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JAMES CRAWFORD
WILD HISTORY:
JOURNEYS INTO LOST SCOTLAND

You scramble up over the dunes of an isolated beach.
You climb to the summit of a lonely hill.
You pick your way through the eerie hush of a forest.
And then you find them.
The traces of the past.

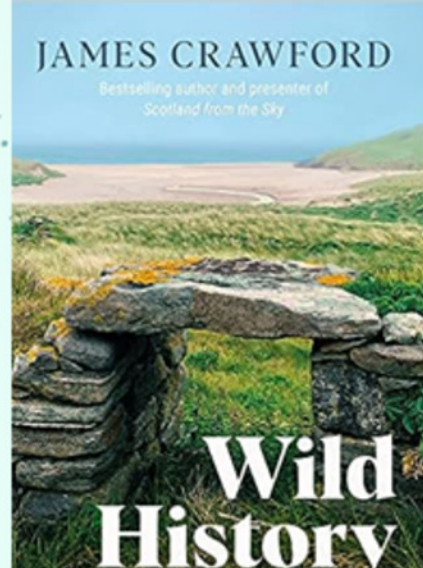
Perhaps they are marked by a tiny symbol on your map, perhaps not. There are no plaques to explain their fading presence before you, nothing to account for what they once were – who made them, lived in them or abandoned them. Now they are merged with the landscape. They are being reclaimed by nature. They are *wild* history.

In this book acclaimed author and presenter James Crawford introduces many such places all over the country, from the ruins of prehistoric forts and ancient, arcane burial sites, to abandoned bothies and boathouses, and the derelict traces of old, faded industry.

By going in search of half-forgotten traces of human intervention still present in the landscape, James Crawford provides a fascinating account of Scotland's hidden history
Crawford has chosen such a wide variety of sites,

All of which have such colourful and distinctive stories to tell, that what could have turned into a dull trudge becomes an absolutely riveting journey through time and space.

Among the book's many highlights are his visits to the remains of a Roman signal station on Rubers Law in the Borders; to the site of a Viking boat burial at Swordle Bay on the Ardnamurchan peninsula; and to the surreal array of tall wooden poles driven into the sand at Culbin Sands in Moray, designed to deter Nazi gliders from landing there during World War Two.



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THE SCOTSMAN

James Crawford is a writer and broadcaster. Born in Shetland in 1978, he studied History and Philosophy of Law at the University of Edinburgh, winning the Lord President Cooper Memorial Prize.

He has been a literary agent and a publisher, and for over a decade he worked for and researched Scotland's National Collection of architecture and archaeology. James is the writer and presenter of the landmark BBC One Scotland documentary series

[Scotland from the Sky](#).

Series One was first broadcast in summer 2018, with Series Two appearing in summer 2019, and Series Three in winter 2021. Over the past decade he researched Scotland's National Collection of Aerial Photography

[Above Scotland \(2009\)](#)

[Scotland's Landscapes \(2012\)](#)

[Aerofilms: A History of Britain from Above \(2014\)](#)

Author of eight books, James's first major work of non-fiction,

[Fallen Glory: The Lives and Deaths of the World's Greatest Lost Buildings](#)

was published to critical acclaim in November 2015. Selected as a 'Book of the Year' by the *New Statesman*, the *Independent* and the *Scotsman*, it also led to media interviews on the *Today Programme*, *Start the Week* and *Newsnight*, among others. In 2016 *Fallen Glory* was shortlisted for the Saltire Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. It featured in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe* and the *National Post*. *The Wall Street Journal* described it as 'a book of and for the world'.

His most recent book, [The Edge of the Plain: How Borders Make and Break Our World](#), was published in August 2022 in the UK, and January 2023 in the US.

He is also the co-author of [Who Built Scotland: A History of the Nation in 25 Buildings](#), with Alexander McCall Smith, Alistair Moffat, James Robertson and Kathleen Jamie.

In 2016 he was elected as Chair of the Board of Publishing Scotland, the network body for the publishing industry in Scotland;

He lives in Edinburgh.