

#### Managing Scotland's Mines & Industrial Sites

##### Why are these features important?

Scotland has a long history of mining with records of coal been extracted and substantial stone buildings being quarried from medieval times. It was also at the forefront of the Industrial revolution and mines and associated factories tracing the development of Scotland's industrial history can be found, especially across central Scotland.

Remains of smaller scale quarrying, mining and lime kilns can be found in many areas of Scotland.

The significance of many of these has been recognised by the most significant of them being protected as sites of national importance either as Listed Buildings for standing structures or Scheduled Monuments for surface remains and excavations.

##### Why are they at risk?

Too often these features are viewed as unsightly and 'tidied up' to present a more 'natural' view of countryside. This may often involve the demolition of buildings and structures, the infilling of pits and quarries and the levelling of slag heaps. 'Restoration' (more often removal or



Quarry sites, mines and spoil heaps are all significant parts of Scotland's history. They are also important elements in shaping Scotland's varied landscapes.

demolition) of derelict industrial areas may well be desirable for reasons of health and safety or for creating new local amenities but it should not be automatically done. It should not be used to hide the work of our ancestors or to forget that land use changes and that areas now viewed as countryside were once areas of intensive industrial production.

##### What should I do to protect them?

Identify where areas of significant mining and industrial heritage survive, including the sites of old quarries, and assess whether these can be preserved by routine maintenance or by active management. This should form part of any future farm management plan and you may be able to access central government funding to carry out such work.



Old lime kilns are frequent survivals on a number of farms.

### GOOD PRACTICE

- Check to see if you have areas protected as Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments shown on [PASTMAP](#), Historic Scotland [website](#).
- Identify all areas of significant archaeology and mark them on your farm plan. Where there are sites known to you but not currently recorded on the sites and monuments record for your area or your farm conservation audit, make sure that their positions and extent are also included.
- Check industrial areas for their current stability and safety both to humans and stock. While health and safety concerns may be paramount, do not disturb former industrial areas unless this is absolutely necessary.
- Where there is a risk of harm, fence areas off. You may be able to fund this through the agri-environment programme.
- Avoid demolishing unsafe structures or using old mine shafts and quarries as areas for dumping rubbish or other farm waste unless you have already considered alternative options - such as consolidation or restoration.
- Where buildings have to be demolished or mineshafts and quarries filled in, make sure there is some record as to where these features were once placed. If possible, make a photographic record of surviving remains and supply a copy to your local historic environment record.
- If unsure of the significance of features surviving on your land consult your local authority archaeology service for advice.

Further information -see Historic Scotland guidance

[Managing change in the historic environment Engineering Structures](#)

and RCAHMS [Forts, Farms and Furnaces Archaeology in the Central Scotland Forest](#) [1998 £7.50]

for specialist interest on Industrial Archaeology see the [Association of Industrial Archaeology \(AIA\)](#)



These remains of miners' cottages abandoned and cleared in the early 20th century form part of our recent social history.



Mining sites may have a long history. This mine was first worked in the early 1700s and other minerals were worked back in prehistoric times.