

## Using the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES)

You are welcome to use the Devon Historic Environment Service to:

- Access historic environment information on the HER.
- Discuss management issues for archaeological sites on your land.

Information from the Devon HER can be accessed by coming to the HER office and accessing the record personally. Please phone to book an appointment.

For simple inquiries, contact us by phone, fax, email or post (contact details below) and we may be able to obtain the information you require. There is usually no charge for this information.

In some cases we can offer a free farm site visit to discuss specific management issues.

### Contact Details

Historic Environment Service  
Devon County Council  
Matford Offices, County Hall  
Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW  
Telephone: 01392 382246  
Fax: 01392 383011  
Email: [archaeol@devon.gov.uk](mailto:archaeol@devon.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.devon.gov/historic\\_environment/](http://www.devon.gov/historic_environment/)

### Further Information

Other sources of information and management advice are available from the following organisations as printed leaflets/booklets or web-based resources:

### Devon County Council

*The Historic Environment Record*

*Historic Landscape Characterisation* – this can be viewed online at [http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic\\_environment/landscapes/landscape-characterisation.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic_environment/landscapes/landscape-characterisation.htm)

The *Historic Environment Service & Planning* leaflet is available online at [http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic\\_environment/archaeology/archaeology\\_planning.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/historic_environment/archaeology/archaeology_planning.htm)

**Cornish Mining World Heritage, Cornwall County Council and Devon County Council**  
*Managing Mining Features on Farmland: An Introduction*

**Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) / English Heritage**

*Managing Earthwork Monuments: A guidance manual for the care of archaeological earthworks under grassland management*

*Farming the Historic Landscape:*

*Caring for Archaeological Sites in Grassland*  
*Caring for Archaeological Sites on Arable Land*  
*Caring for Farm Buildings*  
*Caring for Historic Parkland*  
*An Introduction for Farm Advisors*  
*Entry Level Stewardship*

*Scheduled monuments: a guide for owners and occupiers*

All are available to view or download from <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19702>

### Defra

*Historic Environment Features in Grassland*  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/pdfs/es/guidance/esg015-historic-environment-grassland.pdf>

*Historic Environment Features in Arable Land*  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/pdfs/es/guidance/esg016-historic-environment-arable.pdf>

*Historic Environment Features in Moorland*  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/pdfs/es/guidance/esg017-historic-environment-features-in-moorland.pdf>

## Environmental Stewardship Schemes

Environmental Stewardship is an agri-environment scheme which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land.

Not all historic features are yet shown on environmental maps used for Entry Level Stewardship.

**Contact us to see whether we have records of Historic Features on your land that could help you make the most of Stewardship schemes:**

- Archaeological and historic features score points towards a target for entry.
- Payments can be claimed by selecting suitable management options to protect archaeology.
- Positive management for upstanding earthwork remains includes controlling scrub and grazing. Arable reversion to permanent pasture will help protect below-ground archaeology.



*Neolithic flint arrowheads discovered at Haldon. These are about 5000 years old. Stone tools like these can often be the first indication of the presence of an archaeological site.*

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# Devon County Historic Environment Service

## Farming and Archaeology in Devon

March 2009

**Devon's beautiful and varied landscape has been shaped by many centuries of farming and land management.**

The farmed landscape itself is therefore a fundamental part of Devon's historic environment.

Today's intricate pattern of fields, lanes, woodland, farmsteads and parishes was largely in place by the medieval period. However, it also preserves strong influences from earlier ages, as well as being shaped by more recent industrial and agricultural activity.

Intake and improvement of land for farming has occurred gradually throughout human history. Some field boundaries were created in prehistoric times, whilst many curving hedgebanks in Devon are medieval in origin. Large, regular and straight-sided fields generally indicate more recent enclosure.

Traditional farmhouses and farm buildings are an essential part of the countryside and contribute greatly to its character. They can be important historically and architecturally, providing valuable information about how people lived and farmed.

