



TALKING ABOUT HERITAGE



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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ALBA

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TALKING ABOUT HERITAGE

EXPLORE, SHARE AND CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE



'Heritage to me is everything in Scotland's history. It's not just buildings but everything that's passed down like songs, stories, myths.'

Perthshire 'What's Your Heritage' workshop



WHY TALK ABOUT HERITAGE?

Talking about your heritage today can help others to understand and appreciate it now, as well as promote its protection for the future.

Talking about Heritage aims to give you the tools to have new, exciting and, at times, difficult conversations about heritage. This guide can help you to get your voice heard about the heritage that matters most to you and your community. When you can explain your heritage well, your voice is more likely to be heard.

This guidance can also help you to explore all your heritage – from the language you speak to the places you care about. It offers tips and sources of information that will let you learn more about heritage and what makes it special.

WHAT'S YOUR HERITAGE

Your heritage may be the physical places or objects that you know and love. Your favourite music venue. The local park. A ruined castle that you've explored. Treasured artefacts in a museum. The landscapes you picture when you think of home. All of these are examples of tangible heritage – the heritage that you can touch.

Your heritage could also be your working life. Stories you were told as a child. The language you speak with your family. Music or traditions you remember from an important time in your life. These are all types of intangible heritage – the heritage that can't be touched, as it has no physical form.

WHY HERITAGE MATTERS?

Heritage can inspire a range of emotions, both positive and negative. It can help to have a toolkit for exploring and talking about such an important and sometimes challenging subject.

Heritage can matter to people for all sorts of reasons, such as:

- It's beautiful.
- It's what I think of when I picture home.
- It's part of who I am.
- I can feel the spirits, my history.
- It's where I walk my dog.
- It's my hometown and it reminds me of my family.
- It makes me feel uncomfortable and I want to understand it better.

Heritage can help to us to feel connected. It may connect us to a community, a place, or a shared past. It reflects different viewpoints across cultures and generations and is key to local identity and distinctiveness. This can give us a strong sense of belonging, inspire our creativity, and contribute to our well-being.

This sense of belonging goes beyond physical boundaries. The story of Scotland doesn't exist in isolation; it is part of a bigger story. Scotland's place in history, and particularly its role in colonialism, has created strong and lasting connections with countries across the world.

HERITAGE MAKES US ASK

QUESTIONS

Our heritage can challenge us. Understanding our past can and should make us question things about our present.

Because although heritage can make us feel like we belong, it can also make us feel like we don't. Individuals and communities do not always see their identities being celebrated, and their stories being shared.

There are parts of heritage that should not be celebrated. Even these aspects should be remembered and understood.

Talking about heritage can shed light on aspects of our past that have been hidden or were silenced. Sometimes this will make us uncomfortable – we might feel loss, anger or shame.

It is important that we understand these issues to help us shape our society today and in the future.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

You can use this guide to help strike up a conversation about heritage or to add your voice to an ongoing discussion.

We hope this guide will be a useful tool for a range of people. Some of you will have already begun to explore and talk about our places, people and traditions. Other individuals and groups may be just getting started.

You may want to discuss what Scotland's heritage means to you. Speaking up can help to protect your local heritage. Or perhaps there is heritage that your community wants to share with the world.

You may be talking about heritage with friends and family, in your community, with experts, or with people who feel they have everything to learn.

QUOTES AND CASE STUDIES

This guide is all about how to explore and talk about heritage. So it includes some of the things we were told when we invited people across Scotland to our 'What's Your Heritage?' workshops.

Case studies give real-life examples of how to get involved in Scotland's heritage and why it can be worthwhile for you and your community.

If you don't find what you're looking for here, Built Environment Forum Scotland also has a series of [Historic Environment Case Studies](#).

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

The Talking about Heritage guide contains links to online resources that you may wish to access for help to explore, share and celebrate your heritage. Some of these resources are held by us at Historic Environment Scotland.

Our guide also signposts many resources held by national and local organisations, charities, and others with an interest in heritage. Historic Environment Scotland is not responsible for the content of other websites or resources signposted in this guide.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Talking About Heritage is part of HES [Community Connections](#).

The programme's aim is to deliver a range of exciting, collaborative projects. The projects show how the heritage that matters to you has a vital role to play in supporting your community.

Look out for the community connections engagement icons. These highlight the different skills that each part of Talking About Heritage can help you to develop.



IDEAS &
CREATIVITY



ACCESS &
UNDERSTAND



VOLUNTEERING



RESEARCH &
EVALUATION



INCLUSION
& DIVERSITY



LEARN
& REFLECT



SHARE &
COLLABORATE



SKILLS &
EXPERIENCE



WELLBEING
& FUN



CONNECTING
PEOPLE



DIGITAL



EVENTS &
EXPERIENCES



FORUMS



KNOWLEDGE
& ADVICE

There are four topics covered in this guidance.

PART 1 INVESTIGATE HERITAGE

Tips and tools to find out more about the heritage that matters to you

PART 2 UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT HERITAGE

How to consider why heritage is important and what makes it special

PART 3 SHARE AND CELEBRATE HERITAGE

Ways to share with others the heritage that matters to you

PART 4 PROTECT AND CARE FOR HERITAGE

Ideas and information on how to recognise and look after heritage



PART I: INVESTIGATE HERITAGE

Tips and tools to find out more about the heritage that matters to you



This part will develop your skills in:



KNOWLEDGE
& ADVICE



CONNECTING
PEOPLE



IDEAS &
CREATIVITY



ACCESS &
UNDERSTAND



RESEARCH &
EVALUATION



INCLUSION
& DIVERSITY



EVENTS &
EXPERIENCES



WELLBEING
& FUN

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT HERITAGE

It's not always easy to know where to begin if you're curious about the past. Deciding what you want to find out will help you to find the right place to start.

Investigating heritage is a journey of discovery. This journey can be fascinating and exciting. Often, it is also thought-provoking. Sometimes it will help us look at things in a new way and reveal parts that make us uncomfortable.

A huge range of information is out there. It's in the buildings and landscapes we walk among every day. It's in old photos and historic documents. And it's in every part of our living history – our stories, languages, and traditions passed down to us.

There are some great online resources you can use to research heritage. Most of these are free, and don't ask you to sign up to mailing lists or memberships.

To get your started, we highlight some of these below, under four broad areas of interest. Once you begin exploring, you'll find many more resources along the way,

PLACES, BUILDINGS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND LANDSCAPES

HABITAT, BIODIVERSITY AND LANDFORM

PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

TRADITIONS, STORIES, SONGS AND LANGUAGE

PLACES, BUILDINGS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND LANDSCAPES

The best place to start might be a visit to a local museum, library or archive, or a historic place that's open to the public. [Historic Environment Scotland](#) manages many such places, as do the [National Trust for Scotland](#) and the [Historic Houses](#).

Prefer to search online? Among the great websites out there are plenty that cover the whole of Scotland, like these:

PastMap

Find out about heritage in any part of Scotland. This free interactive map shows the locations of historic sites and places, as well as aerial photos and historic maps. [Watch a video introduction to PastMap.](#)

Canmore

Learn more about Scotland's archaeology, buildings, and industrial and maritime heritage. Enjoy browsing records, photos, drawings and other materials held in the Historic Environment Scotland Archive. You can also visit the HES Archive in person at our [Search Room in Edinburgh](#).

'I want to find the information that's already out there about my home, and about sites and places in my local area.'



Scran

Discover more than 500,000 images, sounds and film clips – plus related information – from museums, galleries, archives and private contributors.

Dictionary of Scottish Architects

Discover a huge resource about architects known to have worked in Scotland and the buildings they designed. It includes architects who were active from 1660 right up to 1980.

