



Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

1979 CHAPTER 46

PART II

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS

33 Designation of areas of archaeological importance.

- (1) The Secretary of State may from time to time by order designate as an area of archaeological importance any area which appears to him to merit treatment as such for the purposes of this Act [^{F1}; but, where the area in question is situated in England, he shall consult with the Commission before doing so.]
- (2) A local authority may from time to time by order designate as an area of archaeological importance any area within the area of that local authority which appears to them to merit treatment as such for the purposes of this Act [^{F2}; but, where the area in question is situated in England, the authority shall first notify the Commission of their intention to do so.]

[^{F3}(2A) The Commission may from time to time by order designate as an area of archaeological importance any area in Greater London which appears to them to merit treatment as such for the purposes of this Act.]

- (3) An order under this section designating an area as an area of archaeological importance (whether made by the Secretary of State or by a local authority [^{F4}or by the Commission]) is referred to below in this Act as a designation order.
- (4) The Secretary of State may at any time by order vary or revoke a designation order, but his power to vary such an order is confined to reducing the area designated by the order.

[^{F5}The Secretary of State shall consult with the Commission before varying or revoking an order relating to an area situated in England.]

Changes to legislation: Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Section 33 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (5) A designation order relating to an area in England and Wales shall be a local land charge.
- (6) Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the making, and with respect to the variation and revocation, of designation orders.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words inserted by [National Heritage Act 1983 \(c. 47, SIF 78\)](#), s. 41, **Sch. 4 para. 54(2)**
- F2** Words inserted by [National Heritage Act 1983 \(c. 47, SIF 78\)](#), s. 41, **Sch. 4 para. 54(3)**
- F3** S. 33(2A) inserted by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\)](#), s. 6, **Sch. 2 para. 2(2)(a)**
- F4** Words inserted by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\)](#), s. 6, **Sch. 2 para. 2(2)(b)**
- F5** Words inserted by [National Heritage Act 1983 \(c. 47, SIF 78\)](#), s. 41, **Sch. 4 para. 54(4)**

Changes to legislation:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, Section 33 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 33(5) words omitted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 35\(b\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 1(3A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 20\(b\)](#)
- s. 1AA-1AE omitted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 21](#)
- s. 7(4A) inserted by [2016 anaw 4 s. 10\(2\)](#)
- s. 33(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 35\(a\)](#)