

# Designations: natural heritage, landscape, historic

**This is an old version of the page**

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To see recent changes to this guidance, [check the bottom of this page](#).

## Introduction

If you intend to apply to this scheme on any land that is within or adjacent to a designated site, you must take this into account when preparing your application.

There are three types of designation that may impact on an application:

- **natural heritage designations:** Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Natura sites – Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- **landscape and recreational designations:** National Scenic Area, Regional Park, Country Park, National Park
- **historic and archaeological designations:** Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the Inventory of Designed Landscapes

## Natural heritage designations

### **Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Natura Sites**

You can find details of the SSSIs and Natura sites on your land using [Scottish Natural Heritage's SiteLink website](#).

On the SiteLink home page you can click on a site name to find a list of features for that site that are of special interests and for which the site was designated.

For example, "Corncrake" or "Sand Dunes".

You can also find a site map, and a Site Management Statement with information on managing the features.

On the SiteLink home page, you can also click on "Map Search" to find sites in your area.

For further information on SSSIs or Natura sites, or advice on managing your SSSI or Natura land through this scheme, please contact Scottish Natural Heritage.

You are strongly advised to seek advice from Scottish Natural Heritage before drafting an application for a designated site. If you do not, and Scottish Natural Heritage has significant issues with the management you propose for the designated site, this may prejudice the success of your application.

[Contact Scottish Natural Heritage](#)

### **Providing SSSI or Natura information in your application**

In your online application, you will be asked to list any SSSIs or Natura sites involved and the features involved.

For some options and capital items, you may be required to complete a specialist management plan. You will have to refer to your designated site within such a plan.

Scottish Natural Heritage staff will be able to advise you on the appropriate management of the designated site.

### **Availability of options**

If you wish to carry out management to benefit an SSSI and / or Natura site, you can apply for any management options (with the exception of the Hen Harrier Grassland Management option which is only available in Orkney) or capital items which will benefit the special features of the site, even if they do not appear on your list of targeted options.

If you wish to apply for an option that does not appear on your targeted list then you must first obtain an [endorsement](#) from Scottish Natural Heritage and submit this along with your Agri-Environment Climate Scheme application.

### **Assessment of applications for SSSIs or Natura sites**

Your case officer will consider the effects of your proposed management on the SSSI and / or Natura site features and consult Scottish Natural Heritage and other relevant regulatory bodies.

If your proposed management is likely to damage any features the application cannot be approved.

### **SSSI consents**

You do not need separate SSSI consent from Scottish Natural Heritage for works on or affecting an SSSI which are included in your contract, for the duration of that contract.

It is possible that you may have existing consents from Scottish Natural Heritage that are not compatible with the management required under this Scheme; for example, you may have a consent for grazing sheep, but you are applying to graze cattle instead under this scheme.

In such cases, the contract requirements take precedence over the existing consent, but only for the duration of the contract.

Nearly all Natura sites are also designated as SSSIs and when your case officer is assessing and scoring your application, they will take into account any benefits to SSSIs or Natura sites.

## [Landscape and recreational designations](#)

There are 40 National Scenic Areas in Scotland, covering 13 per cent of the country.

They include mountain areas such as the Skye Cuillins, Ben Nevis and Glencoe, and island landscapes within the Hebrides and the Northern Isles. You can find out more about these areas using the link below, along with information around planning and development.

[National Scenic Areas](#)

## [Historic and archaeological designations](#)

### **Scheduled monuments**

Scheduled monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).

Historic Environment Scotland encourages positive management of scheduled monuments to ensure these nationally important sites are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Most works on scheduled monuments do however require scheduled monument consent and it is an offence to undertake works without consent. This includes any ground-breaking works, fencing, drainage, tree removal, paths, steps and flooding works.

There is no specific funding for management works on scheduled monuments within this scheme.

However, a number of annual recurrent options and capital items have the potential to offer dual benefits to both the environment and the long-term management of scheduled monuments.

Where proposed works meet environmental criteria but also include a scheduled monument for which the works will be beneficial, additional points may be gained in recognition of the multiple benefits offered.

The guidance note 'Scotland Rural Development Programme – Management of Scheduled Monuments: Management options and capital items', gives more details on relevant options and capital items. This can be downloaded below.

Not all options and capital items are suitable for scheduled monuments, so it is important that you contact Historic Environment Scotland for advice at an early stage of your planning. Applications to Historic Environment Scotland for scheduled monument consent are normally dealt with within nine weeks.

You can get advice on scheduled monuments and the scheduled monument consent process from:

Historic Environment Scotland  
Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

0131 668 8716

[HMconsultations@hes.scot](mailto:HMconsultations@hes.scot)

If you are carrying out any agri-environment options, you may be penalised if inspections show that you have knowingly damaged or destroyed a scheduled monument.

You may also have committed a criminal offence and face prosecution.

It is therefore important that you are aware of the location, nature and extent of any scheduled monuments on your land. It is advisable to mark these clearly and accurately on any plans you prepare such as your [Farm Environment Assessment](#), and particularly on any information that you provide to a contractor or other third party working on the land.

This is particularly important if you are planning a change in land use.

You may also wish to mark undesignated archaeological sites on your Farm Environment Assessment.

There are a number of sources that can help you to identify both designated and undesignated sites of archaeological and historical interest on your land:

- [you can consult Pastmap](#), which is a free online resource. It will provide the location and full extent of a scheduled monument and Inventory garden and designed landscape, and a central point for a listed building and its curtilage. It will also provide an approximate or central point for recorded unscheduled sites. The written descriptions of unscheduled sites in the National Monuments Record and Scottish Sites and Monuments Record data will help you to define on the ground the minimum extent of visible remains
- your local authority historic environment officer may be able to provide advice on the management and protection of unscheduled archaeological sites. However, not all local authority areas offer advisory services in relation to the Scottish Rural Development Programme. If you had an archaeological audit of your land for a previous agri-environment scheme, you can refer to this



[Scotland Rural Development Programme - Management of Scheduled Monuments: Management options and capital items \(PDF, Size: 847.7 kB\)](#)

doc\_external\_url: [https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/srdp\\_external\\_guidance\\_\\_\\_02\\_sep\\_15-HES.pdf](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/srdp_external_guidance___02_sep_15-HES.pdf) Historic Environment Scotland

## Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
<a href="#">Natural heritage designations</a>	Amendment to the information regarding contacting Scottish Natural Heritage.	You must contact Scottish Natural Heritage before submitting an application, especially if you are uncertain how the proposals may affect your SSSI or Natura site.	You are strongly advised to seek advice from Scottish Natural Heritage before drafting an application for a designated site. If you do not, and Scottish Natural Heritage has significant issues with the management you propose for the designated site, this may prejudice the success of your application.

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