

# Dunure Field Trip South West District 9th October 2022

On the 9th of October fifteen brave (foolhardy?) RPS Scotland members converged on the tiny fishing village of Dunure just south of Ayr for the second South West district field trip of the year. I say brave because the weather that week had been pretty miserable and as we headed towards Sunday the forecast was getting progressively worse.

The day before we had a Zoom session where I gave a brief virtual tour of what to expect at Dunure, replete with photos taken on a bright sunny morning a few weeks before. We discussed the predicted wet and windy weather and contemplated cancelling the day. Given that we had already postponed an earlier planned trip due to Covid the consensus was that we plough on regardless. Only a couple decided not to travel. Those coming from a distance decided to get to the venue earlier than previously planned to make the most of what was to be drier weather in the morning. When I arrived at 1pm with Colin Houston and Tracy Ross everyone else was there to meet us having already bagged some photos.

With members coming from as far afield as Linlithgow (Michael Nesbitt), Dunoon (Rob Smith ARPS) and Dumfries (Jean Robson, Kirsten Bax & Margaret Elliot) it really did have the feel of a Scottish RPS meeting.

Although the weather was breezy it wasn't too cold and the rain stayed off for another hour so. We all quickly got into action exploring different aspects of the coastline north and south of the derelict castle. Anticipating the rain, we planned to meet for coffee and cake at the harbourside café at 2:30pm.

The main intention of the field trip was to try long exposures. As expected though, the high winds made it extremely difficult to achieve anything more than just a few seconds without camera shake ruining our attempts. Even with the most sturdy of tripods there is no hope of keeping the camera still in a raging gale. However, as all good photographers do, we adapted and made the most of the available conditions to make a good record of the day. Some focused in on details with their macro lenses while others tried some ICM to abstract the scenery to a blur.

As we huddled from the torrential rain in the café we had a good blether and discussed what we had been up to. With the weather now set foul for the rest of the day I decided to call an end to the field trip but sent everyone a task to come up with their top-tip for taking photos in poor conditions. I hope you find this selection of tips useful...

**Hazel Park** said “One thing I have learned is I will really need to get a more heavy-duty tripod if this is a genre I will pursue further. Plenty of camera shake in those strong winds”

**Michael Nesbitt** says “My Tip (which I only thought of halfway to Dunure) is related to the fact that many people recognise the benefit of using longer lenses with lens hoods in inclement weather. Many photographers use filter systems which mount on the front of the lens necessitating removal of the lens hood; why not take some screw in ND filters with you, then you can still use the hood. If you do not have screw in NDs then a polariser can also be used as an ND.

**David Irvine's** top tip for wet weather is “GUARD AGAINST FUNGUS - when you get home:

- Check all your cable and card access points are dry inside
- Dry Off outside access points in cameras plus lenses ( remember the telescopic part) with lint free cloth
- Place all your precious equipment on a table ensuring a reasonable room temperature and allow to dry
- Leave for a day
- Ensure your bag is dried out prior to using again
- Do not put your bag, camera or lenses in a cupboard - perfect conditions to encourage Fungus

**Kirsten Bax** says “My tip would be to make sure there is a good coffee shop nearby for a successful day out!”

**Jean Robson's** top tip is “consider using different shutter speeds and blending them if you can't get the land sharp, or to allow different wave effects in different parts of the image.”

**Margaret Rainey** says “If you can't “see” decent landscapes in bad weather, get in close to things and focus on details. And always appreciate the happy accident, like when you trip the shutter button without realising and you're on slow shutter speed, resulting in a





Dunure Castle - Rob Smith ARPS



Breaking Waves - Glyn Dodson

© Glyn Dodson



Rough & Smooth - Clive Waktins LRPS

**RPS Scotland Region committee member and Web Editor, Ken Ness, chose these images as his favourites from day. Thank you Ken!**

Ken chose **Dunure Castle by Rob Smith** as his top image saying that the castle and log in foreground - Strong and full of mood. I think Rob has captured the atmosphere of the day well and really a good representation of what is to be found there.

In second was **Clive Watkins's "Rough and Smooth"** a minimal image with little to distract. Colours are good, muted and yet show the transition from sea to sky. The soft waves are not overdone and the rocks themselves seem sharp.

In third we have **"Breaking Waves" by Glyn Dodson**. The violence of the sea and waves comes over well. Often these images lack context but the castle in the background gives scale and location. Glyn has done well to capture the wave at it's peak and hold the detail in the water drops for the viewer to admire.

**Michael Nesbit's** fourth place image **"Dunure Castle from Northern Rocks"** is not a violent as the other wave shot but gives an insight to the location of the castle and it's surroundings. The colour adds another dimension conveying the bleak drab day that it was yet showing the position of the castle in relationship to the coastline. The slow shutter helps to strengthen the power of these less violent waves.



Dunure Castle from Northern Rocks - Michael Nesbit

