Although thousands of archaeological sites lie on farmland within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, many are now difficult to see on the surface. Many land managers are already protecting archaeological sites through Environmental Stewardship and other schemes but may not always know everything about what lies buried beneath the soil on their land. Greater awareness of archaeology rewards farmers as well as conserving a precious resource for the future.

This leaflet will help you find out what has already been found on your land, and help you benefit from any new discoveries. It contains contact details for people who can advise you about archaeology, and may assist with Environmental Stewardship and other management schemes. It informs you about your rights over archaeological objects found on your land, and lets you know what to do if you think you may have discovered something new.

Most advice about archaeology is offered free of charge. Many offices have dedicated staff whose job it is to speak to the public about archaeology. There is also a range of online resources that allow you to explore archaeology on your farm for yourself.

For most of human history archaeology provides the only record of our past. Archaeology can bring important benefits to farmers through Environmental Stewardship, as well as benefiting the region as a whole by increasing tourism and enhancing the qualities of our lives. The work of land managers is vital in conserving archaeological remains - ensuring knowledge about the past can be handed on to our children.

Protected Sites

Some archaeological sites are legally protected. These sites are called Scheduled Ancient Monuments. If you have a Scheduled Ancient Monument on your land you may well know about it already. However, only a small fraction of archaeological sites are scheduled. If you have a Scheduled Ancient Monument on your land you should have drawn up a management agreement for the site with English Heritage. Further advice on looking after these monuments is available from English Heritage. Contact details for your regional English Heritage Office are on the back page of this leaflet.

Unprotected Sites

Most archaeological sites are not scheduled. There may be many sites or objects on your land that have been discovered over the years without your knowledge. Records will exist of these sites, perhaps in books or archaeological journals or on databases. The easiest way for you to find out what sites are known to exist on your farm is to contact your county archaeological service or the National Monuments Record. Their contact details are on the back page of this leaflet along with the websites for online databases which can tell you about sites and finds previously recorded in your area.

Unprotected archaeological sites may be harmed by agricultural activities. Ploughing can be particularly damaging, as the remains of archaeological features are seldom far beneath the surface. Agriculture, especially ploughing has been the single biggest cause of destruction to archaeological remains since 1945. Knowing where sites are means that you can take steps to reduce the chances of archaeological knowledge being lost.
What to do if you find an archaeological site

New archaeological sites are discovered all the time. Sometimes it is archaeologists who find them, but often it is the farmer who is the first to notice something. In recent years some remarkable archaeological finds have been made within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Farmers have played an important role in these discoveries. Clues to buried sites include humps and bumps on the surface, changes of colour in the soil, clusters of archaeological finds or unusual crop growth patterns.

Above: The circles on this photograph are Neolithic henges and Bronze Age burial mounds. Around the church is a well-preserved henge which is not being ploughed. Around it, other henges and the burial mounds have been ploughed flat over the years. NMR 15326/06 13th July 1995 © Crown copyright.NMR.
Many sites are found during building work or farm maintenance. When the earth is dug into remains may be revealed as unusual soil patterns, building debris, artefacts or other materials.

If you think that you have found a previously unknown archaeological site on your land, the best thing to do is to contact your county archaeological service for advice. Contact details for your county archaeological service are on the back page of this leaflet.

Your rights to objects found on your land

Archaeological materials are legally the property of the landowner. If you find objects you think might be of archaeological interest, you can contact your local Finds Liaison Officer who will let you know what it is. The Finds Liaison Officer will also make a record of when and where it was found. This information is very valuable to archaeologists trying to understand how people lived in the past. The Finds Liaison Officer will not keep the object without your consent.

If you find gold and silver objects, groups of coins over 300 years old, or prehistoric objects made of base-metal (e.g. bronze) the Treasure Act says that you should report these finds within 14 days from the date that you realise they might be treasure. If your finds qualify as treasure a museum will have the option to buy these objects from you. You can expect to receive the full market value for them, payable to you as the landowner.

Many landowners are approached by metal-detectorists wanting to look for objects on their land. If you are approached in this way you should be aware that, even if the detectorist finds the object, it belongs to you by law. Responsible metal-detectorists will usually draw up an agreement with the landowner offering to share the rewards.

Some county councils within the AONB have Codes of Conduct for metal-detectorists. It is a good idea to find out whether detectorists on your land have signed up to these codes. Remember - no one has the right to take any archaeological object from your land without your permission.
Where to go for Advice about Archaeology:

To find out about archaeology on your land:

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dorset</strong>: Dorset Historic Environment Record</td>
<td>Environmental Services, Dorset County Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ Tel: 01305 224277 Email: <a href="mailto:c.j.pinder@dorsetcc.gov.uk">c.j.pinder@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.dorsetforyou.com">www.dorsetforyou.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Somerset</strong>: Somerset Historic Environment Record</td>
<td>Somerset County Council, Taunton Castle, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4AA Tel: 01823 255089 Email: <a href="mailto:heritage@somerset.gov.uk">heritage@somerset.gov.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk/archives/hes/index.htm">www.somerset.gov.uk/archives/hes/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wiltshire</strong>: Wiltshire and Swindon Sites and Monuments Record</td>
<td>The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Cocklebury Road, Chippenham, SN15 3QN Tel: 01249 705503 Email: <a href="mailto:archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk">archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr">http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/smr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hampshire</strong>: Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Building Record</td>
<td>Landscape Planning and Heritage Group, Environment Department, Capital House, 48 – 52 Andover Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 7BH Tel: 01962 832338 Email: <a href="mailto:environmental@hants.gov.uk">environmental@hants.gov.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm">www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment.htm</a></td>
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**The National Monuments Record:**

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<tr>
<td>Enquiry &amp; Research Services&lt;br&gt;National Monuments Record&lt;br&gt;Kemble Drive&lt;br&gt;Swindon, SN2 2GZ Tel: 01793 414600 Email: <a href="mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk">nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr">www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**English Heritage:**

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<tr>
<td>English Heritage South-East Office&lt;br&gt;Eastgate Court&lt;br&gt;195-208 High Street&lt;br&gt;Guildford GU1 3EH Tel: 01843 252000 Email: <a href="mailto:southeast@english-heritage.org.uk">southeast@english-heritage.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to go for Advice about Archaeology

To find out about objects discovered on your land:

**Dorset**: Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen
Historic Environment Team, Dorset County Council
County Hall Colliton Park, Dorchester
Dorset DT1 1XJ
T: 01305 228254
E: c.h.trevarthen@dorsetcc.gov.uk

**Hampshire**: Robert Webley
Winchester City Council, City Offices Colebrook Street
Winchester Hampshire SO23 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0) 1962 848558
Email: RWebley@winchester.gov.uk

**Somerset**: Anna Booth
Somerset Record Office, Obridge Road, Taunton
Somerset TA2 7PU
T: +44 (0)1823 362855
E: albooth@somerset.gov.uk

**Wiltshire**: Katie Hinds, Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 2EN
T: 01722 332151
F: 01722 325611
E: katiehinds@salisbury.museum.org.uk

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Above: The lighter coloured circles in this field are part of a group of prehistoric monuments near Damerham. There is little trace of these on the ground, and their existence was unknown until 2001. NMR 21271/05 21st July 2001 © English Heritage.NMR.

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**Online Resources:**

**Portable Antiquities Scheme**: database of archaeological objects found in the UK: www.finds.org.uk

**MAGIC**: database of Scheduled Ancient Monuments: www.magic.gov.uk

**Pastscape**: the online database of the National Monuments Record: www.pastscape.org.uk

**HELM**: information about the preservation and protection of the historic environment: www.helm.org.uk