Sustaining local Heritage: Communities and the Adopt-a-Monument Scheme

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Archaeology Scotland’s Adopt-a-Monument scheme is a five year initiative which seeks to support community heritage groups to actively engage with their local heritage. Between 2011 and 2016 the scheme will facilitate 55 community-led heritage projects by supporting project activities, providing advice and guidance and developing targeted training workshops.

The work the Adopt-a-Monument scheme undertakes helps enhance understanding of Scotland’s unique archaeological heritage by supporting our groups to research and record their landscapes, and to identify new archaeological data which will contribute to regional and national research frameworks, such as ScARF. Adopt-a-Monument supports and trains groups to share and celebrate their heritage within their local community and with wider audiences through the Adopt-a-Monument webpages; on-site interpretation; community focused conferences and through wider published material. Adopt-a-Monument’s training programme (delivered through thematic workshops, individual group training and our online training resources) will continue to improve skills and increase capacity in Scotland’s voluntary historic environment sector. Adopt-a-Monument has developed an innovative digital engagement strategy by training and supporting groups to utilise emerging and accessible software to record and promote their monuments and sites. In this way local communities are producing sustainable improvements to archaeological sites that are important to them, increasingly the movement is also away from site-based work and towards cultural landscapes.

In this paper I will aim to demonstrate the impact community driven projects have on the preservation of sites and landscapes, national archaeological policy and local tourism.

Keywords: Landscape, Community, tourism, sustainability

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