

## Torwood Broch

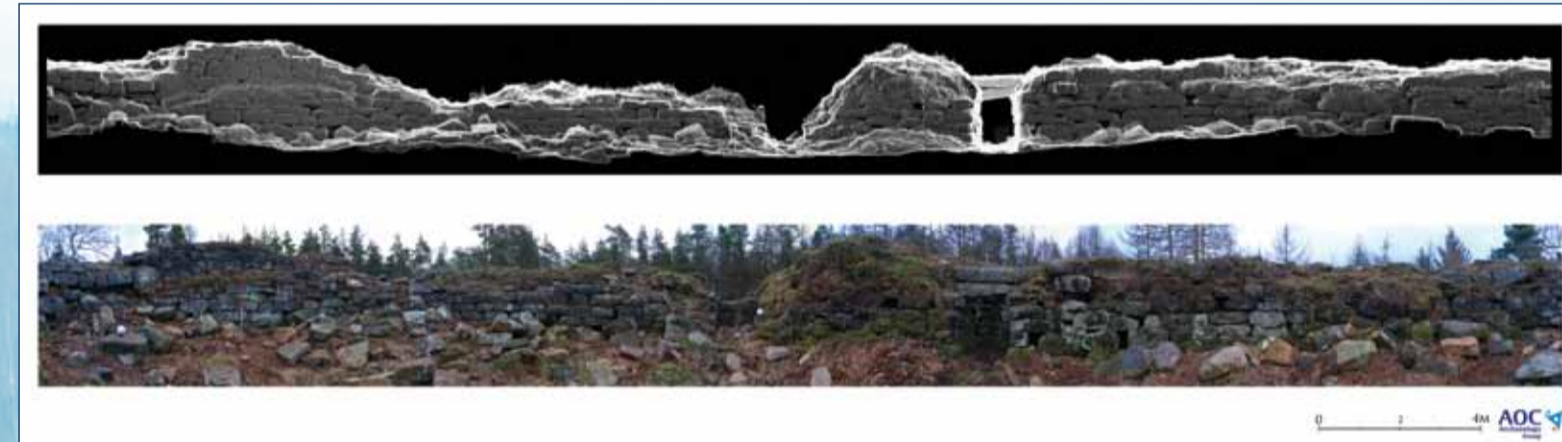
Brochs are a truly unique aspect of Scotland's rich prehistoric tapestry. These ruinous drystone towers were built in the later first millennium BC and into the first millennium AD and can be found throughout the Atlantic coast of Scotland, the Highlands and the Northern Isles. They display startling architectural complexity, rising high from solid footings by employing a series of weight-saving and load-bearing galleries, stairways and passages within their double-skinned walls. There are a small number of very unusual outliers in the Scottish lowlands and Borders. These outliers must have been constructed by specialists from the north working for a local tribal chief.

The broch at Torwood near Falkirk was recently the focus of a conservation project undertaken by Archaeology Scotland with grant aid from Forestry Commission Scotland. Under the guidance of Archaeology Scotland's *Adopt-a-Monument* team (and the Local Authority Archaeology Service), local volunteers cleared the broch of scrub vegetation and naturally regenerating trees. The exposed drystone masonry and surrounding earthworks were then subject to a detailed archaeological measured survey by laser scanner.

Significant historic environment assets such as Torwood Broch are of great local and national interest and importance. Working in partnership, landowners, community groups, conservation bodies and local and national government agencies can all help to share understanding, ensure protection and celebrate the value of Scotland's historic environment. Successful partnership working supports the delivery of *Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland*, helping to ensure that our heritage is passed on with pride to future generations.



The archaeological measured survey has created a detailed and comprehensive record, providing images that can be used in management planning (such as Forest Plans), condition monitoring and public interpretation. For example, the traditional archaeological plan includes conservation issues such as the routes of the various paths that cross the site – essential information that informs ongoing condition monitoring. Low altitude aerial photography by microcopter can provide even greater illustrative detail.



Laser scanning can be used to produce accurate and informative visualisations on plan, in section and as 3D models. The innovative interior elevation and illustrative photographic panorama both record architectural features such as the stonework, scarpement, recesses, lintels and entrance passage. The conservation project has also demonstrated the best-practice UK Forestry Standard *Forests and Historic Environment* guidelines in action.