



Annual Report of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service 2015/16

Summary

This annual report covers the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

During the report period, the West of Scotland Archaeology Service dealt with 1792 new casework items, 9 fewer than in the previous year, a statistically insignificant reduction of 0.5%. This continues the service's successful shift to streamlining the treatment of preliminary or supporting planning casework, allowing staff to deal with the increased number of cases in planning and development casework which are found to raise historic environment issues after detailed assessment.

Monitoring the weekly lists of planning applications received from the ten member Councils and from the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority initiated 555 of the new work items. Monitoring of the weekly lists is essential to ensure that applications which raise potential archaeological issues which have not been fully dealt with at the pre-application stage can be identified for follow-up work. From the weekly lists, and through direct referrals from the planning officers within the member authorities, 866 new planning applications were identified as potentially raising archaeological issues, and a further 371 other items of new casework were also dealt with or initiated.

New Casework 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

Council Area	Total of New Casework Items	Weekly lists	Planning Applications	Other
Argyll & Bute	305	49	159	97
East Ayrshire	170	50	99	21
East Renfrewshire	81	49	22	10
Glasgow	135	50	48	37
North Ayrshire	133	50	55	28
Renfrewshire	109	50	41	18
South Ayrshire	139	50	72	17
South Lanarkshire	272	52	154	66
West Dunbartonshire	87	51	23	13
West Lothian	208	52	128	28
National Park Authority	151	52	65	34
General/Multi-Council	2			2
Total	1792	555	866	371

The 2.3% drop in the number of new planning applications identified as potentially raising archaeological issues, at 866, was 20 fewer than in the previous year, but approximated to the average of the numbers identified over the preceding five years. However, the proportion of new applications which proved to raise archaeological issues was sustained at a level

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similar to that reported last year. In the report period, 413 applications, or 48% of the total examined in detail required some form of intervention, a little higher proportion than in last year, and significantly higher than the 36% to 40% proportions recorded during the preceding 12 years. This increased proportion of cases which raise significant issues means that the number of cases requiring archaeological intervention has continued at close to the record high level reported last year.

It appears that this change in the proportion of cases assessed as raising significant archaeological issues since 2014 is partly explained by the Service's successful streamlining of the identification and assessment of planning applications, which has reduced the number of precautionary casework referrals to the Service from non-archaeological staff within the Councils.

This has been most pronounced in the Argyll and Bute Council area where, from part-way through the previous reporting year and with the agreement of the Council's Development Management Manager, planning staff have been able to rely more heavily on the Archaeology Service to monitor the weekly lists of planning applications to identify those raising potentially significant issues. There was an immediate reduction in the number of applications which were referred to the Service for assessment in detail and were subsequently assessed as raising no substantive archaeological issues. This trend towards more efficient identification of significant historic environment issues has continued, without apparent loss of quality in decision making.

This closer partnership working, which has been made possible because of the online availability of plans and documents through the eplanning system, has produced staff efficiency benefits to both the Archaeology Service and the Council, and has increased the speed of processing many planning applications in an archaeologically rich area while complying with the Council's historic environment policies. It is likely that similar procedural changes would benefit other member Councils provided that the eplanning system is accessible for online document retrieval.

The localised variations in the number of planning applications which raised potential archaeological impacts was generally in line with averages from preceding years, although the slightly increasing upward trend in the more easterly member authorities may indicate a subtle "Edinburgh effect" on development pressure in areas closer to the capital.

Summary Table of Planning Applications 2010-2016

	Nos. Identified for Comment						Nos. Raising Archaeological Issues					
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Argyll & Bute	327	316	244	316	208	159	82	81	80	115	112	95
East Ayrshire	60	65	51	62	84	99	28	32	25	24	38	40
East Renfrewshire	15	29	32	21	27	22	6	14	8	6	12	11
Glasgow	35	40	39	51	52	48	14	10	10	16	16	18
Inverclyde	8	18	15	-	-	-	2	4	9	-	-	-
North Ayrshire	46	44	45	55	50	55	23	24	22	30	25	32
Renfrewshire	23	30	28	24	44	41	12	17	9	11	21	26
South Ayrshire	54	56	94	103	108	72	20	31	36	36	39	24
South Lanarkshire	102	136	134	134	122	154	56	63	65	58	66	68
West Dunbartonshire	31	6	14	17	33	23	7	3	8	7	10	11
West Lothian	98	96	83	79	104	128	42	34	33	36	57	57
National Park	19	55	54	64	54	65	6	24	27	30	21	31
Total	818	891	833	926	886	866	296	337	332	369	417	413

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In addition to casework items generated from weekly lists and planning applications, a further 371 items of other new work were initiated in the report period. Although the levels of caseload in individual categories have varied, the overall total is very close to that of the previous reporting period. (See table below, figures for previous year in brackets).