Statistical Accounts of Scotland

Dive into the history of individual parishes across Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Find details about geography, population and more.

National Library of Scotland

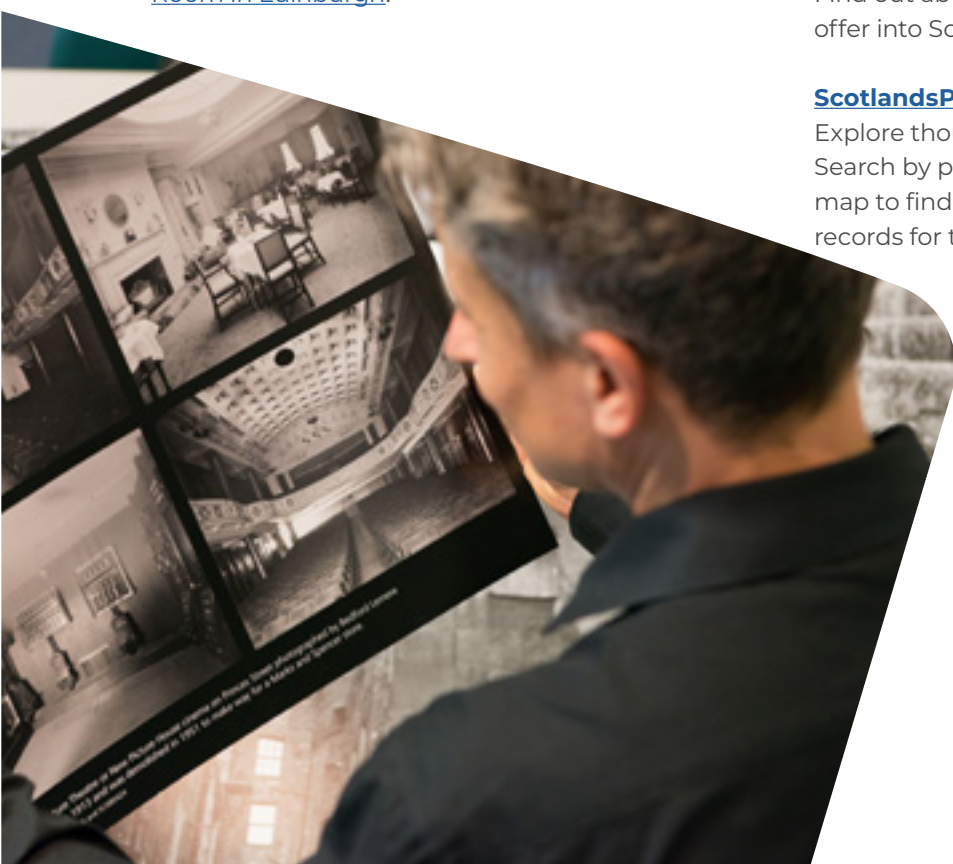
Access National Library of Scotland catalogues, including some of the [oldest maps of Scotland](#) – and many more modern ones.

National Museums Scotland

Find out about our museums and the insights they offer into Scotland's heritage.

ScotlandsPlaces

Explore thousands of records about Scotland. Search by place name or postcode, or click on a map to find historic maps, photos and written records for that location.



HABITAT, BIODIVERSITY AND LANDFORM

'I'm interested in nature and how humans have shaped our landscapes'



All of the places around us change over time. Some of these changes occur as part of natural processes, like the weather and the tides.

We humans are often the biggest force for change: we alter the spaces around us to suit our evolving needs.

Every landscape – from city to river valley – is a mix of human and natural elements.

You can read more about our approach to landscape in [People, Place and Landscape](#).

This Talking about Heritage guide can apply to any place that interests you.

But if topics like biodiversity, habitat or landforms are your main focus, NatureScot is likely to have useful guidance for you. A great place to start your search is the [NatureScot information hub](#).



Aberdour Castle garden incorporates mid-16th-century terraces, a walled garden with walls dating from the early 17th century, a late-17th-century orchard, remnants of early to mid 19th century parkland and more recent 20th and 21st century plantings.

PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

'I'm curious about where I come from. I want to find out about my family history, and the history of other families in my community – it's part of who I am today'.



You can find out about your heritage by talking to family, friends, neighbours and community members. There may be local history groups or societies that can help too.

Perhaps you have an interest in a person or family. Maybe you want to know about the people who once lived in your house or on your street. Or your focus may be on the bigger picture – how towns and cities have grown and changed, or the people who have moved to and from Scotland over time.

Local libraries and family history societies are also great sources of information.

If Scottish family history is your focus, the [Scottish Genealogy Society](#) has one of the largest collections of relevant records.

To research people and communities online, here are some great places to start.

[National Records of Scotland](#)

Discover information about Scotland's people and history, online and in person. Online resources include research guides on specific topics.

[ScotlandsPeople](#)

Find out about your ancestors and other people and places that matter to you. You can search ScotlandsPeople by name, date and place.

[Colourful Heritage](#)

Explore the history of migration to Scotland. Colourful Heritage is working to preserve South Asian and Muslim heritage in Scotland.



TRADITIONS, STORIES, SONGS AND LANGUAGE

'I'm interested in the oral history, stories and songs of my local area.'



Social history is the history of people and their lives. It can be shared by word of mouth and storytelling (known as oral history) and recorded in writing, photos, sound recordings and even videos. You will find useful sources of social history in all sorts of places, from conversations with people around you to online encyclopedias and video sites.

The words we use and the way we use them play a big part in how we see ourselves today. Our languages and dialects evolve over time and reflect changes in Scotland and beyond.

Each of us is influenced by a broad range of cultures, shaped by various times, places and experiences. These parts of our heritage can't be seen or held, and we often call them intangible.

Here are a few places to begin if you'd like to find out about intangible heritage.

TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland)

Explore a network for traditional music, storytelling and dance, which exists to showcase these aspects of Scotland's heritage.

Oral History Society

Get advice on how to record oral history as a beginner, find courses to develop your skills, or join a special interest group.

ICH Scotland

Find out about Scotland's intangible cultural heritage, from beliefs and customs to games and theatre.

Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o Riches

Search audio recordings of folklore, songs, music, history, poetry, traditions and stories from the 1930s onwards.

Scran

Discover more than 500,000 images, sounds and film clips – plus related information – from museums, galleries, archives and private contributors.

Scottish Poetry Library

Explore over 3,000 poems and much more, including books and pamphlets, articles, cuttings, and audio and video sources.

The 'China: Culture and Craft' exhibition at Stirling Castle celebrated Chinese culture and traditional crafts in collaboration with the University of Stirling and the Art Exhibitions China. © Rob McDougall



RESEARCH AND RECORD YOUR HERITAGE



Individuals and communities hold some of the most valuable information about local heritage, having researched and recorded it themselves.

At Historic Environment Scotland, we work with community groups to explore their heritage. We help them to find out more about local heritage through research and by making records, like photos and measured plans. Find out more in the [Communities section](#) of our website.

Not all communities engage with heritage or can access information to the same level. But we'd like everyone to have good opportunities to engage with the past. West of Scotland Regional Equality Council runs a project called [Roots Scotland](#). This aims to help minority ethnic communities in Scotland learn more about the historic environment and increase their appreciation and enjoyment of it.

Getting out and about can be an exciting way to research and record your heritage. We all share a responsibility to respect the outdoors. So, before you go, take time to read the relevant parts of the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code practical guide for all](#).



© Donald Macleod

RESEARCH AND RECORD BUILDINGS

Not finding what you're looking for online? Want to dig a bit deeper? Perhaps the next step is to explore and investigate the places around you.

