

## **2.1 Legal protection**

**2.1.1** Significant examples of carved stones and their settings should be protected for the benefit of present and future generations. This will be achieved by 'scheduling' and 'listing' the most important examples and through the application of planning controls over them and their settings. The aim will be to ensure that full and effective use is made of the statutory powers available.

## **2.2 Raising awareness**

**2.2.1** As many people as possible and practical should have an opportunity to experience and learn about carved stones. The aim is to enhance understanding and enjoyment of a significant part of Scotland's cultural heritage, to promote an awareness of the threats to carved stones and to encourage wider participation in their active conservation.

## **2.3 Conservation strategies and practice, including intervention**

**2.3.1** Works to carved stones should conform with best conservation practice and standards, as set out in national and international guidance and charters. In particular, actions should be informed by a full assessment of the cultural significance of a carved stone and its associated site. The primary

aim of the conservation of carved stones should be to retain their cultural significance, and this should include provisions for their future needs, including security and maintenance.

**2.3.2** There should be a presumption in favour of the retention, where this is feasible and where permissible under the provision of treasure trove, of the physical association of a carved stone with its locality and setting.

## **2.4 Research and information**

**2.4.1** Historic Scotland should make guidance available to assist interested parties in the active conservation of carved stones, together with information about carved stones and what is important and interesting about them.

**2.4.2** Historic Scotland should carry out and promote research that is necessary to underpin best conservation, management, interpretation and presentation practices, as well as the wider development of these activities.

## **2.5 Historic Scotland setting example of best practice**

**2.5.1** Historic Scotland should ensure that all its work with carved stones follows best practice and sets an example for others to follow.