



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

Forests & historic environment information and advice



A summary of what forest and woodland managers should consider in relation to the historic environment, providing links to all the sources of information that they should be aware of and how, if required, advice can be obtained from a suitable qualified archaeological professional.



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Obtaining information and advice in regard to the historic environment to inform protection and conservation measures in Scotland's forests and woodlands is important.

Following the *UKFS Forests and Historic Environment* guidelines, historic environment features and sites of special cultural significance should be identified and appropriate measures taken to protect them. Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence (particularly in advance of a new woodland creation). Issues raised during this process should be considered and evidenced within a forest management plan.

Identifying opportunities to promote access, conservation management and presentation of significant historic environment assets within a forest management plan is also important.

Woodlands containing or adjoining notable historic environment or archaeological features may attract large numbers of visitors. Enhancing or maintaining public access, undertaking conservation management initiatives and considering the presentation of significant features should be included within forest planning and considered a key element of attracting public grants.

The broch of Torwood near Falkirk, recorded by low altitude vertical aerial photography and on plan.



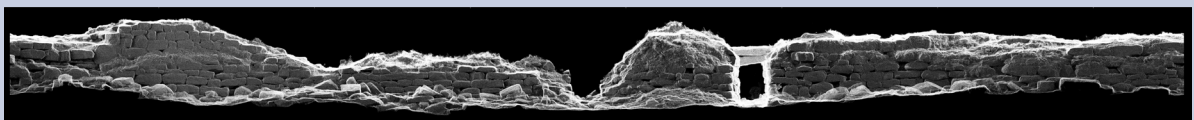
Torwood case study

The Iron Age broch at Torwood near Falkirk was recently the focus of a conservation project undertaken by Archaeology Scotland with grant aid from Forestry Commission Scotland. Under the guidance of Archaeology Scotland's *Adopt-a-Monument* team and the Local Authority Archaeology Service, local volunteers cleared the broch of scrub vegetation and naturally regenerating trees. The exposed drystone masonry and surrounding earthworks were then subject to a detailed archaeological measured survey by laser scanner.

Working in partnership, landowners, community groups, conservation bodies and local and national government agencies can all help to share understanding, ensure protection and celebrate the value of Scotland's historic environment. Successful partnership working supports the delivery of *Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland*, helping to ensure that our heritage is passed on with pride to future generations.

Laser scanning can be used to produce accurate and informative visualisations on plan, in section and as 3D models. The innovative interior elevation and illustrative photographic panorama both record architectural features such as the stonework, scarcement, recesses, lintels and entrance passage. The conservation project demonstrated the best-practice UKFS *Forests and Historic Environment* guidelines in action.

Volunteers with Archaeology Scotland's *Adopt-a-Monument* team in action.



Standard, Guidelines, Policy and Strategy

UK Forestry Standard and Guidelines

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK. It was launched together with a suite of Guidelines in late 2011. The historic environment is a UKFS Requirement, highlighting both protection and conservation.

The seven guidelines focus on the legal requirements and summary descriptions of good forestry practice to achieve the required outcome of sustainable forest management. One of the particular strengths of the guidelines is that they cross-reference with each other, reflecting the contemporary view that although each subject is relatively distinct there is an essential inter-relationship between them.



UKFS Guidelines: Forests and historic environment

The UKFS *Forests and Historic Environment* guidelines replace the *Forests & Archaeology* guidance note published in 1995. The guidelines describe the various **legal requirements** and the key **good forestry practice requirements**. These requirements aim to ensure that the protection and management of the historic environment is considered within forest management plans and operational plans. A wider suite of **guidelines** provide clarity and definition: [1–3] emphasise historic landscape character and historic designed landscapes (which also cross reference the UKFS *Forest and Landscape* guidelines 8–10); [4–9] highlight the importance of archaeological surveys and advice from the Local Authority Archaeology Service; [10–14] describe general forest planning guidelines in relation to protecting the historic environment; [15–19] suggest general historic environment conservation management (and also cross reference both the UKFS *General Forestry Practice and Biodiversity* guidelines); [20–27] describe general forestry operational guidelines; and [28–30] provide suggestions for heritage access and presentation.



The provision of archaeological information and advice in Scotland to meet the UKFS

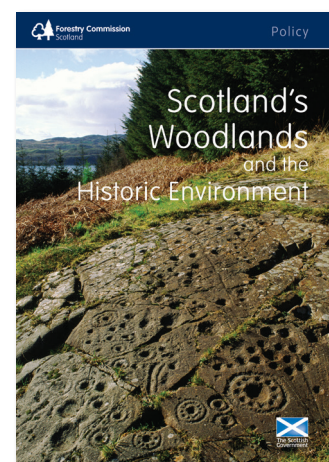
This guidance has been prepared for the benefit of all parties engaged in the preparation and approval of woodland expansion and management schemes, specifically woodland managers and their agents, local authority archaeology services and their representatives, Forest Enterprise Scotland Planning and Environment teams and Forestry Commission Scotland personnel responsible for the regulation of forestry activities. The purpose of the Forestry Commission Scotland Guidance Note is to articulate the agreed roles, responsibilities and requirements of all parties through the stages of developing forestry proposals to ensure the effective protection and conservation of the historic environment. In particular, it outlines the role of the Local Authority Archaeology Services and identifies their need (in some cases) to charge for pre-application consultation.



