

Ian Macdonnell

By email: imacdonn@bigpond.net.au

Stephen Duncan
Director of Commercial & Tourism
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Direct Line: 0131 668 8781
Direct Fax: 0131 668 8888
Switchboard: 0131 668 8600
Stephen.duncan@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

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Dear Mr Macdonnell

Many thanks for your email of 7 November, in which you provide further comment regarding the identification, locations, and movements of royal funerary monuments within St Oran's chapel. As ever, this is most helpful, and contributes more to our understanding of this important and complex situation.

We are indeed keen to highlight Angus Og, in relation to his key importance to Bruce's success at Bannockburn, within the context of his burial on Iona at the MacDonald dynastic sepulchre. Unfortunately however, it now seems unlikely that we will be able to carry out the movement and return to St Oran's of slabs 150 and 191 in the near future. We are still committed to improving the display and interpretation of the West Highland Slabs in general across the site, but other competing priorities across our large national estate means that this process at Iona will be phased over a number of years. Nevertheless we will commit to installing a temporary sign adjacent to slab 150 by spring 2014, to allow visitors to be aware of Angus' importance.

We really are very grateful to you for your attached papers, especially those charting the movements of slabs within St Oran's; this is a unique and valuable piece of research which will be of considerable use to us when we do manage to complete our redisplay and signage of the interior of the royal chapel. We will continue to bear in mind your comments regarding the date of manufacture of slab 150, as you request.

Thank you for agreeing to meet with Peter Yeoman to discuss these matters further. I can confirm that Peter has reserved June 28 to meet with you in Edinburgh, as you suggest, and looks forward very much to meeting you. Your research on slab 161 is also of considerable interest and something which we can discuss further. In the meantime we will give some more thought to the wording of the acknowledgment to you for the identification of slab 150 with Angus Og, which we can agree before printing the new version of our Iona Abbey guide book. On that subject, Peter is now in the process of revising the text and we hope to reprint in 2014, so long as sufficient stock of the existing print run continues to sell well.

Yours sincerely,



STEPHEN DUNCAN