This can shed light on hidden history – and maybe even challenge widely held accounts of the past. Our guides on [Researching Historic Buildings](#) and [Recording Buildings](#) may be of help in this process.

Interested in the changing heritage of our cities? Take a look at this [short video on surveying urban buildings](#).

Whatever your interest, photography and video is an excellent recording tool. If you've just got a new camera or phone, and are looking to learn some new techniques or have been shooting for a while and want to master some old ones, have a look at [this webpage on composing your photographs](#) for some top tips, including a short film.



Once you've done these things, you'll need to think about how to make a record of your efforts. Forms can help you to organise your thoughts and set them out clearly. We have [a variety of different templates for recording buildings and places](#) available to download. These can also be helpful as a starting point to create your own template.

If you've got photographs and notes that are ready to go and you want to add them to HES's National Record of the Historic Environment then you can do so at [MyCanmore](#).

Once you've registered you can not only upload text and images but also save your searches, mark your favourite site records and collection items, and organise them into lists.



RESEARCH AND RECORD

ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeology is the study of the human past. It looks at remains and objects left by people. If this interests you, take a look at [A Practical Guide to Recording Archaeological Sites](#). This has advice on techniques to use to explore such sites without disturbing them. It should be useful if you plan to look at landscapes, ruins, buildings or other structures.

We often think of archaeology as involving digging, but this isn't something to embark on lightly or without the right skills and careful planning. Digging is destructive and causes the permanent loss of material about the past.

If you plan to dig at a site, you must find out what permissions you will need to obtain in advance. Without these in place, you could be breaking the law. There's information about [scheduled monument consent](#) on our website.

Many archaeological digs welcome community involvement, if you want to have a go. You can pick up the basic skills and learn from the people around you as you go. [Archaeology Scotland](#) is a good place to start if you'd like to volunteer.

Find out about some of the big archaeological research questions – and how you can contribute – on the [Scottish Archaeological Research Framework website](#). You can find great resources on [Archaeology Scotland's Heritage Resources Portal](#).



RESEARCH AND RECORD

ORAL HISTORY



Scotland's social history is fascinating. To understand it better, you can gather facts and personal stories from people who want to share their memories. Talking to people will uncover their unique stories and views in their own voice and language. Information that you collect like this is called oral history.

Keen to record oral history? Find out about the [Oral History Society's training courses](#) and its other useful resources. You can also watch our [short video on recording oral history](#).



Top: © Julie Howden

CASE STUDY: LERWICK, OBSERVATORY, SHETLAND

The Lerwick Observatory is a scientific weather observatory located on high ground close to the town of Lerwick, Shetland.

In 2016, members of the Lerwick community, including several former employees and local supporters of the observatory, were concerned that a huge amount of information about the site was at risk of being lost.

The Met Office observatory opened around 1919-21 on the site of a First World War naval station. At the time there were two other weather stations providing meteorological information to the UK.

The office originally employed up to 40 staff in housing on the site. Other buildings on the site included the scientific offices and a bar.

The Observatory continues to operate as meteorological station and is also used by British Geological Survey for seismology research.

The group got together to compile a record, including oral history recording, a photo archive and a [short film](#) about their project and the Observatory's history.



PART 2: UNDERSTAND WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT HERITAGE

How to consider why heritage is important and what makes it special



This part will develop your skills in:



ACCESS &
UNDERSTAND



POLICY



RESEARCH &
EVALUATION



LEARN
& REFLECT



SHARE &
COLLABORATE

INTRODUCING CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

What makes an object, building or tradition worth looking after? You can begin by thinking about the particular values that people place on it.

A good place to start when trying to understand why heritage is special is thinking about what it means to you.



‘I love using words like ‘braw’ and ‘scunner’. Local language is dying out.’

Forth Valley workshop participant



‘The Barrowland Ballroom is just the same. The smell transports me back to when I was a teenager.’

East Renfrewshire workshop participant



‘The Outer Hebrides suit me very well. It’s full of history, beauty and isolation.’

Perth workshop participant



STARTING A CONVERSATION

To understand how other people interact with and value heritage, it's good to talk to people who already know about that heritage, or who live or work near it. You should also connect with other groups or communities who may value or feel strongly about it because of a common interest or culture.

It's equally important to reach out to individuals or groups who may take an opposing view. Doing this will help you to better understand heritage and why it matters.



Left: © Donald Macleod
Above: © Rob McDougall

A SHARED LANGUAGE OF SIGNIFICANCE

We want people to talk about heritage more, and it's good to use the same language so that we understand each other better. A shared understanding helps when we discuss whether something should be recognised or celebrated, and how it should be managed.

We often talk about cultural significance when talking about heritage and what makes it special. This is how we talk at Historic Environment Scotland about things like listed buildings and World Heritage Sites, or why any place or object may be special. Cultural significance is an idea that's used widely in Scotland and beyond.

Getting used to talking about cultural significance can help you talk about heritage you care about. You may need to explain why heritage is significant when you apply for funding or support, propose a commemorative plaque, or request that a building is listed. Your community group may need to explain significance to gain support for a project. For a community council, it may be necessary to explain the significance of a place in relation to a local planning case.

Find out more about cultural significance, and how we talk about it, in the [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) and our [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#).



Above: Commemorating Scots stonemasons who were instrumental in the construction of the White House in Washington D.C. USA. © Donald Macleod

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING SIGNIFICANCE

Significance is a big topic, so it helps to break it down into three simple questions that you can ask yourself.

STEP 1: WHAT IS IT?

Think in detail about the place, object or other thing that you're analysing.

A key part of this is to think about any physical elements:

- How much survives of what was once there?
- What does it look like?
- How much has it changed over time?

You may have to ask slightly different questions for things that aren't physical. For example, you could consider how stories change as they are told time and again.

STEP 2: WHAT IS ITS CONTEXT?

Next, examine where the thing that you're analysing sits in the wider world. Even if something is unique, it will still have wider relationships.

You can think about its context in terms of place and time as well as ideas and traditions:

- What is its history? How was it used in the past, and how is it used now?
- Does it have relationships to other objects? What about other places, events or stories?
- Is there anything like it? Can you find any other examples? Is your example unusual? Or is it in especially good condition?
- Does it have a wider meaning to people? Do people tell stories or sing songs about it? Is it something that people would recognise from a painting or photo? Has its meaning changed with time?

STEP 3: WHAT VALUES DO PEOPLE PLACE ON IT?

You should now be in a good position to think about what values people invest in the place, object or other thing you're analysing.

You can break down cultural significance into various values.

At Historic Environment Scotland, we often talk about:

- **Aesthetic value** – how we experience physical things; how they look, sound and feel.
- **Historic value** – something's place in history. Did it change or influence ideas, events or people? Or was it influenced by them?
- **Scientific value** – something that can contribute to research. Can it tell us more about the past?
- **Social value** – spiritual or cultural meaning for a certain community or group. You could think about how your community uses a building or public space.

Speak to other people to better grasp the full range of values linked to the heritage you're interested in.

People's views about heritage often differ. Heritage that is 'special' to one person or group may be seen differently by another – they may want it challenged, changed or even destroyed. Heritage that inspires heated debate is sometimes known as contested heritage.

How people think about heritage can also change with time. Capturing this diversity of values can be the most rewarding part of the process.

We worked with the University of Stirling to look at the significance of heritage to communities. Find out more on the [Wrestling with Social Value website](#).

WRITING ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE

One way to communicate significance is to write a statement explaining the values and meaning of the object, place or tradition.

A statement of significance can be as short or as long as needed.

Statements of significance can be used to support applications for funding or for protected status. Including such a statement with your submission to proposal for a [listed building](#) or [scheduled monument](#) can help you to make your case as effectively as possible.

