programmes, including Digging for Britain (BBC 2014); Weatherworld (BBC 2015); Britain at Low Tide (Channel 4 - to be broadcast in October 2017) and a feature for the BBC World international website (2017).

6. Review and summary of lessons learnt

SCHARP has been very important for SCAPE. The project has exceeded its targets and our expectations. Our network of volunteers has grown in number and in skill, increasing the capacity for more effective coastal heritage monitoring and research. Our experience of delivering the project with the related documentation and reporting requirements has resulted in much improved in-house systems for recording volunteer contributions and participation. The SCHARP website has introduced a sea change in how we manage and share coastal heritage data. We now communicate much more effectively with volunteers and with a wider audience through our newsletters and social media. Many more people in Scotland and around the world know about us and are more aware of the issues and opportunities of eroding coastal heritage.

SCHARP has also been very successful for Scotland. ShoreUPDATE has resulted in a much better understanding of the condition of Scotland's coastal heritage resource and significant new archaeological knowledge has been created through ShoreDIGs. As a result of SCHARP, Scotland has a network of trained volunteers in local communities around the country which will be of lasting benefit to Scotland's coastal heritage monitoring and management capacity.

Below we summarise the main lessons we learnt as a result of SCHARP.

There was more to creating and implementing the app than we initially realised

We developed the ShoreUPDATE app 5 years ago when the application of this technology was relatively new in the heritage sector. At that time, there were really no other examples that had achieved the complexity of what was needed for our project; and the project team also had relatively little experience in this area. We were, therefore, very reliant on the app developer and did not anticipate the amount of work required at the beginning of the project to get things right. When asked about what was most frustrating or difficult in the evaluation interviews with volunteers, those individuals who had been involved in the project from the outset frequently mentioned the app, a frustration we shared! Following a year of use in the field, we completely overhauled the app as a result of our own experience and user feedback. Our volunteers stuck with the app and, like ourselves, have become true converts to the use of this technology in archaeological survey.

Another lesson is that mobile apps require maintenance and regular updates and fixes in order to function effectively with new software and hardware. This requires both staff time and a budget for ongoing work by the app developer, which we had under-anticipated. Despite this, the ShoreUPDATE app has proved to be an extremely useful tool for volunteers in the field, and we will definitely retain it and hope to build upon and improve it.

Delivery of a project like this puts a high demand on a small team

We anticipated a great deal of travelling and weekend and evening working would be necessary in SCHARP, and this turned out to be the case. As the project gained in momentum, the greater success we had recruiting volunteers, the greater the workload on project staff in moderating records and supporting ShoreDIG projects. The contribution from volunteers was 77% more than originally

anticipated, and this equated to greater demand for support and a greater volume of information to deal with. One of the ways we managed this was by extending the project activity period by a year to make sure that the impact and benefits of projects were fully realised for volunteers and local communities. However, this had knock-on effects upon staff workloads and timetables going into the concluding and reporting stages of the project. The three year project timescale was ambitious to achieve the original project targets, and was definitely not long enough to properly deal with higher participation levels and the volume of interesting new information being revealed through both the ShoreUPDATE surveys and the ShoreDIGs. This experience means that we now have a better idea of what to expect, and in the future, we will be able to plan project timetables more accurately.

Partnerships and wider organisational support have been critical to the success of SCHARP

The achievements of SCHARP would not have been possible without the professional contribution of individuals and support of organisations in almost every element of the project. In-kind contributions were over 100% higher than anticipated, but this only partly captures the very substantial input donated by a number of organisations and individuals. Heritage professionals working with Local Authorities were particularly generous with their time, expertise and data; and with facilitating local communication and support. Locally-based professional archaeologists frequently contributed their time and expertise freely. We couldn't have achieved the majority of the ShoreDIGs without a local hub, almost always provided by a local heritage centre and the staff and volunteers who run them. Our experience underlined the importance of consulting locally in the earliest stages of project planning so that all potential partners and local supporters are rightly recognised and integrated into project activities.

