HEDGES AND TREES

Description

Many veteran trees have historic value because they demonstrate past use of the land and its natural resources. The botanical and historic interests are not generally in conflict.

Some trees have local importance (eg trees used as gallows) as Cultural Sites because of historical associations, even if some of these may be spurious.

Hedges were inserted to enclose fields and are readily identifiable. There is little evidence for hedges in Scotland predating the 18th century, except as part of early designed landscapes associated with great houses. The evidence from prehistoric times is uncertain.

How to recognise them

Pollarded and coppiced woodlands are generally recognised from their extant physical form, quite different from normal tree growth.

Veteran trees forming an area of wood pasture can be recognised by their open canopy and sometimes by the stressed nature of the tree boll, usually resulting in a swollen base with suckering.

When looking at isolated veteran trees, question why they have survived in their particular position. There is usually a reason why they have been preserved and this should be addressed when examining these trees in the landscape.

Most advisers can recognise hedges but remember that untended hedges can grow into lines of trees. These, particularly former beech hedges, can superficially look like avenues. However the density of planting for hedges is much greater than for avenues and can be usually be distinguished, particularly as hedge trees are less uniform.
in size than avenue trees. Old estate and earlier OS maps may help to identify the site of former hedge lines and relict hedge species or mature trees may survive on these lines.

Value
Veteran trees are important not only intrinsically as botanical specimens but also because of the information they provide on the past utilisation of the land. Pollarding and coppicing demonstrate past woodland management. This may be important for maintaining botanical, biological and mycological diversity in modern woodlands.

Woodland pasture, coppiced woods, pollarded trees, hedges and veteran trees all supply diversity to landscape character. Local associations will enhance the landscape character of individual trees.

Hedges are an important part of the landscape character in areas such as the Lothians and the Borders where dykes were less commonly used and they may be of some antiquity.

Threats
Besides the obvious threat of felling, coppice woodlands, pollards and woodland pasture are all liable to suffer from lack of management. This will obscure the original form of the woodland and possibly lead to a different botanical structure within the woodland. The historic value of hedges is often forgotten when field boundaries are removed.

Enhancement
Positive management can enhance the landscape value of woodlands and hedges by maintaining or restoring their historic form. Consultation is necessary with the Forestry Commission Native Woodland Adviser, Conservators and both woodland specialists and archaeologists for the appropriate management regime to be followed.
These hollows carved into the rock outcrops are the remains of quarries. Quarries can have a severe impact on the landscape in the form of hollows, spoil heaps and tracks, but as they age they can give considerable character to a landscape. They may also be important as areas of other environmental interest. Recognising the site of a quarry may help explain variations in the local flora.

**HOLLOWS**

**Description**

In some areas archaeological features survive as partially filled-in hollows. This is because the features beneath have slumped into excavated pits as in mine shafts or because the ground around these features has been built up. The interior of both round and longhouses can often appear as dished hollows and it is only perspective that can make the form of the buildings stand out. The excavations for ditches, canals and ponds may often appear as hollows.

**How to recognise them**

Man-made hollows can be distinguished from natural phenomena such as kettle-holes or swallow-holes by their location and often by their regularity of form. This is particularly true for buildings both round and rectangular. Indeed for buildings with low walls such as the two shown on p16, it is the hollow rather than the wall that defines the building. Low-light, water and drifting snow can all make hollows more visible.

**Importance**

Quarries and mine shafts may be the only indicators of a former industrial landscape and the source of raw materials for features like dykes and roads. They help explain how the land has been managed in the past.

This site now largely under forestry was once the site of Wilsontown Ironworks. The pits amongst the trees were used to mine ironstone. The planting of trees has seriously affected the visual impact of this site, obscuring this historic landscape.

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**Threats**

Trees may be planted over quarries and other hollows obscuring them as landscape features. Quarries and other hollows may be tidied-up or filled in. While this is acceptable on safety grounds, quarries should also be considered as strong landscape features giving character and variation to the landscape.

**Enhancement**

Clearance of vegetation cover and of surface dumping can increase the value of hollows as historic landscape features. Fencing may be necessary in some cases where erosion or dumping pressures are too great. However, this should be avoided wherever possible as it is unsightly and difficult to manage in most situations.
INDUSTRIAL FEATURES

Description
Many areas that are now part of the countryside were once centres of industrial development. The features surviving can vary from bloomery mounds dating to the prehistoric and medieval period to industrial iron, steel and coal complexes abandoned in the last and present century. The impact of these developments may have caused dramatic changes to the land and the landscape, not just from buildings and machinery. Quarries, mines, waste heaps, canals and trackways all have an effect on the landscape.

How to recognise them
For major industries operating from the late 18th century onwards the 1st edition OS survey maps are often a useful source of information, as even industries abandoned by the time of these maps were more visible than they are now, over 100 years later.

Before the age of steam most industries were located near streams and rivers where they could take advantage of water power to drive the machinery. Therefore mill dams and lades should always be looked out for near waterways.