They're also useful when trying to bring a building back into use. To find a long-term sustainable use for a building, you sometimes have to make changes to it.

A statement of significance can help to ensure that you protect what's special about the building, so that it isn't lost.

At Historic Environment Scotland, we write [statements of significance for the historic sites that we look after](#). You can also find statements on the importance of designated sites and places on the [Historic Environment Portal](#).

Every statement of significance is unique. What goes into a statement will depend on what heritage it is about and why you're writing it.

Giving details of any sources of information you used to prepare your statement is always useful.

Here are two examples, which include links to online information that we used.



Investigating the interior of St Magnus Church, Egilsay, Orkney. Site visits are often an important part of assessing the cultural significance of sites and places for designation.

CASE STUDY: THE TINKERS' HEART, ARGYLL AND BUTE

What is it?

The Tinkers' Heart is a heart of quartz stones set into the tarmac of an old road junction near Cairndow, Argyll and Bute. Visit Canmore to [learn more about the Tinkers' Heart](#).

What is its context?

Oral tradition among the Scottish Traveller community says that the Tinkers' Heart was originally created by Traveller women as a memorial. Its purpose was to honour the Traveller men who had died during the Jacobite uprising of 1745 and, more specifically, at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The exact date that the heart first came into being is unknown. But there is sound evidence dating from the late 1920s of the physical form of the heart and its evolution over time. This includes proof of its repair by the local authority on several occasions.

The heart serves as a tangible symbol of the strong links between Travellers (and their traditions) and this precise spot at a significant route junction. The location is also scenic, with open views towards Loch Fyne and Inveraray. No similar monuments to Travellers are known of in either Argyll and Bute or the rest of Scotland.

What values do people place on it?

The Tinkers' Heart appears to be a unique and permanent physical monument to Scottish Travellers, for whom the heart has very strong symbolic and traditional meaning. As a setting where weddings, christenings and other gatherings have been held, the heart is a place of collective remembrance. The local settled community also sees the site as historically significant, and a part of the rich cultural heritage of the Cairndow area.

Hear more about the site in the words of Scottish Traveller and writer Jess Smith in our [short video about the Tinkers' Heart](#). Jess talks about how she worked to preserve its legacy and to have the [Tinkers' Heart recognised as a scheduled monument](#).



CASE STUDY: THE HOOD STONES, LOCH ERIBOLL, SUTHERLAND

What is it?

Two sets of stones painted white spell out the word 'Hood' on a hill above Laid village, Loch Eriboll.

Visit Canmore to [learn more about the Hood Stones](#).

What is its context?

The Hood Stones are linked to HMS Hood, one of the great warships of the Second World War. The Royal Navy crew first placed the stones on the hill in 1934, while the ship was moored in Loch Eriboll. In 1941, German warship Bismarck sunk HMS Hood in the Battle of the Denmark Strait, with 1,415 crew losing their lives.

The stones, left undisturbed for years, eventually became overgrown with plants. In 1993, pupils from nearby Durness Primary School cleared the stones and whitewashed them.

HMS Hood is not the only ship for which a visit to Loch Eriboll was marked in this way. The names of several other ships – some historic, others more recent – dot the hillside. Other memorials to HMS Hood are found in England and Canada.

What values do people place on it?

The Hood Stones are valued by various people, including those living in the local area; people with an interest in HMS Hood; and descendants of the ship's crew. Some people in these last two groups may have never visited the site in person.

This community of interest extends beyond the UK. Its members connect with each other and with the site partly via digital platforms. The Hood Stones link the ship and her crew to Loch Eriboll, in turn connecting the local area and its communities to events of national importance and to a global network of people and places touched by HMS Hood.

For some, the Hood Stones have become a memorial. Regular repainting of the stones, by local schoolchildren and the Royal Navy, is seen as a mark of respect. It's also a chance to pass on memories of the ship and her crew to the next generation. The Hood Stones are a stop on the Laid Heritage Trail, which highlights local sites of interest.

The University of Stirling researched the values associated with the Hood Stones. Read the [Wrestling with Social Value case study on the Hood Stones](#).



PART 3: SHARE AND CELEBRATE HERITAGE

Ways to share with others the heritage that matters to you



This part will develop your skills in:



RESEARCH &
EVALUATION



DIGITAL



ACCESS &
UNDERSTAND



INCLUSION
& DIVERSITY



SHARE &
COLLABORATE



IDEAS &
CREATIVITY



LEARN
& REFLECT

Our past is more than one story. We can celebrate our stories in lots of different ways.

Sharing knowledge about heritage adds to everyone's understanding of our past. Making heritage more accessible supports inclusivity and helps us to respect a wide variety of cultures. When more people learn about your heritage, they can help you to celebrate and protect it.

We think that including people is so important that we made it the first policy in the [Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#). This policy should inform any decision that affects Scotland's heritage.

“Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance.”

- **HEP1, Historic Environment Policy for Scotland**

Thinking like this helps us all to make better choices for the places we care about.

To learn about sharing and celebrating, we highlight options below under four broad avenues to explore.

[SHARE YOUR RESEARCH](#)

[LEARNING ABOUT HERITAGE](#)

[HELP OTHERS TO EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE](#)

[CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE](#)

SHARE YOUR RESEARCH

There are lots of options if you'd like to share your heritage research with others. What it is that you want to share may help you to decide on the best place for it. Here are some good places to look.

Thinking about adding your research to Canmore or a local Historic Environment Record? Get in touch early on for advice on how to do this as easily as possible. Which organisation you need to contact may depend on what you're looking at.

MyCanmore

Join the MyCanmore community to directly upload photos and text about your favourite places to Canmore. You'll need to register for a MyCanmore account to get started.

Scottish Historic Environment Records Forum

A great source of local heritage information, Historic Environment Records are held by local authority archaeology services. If there's no service listed for your area, you can contact your council planning department.

ICH Scotland

Add to the ICH Scotland wiki any insights about our intangible cultural heritage, from beliefs and customs to games and theatre. Doing so can help to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of our heritage.

People's Parish

Share local stories, traditions and cultural memories by starting or joining a [People's Parish project](#)



OTHER OPTIONS FOR SHARING RESEARCH

If you have a physical archive of documents or items like photos, maps or drawings, you may want people to be able to see them in person.

We welcome archives in physical or digital format for the Historic Environment Scotland Archive and we undertake to ensure their long-term preservation.

Contact us using the [HES enquiry form on Canmore](#).

The [Community Archives and Heritage Group](#) helps to support and promote community archives across the UK.

The [Scottish Council on Archives](#) in Scotland are a member of this group and offer lots of online resources and practical training to groups who are collecting, preserving and recording archive material.

You can also promote your research on your own website or on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. For inspiration, take a look at [Sanday Voices](#) or [Project Hawick](#).

These projects have made fantastic contributions to preserve their local oral history and traditions and promote their work online.



There are currently some 1.2million catalogue entries in Canmore for historic photographs, drawings, manuscripts and digital archives which illustrate and document Scotland's historic environment.

CASE STUDY: SANDAY VOICES, ORKNEY

The island of Sanday is one of the larger inhabited outer islands of Orkney. The island has a population of about 550.

In 2003, the Sanday community launched a project to record the lives and experiences of those currently living on the island.

People were asked to share their memories of personal, local and world events.

Over the next five years, the community made more than 40 hours of recordings – about life before mains water; changing agriculture and transport; and the ways in which island life has evolved over time.

Find out more about the [Sanday Voices project](#).



CASE STUDY: GRANTON WALLED GARDEN, EDINBURGH

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden got in touch with us in 2015 for help to survey and record the medieval garden.

The 15th-century Granton Castle itself is no longer standing, but a family of market gardeners had owned and tended the garden from 1921 to 2005.

