



D1.6 Researching Our Local Heritage

Project Overview:

This project provided support and training to individuals and community groups to enable them to successfully participate in and run projects seeking to research, record, showcase and preserve elements of local heritage throughout the Inner Forth.

Training and mentoring was delivered by IFLI's Cultural Heritage Officer and AOC Archaeology Group, who devised a multifaceted programme that encompassed a range of subjects and learning experiences. These complemented existing IFLI cultural and built heritage projects as well as facilitating people's engagement in additional local heritage activities.

Indoor, desk-based training workshops were held on subjects like accessing heritage resources, oral history, digital cartography and archaeological illustration. Outdoor training covered a variety of archaeological skills, including drawing, mapping, topographical and geophysical surveying, laser scanning, excavation, metal detecting, dendrochronology, photogrammetry, artefact recording, and historic building recording. Digs took place in all four local authority areas within the IFLI boundary: at Gartmorn Dam in Clackmannanshire; Borrowmeadow in Stirling; Zetland Park in Grangemouth; and Valleyfield Woods in Fife. Archaeological surveys were undertaken at Clackmannan Tower, Bennet House in Culross, Kennetpans Distillery, and of Grangemouth's historic Town Clock. Over and above providing training for individuals and groups, these digs and surveys each produced useable output data, in the form of reports and 3D laser scans, which can be used to help manage future conservation, interpretation and engagement activities. Training materials, reports and scans have all been made available on-line.

Further, there were expert lectures on artefact interpretation (at Callendar House), aerial photography (at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum) and ceramics analysis (at Alloa Tower).

Project lead and other organisations:

Lead: Kirsty McAlister, Cultural Heritage Officer, IFLI

Contractor: AOC Archaeology Group

Project Location:

Various locations around the Inner Forth, including Falkirk, Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Fife local authority areas.

Project dates

Years 1-4: September 2014 to September 2017.

Project Outputs

Measure	Target	Delivered	Notes
14 training workshops held	14	33	
Training themes covered	20	23	
Total number of attendees	210	483	
Individuals participating in other projects	30	30	Meaning individuals actively contributing to other IFLI cultural heritage projects
Community groups supported	5	20	

What difference has this project made to the built, cultural and natural heritage of the Inner Forth?

This project has provided skills, training, and networking opportunities for individuals and community groups. This enabled them to become involved with and contribute to a number of built and cultural heritage projects, both during the delivery phase of IFLI and beyond its lifetime. In particular, the surveying and excavation projects within *Researching Our Local Heritage* made significant contributions to what was previously known about specific sites and artefacts (as outlined above). The reports and 3D laser scans produced by relevant sub-projects can be used to help manage future conservation, interpretation and engagement activities. The data structure report for 'Investigating Zetland Park' and the 3D laser scan of Grangemouth's Town Clock, for example, were used to inform a successful funding bid for the park in 2017.

As well as enhancing knowledge, this project has encouraged people to protect, preserve and celebrate various aspects of the built and cultural heritage of the Inner Forth.

What difference has this project made to people?

This project played an important role in supporting people's involvement in a range of built and cultural heritage projects across the IFLI area, which in turn has helped them engage both physically and intellectually with local heritage. The project contributed to the sustainability of a number of heritage projects in the Inner Forth, and empowered local communities by giving them skills and confidence to build on what has already been achieved. Further, it provided opportunities for people of all ages and from a range of different backgrounds to work together, learn with and from one another, and forge lasting personal and professional relationships.

A particular success was the project to survey and digitally reconstruct Grangemouth's Town Clock, which had lain in storage since a fire destroyed the Town Chambers. This provided the impetus for a couple of complementary events adjacent to where the clock was being scanned. The first was 'Tea in the Park' for over 100 people, courtesy of Grangemouth Community Care, some of whom actually made it into the pond beside the stones on trishaws peddled by Cycling Without Age. The marquee used for this was put to further use the following day, for a community engagement and networking event. This was co-led by IFLI and the Friends of Zetland Park, with support from Falkirk Council. The groups in the marquee included IFLI, AOC Archaeology, Grangemouth Heritage Trust, RSPB Scotland, Jupiter Urban Wildlife Centre, Friends of Kinneil, 1333 Spitfire Squadron, Braveheart, and Strathcarron Hospice.

Useful Links

Project Page on IFLI website: <http://www.innerforthlandscape.co.uk/projects/skills-training/researching-our-local-heritage>

Lessons Learned

Effective partnership working was key to the success of this project, as was the fact that AOC Archaeology Group was flexible, accommodating and proactive in terms of project delivery. By discussing proposed activities with a range of partner organisations and community groups, it was possible to define a number of training opportunities, in a range of locations, which would allow the most people to get the most benefit from the project.

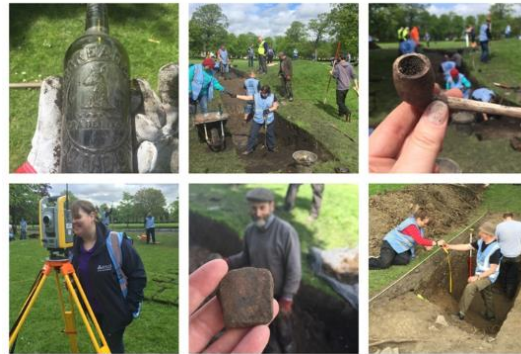
Feedback from volunteers and partner organisations was extremely positive, demonstrating how effective this project was. One local authority staff member involved in one of the digs called the project 'a runaway success by every possible measure' and commended the 'real, tangible and lasting legacy' of the project.

Photographic Evidence

AOC's Andy Heald with pupils from St Modan's High School at Borrowmeadow, June 2015



Investigating Zetland Park, May 2016



Excavating Valleyfield Estate Stables, Sept 2017



Digitally Reconstructing Grangemouth's Town Clock, May 2017



Funding Partners



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