Early iron workings were located near bog iron sources and a reliable timber supply. The remains of these workings, known as bloomery mounds, are found all over the highland areas in places such as Rannoch Moor. They may also be found in suitable areas in lowland areas, for example in Galloway.

Slag heaps, tailings and quarry waste are all indicators of industrial development, even if the buildings have long vanished.

Value
These sites have value because they contain information
on the technological development of Scotland. They are also part of the history of the countryside and explain how the landscape and people’s use of it is never static. Bloomery mounds, for example, show how the woodlands were being utilised at early periods.

Many industrial sites have altered the topography of their immediate area by means of quarries, buildings, waste heaps, trackways or canals. By understanding the industrial developments, a much clearer idea is gained of why the land is shaped as it is. This is allied to other disciplines, for example many areas of botanical interest, including SSSIs, are located on former industrial workings because of the unusual mineral compositions of the soil.

Perceptions that such sites are ‘ugly’ or ‘unnatural’ can lead to a sanitisation of the countryside, creating a false picture of the reality of life in the past. The preservation of such sites gives a more accurate picture of Scotland’s historical development, explaining how the past influences the present.

**Threats**

Industrial sites are often unstable or even dangerous and may have to be demolished to protect the public and livestock. Perceptions of the countryside as a tourist brochure or bucolic paradise conflict with the recognition of industrial sites as historically important; so, they are often ignored or treated as of lesser interest, allowing inappropriate development of these sites. Deliberate “rehabilitation” of such sites by well-meaning agencies can be equally destructive.

**Enhancement**

Because industrial sites take so many forms, there are a variety of ways that they can be enhanced. Scrub can be cleared off buildings and structures such as lime kilns and trackways cleared to allow better access to sites. Remedial work to buildings is probably beyond the scope of agri-environment schemes but rubbish can be removed and dangerous areas fenced off. Check with your local archaeology service as to what is appropriate for each site.

Management of masonry structures such as pit shafts is difficult as there are rarely funds to repair or even stabilise the masonry. However modern rubbish can be cleared away to make sites more visible. Many sites are potentially dangerous to the public and stock and may require remedial work. For safety reasons it may be necessary to put fencing around these structures and mine shafts to restrict public access and to allow the monument to decay gradually. Any such action must be carried out sensitively causing the minimum impact to the monument and to the landscape.

Many bings formed from mining waste have been removed as ‘eyesores’ but they can also be recognised as significant elements in the landscape. These bings at West Calder, West Lothian, are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments because of their importance to the history of the oil shale industry and the contribution they make to the landscape history of this area.

Even features such as this cast iron fence post can be of interest. It helps mark the route of a 120 year old railway line in Strathspey, now forming part of the Speyside Way. The introduction of wire fences from the 1830s revolutionised the division and management of the Scottish countryside.
MOUNDS

Description
While not a discrete category of monuments, man-made or modified natural mounds are a distinctive feature of the countryside. They can take many forms from prehistoric burial mounds to medieval mottes or industrial waste tips. Some mounds are formed from collapsed structures such as broch towers or lime kilns.
The difference between cairns and mounds is slight, as cairns may be obscured by vegetation and earthen mounds covered by dumps of stone.

How to recognise them
Mounds are distinctive features of the countryside and any rounded mound should be examined to see if it has been man-made or is a natural mound that may have been modified in some way. It is not always possible to distinguish natural, especially glacial mounds, from those that are man-made.

Distinguishing features are the shape of the mound (natural mounds are rarely regular), the material of which the mound is made (is there stone tumble or masonry?) and the location (glacial mounds generally occur in groups whereas created mounds are mostly sited in prominent isolated positions).

Sometimes old map evidence or local tradition will identify specific mounds (such as Gallows Hill or Old Castle), though generally these should already been identified in Sites and Monuments Records.

Remember that natural mounds were often chosen as places to insert burials and may be sites of cultural significance in the landscape, even if there are no visible archaeological remains.

Value
This mound at Cantraywood, Strath Nairn, was built as the base for a medieval timber castle. Such sites are sometimes termed mottes because they were surrounded by a defensive ditch or moat. This site has been badly affected by gorse scrub and rabbit burrowing. Though the rabbits have now been partially controlled, poaching and erosion by stock is continuing to cause erosion.

This mound at Kensaleyre, Skye is thought to be a bronze age burial cairn. Bracken is beginning to encroach onto this monument and timely treatment would prevent it becoming established.

This mound near Halkirk marks the site of a broch.
The value of individual mounds will depend on the monument recorded on the site; the larger mounds tend to be high status sites such as burial cairns or castles of great archaeological significance. Smaller mounds can also be important either because of the rarity or age of the monument they preserve within their structure. They are also important as landscape features having a strong visual impact, since they were often deliberately sited to be visible landscape markers. They are therefore important in defining landscape character.

**Threats**

Rabbits and other burrowing animals can cause severe damage to mounds. Feeding stations, poaching by stock and inappropriate vehicle routes will also cause damage. Fencing across mounds tends to focus stock as they walk parallel against the fence line. Trees, scrub and bracken can obscure and potentially encourage root damage to mounds. Mounds are sometimes used as dumps, silage pits or quarries by farmers.

