



Written in the Landscape Project Update, April 2017

Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll Estates have at last completed the funding package required for 'Written in the Landscape', an exciting joint project to catalogue, conserve and digitise 64 Argyllshire family and estate archives. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Argyll and Bute Council Archives, Argyll Estates, Tiree Community Windfall Trust, An Iodhlann, Inveraray CARS, Clan Campbell Education Foundation, the National Manuscript Conservation Trust and private donations.

The project will run from April 2017 until December 2018, and will see the most fragile items in Argyll Estates' collection of historic maps and plans being cleaned and repaired before being digitised.

We will be advertising for two project archivists shortly. The project archivists will catalogue the archives so they can be accessed and understood by researchers, work closely with heritage centres to identify records of greatest interest to local communities and develop a training and mentoring scheme. The project will also offer opportunities for people to develop their personal skills by volunteering in Argyll Estate archives, the Council archives, or from their own homes. We are also planning open days, tours, talks and exhibitions to promote the family and estate archives of Argyll.

Support from our local heritage and research community is essential to the success of the project, from identifying records of particular interest to getting involved with training and mentoring opportunities, so please do not hesitate to get in touch, confirm your interest and talk to us about your priorities for the project.

We are starting to plan our training days, the first of which will focus on developing skills in identifying, reading and cataloguing archives, to be delivered by The Archives-Skills Consultancy in September 2017. Please visit the doodle poll at <http://doodle.com/poll/f5stqghs2h76bahe> to indicate which dates would suit representatives of your group. We will offer training to at least one representative of each heritage centre – possibly two, depending on the level of interest expressed.

It's very exciting to be getting started at long last! Please do not hesitate to get in touch, using the emails below – we are looking forward to talking to you.

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