Pre-application planning enquiries	118	(131)
Development Plan consultations	3	(5)
Permitted development enquiries	36	(39)
SRDP audits and other agri-environment matters	75	(90)
Other Archaeological Consultations	15	(28)
Historic Environment Record information management matters	82	(46)
General or SMR enquiries	39	(21)
Policy liaison matters	2	(6)
Other (includes items sent in error)	(1)	(0)
Total	371	(366)

The overall level of work carried out in the other casework categories is similar to the high levels of last year, but as usual exhibits considerable variation on a year-by-year basis. The marked drop in referrals or requests for HER information and advice from agricultural advisers and forestry agents which was reported last year as resulting from changes to the government's implementation of EU agri-environment schemes has continued.

Pre-application enquiries continue to be an important area of casework, helping development management staff in member councils to facilitate the speedy processing of planning applications from applicants who have made such enquiries. Pre-application engagement with the Service allows potential issues to be raised at an earlier stage, allowing possible time delays and costs to be identified in advance, and potentially addressed before an application is submitted. This speeds up the processing of major applications, and may remove the need to attach archaeological conditions to planning consents.

In addition to identifying and initiating new casework, the Service carried forward work on 348 planning application cases which had been initiated in previous years. This continuing caseload largely consists of providing advice to developers and to Council planning staff on the appropriate scale of fieldwork and reporting which is required to satisfy conditions on consents which have been granted in earlier years. A further component of this role involves monitoring fieldwork carried out by commercial archaeological organisations on behalf of developers. The level of this activity therefore constitutes a better measure of sustained development activity than the number of planning applications lodged or consented. The number of such cases carried forward in the latest reporting period was 85% of the exceptionally high numbers recorded in each of the previous two years.

Because of the sustained increase in the planning application casework over the last few years, limited staff time was available for updating the Historic Environment Record. Nevertheless, during the reporting period 378 new site records were added to the Historic Environment Record database, and amendments or additions were made to 189 existing site records. The number of new sites added is returning to previous input levels, but fluctuates in response to pressures of work in other casework areas.

During the reporting period the number of archaeological event records created again rose dramatically, to 292, following the previous year's 36% increase with a further 25% annual growth. This rising trend is in line with the prediction made in last year's annual report. This category of work reflects the quantity of post-excavation analysis and reporting work done by commercial archaeological contractors after archaeological fieldwork which has been

initiated as a result of development management casework undertaken by the Archaeology Service in previous years.

A total of 213 archive records were created, dropping slightly from the number created in 2014-15, but still 24% more than the number generated in 2013-14. The sustained increases in the number of these records are a result of the increased levels of archaeological fieldwork carried out in recent years and reported on in previous annual reports. It is likely that this trend will continue as there were 184 recorded archaeological events (excavations, field surveys, building recording surveys, watching briefs, desk based assessments, etc.) during the report period, an increase of 13% on last year's record total.

During the reporting period, the Service was consulted on, and contributed to the development of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, a national strategy for the historic environment sector, which was published by Historic Environment Scotland on 2 September 2015.

During the reporting period, the Service assisted four PhD candidates with data for their theses, and assisted or liaised with five local amateur archaeological or historical groups or individuals throughout the WoSAS area in their researches or local heritage projects.

1 Running the Service

- 1.1 The Service's Steering Group met four times during the year to consider various matters in connection with the running of the Service. The Service's Joint Committee met on three occasions, on 24 September 2015, 5 November 2015, and on 17 March 2016.
- 1.2 The Service's office relocation during the previous reporting period reduced the accommodation costs by 40%, helping to reduce budgetary pressure on annual running costs.
- 1.3 The balance in the Service's reserve account at year end stood at £100,013 (see Appendix 2). The reduction in the level of financial reserves at the financial year end was less than had been predicted because of a better than expected return from fee-earning casework and because contingency spending was not needed.
- 1.4 The overall level of external income to the Service over the report period was slightly higher than predicted. After the Service's existing Access to Information and Charging Policy was revised and approved by the Joint Committee in March 2015, income generated from the commercial sector increased markedly, and a little above predicted levels because of the continuing high rate of development management casework. Over the reporting period, the Service received £14,200 for the provision of archaeological information and advice to developers and their agents.
- 1.5 As was reported last year, transitional payments from the national agencies for the provision of agri-environment advice and information were phased out, with an agreement that any fees to the Council archaeological services for providing this information and advice could be recouped from the overall fees paid to the forestry agents. Despite re-issued guidance from the Forestry Authority, there has been no uptake from forestry agents for this service. Although some agents continue to invite comments on their clients' proposals, where the commensurate fee for undertaking the work has been declined, any such consultations have been treated as un-resourced work, and have been removed from our priority work-load lists.
- 1.6 Against expectations, last year's record increase in the proportion of planning applications which were assessed as raising archaeological issues has been sustained at the same level. It now seems likely that this is a result of the Service's successful and award-winning streamlined system of identifying and assessing planning applications, which has reduced the number of precautionary casework referrals to the Service from non-archaeological staff within the Councils, and has reduced the number of "no issue" responses that have had to be returned.
- 1.7 The sustained high yearly totals of planning applications assessed as raising substantive issues, and the equally high levels of archaeological fieldwork projects and reports made over the reporting period confirms a continuing increase in the level of heritage-related enabling activities associated with sustained economic development.