**Enhancement**

*Burrowing animals can be removed, trees, scrub and bracken cut down or sprayed, and feeding stations and stock access stopped. Poaching, vehicle rutting and erosion scars can be repaired. Fencing bisecting mounds can be rerouted and low-intensity grazing introduced to suppress scrub.*

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The low mound in the centre of this picture marks the remains of a prehistoric roundhouse, obscured by a strainer post. In addition to damage caused by fencing, stock have created a track over the building by following the fence line.
ROADS AND TRACKS

Description

Included in this category are paths, trackways, railways and their embankments and cuttings. They are all landscape features that allow or formerly allowed access through the countryside. They can vary from rough tracks only suitable for foot or pack ponies to substantial constructions such as the Roman or 18th century Military Roads or the major earthworks necessary to build canals and railways in the 19th century.

How to recognise them

Tracks are visible as cuttings in the landscape and may still be used or long abandoned. Older tracks are often a favoured area for tree regeneration because the exposed track once abandoned allows a good bed for seedlings to germinate and grow.

In upland areas old tracks often show as more verdant areas because the ground has been disturbed. Military roads, railways and canals have generally been recorded and added to OS maps. Earlier maps may record routes that are no longer used. New stretches of all these features can still be found.

Value

Certain routes such as military roads and most canals are important enough to be protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments of national importance. Individual features such as culverts, bridges, and viaducts may be important or rare survivals. They may not yet have individual protection as Listed Buildings. Tracks are important as indicators of settlement and industry, showing how the land was managed in the past.

The modern A68 follows a route used by the Romans who may have dug some of the pits above the road for metalling. The route was almost certainly in use long before the Romans. Other routes in Scotland may be much older. Once established, routes can continue in use indefinitely.

A track can be faintly made out snaking up this hill in Strathconon. It was probably built to quarry stone from the rock face on the left which was then used to build the dyke beside the 19th-century road.

Old bridges such as this one at Loch Cluanie can help identify former routes. They can be significant monuments in their own right with statutory protection as listed buildings. They also give significant character to the rural landscape.
Tracks have value as strong landscape features and can be developed as appropriate access routes for modern visitors. Local footpath and access groups are often keen to maintain or develop routes through the countryside. The use of old routes should be encouraged to maintain continuity in the landscape.

**Threats**
When neglected, tracks can become overgrown or blocked with rubbish. Important features such as bridges may be robbed out or allowed to decay. Erosion can wash-out large sections of old tracks, if unchecked. Tracks can be destroyed by unsuitable traffic or destroyed in ignorance.

**Enhancement**
Scrub can be removed from tracks and erosion scars patched. Drainage channels may be appropriate to direct water off tracks. Timely maintenance work on bridges and other masonry structures may prevent more serious decay.
STANDING MONUMENTS

Description

Certain landscape features such as gravestones, standing stones, stone circles, obelisks, memorials and follies (though these may potentially be part of Designed Landscapes and are often significant Cultural Features) do not easily fit into the other categories described here. They have therefore been given a category of their own.

How to recognise them

Most standing monuments will stand out as obvious features in the landscape, though some such as stone rows will be slighter features, obscured by vegetation. New monuments, including stone circles, are discovered every year.

Value

Most standing monuments are significant features in the landscape, erected in their present position because this was a prominent place in the landscape. They are also often significant archaeological monuments, such as stone circles or standing stones.

The importance of many of these monuments has been recognised by their being given Listed Building or Scheduled Ancient Monument protection.

Threats

Standing monuments are vulnerable to erosion causing the monument to fall over. Cattle may use standing monuments as rubbing stones which can also cause damage. Sometimes the monuments stand in the middle of fields and are either removed or not given an appropriate buffer during cultivation. Fencing erected around a standing monument may be decayed, visually unattractive or causing damage.
to suspected archaeological deposits adjoining the monument. Weathering may be a problem with sculpted stones.

**Enhancement**

Where a standing monument is surrounded by arable cultivation, providing an appropriate buffer zone is often the most reliable management that can be offered. Erosion damage can be repaired, scrub cleared and a specific grazing regime offered in areas where standing monuments are becoming less visible features in the landscape. Removal of scrub and trees to provide original vistas for archaeological sites is also important (see the Forestry Commission Forests and Archaeology Guidelines for examples of this.)

Unstable monuments can be re-erected or, if made of mortared stone, repointed. However, any action must be taken with care as archaeological deposits and information could be destroyed. The care of monuments not protected as Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments should be discussed with your archaeological adviser.

Fencing off of standing monuments may protect them from vehicle and animal damage but may also lead to a monument being obscured by rank vegetation. Any cutting or grazing to reduce vegetation must be done with care.

A specialist adviser has been funded by Historic Scotland to help protect Carved Stones. (Contact CSA for further details.)