In 2014, the historic greenspace was at risk of demolition to make way for a new housing development.

The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden set out to raise awareness of this special place, largely untouched for over 500 years.

The group was keen to help restore and manage the garden for use by the local community.

The group produced the [Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden website](#) and added photos and text about Granton Castle Walled Garden to Canmore.

The group's research was also used to update the [listed building record for Granton Castle Walled Garden](#). Today, the garden is a hub of community activity.



LEARNING ABOUT HERITAGE

Exploring castles. Investigating archives. Having a go at traditional skills.

People can learn about the past in all sorts of ways. You may have been studying heritage for years, or perhaps it's a brand-new interest.

Getting involved and talking about heritage can open the door for other people and groups to do so too. And learning about the past can help us all to be more creative in how we approach future challenges.

There are lots of ways you can help people to learn about heritage. If you're keen to know how heritage can contribute to learning, you will find plenty of useful information online. These websites offer resources to support learners of all ages and backgrounds.

[Learn with Historic Environment Scotland](#)

Discover the online and in-person events, downloadable learning resources, and free visits to Historic Scotland sites that we offer.

[Archaeology Scotland's learning resources](#)

Get support and information about what archaeology is and how it can be used in learning activities, and find lots of useful resources to download.

[ARCH \(Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands\)](#)

Find experimental archaeology resources for learners and teachers, including overviews of various archaeological periods and historic crafts and skills.



HELP OTHERS TO EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE

See heritage and connect with it, understand and communicate why it matters, and explore its values in everyday life.

Scotland's heritage attracts millions of visitors every year. Heritage can help local communities to stay vibrant and can support their economies. Find out about [Visit Scotland support for businesses](#) to promote the best of Scotland.

Interpretation is one way to help people access, explore and understand heritage. This is the term used for the signs and exhibits seen in museums and at places of interest. It can also describe tour guides, performers and online information.



Above: © Malcolm McCurrach



Good interpretation can bring heritage to life.

It can reveal new insights into a place, object, building, event or tradition, and make it accessible and enjoyable for all.

To create interpretation for heritage, first think about who you want to communicate with, and why.

Then ask yourself what you want them to take away from it. You can break this down into a series of questions:

- 
- 
- **Who is your audience?** Are they existing or new visitors? Try to reach out to new people who may have no previous experience of your subject or who haven't had a chance to engage with it.
 - **Why do you want to communicate with your audience?** How serious is the story you're telling? It's important to think about how people may respond emotionally to the information you are offering.
 - **What's your heritage and what does it have to offer?** Think about tangible and intangible heritage. If you're working with a place or object, one of the best ways to involve people is to share the stories and traditions around it. Remember to consider both positive and negative aspects.
 - **What do you want to say?** You may have a chance to both interpret widely held narratives and also shed light on untold stories and views that are rarely heard.
 - **How do you want to say it?** Guides or actors can present what you want to say live at events. You can also use panels, publications, film, audio, sculpture and artwork. There is even the option to deliver virtual interpretation online.

You can find advice online on how to deliver effective interpretation. You could start with the [Museums Galleries Scotland introduction to interpretation](#). While it focuses on museum collections, there's plenty of good advice for wider use. The step-by-step [NatureScot guidance on natural heritage interpretation](#) is also useful for other topics.

CASE STUDY: FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S TOWER, AYR

St John's Tower is all that remains of Ayr's original parish church, which was dedicated to St John the Baptist, the patron saint of Ayr.

The church was built in the late 12th century, but it isn't specifically mentioned in documents until the 13th century.

[The Friends of St John's Tower group](#) uncovered the history of the tower and celebrated its past with the whole town in a special community event called 'Unlocking the Tower'.

The group developed a website and added its [surveys, photos and sketches of St John's Tower](#) to Canmore.

Because of access restrictions, the community also created a [virtual tour of the tower's interiors and views](#).

"We were delighted to be able to give visitors who couldn't get up the tower the link to our film. There are many who arrive and feel it's too high, too dark or that they are unable because of mobility problems. It was good to be able to say, 'Well, you can see it online!'"

- **Friends of St John's Tower**



St John's Tower, from the south. The tower is a listed building - [LB21766](#)

CASE STUDY: LANDSCAPES OF COAL MINING PROJECT

Coal was part of daily life in Scotland's Central Belt not so long ago.

Scotland's coal mining industry peaked after the Second World War, when it met about 90% of the nation's needs for fuel. About 140,000 people worked in the industry at the time.

[Landscape Legacies of Coal Mining](#), a joint project of the University of Stirling and local community groups, created a series of heritage walks.

These tell the story of Scottish coal mining by showing people around the landscapes that the industry left behind.

Though some of these industrial scenes still survive today, they are gradually disappearing.

The walks can be found on the Landscape Legacies of Coal Mining app, which is free to download. The project website also has details about [current and forthcoming walking routes](#).



CELEBRATE YOUR HERITAGE

There's so much to celebrate in Scotland's heritage. When you share your heritage, others can appreciate it too.

The [Scottish Civic Trust](#) has a passion for helping Scotland's people and communities to play an active part in their heritage. The Trust works to celebrate heritage through award schemes and events like [Doors Open Days](#). And it passes on the knowledge and skills that communities need to make their local areas better places.

Is there someone from the past who you think deserves to be celebrated with a plaque on a building where they lived or worked?

Historic Environment Scotland runs a national [Commemorative Plaque Scheme](#). Look out for the next call for nominations on our website and social media channels.

Some councils and professional bodies also have plaque schemes. These include [Aberdeen City Council Commemorative Plaques](#) and the [Royal Society of Chemistry National Chemical Landmarks](#). Contact your local council or search online for similar schemes.



© Malcolm McCurrach

CASE STUDY: FREDERICK DOUGLAS, AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHOR AND ANTI-SLAVERY ACTIVIST

In 2018, Historic Environment Scotland [unveiled a plaque at 33 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh](#), for Frederick Douglass. The African American author and anti-slavery activist was nominated by a member of the public.

Douglass had once lived at the Edinburgh address as Scotland's anti-slavery agent, organising many of his abolitionist and civil rights campaigns from here. The plaque recognises his significant contribution to civil rights.

Born into slavery in 1818 in Maryland, in the United States of America, Douglass survived the tragedies of life as an enslaved individual until his escape in 1838. He went on to become a world-renowned author and freedom fighter. In 1845, while on the run as a fugitive slave, Douglass travelled to Great Britain and Ireland to tell his story.

In Scotland, Douglass visited many cities and towns to inspire others to engage in anti-slavery activism. He had a leading role in the campaign against the Free Church of Scotland, which took donations from white enslavers in the USA. He spearheaded the protest movement with the slogan, "Send back the blood-stained money!"

As Douglass recalled, while he and his fellow advocates failed to make the Free Church send back the money, they did enlighten Scotland's people about slavery in America.



CASE STUDY: QUEERING THE MAPS OF EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW

To celebrate LGBT+ History Month 2019, [LGBT Health and Wellbeing](#) joined the [Scottish Civic Trust](#), [OurStory Scotland](#) and our own Scotland's Urban Past project to discuss what the buildings, streets and places of Edinburgh mean to LGBT+ people.

The group held a workshop to identify significant places on three large maps.

The places and experiences have been collated into [Queering the Map of Edinburgh](#) to let people explore aspects of the city's LGBT+ heritage.

A key motivation to run the workshop was to consider how an environment can be experienced very differently by different groups of people. Hence the map records the negative as well as the positive.

In 2020, the Scottish Civic Trust started to work with the [Glasgow Disability Alliance](#) LGBTQ+ group on Queering the [Map of Glasgow](#).