2 Historic Environment Record Maintenance and Development

- 2.1 During the report period 378 new site records were added to the Historic Environment Record database, 189 existing site records were amended, 292 archaeological events records were added, and 213 archive records (indexed cross-references to reports received by the Service in paper and digital formats) were created. Once again, this is a modest degree of enhancement to the Historic Environment Record which because of planning casework priorities was concentrated on the integration of records arising from current archaeological fieldwork rather than on the pre-emptive identification of previously unrecorded and currently unthreatened sites in the broader landscape.
- 2.2 The Service's website (<http://www.wosas.net>) was updated over the report period with a further 11 news items from throughout the WoSAS area, and with monthly updates of Historic Environment Record data. During the same period, there were just over 580,000 "hits" on the Service website.
- 2.3 Continuing liaison between the national heritage agencies and the Service as the member Councils' representative on the Association of Local Authority Archaeological Officers (ALGAO:Scotland) has allowed the WoSAS Historic Environment Record to continue to contribute on a cost-neutral basis to shared data sources which are being developed under the Scottish Historic Environment Data Strategy (SHED Strategy) under the direction of the Scottish SMR Forum, on which the Service sits on behalf of the member Councils.
- 2.4 Contacts with the spatial information programme team of the Scottish Government's Improvement Service through the Scottish SMR Forum continues to ensure that the WoSAS Historic Environment Record meets with the nationally-established protocols required to comply with the European Union's INSPIRE Directive concerning data access. Discussions have begun regarding cooperation with the Improvement Service's new Spatial Hub website project, which is designed to negate the need for local authorities to set up their own INSPIRE-compliant portals, and may therefore provide better public information access for member Councils at no additional cost.
- 2.5 During the report period, the Service assisted four PhD candidates with data for their theses and with advice, and assisted one amateur archaeology group with Historic Environment Record data for their survey purposes. The Service also provided data and assistance to four other individuals and community groups who had need of historic environment advice, but who had no archaeological expertise.

3 Advice to Argyll and Bute Council

Development Plan Advice

- 3.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 3.2 Over the report period 49 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 159 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 130 by the Archaeology Service and 29 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 80 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years, including representing the Council at the Public Local Inquiry into the proposed Creggan Windfarm in Kintyre, where following the advice of the Service the Council had objected to the S36 Electricity Act application on archaeological grounds, among others.
- 3.3 The 159 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 159 applications, 136 (85.5%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended	3	1	4
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	14	6	20
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	29	8	37
Archaeological watching brief condition required	31	1	32
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	2		2
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	48	16	64
Totals	127	32	159

Altogether, 95 of the 159 planning applications (59.8%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 3.4 Refusal of the submitted planning application was recommended in respect of four new proposals, two of which were for small-scale wind power projects which were close to nationally important Scheduled Monuments, the landscape settings of which would have been seriously affected by the proposals. A further application was for a run-of-river hydro-electric scheme which would have required its penstock, or pipeline, to run through an area with a complex of prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments, two of which were designated as Scheduled Monuments. The final case was an application for the erection of a garage/store in close proximity to a prehistoric fort, where again the proposals were likely to significantly affect the landscape setting of the nationally important monument in a way that could not be adequately mitigated. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted applications was recommended.
- 3.5 Argyll and Bute is known for the richness of its visible archaeological remains, but important remains can also survive below ground, only to be revealed during ground disturbance. An archaeological evaluation of an open field near Port Ellen on Islay where housing was proposed identified a series of thirteen pits which provided evidence of early prehistoric occupation on a relatively level part of the site. The

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evaluation showed that the prehistoric occupation was localized, and could be avoided by careful design of future development proposals.

- 3.6 As mentioned in last year's report, a further phase of the long-term sand and gravel extraction at Kilmartin Quarry is imminent. The latest archaeological evaluation that is a requirement of the development programme that was first granted consent in the 1990s uncovered a continuation of the Neolithic pit-defined *cursus* monument, two probable Bronze Age burial cairns and two other possible burial features, a buried soil containing sherds of what appears to be Middle Bronze Age pottery, and a number of other postholes and pits. The evaluation of the open field also revealed the presence of possible later prehistoric and/or medieval features including a possible kiln, a rectangular structure, and a number of pits containing remnants of metalworking. Full excavation of the significant features which will be threatened with destruction by the quarry will follow.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 3.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 97 other items of casework, including 19 pre-application enquiries, 37 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 12 enquiries from statutory undertakers.
- 3.8 The Service has participated in the development of a Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Argyll, as a part of an Advisory Group for the project which has been led by Kilmartin House Museum, with funding from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

4 Advice to East Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 4.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 4.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 99 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 21 by the Archaeology Service and 78 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 25 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 4.3 The 99 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 99 applications, 88 (88.9%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended		1	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	9	9	18
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	1	14	15
Archaeological watching brief condition required	2	4	6
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	9	50	59
Totals	21	78	99