The original Hilton of Cadboll stone was removed some years ago into a protected environment in the NMRS in Edinburgh. This was a severe loss to the local landscape and a replica has now been reproduced to replace the original. Other options include the protective dome erected over the nearby Shandwick Stone. Both options were expensive but demonstrate the significance these monuments have for local landscapes and communities.

The remains of standing buildings such as here at St Antony’s Chapel in Holyrood Park are strong landscape features, often with significant local cultural importance.

Gravestones and other memorials are important cultural markers and often enigmatic.
STRUCTURES

Description

This category refers to sites occupied before the agricultural improvements of the 18th and 19th centuries produced the more familiar individual farm layouts and buildings that survive today. (The distinction between the two categories is fairly arbitrary and only reflects the unroofed and often slight extent of surviving remains.) Structures are usually part of more extensive areas of settlement and should always be examined in relation to their local context.

In most cases the walls survive as low stone footings though more substantial drystone walling can also be found. Many areas of former settlement survive in the countryside, especially in the uplands where agricultural improvement has been more restricted. Patterns of settlement have changed according to climatic, economic or political circumstance and substantial groups of structures may be sited in areas no longer considered viable for settlement.

As might be expected the majority of surviving remains were abandoned in recent centuries. But considerable numbers of structures survive from the prehistoric period up to c 1,800 BC. A few structures survive from even earlier periods.

Prehistoric settlements usually contain circular or oval buildings known as roundhouses or hut circles. There is a wide variety of types from single buildings similar to modern crofts to clusters of buildings forming villages or even small towns when associated with major tribal forts. Many of these settlements are linked with field systems in the form of clearance cairns and low dykes as have been mapped at the head of this page.

Around 700 AD there was a marked change in building form from oval/round buildings to the rectangular form more familiar to-day. (The reasons for this are not known, but may be linked to a new tradition brought in by both Saxon and Norse invaders.) While there are rectangular structures

heather moorland to the north of the settlement shown on p19. The longhouse structure at the top left may be later in date than the other structures but the same management is appropriate for all these structures.

The bank formed around the wall of this roundhouse is fairly obvious. It lies 10m from the obscured feature shown on the middle of p10.

Around major buildings, such as here at Edinhall broch, other smaller structures have been built. It is always worth checking near visible buildings to see if other structures can be found nearby.
known from earlier periods, a round building is almost always prehistoric in date. Rectangular buildings take many forms and distinct styles are sometimes recognised.

Upland areas may contain both temporary summer settlements, known as shielings, and sites occupied for specific purposes, such as mining townships.

**How to recognise them**

The footings for old buildings are often slight, many standing no more than 0.2 m above ground, because the stone walls above have collapsed or because the walls were made of turf which was later removed to use as fuel.

In long vegetation it is often difficult to spot these foundations; but where the grazing pressure is heavier, these footings should be visible as rectangular or circular forms. Variations in vegetation can sometimes accentuate these sites. The dimensions vary considerably from huts 2 m in diameter to longhouses 20 m or more long.

Different sizes reflect different requirements and cannot always be used to date sites. While these different sizes and layouts may reflect different periods and functions, in terms of management it is more important to identify structures, their related settlements and their management problems than to try to date them. As many sites were used over hundreds of years, such interpretation will depend on detailed survey and selective excavation.

Many structures are associated with their own field systems which either consist of a series of dykes and enclosures or by clearance heaps cast up at the edge or even in the middle of fields. Though areas of enriched vegetation may indicate former settlement, this cannot be relied on to help identify settlement areas. Large areas of former settlement are covered by heather moorland, bracken or scrub. It is important to examine such areas before vegetation is at its peak in mid-summer. Aerial photographs can sometimes be used to identify these sites as they give a greater perspective or can enhance the visibility of these features by low light or drifting snow.

Structures and other settlement remains can be predicted near field systems whether of prehistoric clearance cairns, dyked fields or cultivation rigs and terraces. Variations in the topography and old maps may also help trace former structures.

Until the 18th century many houses were built of turf on stone footings, such as this one at Aberscross near Rogart. For the majority of these buildings only the footings survive, because the turf has crumbled away or been reused elsewhere. This should not blind surveyors to the fact that substantial structures are known to have been built on these slight foundations. A more varied vegetation and a distinct dished hollow in a regular form, such as that shown on page 47, are often indications of former buildings and settlements.

The reconstructed turf-walled township at Newtonmore Folk Park shows the size of some of these structures. A single longhouse might have required nearly an acre of turf for the walls and as a base material under the thatch.

Drystone-walled rectangular buildings, are a common form of longhouse. They tend mostly to be 18th century or later in date (though there are turf and stone longhouses dating from 5000 years ago still standing in Shetland!). Notice the stylistic differences between these buildings in the foreground and the later building in the background, particularly the lack of gable walls.
SEASONAL or TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

In upland and other remote areas structures used for seasonal settlement can sometimes be recognised. The most common of these, known as shielings, were used to support summer grazings. These were used to graze stock in medieval and post-medieval times (they may have also been used in earlier times, but no upstanding remains are known before this). Because they were only used for short periods in the summer they can be found at levels and in areas not suitable for permanent settlement. They may also be found reusing prehistoric roundhouse sites abandoned because of climatic deterioration or economic changes – the Cheviots, for example saw large scale sheep farming in the medieval period under the direction of the Border monasteries.

