

Figure 12 The National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland encourages common approaches to the recording of carved stones, as with this publication. Crown copyright Historic Scotland, and by permission of Pinkfoot Press.



Figure 13 Historic Scotland monument wardens regularly check the condition of scheduled ancient monuments and discuss with the owners how this might be improved.

3.1 Legal protection

3.1.1 Historic Scotland will continue to protect carved stones under existing legislation (see Appendix B).

3.1.2 Historic Scotland will ensure that the range of carved stones within its own Estate is in accord with Scottish Executive existing policy for taking monuments into care.¹⁶

3.1.3 Historic Scotland will encourage the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel (TTAP) to clarify ambiguities about the legal status of carved stones.¹⁷

3.2 Raising awareness

3.2.1 Historic Scotland will support the work of the NCCSS and other relevant bodies in drawing attention to threats to Scottish carved stones of all periods, promoting their understanding and appreciation and encouraging common approaches to their recording and preservation (Fig 12).

3.2.2 Historic Scotland aims to encourage all owners and third parties with an interest in carved stones to apply the principles and standards outlined in this document.

3.2.3 Historic Scotland aims, through its Monument Warden Programme, to continue to encourage awareness in owners of scheduled carved stones of the threats to their monuments, the options for improved protection and management, and how they can help (Fig 13).

¹⁶ At the time of writing this policy is under review.

¹⁷ Treasure trove procedures are clear-cut for carved stones that are new discoveries; these must be reported to the TTAP (Scottish Executive 1999; www.treasuretrove.org.uk). Less transparent are requirements and best practice for known earthfast/wallfast carved stones that are to be moved on conservation grounds (and where Historic Scotland would hope that they would be relocated locally – see 4.3.5). Likewise, who owns and is responsible for the curation of known portable carved stones (ie carved stones that are not earthfast or wallfast)? In terms of treasure trove is there a legal distinction between a new discovery that is still earth- or wallfast and one that is already portable, etc?

3.3 Conservation strategies and practice, including intervention

3.3.1 Historic Scotland aims to ensure that its own policies and guidance are accessible to all interested parties, in the interest of promoting best conservation practice.

3.4 Research and information

Research

3.4.1 Historic Scotland recognises that ongoing research is necessary to underpin best conservation, management, interpretation and presentation of individual monuments, as well as to improve understanding and continue to develop these areas of activity.

Access to carved stones for research purposes

3.4.2 If moving a carved stone at a property in care, which is normally not fully accessible, Historic Scotland will carry out, or facilitate, its full recording by the most appropriate method. This includes allowing the RCAHMS the opportunity to create a full record of all six faces of the carved stone. We also aim, in the interest of communication and the fullest possible recording, to advise the relevant local museum(s), council archaeologist, RCAHMS, relevant university departments and NCCSS when material is being

Figure 14 Historic Scotland is cataloguing the architectural fragments from its properties in care. This helps us to look after them and to better understand their significance: examples from Elgin Cathedral, Moray.

temporarily taken to and from our Conservation Centre in Edinburgh for conservation treatment. Other local and national parties will also be advised as appropriate.

Interpretation

3.4.3 Historic Scotland aims to make Scotland's carved stones accessible to as wide an audience as possible, as well as encouraging others to do likewise.

Education

3.4.4 Historic Scotland aims to encourage the use of carved stones as an educational resource by learners of all ages.

Provision of technical guidance and training

3.4.5 Historic Scotland will aim to provide a range of information and guidance on carved stones for different audiences.¹⁸

3.5 Historic Scotland setting example of best practice

3.5.1 Historic Scotland will seek to ensure that it follows its own guidance and continues to lead in the development and application of best practice and standards.

3.5.2 Historic Scotland will seek to develop and maintain its own agenda, strategy and action plan for carved stones.

Properties in Care

3.5.3 Historic Scotland aims to audit and record all significant carved stones in its care as part of its ongoing long-term programme of monument management planning. The audit will include a record of the condition of each carved stone at the time of survey.

3.5.4 Historic Scotland seeks to monitor all carved stones in its care regularly, and take appropriate conservation action (e.g. at time of inventory compilation, collections auditing (Fig 14), annual works audit and management plan compilation and review).