Altogether, 40 of the 99 planning applications (40.4%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 4.4 Refusal of the submitted planning application was recommended in respect of a proposal for a major leisure and tourism development within the nationally important designated Garden and Designed Landscape surrounding Loudoun Castle, near Galston. The application for enabling development to fund the restoration of the 'A' Listed castle ruins, which themselves enclose a medieval tower-house castle, was felt to take insufficient account of the capacity of the designed landscape to accommodate the scale of development proposed without adverse impact, and did not provide sufficient information to judge whether or not the project could succeed in its aims regarding the ruined castle. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted application was recommended.
- 4.5 Multi-disciplinary works including an archaeological watching brief and recording continued at Dumfries House near Auchinleck, as part of a project to record and restore the Category 'A' Listed Temple and establish a Memorial Garden next to it. In addition to their value as components of the Dumfries House Estate, a designated Garden and Designed Landscape which originated in the seventeenth century, and which provides the setting for the Category 'A' Listed Dumfries House by Adam, the site had also been part of a Royal Tank Corps training camp, which itself had been converted to a Prisoner of War camp in 1943, and later to a post-war repatriation centre for Polish servicemen. Despite their considerable social history interest, modern military sites like this have become increasingly rare, and the work here has

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allowed important details to be recorded, and has allowed surviving elements to be identified for preservation *in situ* within managed woodland.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 4.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 21 other items of casework, including 13 pre-application enquiries, 5 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 2 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

5 Advice to East Renfrewshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 5.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 5.2 Over the report period 49 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 22 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 12 by the Archaeology Service and 10 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 10 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 5.3 The 22 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. All 22 applications (100%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	2	3	5
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	4	1	5
Archaeological watching brief condition required	1	0	1
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	5	6	11
Totals	12	10	22

Altogether, 11 of the 22 planning applications (50%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 5.4 Archaeological evaluation in advance of the development of the Newton Mearns Faith Schools' Joint Campus at Alton, Newton Mearns identified surviving remains of a small Agricultural Improvement period farmstead. Due to the proximity of the medieval Mearns Castle, and the possibility that the site of the farm was also in use in the medieval period, full excavation of the surviving remains was undertaken before construction of the new school began. The site was of considerable interest to local people because of its placename associations with the medieval period, but the excavation was able to confirm that settlement at this particular site extended back no further than the mid-eighteenth century. Nevertheless, excavated examples of abandoned late eighteenth century farmsteads are rare, and the results are valuable as a 'snapshot' of rural life in the Agricultural Improvement period.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 5.5 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 10 other items of casework, including 4 pre-application enquiries, 3 HER site information queries or public enquiries and 2 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

6 Advice to Glasgow City Council

Development Plan Advice

- 6.1 Advice was provided to the Council in two instances regarding the extent of known archaeological sites within the Council area, and regarding the wording of suitable archaeological policies and statutory supplementary guidance for inclusion in the new Local Development Plan.

Development Management Advice

- 6.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 48 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 24 by the Archaeology Service and 24 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 12 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 6.3 The 48 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 48 applications, 42 (87.5%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	5	3	8
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	7	0	7
Standings buildings survey condition	1	0	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1	1	2
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	11	19	30
Totals	25	23	48

Altogether, 18 of the 48 planning applications (37.5%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 6.4 Following the pre-application discussions referred to in last year's report regarding a development on the banks of the Kelvin near Partick Cross, advance archaeological evaluation of the site revealed large in-filled ditches and substantial masonry remains of what appears to have been the medieval summer residence of the Bishops of Glasgow. Remains from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries survived below extensive industrial remains of the Victorian period. Subsequent work for Scottish Water on adjacent land revealed yet more of the pre-Reformation Bishop's residence and a later tower-house which was built on the site in the early seventeenth century. The remains were extensive and well-preserved, and featured in national and international media reports. The analysis of the remains found and the artefacts recovered from the associated features will provide details of medieval Glasgow that could only be discovered by archaeological means.
- 6.5 The Service engaged in pre-application discussions with archaeological consultants for the developer of a large area in the Gorbals and Laurieston, on the south side of Clyde close to the city centre. Although modern development has destroyed much of the old Gorbals, which was an unofficial suburb of the medieval burgh of Glasgow on the north bank of the Clyde, evaluation will establish if anything of note survives in small pockets within the general development area.

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Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 6.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 37 other items of casework, including 18 pre-application enquiries, 13 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 4 enquiries regarding statutory undertakings.
- 6.7 During the report period the manager of the Service represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to a consultation on the future management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.
- 6.8 The manager of the Service was cited as an expert witness for the Council and provided a precognition regarding upstanding remains of industrial archaeological and historical significance which were referred to in a personal injury case brought against the Council by a member of the public.