Shieling sites were sometimes converted to permanent settlements and this could happen even in periods of climatic deterioration such as the Little Ice Age in the 17th/18th centuries. This is related to economic and population pressures not evident from the visible archaeological remains.

Shieling sites are usually distinguished from permanent settlements because of their remote location, the slightness of the buildings (rarely more than 4 m long) and the lack of associated field systems. Circular shielings are mostly restricted to the Western Isles and rectangular structures are therefore mostly commonly found in mainland areas. The majority were abandoned (or lay in areas cleared for sheep) by the end of the 18th century, though a few continued in use until the middle of the 19th century or even later in the Western Isles.

Shieling sites often still stand out in the landscape because the enrichment of the soil by dunging from both stock and humans has created a more varied vegetation.

Other temporary or seasonal settlements include industrial sites, hunting camps and military training areas. Many of these leave little surface trace and are often discovered by chance rather than systematic survey. Stray finds of flint, charcoal, pottery and metal slag may all mark structures not otherwise visible.
**Value**

Structures are important landscape features giving character and complexity to the landscape. Such sites are also important indicators for the former use of the land. Besides their value as archaeological sites, they also can contain significant information on the environmental history of their specific areas. Many sites have a long history of settlement with remains of different periods of use contained in the same area, either as visible remains or buried beneath the later buildings. These sites are valuable for demonstrating the complexity of past settlement, an aspect not always so evident on the truncated sites in the more heavily cultivated areas.

Scotland contains significant numbers of prehistoric settlements because they survive on marginal land in the uplands and they are rare in most of lowland Britain and Europe. They remain an important part of the landscape history, showing how areas no longer cultivated were once sites of permanent settlement and may be used as indicators of climate change.

**Threats**

As structures occur in a wide range of situations, they can be damaged by a number of activities. These include burrowing animals, stock erosion and poaching, vehicle damage, scrub, tree and bracken encroachment, dumping of masterials, quarrying and the cutting of tracks.

**Enhancement**

Having identified the specific threats to individual sites, a number of management options can be followed. Appropriate management should cover the whole of a settlement, where possible, and it is preferable to bring all of a settlement into positive management rather than part of it. Where this is not feasible then the areas under most threat should be targeted.
WATER FEATURES

Description

Before the introduction of steam power, water was the motive power for most industrial activity in Scotland. As water sources are generally sited in rural areas, many of the early industrial sites were located in what is now seen as rural countryside.

Many farms used to have their own mills to drive farm machinery. The water from mill ponds was also used to drive machinery for other rural industries such as cotton or bobbin mills. These ponds often survive where the mill itself has now disappeared. The mill lades or leats running from these dams to the mill can also survive, though sometimes underground culverts were used to carry the water.

Canals were an early feature of the Industrial Revolution, often abandoned in favour of the faster motive power of the railways.

How to recognise them

Many mill ponds and leats are now overgrown and difficult to spot. However a large area of flat marsh upstream of a farm steadings, a dam across a burn or stream and a stone-lined channel running from such a burn or stream may all mark a former mill pond. Earlier OS map editions may mark a mill pond as an open stretch of water. Place-names, such as Allt a’Mhuilinn and Milton, can often help identify the locations of such sites.

Mill ponds can be distinguished from curling and flax-retting ponds by their location and the presence of a lade to direct water to the mill.
Value
Mill ponds are important as indicators as to how the land was formerly used. By themselves they are less important archaeologically and may have greater value as wildlife refuges. They should be retained because of they show how the land was managed in the past.
Curling and flax-retting ponds are also worth preserving as landscape features.

Threats
Ponds can be used as dumping grounds for agricultural waste, deliberately filled in or drained to increase the extent of productive land.

Trees growing alongside lades and canals can cause considerable damage to banks and stones. Rabbits and other burrowing animals may also erode these features.

Enhancement
Recognising that ponds have considerable nature conservation value, most amelioration work should be restricted to removing rubbish and perhaps selective removal of scrub to make the shape of the pond or other feature a more visible feature in the landscape. Clearance of ponds for nature conservation reasons should avoid damaging sluices and dams.

Identification of these features as being of archaeological and historic landscape importance means that they are less likely to be damaged in the future.
7 WORKING FROM FEATURES TO LANDSCAPES

It will be clear from studying this booklet that archaeological features combine to form historic landscapes. While it is possible to manage them as individual features, their value both intrinsically and in landscape terms is related to their wider setting. The feature types listed previously are merely the components of these landscapes. It is not the purpose of this booklet to distinguish the different forms of archaeological and historic landscapes. The example described below shows the detailed information that can be read from one particular landscape. While a significant historic landscape, similar complex historical landscapes survive in many areas of Scotland. They deserve greater recognition and protection.
Bailiehill An Historic Landscape

Eastern Dumfriess-shire has been surveyed in detail by officers of the RCAHMS and the photograph above shows one particular part of this area, at Bailiehill on the Blackwater. The survey has shown how this landscape is dominated by a fort, one of a series built in this area some 2500 years ago. This fort, though long abandoned, continues to be the key element in the local landscape. It is, however, just one of several archaeological elements that contribute to the local topography. Without the associated cultivation terraces and rigs, the mill site, the trackway and the abandoned later farm settlements, the visual landscape would be less interesting and any understanding of the history of this landscape would be much reduced.

