

Cross compliance and archaeological sites under GAEC

Why do I need to do this?

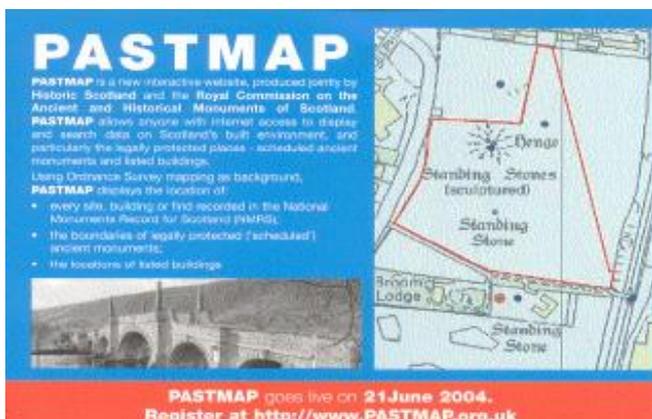
Under the Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAEC) [7 Retention of Landscape Features](#) all farmers in receipt of the CAP Pillar 1 Basic Farm Payment (BFP) must protect Scheduled Monuments and other landscape features. Your payments are at risk if this protection condition is not observed.

How can I find out if any of these sites are on my land?

For information on the location and extent of statutorily protected sites such as Scheduled Monuments you can check online on the Historic Environment Scotland [website](#).

Do I need to protect other archaeological sites on my land?

Not always, but protecting archaeological sites is good farming practice and we would advise you to mark these on your Farm Environment Maps and Audits, necessary for entering the [Agri-Environment Climate Scheme](#). This is also best practice under the [UK Forestry Standard](#). You can find out what historic environment features are on your land by checking the national database online at www.pastmap.org.uk.



The Pastmap site has detailed information on all protected sites in Scotland. This includes maps outlining the extent of the legally protected area.



Scheduled Monuments have special protection because they have been formally recognised as sites of national importance

- see **Archaeology Scotland Advice Note 3.**

What must I do to protect designated sites on my land?

Because each site is different, it is not possible to provide generic advice, but other Archaeology Scotland Advice Notes may help you identify what might be required. [Historic Scotland](#) (HS) and SGRPID will work together to monitor compliance. HS has a team of Field Officers and Managers to advise owners on their responsibilities towards protecting these sites. You should therefore consult them directly if you have any doubts about what specific actions are required to maintain Scheduled Monuments in good condition.

What about other landscape features?

Under [GAEC 7 Retention of Landscape Features](#), you must also not 'remove or destroy drystone or flagstone dykes, turf and stone-faced banks, walls, hedges, ponds, watercourses or trees (in line, in a group or isolated) without the prior written consent of the Scottish Ministers and / or other statutory bodies.' Remember that these stone dykes, turf and stone-faced banks, walls, hedges and hedgerow trees, boundary trees and watercourses all contribute to the character and quality of the modern farming landscape and may also be important survivals telling the past history and former use of your land.

Much of Scotland's archaeological heritage lies in rural areas. This sheet is one of a series giving advice on some of the ways these important remains can be protected during normal rural land management.

GOOD PRACTICE

- Consult [SEWeb](#) or [Historic Scotland](#) to identify sites that you must protect as part of your GAEC cross compliance conditions. If you do not have your own online access you can consult this information at your local authority archaeology service, your local library or SGRPID Area office.
- Check the Archaeology Scotland and Historic Scotland websites for further details on what is required when managing these sites.
- Consider commissioning an archaeological audit.
- Archaeological survey funding may be supported for forestry proposals.
- You should consult Historic Scotland where Scheduled Monuments require management.
- Consult your local authority planning department if unsure of your responsibilities towards any listed buildings in your care.
- Consult your local authority archaeologist if you have concerns about specific non-scheduled archaeological sites on your land.
- Maintain historic boundary features such as stone dykes, turf and stone-faced banks, walls, hedges and hedgerow trees, boundary trees and watercourses. These are all important in maintaining the look of the countryside and should only be altered after discussion with HS, SGRPID, SNH or other relevant authorities.

Contact details [Historic Scotland Heritage Management Team](#)
[Cross Compliance regulations](#)

For further information see other Archaeology Scotland pages in this section



This farm steading is now designated as a **listed building** because of its architectural importance. Alterations to its form and structure require consent from your local planning authority.

- see **Archaeology Scotland Advice Note 4**.



Gardens and Designed Landscapes are distinctive planned areas of countryside and management may require specific consideration.

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