**The HES may hold information about historic sites not known to landowners**

*Prehistoric field boundaries are preserved as low banks under rough pasture at Deckler's Cliff, South Hams.*



*This poorly sited water trough on a prehistoric barrow (burial mound) in north-west Devon has led to poaching, causing damage to the mound and surrounding buried ditch.*



Some building types, such as linhays, are unique to the South West.

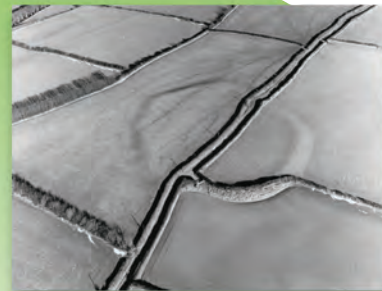
Much of Devon's rich archaeological heritage lies within modern farmland. Monuments of all types and time periods are represented, from prehistoric settlements to medieval castles and Second World War defences. Landowners and managers take care of many of these sites, but don't always know all of the archaeology on their land.

- Some sites are highly visible, whilst others are hidden and only revealed through accidental discovery, archaeological excavation or aerial photography.
- Archaeological remains are unique and cannot be replaced once lost. They are often fragile and, even though they may have survived for millennia, can be completely destroyed by a single event or by years of cumulative damage.

**Protecting archaeology on farmland**

Many important archaeological sites are not visible at ground level, but can be close to the surface.

Good management – for example appropriate stocking levels to avoid poaching and soil management to prevent erosion – will help to preserve them.



*Stoke Rivers Iron Age hillfort from the air, showing different stages of destruction of the ramparts. The ramparts survive as a field boundary in the foreground, as a raised bank in the field to the right of the picture and to the left as much reduced earthworks.*

**Archaeological remains are irreplaceable once lost**



*Although levelled by ploughing, this late prehistoric or Romano-British farmstead enclosure west of Exeter is clearly visible as a soil mark. The distinctive 'zig-zag' pattern indicates active erosion of the defensive bank by cultivation.*



*The cropmarks of two prehistoric enclosures and a prehistoric ring ditch near Kingsbridge show the survival of below ground archaeological features.*

However...

- Ploughing (even 'to the same depth') can damage buried archaeological sites or destroy them completely.
- Subsoiling is particularly harmful, as it is likely to destroy buried archaeological deposits, given the depth at which they are usually found in Devon.
- Groundworks such as creating new water supplies, gateways or feeding facilities can damage archaeological sites of all kinds, and these potential impacts should be carefully considered.
- Trees and energy crops such as miscanthus can cause damage to archaeological sites through ground preparation, root growth and harvesting.
- Traditional maintenance is the best way to preserve ancient field boundaries, but casting up may impact on underlying archaeological sites and should be avoided in archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Maintenance of historic farm buildings should be sympathetic, making use of traditional materials.

If you are planning any of these activities, a quick check with the Historic Environment Service will flag up any known archaeological features that might be affected.

**The Devon Historic Environment Record may hold records of archaeological sites not known to landowners.**

The Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) is a map-based record of the known archaeology and historic environment for the county. It currently includes over 72,000 records of archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes, as well as a range of other related information.

New sites are discovered regularly and the HER is expanding all the time (see over for details of how to access this information).

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a map-based interpretation of the landscape's historic development, and it can be accessed online or through the HER (see over).

**'Same depth' ploughing can damage or destroy archaeological sites**



**Not all historic features are yet shown on ELS maps**



*Buried archaeological features may be invisible on the surface. The pits and postholes of this Iron Age settlement near Exeter were discovered when topsoil was stripped for the new A30.*

*The farmed landscape of Stockland reflects several phases of enclosure: prehistoric enclosures such as Stockland Little Castle (circular field centre right); irregular small medieval fields in the foreground; and distinctive large rectangular fields of nineteenth-century date on Stockland Hill.*