7 Advice to North Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 7.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 7.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 55 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 34 by the Archaeology Service and 21 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 22 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 7.3 The 55 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 55 applications, 45 (81.8%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	1	5	6
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	13	5	18
Archaeological watching brief condition required	4	2	6
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1	1	2
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	15	8	23
Totals	34	21	55

Altogether, 32 of the 55 planning applications (58.2%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 7.4 Pre-application discussion with the conservation architect for a project at Portencross Castle regarding the archaeological potential of its surroundings resulted in the owners agreeing to voluntarily commit to undertake archaeological fieldwork as part of the development preparation work. This allowed the results of the archaeological work to be assessed early and allowed a planning condition to be avoided.
- 7.5 After previous evaluation of a small site at Blackwaterfoot on Arran found surviving prehistoric remains, the whole development area was stripped of its topsoil and excavated to recover information about the site's past use and allow the development to proceed. The confirmed presence of the Bronze Age and early Neolithic timber houses across the site demonstrated a long period of occupation. Although invisible from ground level, the discovery and excavation of sites like this is important as it reveals more about the everyday lives of the prehistoric inhabitants of the island.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 7.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 28 other items of casework, including 11 pre-application enquiries, 11 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 1 enquiry from a statutory undertaker.

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8 Advice to Renfrewshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 8.1 There were no requests for assistance from the Council during the report period in respect of development plan advice.

Development Management Advice

- 8.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 41 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 27 by the Archaeology Service and 14 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 15 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 8.3 The 41 identified planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 41 applications, 39 (95.1%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended		1	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	3	1	5
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	10	2	12
Archaeological watching brief condition required	6	3	9
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	8	7	15
Totals	27	14	41

Altogether, 26 of the 41 planning (63.4%) applications identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 8.4 Refusal of the submitted planning application was recommended in respect of a 8.5ha solar farm renewable energy proposal near Lochwinnoch. While checking the weekly list of planning applications, the Service identified that the development as initially proposed would significantly affect the landscape setting of a nearby nationally important Scheduled Monument. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted application was recommended, although it was noted that the setting issue could be minimised or negated through sensitive re-design.
- 8.5 The continuing phased redevelopment of the former Royal Ordnance Factory in Bishopton meant that further archaeological fieldwork took place as set out in the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy agreed in the detailed discussions between the Service and the developers' archaeological contractor at the outset of this major project. Further elements of historic building recording were required, along with field evaluation of new road connections. The scope of the new phases of work was agreed more quickly as the details provided were in accord with the agreed strategy. Three further areas of the former factory were able to be "signed off" after recording had been completed satisfactorily, and the reports on the evaluation of three greenfield areas were assessed by the Service as identifying no significant remains worthy of further work.
- 8.6 A watching brief on a development at Gauze Street, Paisley revealed fragmentary sub-surface remains of a former nineteenth century building, and evidence that the

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site had been truncated to the level of geological subsoil and subsequently leveled up with modern deposits. The confirmation of the ground conditions on this site, and the observations regarding the presence and depth of modern made ground in the area will improve the information available in future decision-making.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 8.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 18 other items of casework, including 7 pre-application enquiries, 4 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 1 enquiry from a statutory undertaker.

9 Advice to South Ayrshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 9.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 9.2 Over the report period 50 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 72 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 24 by the Archaeology Service and 48 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 30 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 9.3 The 72 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 72 applications, 63 (87.5%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended	0	1	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	0	8	8
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	5	2	7
Archaeological watching brief condition required	5	1	6
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1	0	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	1	0	1
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	12	34	36
Totals	24	48	72

Altogether, 24 of the 72 planning applications (33.3%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 9.4 Refusal of the submitted planning application was recommended in respect of an 8 turbine wind proposal at Altercannoch which would significantly affect the landscape setting of a number of monuments of potential national importance, including some which form discrete groups within the local landscape. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted application was recommended.
- 9.5 The latest phase of archaeological work for Mactaggart & Mickel Ltd at Greenan, south of Ayr, commenced with discussions with the Service over the most appropriate and cost-effective means to mitigate any adverse archaeological effects in an area which has already proved to contain many important prehistoric remains from different periods. Because of the density of previous finds, it was agreed that further evaluation was unlikely to be cost-effective, and that instead the whole of the development footprint should be stripped of its topsoil under archaeological supervision, and that the expected archaeological remains exposed by this should then be identified, planned and excavated. Post excavation analysis has yet to be completed, but what appears to have been a large Bronze Age roundhouse was found in an area of intense activity. Of potentially greater significance, two or perhaps three other older round structures were also found, surrounded by many small pits and other features associated with Mesolithic stone tool technology. As Mesolithic people lived as travelling hunter-gatherers, the buildings or shelters they used in their

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temporary seasonal settlements were less substantial than those of later more settled populations. Remains of these early seasonal settlements have rarely been found and this site will be a valuable addition to the national distribution.