The RCAHMS plan of the area (opposite) shows a series of archaeological features extending from the central fort to the sequence of medieval and later cultivation terraces and rigs in use after the fort was abandoned. A series of later farmsteads and the site of a mill show the intensive use that was made of this land in more recent times. Now only the holding at Bailiehill itself is occupied and the other sites have been abandoned. Forestry plantations to the north and south show an alternative modern use for the land. However, extending this further would be at the expense of the rich history and diversity of human settlement in this area.
Melting snow highlights the topography of this landscape showing how the different archaeological features combine to give a historic landscape of considerable character and importance.

A detailed survey was also carried out by staff from the RCAHMS of the fort in the centre of this landscape. This was done without excavation. By carefully recording the surface remains on the ground and other features only visible from the air above, it has been possible to build up a picture of the settlement history in this area. While the precise dates and details of this occupation would require confirmation from archaeological excavation, parallels from other excavated sites suggest the earliest fort was built somewhere between 500-300 BC. The smaller more heavily defended fort was built later, probably in response to the Roman invasions early in the first centuries AD. The house sites built over the ramparts point to a time of peace, perhaps an enforced peace administered by Roman soldiers. The number of circular building platforms suggests that a large number of people were living in this fort, however it must be remembered that what survives is a sequence of buildings relating to several hundred, if not a thousand years of occupation. Equally, more intensive cultivation has removed any banks or hollows on the eastern side of the larger enclosure and there may well originally have been other buildings and other structures within this area.
Points to remember

1. Any particular landscape is likely to consist of features from a variety of periods.
2. Preservation may vary between similar features on the same farm.
3. Natural topography, hydrology and habitats will have influenced where features were placed in the past. These may not be evident now.
4. People in the past were not more stupid than people today. They would usually have good reasons for doing what they did even if it is not apparent to us.
5. Archaeological features can often explain variations in landscape form and habitat.
6. It is easy enough to destroy an archaeological site; they cannot be replaced.
7. Archaeological features may well have value beyond their own intrinsic or academic interest.

FURTHER READING

There are few good books on identifying archaeological features and historic landscapes. A recent publication well worth studying is:

Wickham-Jones C R 2001 *The Landscapes of Scotland* Edinburgh (Tempus Press)

The following selection of surveys by RCAHMS includes the best exemplars of how field survey evidence can be combined with documentary material to produce a more holistic understanding of the importance of landscape history in shaping the countryside. Several of them are now out of print but you should be able to source them in or through your local library.

‘Well Sheltered and Watered’ Menstrie Glen, a farming landscape near Stirling 2001
A fascinating account combining archaeological and documentary evidence of the conversion of a landscape in the Ochils ‘improved’ in the mid 18th century and fossilised by later sheep farming.

Mar Lodge Estate An Archaeological Survey 1995
A medieval deer forest gradually settled in the 17th and 18th centuries with farms before being cleared again for deer in the 19th century.

Forts, Farms and Furnaces Archaeology in the Central Scotland Forest 1998
A good overview of archaeology in Central Scotland, particularly useful for demonstrating the value of earlier OS maps and the complex, changing history of industrial exploitation in this area.

Eastern Dumfriess-shire 1997
A detailed study of one part of southern Scotland, particularly useful for showing how archaeologists build up evidence from a variety of features and sites to reconstruct the history of settlement.

Waternish Skye and Lochalsh District, Highland Region 1993
A survey of a crofting area in north west Skye recording the relict landscape and showing how earlier landscapes can survive below the most visible layer.

North East Perth An archaeological landscape 1990
An upland landscape on the edge of the highlands showing a remarkable extent of prehistoric and later settlement. It illustrates how many sites remain to be recorded in many areas of Scotland.

SOUTH EAST PERTH An archaeological landscape 1994
A lowland landscape showing how aerial photographs and survey work on the fringe of cultivated areas can still record a complex archaeological history.

The RCAHMS Broadsheet series is also worth looking at for a summary of specific areas.
1 Muirkirk,Ayrshire: an industrial landscape
2 Achiltibuie The Archaeology of a Crofting Landscape
3 Canna The Survey of a Hebridean Landscape
4 Holyrood, Park The Archaeology of a Royal Park
8 WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION AND ADVICE

GENERAL INFORMATION
Scotland’s Rural Past website has excellent advice on searching through documentary and other sources for information on settlement as well as guidance on recording monuments for others to access.
www.scotlandsruralpast.org.uk

MAP SOURCES
Early Maps
Increasing recognition is being given to Timothy Pont who mapped Scotland at the end of the 16th century. His records formed the basis of the Blaeu Maps of Scotland, published in 1654. Surviving manuscript maps of his survey have been published but are only occasionally useful in naming and confirming the medieval origin of some sites. They can be accessed at the map library website above. Later maps of Scotland such as Dorret’s Survey of 1750, and a variety of County Maps such as the Survey of Midlothian in 1786 (see page 18) can also be useful in recording the extent and location of settlements in earlier times. The Map Library is the best source for these maps and has online versions of most of its maps at www.nls.uk. It will supply copies at a very reasonable price.