© Helen Pugh

PART 4: PROTECT AND CARE FOR HERITAGE

Ideas and information on how to recognise and look after heritage



This part will develop your skills in:



POLICY



KNOWLEDGE
& ADVICE



CONNECTING
PEOPLE



WELLBEING
& FUN



ACCESS &
UNDERSTAND



SHARE &
COLLABORATE



VOLUNTEERING



SKILLS &
EXPERIENCE

Individuals and groups make a major contribution to how heritage is looked after for the benefit of the people of Scotland, both today and in the future.

To learn about protecting and caring for heritage, we highlight options below under four broad avenues to explore.

RECOGNISING SIGNIFICANCE THROUGH LISTING AND OTHER REGISTERS

RECOGNISING HERITAGE THAT MATTERS TO YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

ENGAGE WITH THE PLANNING SYSTEM

LOOKING AFTER HERITAGE



The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a listed building at category B ([LB51957](#))

RECOGNISING SIGNIFICANCE THROUGH LISTING AND OTHER REGISTERS

One of the main ways to recognise that sites and places are significant is to add them to lists, registers and inventories. Various levels of recognition – by national body, local authority or community – achieve slightly different things. If you're keen to have heritage recognised, first you need to think about what you want to achieve.

STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

Historic Environment Scotland manages four lists, for various types of sites and places:

- [List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest](#)
- [Schedule of monuments of national importance](#)
- [Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes](#)
- [Inventory of Historic Battlefields](#)

We also advise the Scottish Government on [Historic Marine Protected Areas](#), used to protect our most important marine heritage sites.

Designation is the term we use for the process of adding a place to one of our lists. This gives legal recognition to some of our most important historic sites and places. By ensuring that such sites are recognised by law, through the planning system and other regulatory processes, any changes to them must be carefully considered.

This includes changes to the setting of historic sites and places. Setting is the way the surroundings of a historic site or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced. Find out more in our guidance note [Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting](#).

Anyone can propose a new designation – for a building, monument, battlefield, garden or designed landscape, or marine heritage site – and we regularly work with community groups. You can also ask us to review an existing designation or update a record. To make a request, please use our [designation application form](#).

You can search for designated heritage across Scotland via the [Historic Environment Portal](#). It's also the place to comment on designation proposals. We welcome your views – they can help us to make good decisions about protecting Scotland's heritage.

To learn more about designation, you can read our [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#). This sets out how we make decisions on designation at the national level.



CASE STUDY: ASSYNT PREHISTORIC CAIRNS ON THE NORTH COAST 500

The community group Historic Assynt asked us to consider putting a group of prehistoric burial monuments in its local area on the [schedule of monuments of national importance](#).

The group wanted to gain greater recognition and protection for these little-known sites.

Scheduled monuments are monuments of national importance to Scotland. Currently, there are about 8,000 of them. Many of them have survived for more than 5,000 years.

Scotland has been recognising the cultural significance of its ancient monuments since 1882, when the first legislation was passed to help protect these sites.

After carrying out desk-based research, our team visited about 50 of the prehistoric cairns, joining up with volunteers from Historic Assynt.

After further research, 14 prehistoric sites were designated for the first time as scheduled monuments.

The site visits also allowed the team to reassess and update the records of a further 17 sites that were already protected as scheduled monuments.



This cairn at Glen Oykel, Assynt was designated as a scheduled monument for the first time in 2018 ([SM13703](#))

OTHER TYPES OF LISTS AND REGISTERS

Many sites and places valued by people and communities won't meet the criteria for national designation. For example, many Scottish communities have a place of worship, school, or community hall that is important to them. But very few of these places will have a level of cultural significance that is high enough for designation.

Even for sites that are significant, designation may not be the most effective way to protect and care for them. Sometimes it's not the best option for a place at immediate risk – for example, a coastal archaeological site about to fall into the sea.

When a site is designated, you may need to get permission before making changes. This takes time. If the threat is progressing fast, delays could make a big difference to the outcome.

Local designations, like [conservation areas](#) and [Local Landscape Areas](#), are one of the many other ways to recognise and acknowledge sites and places. Local authorities manage these, so the best place to begin with a designation proposal is your local council's planning department. Writing a clear statement of significance can help with this process.

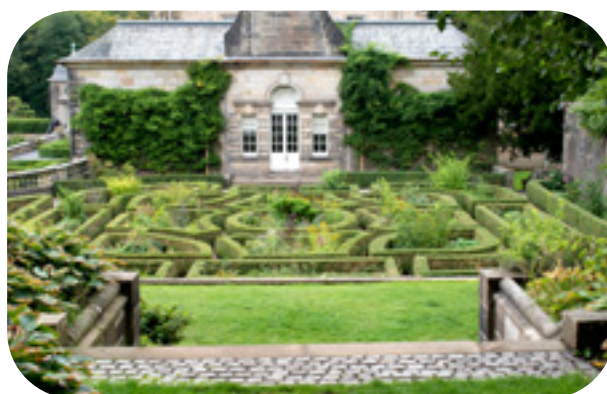
For some other types of heritage there are also registers which recognise significance but without providing protection in law. More well-known ones include

- [War Memorials Register](#)
- [Tree Register of the British Isles](#)
- [National Register of Historic Vessels](#)

[Scotland's Gardens and Landscapes Heritage](#) are active in recording designed landscapes of regional and local significance as part of their Glorious Gardens Initiative and in some local authority areas, these gardens feature in local lists.



Above: A war memorial at Duntocher. © Marcin Klimek



Above: The designed landscape of Pollok Park forms the setting for the classical-style Pollok House, built 1750-52. Pollok Park is on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes ([GDL00317](#))

RECORD HERITAGE THAT MATTERS TO YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

DRAW UP A LIST OF LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE

Making a list of locally significant heritage is a way for people and communities in Scotland to identify and record the heritage that matters to them.

Sometimes called 'local lists', lists like these don't provide legal protection. But they can still be considered when change is proposed.

Lists of locally significant heritage that are community-led can bring many benefits. They promote the importance of all of Scotland's historic environment.

They can bring people together and help to promote collaboration with local authorities and other decision-makers. They can also make a valuable contribution when community bodies are preparing a Local Place Plan.

Some communities have already begun to think about the heritage that matters to them and how to recognise it.



CASE STUDY: LEITH LISTINGS

Leith has some of the most rapidly evolving communities and neighbourhoods in Scotland. In recent years, however, local community groups have raised concerns that much of the area's industrial landscape has been lost to new-build housing and commercial development.

As part of the [People and Places: Make Leith Better programme](#), community groups came together to develop a list of locally significant heritage.

The aim was that the list could inform decision-makers about local buildings and structures, other places and intangible assets that make Leith unique and are important to the local community.

The project team wanted to be as open and accessible as possible to encourage participation from everyone. It especially wanted to involve those who face barriers to taking part in mainstream planning processes.

More than 2,000 people took part in total – through on-street interviews, public events and exhibitions.

The final list of 121 places includes pubs, parks, swings and graveyards. It reflects some of the significant historic buildings and structures in Leith, and also the people, places and attitudes that define the area.

To learn more and see the full list, [download the Leith Listings report](#).