- 9.6 Evaluation of the site of the new Ayr Academy revealed more than 100 discrete pits, 36 postholes, 30 fire pits and 12 other associated features, along with three boundary ditches and cultivation remains and plough marks indicating that the area had been intensively used in the past, possibly from as early as Early Neolithic (c 4300 to 3800 BC), but more certainly from the Bronze Age (2200 to 800 BC) into later periods. The fire pits and associated features found all across the site were clear evidence for episodes of burning, but their function or purpose remains unclear. Similar fire pits have been identified across Scotland, and have been considered to be field ovens. Post-excavation analysis of samples from these pits may identify cereal grains or burnt bone that might suggest either a domestic or ceremonial use, or they may contain waste material relating to the manufacture of ceramics or stone tools. It has been difficult to ascribe an accurate date to any of the possible structures, pits and postholes, fire pits and linear features; however the post-excavation analysis of the finds encountered within the features as well as any carbonised remains from environmental samples should provide a suitable datable sequence.

Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 9.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 17 other items of casework, which included 8 pre-application enquiries, 4 enquiries from statutory undertakers, and 4 HER site information queries or public enquiries.

10 Advice to South Lanarkshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 10.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 10.2 Over the report period 52 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 154 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 72 by the Archaeology Service and 82 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 83 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 10.3 The 154 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 154 applications, 133 (86.4%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended	0	1	1
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	2	5	7
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	9	20	29
Archaeological watching brief condition required	18	10	28
Standings buildings survey condition	1	2	3
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	42	44	86
Totals	72	82	154

Altogether, 68 of the 154 planning applications (44.2%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 10.4 Refusal of the planning application was recommended in respect of a proposal for a new house within a Scheduled Monument at Cleghorn. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal was recommended, although it was noted that as Historic Environment Scotland were reported to be in the process of de-scheduling the application site, a re-application or delay in determination of the proposed application might mean that the proposals would not then conflict with policy.
- 10.5 The implementation of archaeological mitigation before quarrying operations at Cloburn Quarry near Lanark resulted in the complete excavation of a large Bronze Age kerb cairn which had been disturbed in the nineteenth century. Two stone burial cists and a cremation deposit with pottery fragments were found within the cairn, and another cremation deposit was found under the floor of one of the cists. The old ground surface was identified under the cairn, and at its outer edge, a rare Middle Bronze Age rapier was discovered. Only around 40 bronze dirks and rapiers have been recorded throughout Scotland, and this is the first known example found in Lanarkshire. While they are occasionally encountered in hoards, these objects are more often found in wet places such as peat bogs, so the discovery of an isolated specimen in close association with a burial monument of comparable date is very interesting. The initial assessment is that the rapier perhaps dates from around 1600 BC, and has affinities with known examples from Dumfries & Galloway and Ireland.

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- 10.6 The latest phase of archaeological work at the Clyde Wind Farm, near Crawford, commenced with discussions with the Service over the scope and cost-effectiveness of monitoring cabling works and wayleaves. Evaluation and watching brief work on sloping areas within the upland valleys revealed evidence of leveled prehistoric house platforms which had been cut into the slope, but which had subsequently been completely obscured by soil washed down the hill by natural processes in later centuries. These platforms, which are grouped in what are known as unenclosed platform settlements, are relatively common in the southern part of Scotland, but their numbers and distribution, and the effect that may have on estimates of population density in the landscape, will now have to be reassessed following the discovery that examples may be invisible at modern ground level.

Other Advice in the Council's Area

- 10.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 66 other items of casework, including 12 pre-application enquiries, 23 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 4 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

11 Advice to West Dunbartonshire Council

Development Plan Advice

- 11.1 There were no requests for advice from the Council in respect of the development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 11.2 Over the report period 51 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 23 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 16 by the Archaeology Service and 7 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 14 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 11.3 The 23 identified planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 23 applications, 21 (90.9%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Refusal of planning application recommended	1	0	1
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	3	2	5
Archaeological watching brief condition required	2	0	2
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required	1	0	1
Refer to Historic Scotland (scheduled monument or listed building)	2	0	2
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	7	5	12
Totals	16	7	23

Altogether, 11 of the 23 planning applications (47.8%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 11.4 Refusal of the submitted planning application was recommended in respect of a proposed stable block at Cleddans Farm, on the line of the Antonine Wall Roman Frontier World Heritage Site. While checking the weekly list of planning applications, the Service identified that the proposed building would sit within the nationally important Scheduled Monument boundary associated with the Roman frontier works. In accordance with national and local government policy, refusal of the submitted application was recommended. Following discussions with the planning officer, the developer, and Historic Environment Scotland, the application was withdrawn.
- 11.5 Archaeological evaluation and a watching brief at the site of new Council offices in Dumbarton revealed the extent of the modern made ground at the eastern end of the medieval burgh. The elevation of the natural deposits observed at the base of trenches confirmed that the strategically important medieval royal burgh was established on what was almost a tidal island between the mouth of the River Leven and the Clyde.
- 11.6 A watching brief during the creation of a micro-hydro scheme at Milton Brae near Dumbuck revealed hitherto unknown details of the water management features associated with the historically important Old Mill at Milton, a now ruinous eighteenth century cotton mill which was claimed to have Scotland's earliest powered looms and is one of the most important industrial archaeological sites in Dunbartonshire

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Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 11.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 13 other items of casework, including 5 pre-application enquiries, 7 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and an enquiry regarding the Council's upgrading of the enclosure surrounding an exposed section of the Antonine Wall Roman Frontier in Golden Hill Park, Duntocher.
- 11.8 During the report period the manager of the Service also represented the Council on the Antonine Wall Research Group and contributed to a consultation on the future management of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site.