Scotland's Woodlands and the Historic Environment

This policy statement is intended for all those with an interest in Scotland's trees, woodlands and forests and their contribution towards the protecting and conserving the historic environment. The document aims to:

- communicate the forestry sector's shared understanding of how forests and woodlands contribute towards Scotland's historic environment;
- promote the appreciation of the history of Scotland's forests and woodlands, and their contribution towards our cultural heritage;
- confirm how the forestry sector will endeavour to deliver the required outcomes of Scottish Ministers' strategic policies for the historic environment; and
- outline what practical measures the forestry sector can take to ensure that all our activities enhance the stewardship of the historic environment.



Scottish Forestry Strategy

The Scottish Forestry Strategy (SFS) is the Scottish Government's framework for forestry through the first half of this century and beyond. One of the key outcomes of the SFS is for forestry to contribute towards the development of a high quality, robust and adaptable environment, helping to make the most of our unique historic environment. A key objective is to **protect and promote the historic environment and cultural heritage**, aiming to "manage the historic environment sensitively; value the cultural history and meaning of forests, woodlands, trees and the historic environment; and recognise the tourism potential of the historic environment."



Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland

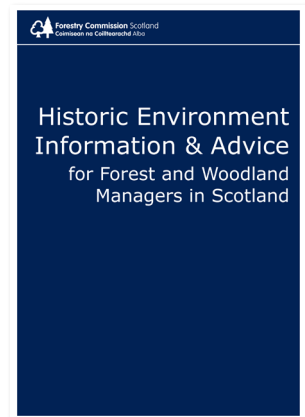
Scotland's first ever collaborative Historic Environment Strategy was published in 2014. It describes a set of overarching principles and strategic objectives, all designed to help achieve a shared vision to 'better understand, protect and value our historic environment now and for future generations.' The key outcome of the Strategy is to ensure that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of Scotland's heritage makes a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people. One of the main strategic priorities is to encourage the adoption of the shared vision within wider policy and operational frameworks, as delivering the Strategy will require a range of bodies, groups and individuals with an interest in the historic environment to work together.



Information, advice and practical examples

Historic environment information & advice for forest and woodland managers in Scotland

This describes the resources available to forest and woodland managers relating to the historic environment of Scotland. It has been designed as a route map to the most pertinent available information and advice.



Forests and historic environment training course

This on-line training course promotes best practice in the identification, protection and conservation management of the historic environment to be found within and around Scotland's forests and woodlands. The course has been developed especially for woodland managers to help them develop their forest management plans with respect to the *UKFS Forests and Historic Environment guidelines*. The training course comprises six videos, based on the original presentations and each lasting around 25 minutes.



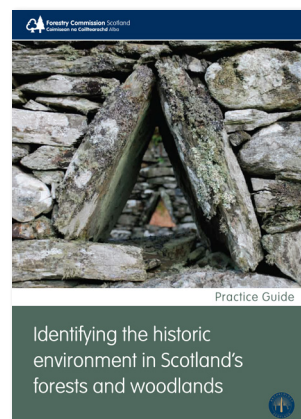
Managing the historic environment case studies

These highlight examples of best practice conservation management over a wide range of archaeological sites and historic landscapes, showcasing the potential that the historic environment can play within forest management plans.



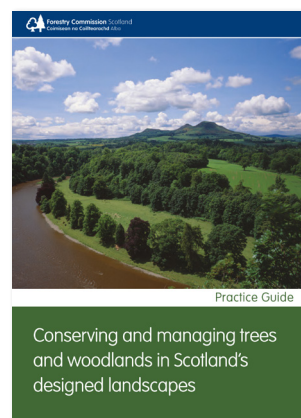
Identifying the historic environment in Scotland's woodlands and forests

This practice guide aims to help forestry and woodland managers when considering the archaeology and historic environment in their stewardship. It provides an accessible introduction to exploring archaeology and the historic environment, illustrating and describing many of the more common archaeological features.



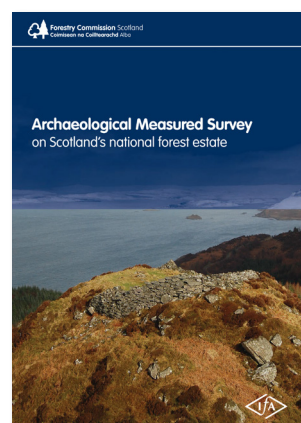
Conserving and managing trees and woodlands in Scotland's designed landscapes

This fully illustrated practice guide provides essential information on the effective stewardship of trees and woodlands in a designed landscape. Starting with a succinct review of the historic periods of design styles, the guidance section provides practical information on how all the tree elements can be conserved and managed.



Archaeological measured survey on Scotland's National Forest Estate

This fully illustrated archaeological booklet presents the results of recent archaeological measured survey work across Scotland's National Forest Estate. The publication aims to showcase the range of work undertaken and to highlight the benefits of such surveys in supporting sustainable conservation management. The sites range from Neolithic stone circles to WWII coastal defenses.





Forestry Commission Scotland serves as the
forestry directorate of the Scottish Government
and is responsible to Scottish Ministers

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