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# Culduthel

An Iron Age Craftworking Centre in North-East Scotland

Candy Hatherley and Ross Murray

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This volume is dedicated to the excavation team of Culduthel

# Culduthel

## An Iron Age Craftworking Centre in North-East Scotland

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Headland Archaeology Ltd

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Jacket images: (front) a selection of glass beads, metal offcuts and coins found at Culduthel; (back) cruciferous harness strap mount  
(photographs: Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd and National Museums Scotland);

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# SUMMARY

In 2005, Headland Archaeology excavated a site at Culduthel Farm on the southern outskirts of Inverness. What was initially a small-scale excavation of a palisaded enclosure turned into a major discovery when the works revealed a well-preserved craft production centre with large-scale roundhouses, multiple workshops containing iron smelting furnaces and glass and bronze-working hearths. The extensive artefactual assemblage contained a rich range of material including craftworking tools, working waste and finished items.

The site is highly significant for the study of the Scottish Iron Age and paints a detailed picture of the craft processes at play in the community, their contacts and networks for the procurement of raw materials and exchange of utilitarian and exotic objects. Archaeological analysis of the site informs wider research topics for the Iron Age in Scotland, illuminating the contact between Scotland and Rome in the early 1st Millennium AD and adding to our knowledge of how status was defined and displayed at this time.