

Protecting Archaeological Sites under Scottish Government Rural Funding

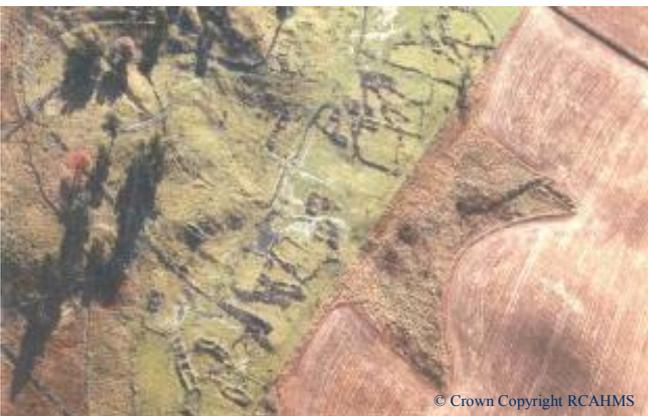
What are the current requirements

Previous Scottish Government (SG) requirements for Less Favoured Area Subsidy Scheme (LFASS) and agri-environment payments included the following General Environmental Conditions (GEC)

· [participants] **must avoid damaging or destroying any features or areas of historic or archaeological interest and follow Scottish Ministers' guidance for the protection of such features or areas.**

These are consistent with SG Policy towards the historic environment as set out in [SHEP](#) and the [Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland](#). Archaeology Scotland would argue that best rural practice is followed by conforming to this advice as previously agreed.

Current scheme rules for both CAP Pillar 1 & SRDP Pillar 2 payments from the Rural Directorate only require land managers to protect Scheduled Monuments. (SMs) The [Agri-environment Climate Measure](#) does allow management of SMs as a secondary outcome and the [Farm Environment Map](#) example does specifically mark an archaeological site.



Less Favoured Areas have often been less intensively cultivated leading to better survival for upstanding archaeological and historic features, like this 18th century village in North East Perthshire.



Lower levels of arable cultivations in LFASS areas mean that archaeological features found here are likely to be more prominent in the landscape.

In addition, any funding for forestry proposals requires compliance with the [UK Forestry Standard](#), including identification and assessment of all archaeological & historic features.

Why is this important?

All archaeological and historic sites should be protected under Scottish Government funding as this is consistent with SG policy.

How do I identify archaeological & historic sites?

You can get basic information on the web at www.pastmap.org.uk, however it is recommended that you commission an archaeological audit. You should mark the location and extent of all archaeological sites on a [Farm Environment Plan](#) and list them on your [Farm Environmental Audit](#).

See **Archaeology Scotland Advice Note 2 (Archaeological Information)** for further details.

How should I protect these sites?

Previous Scottish Government guidance on maintaining archaeological sites in Good Environmental Condition is listed overleaf. Limited support for management of sites may be available through the SRDP. For further help see other Archaeology Scotland Advice Notes.

Previous Scottish Government Guidance for agri-environment schemes should be followed as best practice for protecting and managing archaeological & historic sites in rural areas.

- Maintain existing grass or heather cover. When re-seeding avoid ploughing or other soil disturbance.
- Maintain grazing, but avoid erosion. Feeding sites must not be located on ancient monument areas. Do not plant trees or encourage regeneration within 20 metres of an ancient monument and avoid panbusting and subsoiling. Where an ancient monument is isolated within an arable field, do not plough it. Leave an unploughed buffer zone of 5 metres around it.
- Do not carry out new drainage on or near an ancient monument. Take great care to avoid new disturbance when maintaining existing drains.
- Where rabbit control is carried out, avoid ground disturbance.
- Do not permit peat cutting, quarrying, dumping or storing of any material to occur on the site of an ancient monument.
- Do not erect fences or other structures or create access tracks within 10 metres of an ancient monument. Avoid the use of wheeled or tracked vehicles on or near ancient monuments.
- Do not allow the use of metal detectors on ancient monuments and sites or remove any archaeological finds. Report any archaeological finds to the [Treasure Trove Secretariat](#)), your local authority archaeologist or local museum. Any new archaeological feature or site should be reported to your local authority archaeologist.

For further details see [local authority archaeology services](#)



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Upland and marginal areas in Scotland, often LFASS areas, can contain a significant range of monuments of many different periods, as here at Rottal in Angus. This example includes clearance cairns and roundhouses of prehistoric date and dykes and rectangular house footings that may date to the 17th and 18th centuries.

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