



The Archaeological Landscape of Bute

George Geddes and Alex Hale



Bute's greatest prehistoric archaeological site was planned for the Bute estate as early as 1780. A more recent aerial photograph, shown on the front cover, captures the dramatic landscape and illustrates the attention to detail of the estate's surveyor, who captured much of the detail still visible today.



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Lying among the sea lochs of southern Argyll, near the centre of the ancient waterways that once connected Scotland to Ireland and beyond, the Isle of Bute is a treasure trove of thousands of years of archaeological remains. With earliest occupation by hunter gatherers estimated at around 9,000BC, the island's remarkable landscape features a wealth of monuments ranging from standing stones, chambered tombs and forts, to monasteries, castles and industrial cotton mills.

Drawing on the results of a groundbreaking survey carried out by RCAHMS with the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, authors Alex Hale and George Geddes take readers on a fascinating journey through the diverse layers of Bute's past. With detailed maps, plans and photographs providing the most comprehensive ever guide to the island's sites of interest, *The Archaeological Landscape of Bute* offers an unparalleled insight into one of Scotland's richest historical environments.



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