

FINDING PREHISTORIC HUNTER-GATHERERS IN THE SCOTTISH MOUNTAINS

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HOW CAN I HELP?

People have been using the mountain and upland landscapes since the Mesolithic period (over 6,000 years ago), but these prehistoric hunter-gatherer sites can be difficult to find. The most likely source of evidence comes in the form of small stone tools – typically small flakes and blades of flint. Because flint is not naturally present in the Scottish mountains it looks distinctive enough to catch the eye.

The people with the best chance of finding stone tools in the mountains of Scotland are those who spend the most time there – people who work in these landscapes or those who spend time walking and exploring them. If you find something, please do the following:



STEP ONE

Record its location with photographs (close ups and landscape settings), including spatial information about the find (grid reference, or tag position on a phone/GPS). Try to reduce as much as possible any potential damage to the object and do not clean it or attempt to apply any substances.

STEP TWO

Report the find to Treasure Trove as quickly as possible (TreasureTroveScotland.co.uk). Objects can also be deposited with your local museum or Local Authority Archaeologist. If you do find stone tools in the mountains (especially in the Cairngorms), please also email graeme.warren@ucd.ie

WHY?

If you think you've found something of archaeological significance in Scotland, you are obliged by law to report it to Treasure Trove.

These tools can be transformative for our understanding of the earliest parts of Scotland's prehistory. Many will be Mesolithic, but others could be later, dating to the Neolithic or Bronze Age – times when people still used mountains as part of their daily lives. If they're appropriately recorded and reported, your chance finds can contribute to Scotland's bigger archaeological picture.

