

Ancient Monuments in Finland

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SUMMARY

Ancient monuments and antiquities are the traces and remains of past generations that have been preserved in the earth or under water. They tell about life, habitation, communications, trades and occupations, religion and the burial of the dead in the past. In Finland the Antiquities Act protects automatically without separate measures antiquities as reminders of Finland's past settlements and history. According to the Antiquities Act, antiquities are artefacts that are at least 100 years old and that do not have a known owner. It can be coin, weapon, tool, ornament, vessel or transport equipment. According to the Antiquities Act, an ancient monument also includes the area that is essential for the preservation of the monument. This area around the ancient monument is called the protected area. Without permission granted under this act it is prohibited to dig, cover, modify, damage, remove or physically interfere with antiquities. If a fixed archaeological relic is found in excavation work, the act orders that the work is to be discontinued and that the National Board of Antiquities or the provincial museum is to be informed of the matter. Basic data of ancient monuments in the mainland of Finland are in the Ancient Monuments register. At Ahvenanmaa county government keeps on data of ancient monuments on their area. Ancient Monuments data are in use by Cultural Environment portal and by Spatial Information Window (Paikkatietoikkuna). Where an ancient monument is in an area pending land survey and parcelling, the monument and its protective area shall be mapped and marked in the Cadastral System. Lot of ancient monuments in Finland are not mapped and researched and many of them are marked only as a dot to the Ancient Monuments register. With modern measuring systems mapping of monuments would be more effective. Nowadays it is possible to adopt ancient monument to the amateur association, which looks after monument, collects garbage away and makes little maintenance at monument area.