12 Advice to West Lothian Council

Development Plan Advice

- 12.1 There was one request for assistance from the Council relating to the Local Development Plan during the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 12.2 Over the report period 52 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 128 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 40 by the Archaeology Service and 88 by Council staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 34 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 12.3 The 128 new planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 128 applications, 110 (86.0%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	5	5	10
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	7	12	19
Archaeological watching brief condition required	8	17	25
Standings buildings survey condition		1	1
Other condition e.g. archaeological mitigation strategy required		2	2
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	20	51	71
Totals	40	88	128

Altogether, 57 of the 128 planning applications (44.5%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 12.4 A watching brief during relatively minor development by the National Trust for Scotland to upgrade the visitors' car park at the House of the Binns revealed an earlier approach road to the house, and a substantial garden wall which appears to be associated with a "lost" seventeenth century Physic Garden established on the estate by Sir Thomas Dalrymple of The Binns, 1st Baronet.
- 12.5 Archaeological monitoring of service connections in the area of The Cross at the centre of the royal burgh of Linlithgow were the final stage of the development of the former Bus Station for supported housing. In the service trenches several deposits containing pottery dating from the fifteenth to sixteenth centuries and oyster shells and animal bone were found. Although they were heavily truncated by modern service pipe cuts, the angle of the deposits suggested that they were located within a possible cut feature, probably tipped into the feature from the western side. A Flemish-type floor tile was also found in what appeared to be a mixed midden deposit, but the layers identified might alternatively represent a deliberate attempt to raise local street levels using redeposited midden material. Unfortunately the limited nature of the investigation, within narrow service trenches, precluded any confirmed interpretation of the possible feature but established that significant deposits can survive below modern street and pavement surfaces.

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Other Advice within the Council's Area

- 12.6 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including Council staff, in respect of 28 other items of casework, including 16 pre-application enquiries, 4 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 1 enquiry from a statutory undertaker.

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13 Advice to the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

- 13.1 Archaeological advice is provided to the National Park Authority planning service under the terms of a chargeable Service Level Agreement covering the whole of the National Park area. In the year 2015-16 the National Park Authority paid £16,667 to the Service for archaeological planning advice, and other historic environment advice.

Development Plan Advice

- 13.2 There were no requests for advice and assistance from the Park Authority in respect of the local development plan over the report period.

Development Management Advice

- 13.3 Over the report period 52 weekly lists of planning applications from the Council were monitored by the Service and 65 new planning applications were identified as raising potential archaeological issues, 35 by the Archaeology Service and 30 by Park Authority staff. In addition further work was done in respect of 23 planning applications which had been submitted in previous years.
- 13.4 The 65 identified planning applications were assessed by the Service in terms of the policy and guidance contained in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 2/2011. Of the 65 applications, 55 (84.6%) were actioned within 21 days (our performance standard is 80%), with the results set out in the table below:

Potential issues first identified by:	WoSAS	Council	Total of cases
Archaeological assessment or evaluation prior to determination required	2	3	5
Negative suspensive condition requiring archaeological excavation	8	10	18
Archaeological watching brief condition required	4	2	6
Standings buildings survey condition	1	0	1
Avoidance/protection within or to side of development	1	0	1
No issue, no action possible, including no issue after further work	19	15	34
Totals	35	30	65

Altogether, 31 of the 65 planning applications (47.7%) identified for detailed assessment required some form of response to mitigate the effects of the proposals on archaeological remains.

- 13.5 A topographical survey was carried out in advance of the Bruach Caorainn Hydropower scheme and recorded the deserted settlement of the same name, to inform the route of the proposed hydro power pipeline and ensure that it avoided upstanding and visible remains of the settlement. During the survey, additional information about the character and purpose of some of the settlement buildings and the areas between them was recorded.
- 13.6 An archaeological survey, comprising a rapid desk-based assessment and walkover was conducted over a parcel of land at Schannochill, Stirlingshire. This programme of archaeological work was commissioned by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). Thirteen individual structures or features of archaeological or historical significance were recorded within the Design Plan boundary and included a ruined building and associated enclosure, two wells, a possible later medieval bank and field clearance cairns. This survey allowed recommendations to be made regarding the avoidance of the newly identified archaeological features when the forestry planting took place, thereby ensuring their preservation within the landscape. The success of this publicly

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funded FCS project may serve to draw attention to the contrast with private sector forestry applicants elsewhere in the WoSAS area, and their lack of uptake in the procedures set up to allow them to obtain the historic environment advice necessary to determine whether similar survey work should be undertaken.