Local reference libraries and archive services may also hold copies of these maps.

The Military Survey of Scotland
The Military Survey of Scotland was carried out after the 1745 rebellion under the direction of General Roy and is sometimes known as Roy’s map. It was never published and the original draft and a version known as The Fair Copy are held by the British Museum. The setting up of this survey team led directly to the founding of the Ordnance Survey. The Military Survey was drawn up at a scale of 1:21,560 and the delineation of sites, settlements and woodlands is therefore often schematic. However, it can be a useful source for demonstrating the pattern of early 18th-century settlement. The RCAHMS have a paper copy of the Protracted Copy from which the simplified Fair Copy was derived. It can be viewed online at the Map Library.

Estate Maps
Scottish Record Office, HM Register House
Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YY
Tel: 0131 535 1314
www.nas.gov.uk/the_collections.htm

The majority of 18th and 19th century maps predating the 1st OS edition maps are stored in the Scottish Record Office and can be examined by the public. Duplicates of these maps can usually be obtained, depending on ownership. Additional estate maps may be stored in local authority archives or still remain with the estates for which they were drawn up.

1st and 2nd Edition OS Maps
The Map Library, National Library of Scotland, 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SL
Tel: 0131 226 4531
www.nls.uk/maps

The Map Library of the NLS has the only comprehensive coverage of earlier and modern OS maps in Scotland. Many of these can be viewed online. It is strongly recommended that anyone studying the countryside looks at these maps first to study how the landscape has changed over the last century. Paper copies can be supplied.

The British Cartographic Society web site www.cartographic.org.uk lists over 40 institutions including universities, local archives, reference and public libraries across Scotland that hold early OS maps of their local area. It is likely that most parts of Scotland have access to a local source of these maps. Several of these institutions also hold early estate maps and aerial photographs of their locality.

DOCUMENTARY SOURCES
There is a wide range of sources to help date and identify monuments seen in the field or locate ones not identified. There is a certain amount of serendipity as to which books are looked at and what may be held in your local reference library. It is important to be critical of any source. Just because a site is recorded in a book does not necessarily mean it either does exist or has previously existed. The majority of new sites not recorded on earlier OS maps or from aerial photographs are likely to be found in woodlands or upland ground. The following have proved useful to the writer in the past.

Parish Histories
These can be very variable but where of good quality, such as Dixon’s History of Gairloch or Greenhalgh’s Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, can be a vital source. Your local librarian should be able to tell you how reliable particular sources are.

Statistical Accounts
The 1st and 2nd Statistical Accounts of Scotland provide a good summary of the condition of every parish in Scotland c 1790 and c 1840. Coverage is variable depending on the interest of the reporter, usually the local minister. In many areas the period covers the changes between the open field system which was replaced by the enclosed field system with which we are now familiar. Copies are available in all reference libraries and can also be read via the website at www.edina.ac.uk.

Deer Forests
Large areas of Scotland have been used as deer forests both in the medieval period and up to the present day. The boundaries of these features have changed as forests were created or removed. These are important in excluding areas from settlement, fossilising remains of a certain period and preserving certain habitats, especially woodland (nb the names deer forest and foresters for the people who managed them refer to the hunting preserve and it is only in later times that the word ‘forest’ became transferred to woodland areas). Gilbert MM 1986 Hunting and Hunting Preserves in Scotland describes many, but not all, of the early deer forests in Scotland. Boundaries of many of these can still be traced. Grimble 1907 Deer Forests in Scotland This is a useful summary of the deer forests extant in Scotland (mostly in the Highlands) at the beginning of the 20th century, though it is not totally comprehensive. Others were created after this date and boundaries have changed since then but it does record the great expansion of deer forests after the failure of sheep farming in the mid 19th century.

Sheep Farms
The introduction of the cheviot and black faced sheep to the Scottish uplands from the late 18th century is seen as one of the most dramatic factors of change in the Scottish landscape. While undoubtedly causing severe dislocation in many areas, particularly the enforced abandonment of many communities in the highlands, it should also be remembered that sheep were a major factor in the Border economy from the establishment of the great medieval monasteries in the 12th century. Also sheep and goats formed part of the stock of animals that grazed the hills as part of the summer shieling system that only died out in the 19th century (cf Bil A 1994 The Shieling). It is difficult to date settlements that were cleared for sheep before the early 19th century. The first national census records of 1841 and 1851 (stored on microfilm in most reference libraries) will usually have information as to whether a particular settlement was still in use at these times and the occupation of the people living there. For the Highlands & Islands, the Royal Commissions on Crofting in 1883 and on Deer Forests in 1892 sometimes have eye-witness accounts as to when individual settlements were cleared.
OS Namebooks
The OS in their first survey noted down details on the places they recorded and sometimes these Namebooks include the location of archaeological discoveries found before the survey and details on the construction of individual houses. The originals are in the NMR but most archives/reference libraries now have copies available on microfilm.