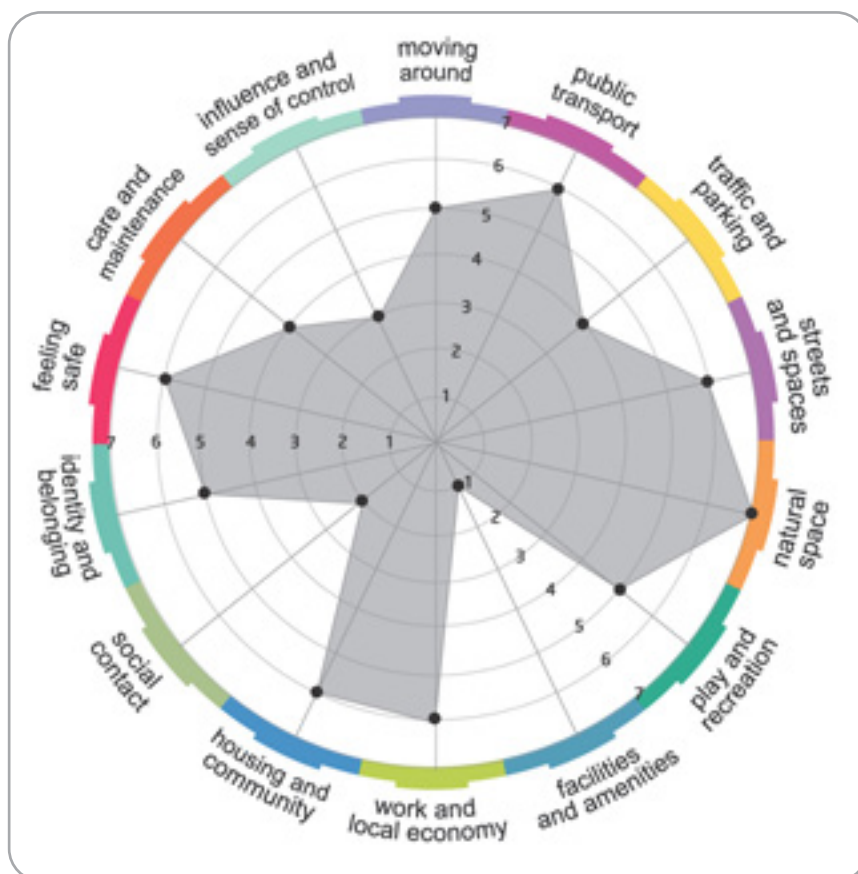


Contributors to Leith Listings commented that they valued the Central Bar in Leith because 'it's a piece of history with lots of character'; 'i like the interior'; and it's 'old fashioned, kept the same'.

MAKING GOOD PLACES

In Scotland, the [Place Principle](#) helps to create successful and sustainable places, and heritage has a big part to play in this.

Good places are distinctive, safe and pleasant; easy to move around and beyond; welcoming; adaptable; and resource efficient. Scotland's [Place Standard tool](#) can help you to think and talk about the physical and social, tangible and intangible aspects that make good places.



[Place Standard tool](#) developed by the Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland, Glasgow City Council and Architecture & Design Scotland. Public sector information licensed under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#). www.placestandard.scot

Some places and buildings may sit empty while awaiting planning decisions or investment. Architecture and Design Scotland has advice on [how to make the most of these stalled spaces](#).

Are you part of a community group? Do you want to champion local heritage and protect its distinctiveness? If so, you can get involved in making good places in a number of ways, including through community ownership.

If you're not sure where to begin, try our [Community Advice Hub](#).

COMMUNITIES AND OWNERSHIP

Community bodies can request to buy, lease, manage or use land and buildings that belong to local authorities, Scottish public bodies or the Scottish Government. Community bodies also have other specific rights when it comes to taking control of land and buildings under community empowerment laws.

If your community group plans to take a historic asset into community management or ownership, we recommend that you identify a sustainable long-term use for it. Find out more about [community empowerment](#) and [communities and ownership](#) on our website.

The [Community Ownership Support Service](#) and [Heritage Trust Network Scotland](#) provide support for the transfer of assets into community management or ownership. Their websites are hubs of helpful information.

Want to be more involved in the decisions and services that affect your community? Communities also have the right to request this under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The [Scottish Community Development Centre](#) offers useful advice on how to submit participation requests, and works with communities to help build capacity.



Above: © Donald Macleod



ENGAGE WITH THE PLANNING SYSTEM

Planning plays a major part in helping to maintain and enhance Scotland's distinctive historic places and makes a real difference to people's lives and well-being.

The planning system is there to promote, facilitate and regulate development in the public interest. But all too often, people only find out what's happening and get involved at the last minute – usually when a development proposal directly affects them.

It's best to get actively involved from an early stage, even though planning processes can seem confusing. Local communities are often the ones who feel the impact of planning decisions on the ground. More people engaging with the system helps to shape good places.

Change can help places to thrive, and some change is essential. We need change to meet economic, social and environmental needs, and to take urgent global climate action.

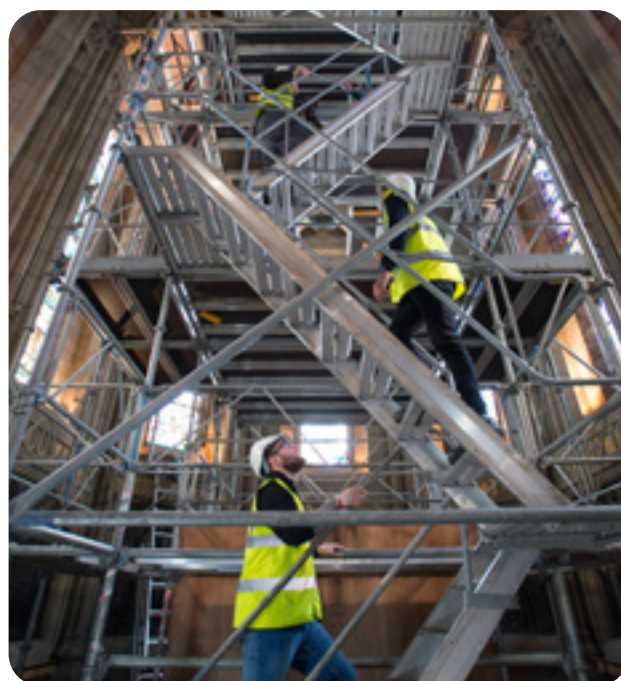
To explore and discuss what makes good places – in terms of both physical and social aspects – try using the [Place Standard tool](#).

Every council area in Scotland has a Local Development Plan – the main document used to make decisions about managing development and land use in the area. Getting involved in creating your area's Local Development Plan can be a great way to influence what happens there. You can also get involved when specific applications for planning permission are made.

Early engagement doesn't guarantee that everyone will get what they want. Planning decisions often require hard choices, and not all differences can be resolved. But it does enable a more transparent planning and decision-making process and help to identify issues early on.



Above: © Julie Howden



SHOW THE WIDER BENEFITS OF HERITAGE

Information in this guide can help you to explain why heritage is special in its own right, by sharing its cultural significance.

But heritage may also be important for other reasons. It may create jobs, provide spaces for exercise and play, or bring people together. If you're fighting to save a building or place that you love, sharing the wider benefits can make your case even stronger.

We're working with others to develop the [Sustainable Investment Toolkit](#). It isn't quite finalised yet, but the draft toolkit can help you to think about heritage in terms of:

- **Economic benefits** like jobs or income, and whether there is the potential to encourage inward investment or partnerships.
- **Social benefits** such as contributions to social health and well-being, the community, skills development, engagement or diversity.
- **Environmental benefits** or impacts, and the potential for adaptation or the alternative use of built structures.

Protecting heritage may also protect jobs, strengthen a community and help to respond to the climate crisis. You can explain the wider benefits of a building or place to help the local authority see the bigger picture. Such knowledge can influence what the authority decides about the long-term future of the heritage.



SUPPORT TO GET YOUR VOICE HEARD

There are organisations that can help you get your voice heard in the planning process. A good place to start is Planning Aid for Scotland – better known as [PAS](#).

This charity helps people to get involved in decision-making in the planning system in an impartial, open and inclusive way.

If local heritage is your focus, the [Scottish Civic Trust](#) will want to help.

