

Getting Information on archaeological sites

Why is this necessary?

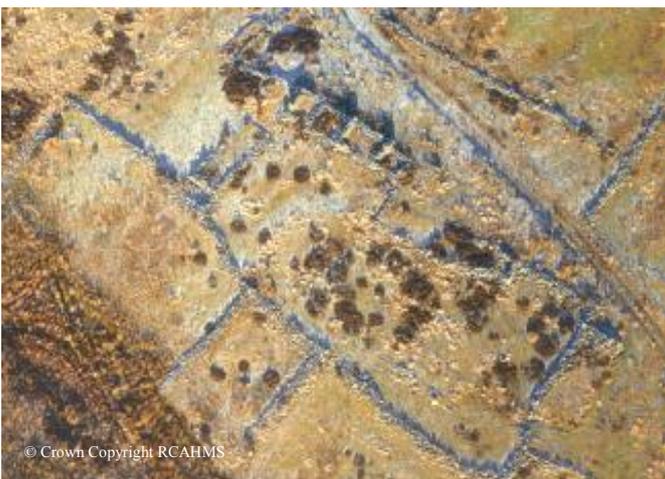
Some 90% of recorded historic and archaeological sites in Scotland are found in farmland. However those working the land as owners, tenants or contracted labour may not always know where these sites are located nor how best to protect them.

How can I find out more about sites on my land?

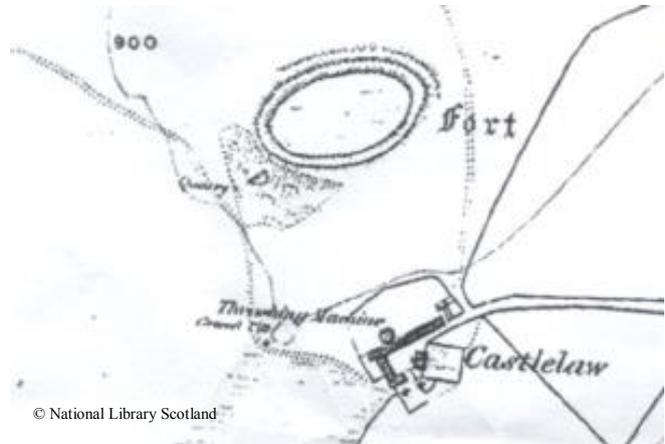
For information on the location and extent of statutorily protected sites such as Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, you can look at the national archaeological database online at www.pastmap.org.uk or at [Historic Scotland](http://HistoricScotland.gov.uk).

Most local authorities in Scotland have their own archaeological databases known as Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) or HERs (Historic Environment Records). The information in these records includes data from aerial photographs, old maps and antiquarian accounts that are not easily accessed. Online access to information held on most SMRs & HERS is available online.

About a quarter of Scotland's farmers already know what sites they have on their land because



Archaeological audits will bring together information from a variety of sources like aerial photographs, to identify sites obscured by vegetation or changing land use.



Archaeological audits identify surviving remains of the past. This can include sites with which you may not be familiar, such as remains identified from old maps.

they have had archaeological audits carried out as part of an agri-environment scheme.

Desk-based **archaeological audits** help farmers and other land managers identify where known sites are to be found, their know extent and what work might be appropriate to protect them in the future. They will check existing records and locate them directly to your farm boundaries. Getting an audit done will allow more focused information to be given, in a report directly linked to management choices.

How can I get an archaeological audit done of sites on my land?

Archaeological audits are no longer funded under the SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) but there may be funding available for getting archaeological information as part of the scoping of applications for forestry schemes. Contact your local SEARS (Scottish Environment and Rural Services) office or FCS (Forestry Commission Scotland) [Conservancy Office](http://ConservancyOffice.gov.uk) for further information.

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 online access you can consult this information at your local library or your SGRPID Area office.
- Examine your local Historic Environment Record service to identify sites that are not statutorily protected. Use the link below for contact details, including online access where available.
- Commission an **archaeological audit**. This will help identify sites for a [Farm Environmental Assessment](#)
- When asking for an audit, supply your [local authority archaeologist](#) with a map that includes your farm boundaries and is referenced to the national grid, at a scale of 1:10,000 or larger.
- Use the audit to identify where sites are located on your farm and identify those sites with specific management needs that require action if they are to be properly protected.
- Make sure that everyone working on your land is aware of the position of known archaeological sites and the actions required to protect them.
- Consult your local authority archaeologist if you have concern about particular archaeological sites on your land. A photograph of known sites can help the archaeologists identify specific problems.
- You should consult [Historic Scotland](#) where Scheduled Monuments require management and your local planning authority for works connected with Listed Buildings.

Contact your local [SEARS](#) office for further information
Details on [Local Authority Archaeology Services](#)



Audits may identify sites, like this 4,000 year old burial mound that are not immediately obvious but are archaeologically significant - see **Archaeology Scotland Identification Guides** for help in recognising sites.



Archaeological audits will identify where sites are located. They will not necessarily identify the appropriate management for every site - see **Archaeology Scotland Advice Notes 10-32** for generic advice

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