

# SCOTLAND'S ROCK ART PROJECT

WORKING WITH  
COMMUNITIES  
TO RECORD,  
RESEARCH AND  
RAISE AWARENESS  
OF SCOTLAND'S  
PREHISTORIC  
ROCK ART



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

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## WHAT IS PREHISTORIC ROCK ART?

Around 5000 years ago, people in Scotland carved mysterious symbols on rock surfaces across the landscape. We call these prehistoric carvings 'rock art' and, if we look carefully, we can still see traces of them today. Over 2700 prehistoric carved rocks are known in Scotland, and

there may be many more still undiscovered. The carvings were clearly important to the people that created them, but we know little about why they were made, or what purpose they served. They remain one of the most fascinating, yet neglected aspects of our cultural heritage.

## COMMUNITY RECORDING

Between 2017 and 2021, Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP) is training and working with local community teams across the country to find out more about these enigmatic carvings. Our community teams are creating detailed records of the rock art using non-intrusive methods such as photography and 3D modelling.



The Strachur community team is one of several trained community teams recording rock art across Scotland



Rock art is found on boulders and rock outcrops in many parts of Scotland. Some carved rocks have been reused in later structures, such as field walls

## MAKING ROCK ART ACCESSIBLE

The records produced by our community teams will be publicly accessible on our website, and Historic Environment Scotland's archive. You will be able to view images and 3D models of Scotland's rock art from your home and mobile device!



**3D models provide a realistic and accurate view of the rock art**



**Good photography is an essential part of rock art recording**

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT ROCK ART

During the project, we will use detailed information gathered by our community teams to enhance understanding and awareness of Scotland's rock art. This information will help us to start unlocking the secrets of the carved stones.



**Cup-shaped symbols, often with concentric rings or grooves, are the most common feature of Scotland's rock art. Similar carvings are known in northern England, Ireland, and part of Western Europe**

## FIND OUT MORE

On our website you can find out what we are doing, and how you could contribute by looking for rock art. You can search for prehistoric carvings in Scotland, and discover more about rock art here and elsewhere in the world.

 [www.rockart.scot](http://www.rockart.scot)

 [ScRAP@hes.scot](mailto:ScRAP@hes.scot)

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