

## The Rock Art Code

### Always:

- leave the carved rocks and other archaeological features as you find them
- keep your impact on the rock surface to an absolute minimum
- seek permission from the relevant owner or manager to visit sites that are not on publicly accessible land
- respect the environment and follow the Countryside Code.

### Never:

- remove turf from buried rock art panels, **unless you are recording the carvings as part of a trained community team**. A freshly exposed rock surface is very vulnerable to erosive processes, and removing turf will accelerate erosion.
- remove lichen from rock art panels. This can seriously damage the carvings as you may remove part of the rock surface. It will also weaken the rock surface as the tiny root holes left behind will fill with water and be susceptible to freeze-thaw erosion.
- try to remove mosses and other growths from the rock surface as this can weaken the rock. If you are part of a trained community team and need to remove moss for recording, please use wooden or plastic tools such as kitchen spatula or lollipop sticks
- attempt to remove graffiti, chalk, or anything else on the rock
- use any substances (including water) to 'clean' rock surfaces
- use brushes with stiff bristles (plastic or wire) to clean the rock. If you wish to remove leaves or animal droppings from the carvings for your photographs then use a soft brush or your hands
- use any metal tool (e.g. a trowel or knife) to 'clean' the carvings
- add chalk or enhance the carvings using any other substance (this may interfere with accurate dating of the surface)
- use any recording technique that involves direct and/or repeated contact with the surface (e.g. wax rubbing)
- scratch or chalk your name or messages on or close to the carved panels
- walk or drive over carved panels
- light fires or candles on or close to rock carvings
- use sticky tape or other adhesives to fix scales to the rock

### MORE ABOUT ROCK ART

Scotland's Rock Art Project: [www.scotlandrockart.scot](http://www.scotlandrockart.scot)

England's Rock Art website: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/era/>