

Archaeology and...



...involving people

Because archaeology is about people in the past, it is fascinating to people today — people from all walks of life, young and old, professional and amateur. The National Trust for Scotland has always had a policy of encouraging people to be actively involved in the conservation and care of Scotland's heritage, and archaeological projects can be ideal for this purpose.

NTS Thistle Camps are working holidays where volunteers can help with the Trust's conservation work. Archaeological Thistle Camps have been running since 1994, and have proved to be amongst the most popular. They are open to everyone from 18 years upwards, from professional archaeologists to people with no archaeological experience whatever. Archaeological camps are always supervised by teams of professional archaeologists, and some involve the opportunity for training in a variety of field techniques — from survey and excavation, to finds processing and detailed recording.



Digging at Dunkeld



Surveying at Torridon

Volunteers helped excavate the 4000-year-old prehistoric burial mound called Fordhouse Barrow in the grounds of House of Dun near Montrose.

Between 1994 and 1997, layer after layer was peeled off the 2m high mound, eventually revealing a complex history of ritual use, starting in the Neolithic period — over 5000 years ago.



Fordhouse Barrow



Relaxing after a hard day's conservation work on St Kilda

Volunteer Work Parties have been going to St Kilda each year since 1958, and have been instrumental in preventing the world-famous remains of the 19th-century village from falling down.

Since the mid-1980s, two Work Parties a year have assisted archaeologists in the excavation of the village and its prehistoric and medieval predecessors.

To find out more about NTS archaeological working holidays, visit our website at: www.thistlecamps.org.uk.



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