



From mountain to sea

Moray Council Archaeology Service

2019/20 Service Level Agreement Annual Report

April 2020



Contents

1	Summary	3
<hr/>		
2	Consultations	4
2.1	Planning Applications	4
2.2	Other Applications	5
<hr/>		
3	Public Access and Community Involvement	6
3.1	Moray Historic Environment Record	6
3.2	Website and Social Media	6
3.3	Support for Community Projects	7
<hr/>		
4	Policy Work	8
4.1	Moray Local Development Plan	8
<hr/>		
5	Other Work	8
5.1	Representation on Collaborative Bodies	8
5.2	A96 Upgrade Scheme	8
5.3	Training	8

Visit aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology

1 Summary

2019/20 Service Level Agreement Annual Report

Period covered: 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

The Archaeology Service has continued to deliver a service of archaeological advice, guidance and support to Moray Council via a Service Level Agreement with Aberdeenshire Council, for a total cost of £14,420. During the course of the year the Archaeology Service responded to a total of 188 Planning Applications and 85 other consultations; provided advice to developers and Council staff as required; responded to enquiries from the public; represented Moray Council on 5 national Groups & Boards; helped to develop various local and national policies which have a direct influence on the management of the historic environment for the area; and continued to maintain and expand the Historic Environment Record for Moray, which underpins all of the above work.

The performance indicators below show a small decrease in the number of planning applications responded to by the Archaeology Service in the 2019/20 period. The average planning application response time has increased during this period, rising to 7.68 days (from 4.26 days in 2018/19). This is as a result of the Archaeology Service dealing with an increased number of planning applications in other local authority areas which it covers, while the complexity of applications across all areas has also increased. Nonetheless, the percentage of applications responded to within 14 days remains high at 94.68%

The Archaeology Service enables Moray Council to satisfy the relevant requirements of Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014), Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (2016) and National Planning Framework 3.

2 Consultations

In the 2019/20 period, the Archaeology Service dealt with and/or commented on the following applications in Moray:

2.1 Planning Applications

Continuing the trend from 2018/19, there has been a further decrease in the number of planning application consultations (direct and indirect, from weekly lists) in Moray over the 2019/20 period. In 2019/20 the average consultation response time rose to 7.68 days, an increase of 44.53% from 4.26 days in 2018/19. Within the same period, the total percentage of planning application consultations and weekly lists responded to within 14 days remains high at 94.68%, although this is a small decrease from 98.57% in 2018/19.

Planning Consultations		
Performance Indicator	2019/20	2018/19
No of Planning Applications dealt with	188	210
Average response time to a Planning Application	7.68 days	4.26 days
No of archaeological mitigations put into place	78	107
Percentage of Planning Application Consultations or Weekly Lists responded to within 14 days	94.68%	98.57%

Note: The Archaeology Service not only responds to direct consultations, but also examines all 52 Weekly Planning Lists for any potential archaeological impact that would require appropriate mitigation.

Other Planning Consultations		
Performance Indicator	2019/20	2018/19
No of Pre-Scoping, Major Application & Masterplans dealt with	20	13
No of CNPA planning applications dealt with	1	2

2.2 Other Applications

Performance Indicator	2019/20	2018/19
Scottish Rural Development Plans (No dealt with)	13	8
Forest Plans/Felling Applications (No dealt with)	28	34
Utility & Other Checks (No dealt with)	23	12

3 Public Access and Community Involvement

3.1 Moray Historic Environment Record

The Archaeology Service continues to actively maintain, develop, enhance and expand the Historic Environment Record database for the Moray region. The database not only forms the basis of our core consultation work, but is also publicly accessible allowing local residents, visitors and researchers to learn about the cultural heritage of the Moray region.

Performance Indicator	2019/20	2018/19
No of Records Held in Database	7,585	7,390
No of New Records Created	195	21
No of Existing Records Updated	892	1,486

3.2 Website and Social Media

The Archaeology Service continues to grow and develop its online presence both through the website and through social media outlets and uses these platforms to engage and inform local residents and visitors to the area about the cultural heritage of the Moray region.

Website & Social Media Statistics	2019/20	2018/19
No of Archaeology Service Website Users	23,533	17,987
No of Twitter Followers	5,224	5,089
No of Instagram Followers	797	668
No of SketchFab Views (online 3D models of assets)	6,200	3,995
No of YouTube Views	96	62

Note: These numbers are not broken down into individual Local Authority areas.

3.3 Support for Community Projects

The Archaeology Service is happy to offer support and guidance to archaeology community projects. In the 2019/20 period, we were not approached by any community projects in the Moray area; this is reflected in the table below.

Performance Indicator	2019/20	2018/19
No of Community Projects Supported	0	0
Funding Contributions to Community Projects	£0	£0
External Funding Raised by Community Projects	£0	£0
No of Volunteer Days Created	0	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	£0	£0

4 Policy Work

4.1 Moray Local Development Plan

The Archaeology Service continues to assist the Policy Team as and when required in assessing allocated sites for their potential impact on the historic environment, developing supplementary guidance, and advising on suitable mitigation for future developers.

5 Other Work

5.1 Representation on Collaborative Bodies

The Archaeology Service in 2019/20 represented Moray Council on the following national Boards and Groups:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO: Scotland)
- Scottish Historic Environment Record Forum
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy – Aim 3
- Aberdeen University Archaeology Department Programme Board
- Scotland's Archaeological Research Framework Advisory Board

5.2 A96 Upgrade Scheme

During 2019/20 the Archaeology Service worked closely with Mott Macdonald Sweco, acting on behalf of Transport Scotland, during Stage 2 of the Design Manual Roads Bridges (DMRB) process for the A96 Dualling Hardmuir to Fochabers project. This included attending meetings as required, providing baseline information on the historic environment, advising on route options and their known and potential impacts, overseeing the geophysical survey programme, and advising on initial mitigation measures for the ground investigation works for the preferred route. This work will continue throughout Stage 3 of the DMRB process during the rest of 2020 and into 2021.

5.3 Training

The Archaeology Service provided an informal training session to the Development Management team in February 2020, as part of a DM team meeting. The session was well attended and covered a variety of topics and issues around archaeology, the historic environment and planning. Feedback received was positive, and we would be happy to offer further training on request.