¹⁸ This conservation guidance is being reviewed and will be the subject of future publications and research strategies.



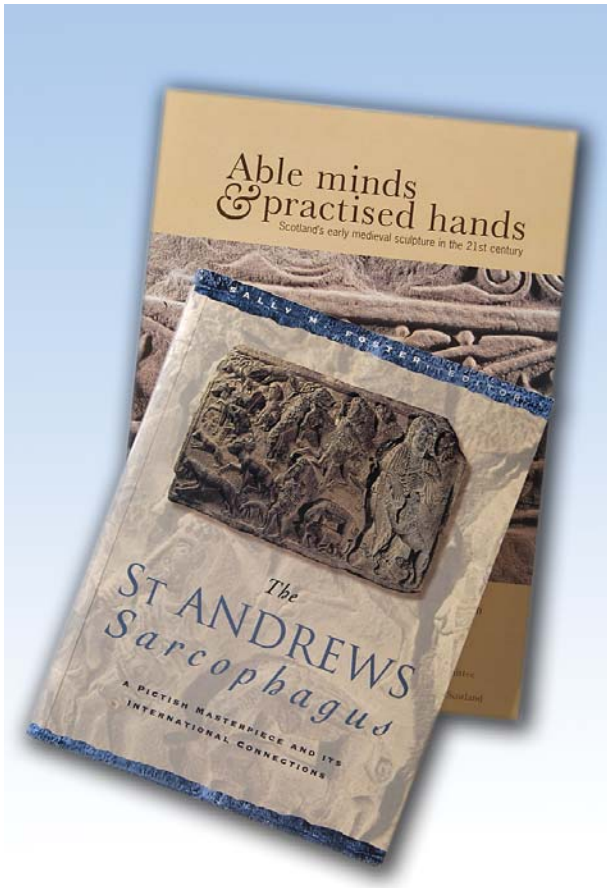


Figure 15 Examples of conferences and publications organised or sponsored by Historic Scotland, with partners.

3.5.5 Historic Scotland aims to identify and address any outstanding training needs for its own staff.¹⁹

3.5.6 Historic Scotland encourages the highest standards of multi-disciplinary research at properties in care and supports similar work elsewhere in Scotland.

3.5.7 Historic Scotland publishes, and encourages others to publish, research relating to carved stones in its care (and elsewhere in Scotland) (Fig 15).

3.5.8 Historic Scotland will make information relating to individual carved stones in its care available to its stewards and members of the public, both on and off-site.²⁰ Technical information held by the Historic Scotland Conservation Centre is available to appropriate parties on request. Historic Scotland will also make information regarding decisions affecting carved stones in its care available on request.

3.5.9 Historic Scotland is devising general as well as site-specific interpretation plans for carved stones in its care. Where collections of architectural fragments survive they will be included in the interpretation plan for the whole property in care to ensure that their relevance is fully acknowledged. Collections from properties in care that are not curated by Historic Scotland will also be considered as part of the interpretation planning process.

3.5.10 The interpretation Historic Scotland provides is underpinned by full knowledge of each monument. Significant gaps in knowledge will be identified and addressed as part of the interpretation planning process.

3.5.11 Historic Scotland will link its interpretation of carved stones in its care to other related monuments, not necessarily in Historic Scotland care, where this is appropriate.

3.5.12 Historic Scotland aims to produce education resource materials on the use of carved stones. This guidance will support learning and teaching across a wide range of subject areas in Scottish schools and will help develop informed attitudes of social and environmental responsibility inherent in education for citizenship.

3.5.13 Historic Scotland aims to build on good practice in interpretation to encourage the educational use of carved stones by a wide range of audiences at its properties in care.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

3.5.14 Historic Scotland continues to monitor the condition of scheduled carved stones through its Monument Warden Programme and use the information gathered from the monument warden reports to identify priorities for action.

¹⁹ Staff in Historic Scotland Monument Conservation Units are trained in basic conservation methods, and this has also been extended to Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) scholars and fellows, and other individuals. Appropriate training is also provided for monument wardens, inspectors and architects and as part of the continuing professional development of stone conservators.

²⁰ For example, through on-site catalogues, other publications, NMRS, Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN), etc. Historic Scotland also aims that its Collections Database will also become more widely available in electronic format.