

## Co-producing rock art recording with community members in Scotland

Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP) is a five-year AHRC-funded project (<https://www.rockart.scot/>) aiming to enhance understanding and knowledge of Scotland's rock art through community co-production and research. Over the past few years, it has been training and supporting community teams to gather detailed information on prehistoric carvings across Scotland. It was a beautiful sunny winter day when I shadowed the (ScRAP) team at its fieldwork. Up on the hills overlooking the Lake of Menteith, the team worked with local community members to carry out recording of the cup-and-ring marked rocks of Ballochraggan, using methods ranging from traditional approaches to 3D modelling with photogrammetry. Most of the community members who participated were older citizens with interest in archaeology and outdoor activities, willing to rediscover the rock art of local areas by their own hands. To them, the challenge of locating the carvings, making sense of the abstract symbols, cleaning and recording the panels seemed fascinating. During the fieldwork, the toughest part might be preparing the panels for recording. Most of the rock art panels of Ballochraggan were covered under turf or vegetation. Soaked with moisture, these turfs were usually very heavy and had to be removed preferably in one piece (to be placed back later). After removing the turfs, participants used the cleaning kit, such as spatulas, brushes, and sometimes lollipop sticks, to clean the surface of the carved boulders, preparing them for recording. The most rewarding moment arrived when rock images were identified unexpectedly on a panel that seemed "patternless" at first sight. All the participants seemed confident while they conducted the works. Before taking part in the fieldwork, the community members had attended at least one training session organised by the ScRAP team, which covered all the skills they need to create a detailed, accurate rock art record.