

Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

09 May 2013

Dear Fiona,

2015: Year of Scottish Archaeology

Many thanks for your support for 2015 as the Year of Scottish Archaeology. Through initial funding and encouragement from Historic Scotland, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Archaeology Scotland are collaborating on the co-ordination of what will be an exciting, innovative and above all, fun, year. We also have the support of the RCAHMS, Glasgow Museums, National Museums Scotland, the Hunterian Museum, ALGAO: Scotland, and the Institute for Archaeologists. We have meetings planned next week with VisitScotland and EventScotland, and Local Authorities, Universities, regional museums, the NTS, commercial archaeological companies and many others with ideas for celebrating archaeology in 2015 have expressed their support.

We are already building a coherent identity and a sense of momentum for 2015 in partnership with key organisations in the heritage sector. We have established a line-up of events for the year, including exhibitions at our biggest museums, community 'big digs', and a project looking at the history of people's relationship with the Clyde over thousands of years. The prestigious European Association of Archaeologists conference and the Celtic Congress will both be held in Glasgow during 2015. This will serve to showcase Scotland's world-class archaeology to an international audience descending on Glasgow in its thousands.

The primary aim of 2015: Year of Scottish Archaeology is to celebrate the role of archaeology in today's society. We will focus on four audiences: communities; young people and families; international visitors; and professional audiences. Planning will concentrate on grassroots involvement, so that people from all of these audiences take ownership of their year. We are engaging with communities by further developing *Telling Scotland's Stories* with a nationwide competition for young people, schools, and local groups to showcase their local archaeology. A crucial measure of success of 2015 will be the provision of support to teachers through the development of teaching resources that will support delivery of the curriculum for excellence. International

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visitors will be encouraged to explore Scotland's archaeology through links with annual events, such as Tartan Week, and special anniversaries, such as the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the end of WWII.

Professional connections, both from within and outwith the sector, are crucial to the success of the year. 2015: Year of Scottish Archaeology will be linked to the European Year of Industrial Heritage, exploring urbanism, the Industrial Revolution and mining. We are excited to work with the creative industries to develop an engaging programme for all of our audiences, and are in discussions with Scottish composer Jim Sutherland (*Brave, Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*) to develop a series of events celebrating 'arrivals' of people and ideas. Through collaboration, archaeology will play a part in every Festival held in 2015, from the International Film Festival to Celtic Connections.

We would invite you to continue your support for 2015 as the Year of Scottish Archaeology and are keen to hear what you would like to see in 2015 and any thoughts you have about how we can best promote it further.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The signature on the left is 'S. Gilmour' and the signature on the right is 'E. Macqueen'.

Dr Simon Gilmour (Director of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland) and Eila Macqueen (Director of Archaeology Scotland)