



THE SUTHERLAND LONGHOUSE **PROJECT**

SILVER SMITHING WORKSHOP

On 3rd December 2019, we were fortunate enough to visit the purpose-built workshop of Silversmith, Peter Rowland. We were there to witness and record the preliminary stages involved in preparing to forge a silver spoon. For the most part, Peter used skills that would have been employed in pre-clearance times, and tools that have changed little in the intervening years. Working from scrap sterling silver, he demonstrated and explained each of the stages involved in producing a silver ingot, ready to be formed into a spoon.







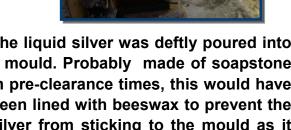
into manageable pieces.

cooled.

First, Peter built a fireclay Then came the process of Under an intense, focused pipe would have been used.

hearth to form a sheltered melting the metal down in a heat, Peter melted down the area for the crucible. He cut crucible. For heating small silver in just a few minutes up and squashed the silver amounts of silver, a blow to create a pool of strangely mesmerising, molten silver.







The liquid silver was deftly poured into In only minutes the metal had solidified a mould. Probably made of soapstone sufficiently to be extracted from the in pre-clearance times, this would have mould. Still too hot to touch, Peter been lined with beeswax to prevent the gripped the mould with pliers as he silver from sticking to the mould as it gently tapped it open to reveal the cylindrical silver ingot inside.