

# Archaeology at... ...Ben Lawers



**Ben Lawers was the first property** to be acquired by the Trust primarily for its nature conservation interest, but the land below the mountain also contains a wealth of historical features embedded within the landscape. The area, deep in Highland Perthshire, is now the subject of a long-term research project: the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project.

Through detailed documentary research, archaeological survey and excavation we hope to piece together the human history of the landscape. We are working with those who live on and farm the land so that the archaeological remains will be preserved for the future.



*The landscape is steeped in the remains of past human settlement*



One of the key aspects of the project is to enlist the help of volunteers in archaeological fieldwork and documentary research. Three NTS Thistle Camps are run each year: one for survey and two for excavation.

These archaeological field schools allow volunteers to get a taste of what it is like to be a field archaeologist, and they also offer training in the basics of survey and excavation.



We now have evidence for human activity at Ben Lawers for at least 9000 years. Generations of hunters then farmers have left traces in the landscape.

*Prehistoric cup-and-ring-marked rock*



*Early Christian long cist burial*

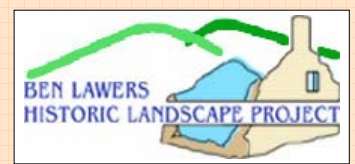


*Guests during the official launch of the project visited our excavations in progress*

As well as getting funds from the NTS, the project receives grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Russell Trust. We also receive help in-kind from RCAHMS, from Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division, and from many other partners.

One way to help secure the future for the remarkable historic landscape on the north side of Loch Tay is to get local people to help. The project includes the involvement of children from local primary and secondary schools, who have been finding out whether they would make a good archaeologist, and how to be landscape detectives.

*Children taking part in a test excavation in Glen Lyon*



For more information about the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project, visit our website at: [www.benlawers.org.uk](http://www.benlawers.org.uk).



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