Historic Environment Scotland, the second largest project funder, provided additional vital support for the post-excavation analysis and scientific dating requirements that arose from archaeological investigations, but these were difficult to fully anticipate in advance. Without the support, expertise and encouragement of officers in Historic Environment Scotland, the full archaeological and research potential of ShoreDIGs would not have been realised. Further indispensable support was provided by the University of St Andrews, who provided accommodation and administrative support to SCAPE. Being part of a University has added value to every element of the project by facilitating research and enabling us to share experiences and lessons learnt through SCHARP at conferences and meetings here and around the world. The flexibility and encouragement of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland was also very important in enabling us to deliver the full benefits of this project; and when speaking to international audiences, we have frequently been asked about this unique source of funding available to heritage projects in the UK.

Having participated in these global networks, we have learned how valuable and how fortunate we are in Scotland to have a culture and infrastructure in the heritage sector which enables projects like SCHARP to succeed.

7. Project structure and management

Project staff

<i>SCAPE manager</i>	Tom Dawson
<i>SCHARP project manager</i>	Joanna Hambly
<i>SCHARP project officer</i>	Ellie Graham
<i>CBA bursary (2012-13)</i>	Natalia Bain
<i>SCHARP evaluation and film making</i>	Tanya Freke

SCHARP Advisory Group and position when appointed

Violet Dalton	<i>Head of Volunteering, National Trust for Scotland;</i>
John Lawson	<i>Chair, Association of Local Government Archaeologists, Scotland;</i>
Rod McCullagh	<i>Head of Archaeology Grants, Historic Environment Scotland;</i>
Alistair Rennie	<i>Coastal Geomorphologist, Scottish Natural Heritage, Coastal Erosion Coordination and Research Manager, The Scottish Government;</i>
Jeff Sanders	<i>DIGIt! Project Manager, Society of Antiquaries, of Scotland;</i>
Robin Turner	<i>Head of Survey and Recording, Historic Environment Scotland.</i>

SCAPE Board of Directors

Dr Barbara Crawford	<i>Chair from 2014</i>	Dr Jim Hansom
Professor Chris Smout	<i>Chair to 2014</i>	Dr Mary Macleod Rivett
Dr Stewart Angus		Dr Colin Martin
Professor Ian Armit		Eila McQueen
Dr David Caldwell	<i>from 2017</i>	George McQuitty
Dr Ben Ferrari		Robin Turner

8. Project partners, funders and supporters

With special thanks to

Access Archaeology, North Uist; **Andy Nicholson**, County Archaeologist, Dumfries and Galloway; **Apex Stranraer**; **Archaeology Shetland**; **Archaeology students Lews Castle College**, UHI; **Bill Sandiford**; **Callum McNeil**; **Chris Bowles**, County Archaeologist, Borders; **Comunn Eachdraidh Nis** (Ness Historical Society); **David Paterson**, Fife Council; **Douglas Speirs**, Fife Council; **Eddie Martin**; **Findhorn Village Heritage**; **Friends of Eyemouth Fort**; **Geoff Bailey**, County Archaeologist, Falkirk Community Trust; **Highland Archaeology Service**; **John Pickin**; **Julie Gibson**, County Archaeologist, Orkney Islands Council; **Kevin Murphy**, Western Isles Archaeology Service; **Mark Beattie-Edwards**, the **Nautical Archaeology Society**; **Nic Coombey**, Making the Most of the Coast Officer; **North of Scotland Archaeology Society**; **Sanday Archaeology Group**; **Sanday Heritage Group**; **Save the Wemyss Ancient Caves Society**; **Scott Timpany**, UHI Orkney; **Shetland Amenity Trust**; **Solway Firth Partnership**; **Stephanie Leith**, East Lothian Archaeology Service; **Steve Liscoe**, Fife Council; **Uist Summer Wine**, **UK Civil Air Patrol**; **Val Turner**, County Archaeologist, Shetland Islands; **West of Scotland Archaeology Service**; **Wild Knowledge**.

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