

## Profile

---

With a 20 year track record of working to celebrate and develop Scotland's culture and heritage in a variety of positions, I am an enthusiastic, passionate and well organised individual with excellent communication skills. I possess valuable knowledge and expertise which, combined with my employment history in both public and third sector roles, puts in me in a unique position to quickly provide consultancy and advise on a range of subjects.

## Areas of Expertise

---

Gaelic Language and Culture	Traditional Arts
Gaelic & Scots Language Planning/ Policy	Genealogy
Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)	Scottish Indigeneity
Archaeology/Scottish History	Scottish Ethnology (MA Hons)

## Key Skills

---

- Minority language development, education and policy in the public and third sector
- Experience of project management and supervision of remote-working teams
- Experience in creating bespoke, practical Statutory Gaelic Language Plans
- Well-organised with exceptional attention to detail and a flexible approach to tasks/projects
- Experienced television presenter and researcher (Broadcasting CV available on request)
- Subtitling (Gaelic - English)

## Employment

---

Present: owner at [Comas Creative Consultancy](#) (website under development)

Self-employed in Gaelic development projects, television production/presenting, subtitling and translation 2002 - 2021.

Traditional Arts Officer, Creative Scotland, January 2019 –January 2021

- Supporting the Traditional Arts sector in Scotland.
- Networking and liaising with stakeholders and artists
- Advising on funding applications and participating in funding panels
- Managing budget for Traditional Arts
- Internal and external advocacy of traditional arts and indigenous practices.

Cultural Significance Advisor, Historic Environment Scotland. January 2016 - January 2019

- Working within the Cultural Resources Team to streamline and edit [Statements of Significance](#) of 365 visitor sites across Scotland for publication online
- Researching, writing and editing Statements
- Providing organisation-wide expertise on ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) and cultural values associated with the built heritage
- Working with the Visitor Interpretation team to help create meaningful accurate Gaelic content at major visitor attractions throughout Scotland, including Iona Abbey, Edinburgh Castle, Urquhart Castle and Arnol Blackhouse.

Gaelic Language and Policy Officer, Historic Scotland/Historic Environment Scotland, September 2011-January 2016

- Responsible for writing and implementing Historic Scotland's first Gaelic Language Plan across an organisation of 1200 people

- Liaising with senior management to ensure targets were met
- Working with the interpretation team to create accurate and meaningful Gaelic content at major visitor attractions across Scotland, including the major interpretation project at Iona Abbey in 2012/3
- Ensuring that Gaelic was present and visible during the transition to Historic Environment Scotland, and that the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act 2005 was implemented at all times
- Raising the profile and understanding of the importance of minority languages across the organisation.
- Managing relevant budgets
- Working with the Communications team to film and present the '[Gaelic for Outlanders](#)' series on Youtube and social media, gaining hundreds of thousands of views across all platforms
- Meeting all delivery targets for the Statutory Gaelic Language Plan.

#### Community Liaison Officer, Scotland's Rural Past Project, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), August 2010 – Sep. 2011

- Working as part of the Scotland's Rural Past community archaeology project
- Liaising with over 60 community archaeology groups across Scotland
- Maintaining and updating the project website
- Providing archaeology field training to groups
- Contributing to print and video publications as a legacy of the project, including video voice-overs and copy editing for publications.

#### Catalogue Coordinator, Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, University of the Highlands and Islands, July 2006 - July 2009

A groundbreaking Scots and Gaelic oral history project digitising and making available audio archive material (including School of Scottish Studies archive). My role involved recruiting, training and managing the work of over 20 cataloguers working from home all over Scotland. Liaising with archive owners and web developers to create a cataloguing database and keyword system which resulted in the website available at [www.tobarandualchais.co.uk](http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk).

### Education

---

1995 - 96	HNC in Gaeltachd and Economic Studies
1996 - 2000	MA (Hons) 1st Class in Scottish Ethnology, University of Edinburgh

### Boards

2013 – 2015	<a href="#">Comunn na Gàidhlig</a> : Board Director
2009 – 2010	Fèis Tìr an Eòrna chairperson
2006 - 2007	<a href="#">Comann nam Pàrant</a> Nàiseanta: Vice Chair
2004 – 2007	<a href="#">Comann nam Pàrant</a> Nàiseanta: Committee member
2001 - 2002	Fèis Tìr an Eòrna: Chairperson
2000 - 2007	Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath: member
2000 - 2005	Gleus (Uist Trad. Music & Gaelic Arts Assoc.): Board director

### Interests and other information

I enjoy playing the fiddle and singing, scouring shorelines for archaeology and flotsam, reading, and genealogy. My illustrious ancestors include Somerled, (1st Lord of the Isles), Sir James Wylie (physician to the Tsars) and Isobel Wylie Hutchison (Arctic Explorer, Botanist, Artist), which amuses me greatly. I have a full clean UK driving license and a British Passport. References available on request.