Other Advice within the National Park Authority's Area

- 13.7 During the report period advice was provided to a variety of clients, including National Park Authority staff, in respect of 34 other items of casework including 5 pre-application enquiries, 14 forestry consultations, 8 HER site information queries or public enquiries, and 5 enquiries from statutory undertakers.

14 Information and Advice to Developers/Agents and to Statutory Undertakers

- 14.1 There were 118 requests for pre-application information and advice from developers or their agents, including 42 requests for Historic Environment Record digital extracts. In addition, advice was provided to archaeological contractors working for developers on 57 cases where planning permission had been granted in previous years. There were 35 requests for assistance in connection with Scottish Water, Scottish Water Solutions, Scottish Power, Scottish and Southern Electricity, and Transerve proposals. The fee-earned income from providing assistance to developers and their agents was £14,200. This substantial increase on previous years' totals can be attributed to the introduction of the Service's revised Access to Information and Charging Policy during the reporting period.

15 Agri-Environment Advice

- 15.1 As was reported last year, in the run-up to changes to national agri-environment schemes and their treatment of the historic environment, the national agencies for forestry and for the historic environment indicated that any charges levied by the Council archaeological services for providing information and advice with regard to should be recouped from the overall fees paid to the applicants and their agents by central government, rather than from separate grant-aid from Historic Scotland. In 2014-15 the Service received a transitional payment for the provision of advice on applications to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) up to the end of the 2014 calendar year.
- 15.2 From January 2015 onwards requests for information and advice have been received from the forestry agents and agricultural advisers, but despite further clarification and procedural guidance being published by the Forestry Commission Scotland, the Service's offers to supply information and advice in line with our approved Access to Information and Charging Policy have been consistently declined. Consequently, except in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park area where the National Park Authority has underwritten the costs of providing such a service, any such consultations have been treated as un-resourced work, and removed from our priority work-load lists.
- 15.3 When given the opportunity, and when other caseloads permit, the Service continues to respond to the Forestry Authority's Conservators requests for comments on new forestry proposals, felling licenses, and management plans when these are sent as part of the Forestry Authority's Local Authority consultation process. However, as this consultation role is not considered to be part of the core planning function of the Service, consultation responses are not prioritised within the workstream, and are limited to the provision of general advice and summary information, or to drawing attention to what appears to be incomplete or inadequate provision for the historic environment within the proposals where appropriate.

Appendix 1

Annual Performance Statistics 2015-16 (figures for the previous year in brackets for comparison)

Monitoring of Weekly lists of planning applications

The performance standard in the WoSAS Service Level Agreement for this area of work is for 90% to be monitored and actioned within 14 calendar days of receipt.

Performance	97.28%	(95.96%)
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Planning and Listed Building Consultations

The performance standard in the WoSAS Service Level Agreement for this area of work is for 80% to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.

Planning Applications

Argyll & Bute	85.53%	(81.64%)
East Ayrshire	88.89%	(83.33%)
East Renfrewshire	100.00%	(92.31%)
Glasgow City	87.50%	(84.62%)
North Ayrshire	81.82%	(88.00%)
Renfrewshire	95.12%	(90.91%)
South Ayrshire	87.50%	(87.04%)
South Lanarkshire	86.36%	(88.14%)
West Dunbartonshire	90.91%	(81.25%)
West Lothian	85.94%	(90.00%)
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs	84.62%	(92.59%)
Overall Planning Application Performance	87.07%	(86.19%)

Other Work Areas

The performance standard for this area of work is for 80% to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.

SRDP/Forestry Advice	84.21%	(77.01%)
Pre-Application Enquiries	87.07%	(88.55%)
Permitted Dev/Statutory Undertakings	84.38%	(92.31%)
Other Archaeological Consultations	85.71%	(100%)
General/SMR Enquiries	97.37%	(100%)
Overall Other Work Performance	87.32%	(87.54%)

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Appendix 2

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2016

2014/15 £		2015/16 £
	<u>Income</u>	
128,095	Contribution from participating authorities	128,095
26,425	Fees & Charges	30,867
797	Interest on balances	652
<u>155,317</u>	Total Income	<u>159,614</u>
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
	<u>Employee Costs</u>	
144,332	Salaries, NI & Superannuation & Employee Related Costs	147,632
	<u>Administration Costs</u>	
270	Fees & Subscriptions	140
3,256	Travel & Subsistence	3,764
4,458	Rents	6,700
2,900	Equipment Purchase & maintenance	2,900
212	Catering	117
2,402	Building repairs and security	0
14,655	Purchase of services (miscellaneous)	0
1,910	Audit Fee	1,910
<u>30,063</u>		<u>15,531</u>
<u>174,396</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>163,163</u>
(19,078)	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	(3,549)
122,640	Surplus Brought Forward	103,562
<u>103,562</u>	Accumulated Surplus	<u>100,013</u>

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