Woodland Areas
Woodland areas are difficult to survey and unless there is good photographic or cartographic evidence before an area was planted they can be difficult areas in which to identify features. An excellent example of the type of evidence available in mixed old wood and plantation is The Sunart Oakwoods A Report on their History and Archaeology, 2001 compiled by the Sunart Oakwoods Research Group (contact www.john.dye@virgin.net for further details). This shows the benefit of incorporating documentary evidence with field survey - this study includes primary research of estate records. See also www.nwdg.org.uk for a series of articles on woodland history.

The identification of Wood Pasture is increasingly recognised as a model habitat for a variety of habitats, as well as forming an interesting landscape in its own right. The recent publication Ancient Wood Pasture in Scotland by Peter Quelch is highly recommended. Copies can be downloaded from the website www.forestry.gov.uk. The www.woodlandtrust.org.uk also has copies of this and information on Veteran Trees.

Estate records
The majority of estate records are held in the Scottish Record Office. Study of these may require specialist skills and some early records are in scripts difficult to read, but they can be useful for explaining the dates of building construction and materials used. They are particularly useful in documenting and dating change.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS
Aerial photographs can be a vital source of information on the location of archaeological features and historic landscapes. This will be clear from looking at the photographs in this publication. The main national collection is held in the RCAHMS (address below) and includes all government aerial views taken since the war. In addition they include Luftwaffe photographs taken during the war and the RCAHMS own series of photos. The latter has primarily been directed to collecting seasonal cropmark photographs but also includes photographs of low-light and snow-enhanced sites.

Copies of their collections can be studied by arrangement and a number of other photos are available in their main library. Copies of RAF 1:10,000 prints are now held by many SMRs (see below) as well as several SNH Area offices and though the prints are often poor and at variable scales, they can still be useful. Digital enlargement can make the features more obvious, though for copyright reasons this is not always possible.

Additional sets of aerial photographs have been taken in several areas, notably Aberdeenshire, Angus and the Scottish Borders.

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDS
Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) on archaeological and historic sites in all Local Authority Council areas are held in the services listed in the next column. Use the links to gain access to their records. This may include information additional to that offered in the CANMORE & PASTMAP databases, available at www.rcahms.gov.uk

All databases have to be used with care. Individual sites may not have been visited for a number of years and new data may not have been accessioned. However considerable resources are being devoted to improving the current situation. CANMORE remains the primary source of on-line data on Scottish sites and can now be accessed through http://www.pastmap.org.uk a map-based interface.

PASTMAP offers online data on the extent of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings and Designed Landscapes and direct access to some, but not all, local SMRs online.

The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk offers a linked and expanding service of archaeological datasets across the UK. ADS also has a tutorial section designed for higher and further education students to learn how archaeological information is accessed and processed. The PATOIS (Publications and Archives in Teaching: Online Information Services) tutorial of 4 sections lasts for c45 minutes and is available at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/patois/module1/index.html. This is a useful introduction to the use and limitations of archaeological datasets.

Aberdeen City
Keeper, Archaeology, Aberdeen City Council 01224 523 658 www.aberdeen.gov.uk/localhistory/nc_loc/local_archaeological_unit.asp

Aberdeenshire, Angus, Moray
Aberdeenshire Angus Archaeology Service 01224 664 723 www.aberdeen.gov.uk/archaeology

Argyll & Bute, City of Glasgow, East Ayshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, North Ayshire, Renfrewshire, South Ayshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire
West of Scotland Archaeology Service 0141 287 8332-3 www.wosas.net

Clackmannan, Stirling
Archaeologist, Stirling Council 01786 442 752 www.stirling.gov.uk/index/services/planning/archaeology/sitesmonuments.htm

Dumfries & Galloway

Dundee, East Renfrewshire & North Lanarkshire
Rathmell Archaeology 01294 542 849 www.rathmell-arch.co.uk/CouncilServices.htm

East Lothian & Midlothian
Heritage Officer, East Lothian Council 01620 827 158 www.archaeology@eastlothian.gov.uk

City of Edinburgh
Archaeologist, City of Edinburgh Council 0131 558 1040 www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/Leisure/Museums_and_galleries/Services/CEC_archaeological_service

Falkirk
Archaeologist, Falkirk Council 01324 503 783 www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/community/cultural_services/museums/archaeology.aspx

Fife
Fife Archaeology Service 08451 555 555 ext 473 748 www.fife.gov.uk/atoz/index.cfm?fuseaction=service.display&objectid=99FD88CB-5BB8-46E0-BBD01451F1DF4AD4

Highland
Highland Council Archaeology Unit 01463 702 250 www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology/
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J Wordsworth 2005 (revised 2009)