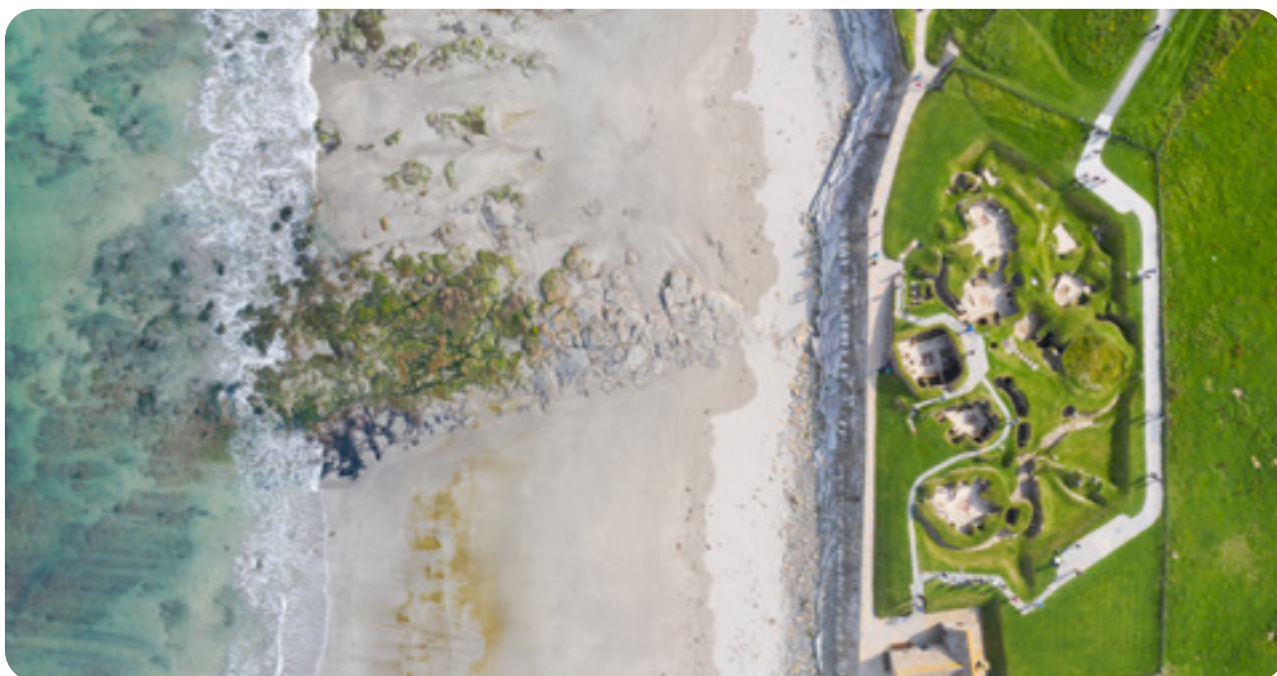
The Trust works to give communities the knowledge and skills to make good places. It can give you advice on many areas, including [how to comment on planning applications](#).

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORDS

Local authority archaeology services keep records of historic sites and places called Historic Environment Records.

You can tell them about the heritage that matters to you, and they can add it to this record.

Sites included on the record don't have extra legal protection. But this information helps planners and other decision-makers to take account of the heritage that matters to you.



LOCAL PLACE PLANS

[Local Place Plans](#) are a new type of plan in Scotland. They are prepared by communities, and set out their needs and aspirations.

Local Place Plans can help community bodies and community councils to shape proposals for development and land use in their area.

Since Local Place Plans are new, we're still learning about how they will work in practice. We do know that Local Development Plans will have to take them into account.

If your community wants to prepare a Local Place Plan, you'll need to work as a community body or with a community council. Community bodies are in a great position to include local heritage in the Local Place Plans. The resources in this guide should be able to help.

A Local Place Plan should provide a map showing the land covered by the plan. Community bodies can use the plan to explain their proposals for development and use of land or buildings within the area on the map.

An important part of Local Place Plans is identifying land and buildings that are important to the community and local area.

Once you have found out what is important to your community, community bodies can include these as part of the information in the plan and identify it on the map. This can be a great way to get a local list recognised.

If you want to find out more, the Scottish Government has produced guidance to community bodies and local authorities on preparing Local Place Plans: [Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans](#).



© Donald MacLeod

LOOKING AFTER HERITAGE

Individual owners and communities can often care for and celebrate their local built heritage best. Few people know a place better than those who live there.



'We are making heritage for the future, playing a role in shaping heritage.'

Orkney workshop participant.



Communities bring their passion and understanding to all types of heritage. For sites and places, this may include old school buildings, former factories, ruined churches, local memorials and archaeological sites. We couldn't do our work at Historic Environment Scotland without communities getting involved and sharing information.

Not all communities are local. Community members may not live close to each other or to the heritage they care about. A group of people may value or feel strongly about the heritage because of a common interest or culture – communities of interest and communities of identity.

Here are just some of the ways in which community groups can get involved.

MONITORING LOCAL HERITAGE

Your community can help to monitor and improve our understanding of what's happening in your local historic environment.

Archaeology Scotland's [Adopt-a-Monument programme](#) helps you take on the care of local monuments. It supports local communities to conserve the monuments they feel passionate about.

Do you live on the coast? Why not consider helping the [SCAPE Trust](#) with its efforts? Using its app, you can help to monitor and record coastal heritage sites under threat from coastal erosion and climate change. [Read guidance on using the SCAPE app.](#)

You can also help us to monitor the historic buildings and places that we look after. Get involved in the Historic Environment Scotland [Monument Monitor](#) project.



Taking photographs by mobile phone can help to monitor long term issues affecting historic sites. To learn more about how Citizen Science can contribute to research about heritage, try our [Inform Guide](#).

BRINGING HISTORIC PLACES BACK TO LIFE

Communities involved with local heritage can also play a major part in helping to regenerate historic places. If you want to give new life to a local historic building, we can give you support and guidance along the way.

We gather information about the vulnerable historic places on the [Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland](#). Much of this information comes to us from local sources. Get in touch if you think an important local building should be on the register. Or to tell us about changes affecting a Building at Risk. Contact us online to [suggest a building for the register](#).

You can help Historic Environment Scotland to monitor your local built heritage. Get in touch to find out about the Buildings at Risk project and how you can help. Email the Buildings at Risk Register team at barr@hes.scot.

Live in a traditional building? Our website has practical guidance on [looking after your property](#). If you're not sure where to start, you can email us directly at hmenquiries@hes.scot.

We also recommend that you get in touch with [Heritage Trust Network Scotland](#). This network of building preservation trusts operates in the major cities and in rural areas across Scotland. It plays a big part in the regeneration of historic places, by sharing advice and offering expertise to local groups.



Above: © Historic Environment Scotland/Bryony Donnelly

CITY HERITAGE TRUSTS

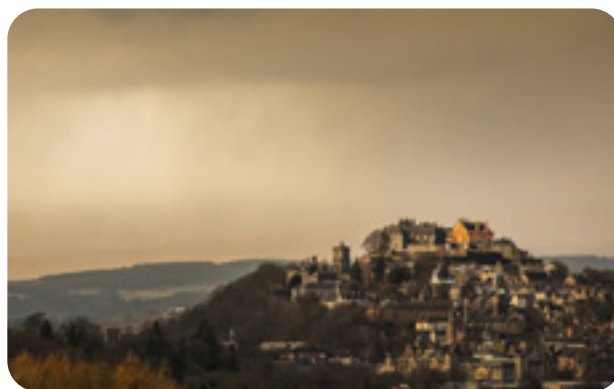
If you live in a Scottish city, you may have heard about your City Heritage Trust.

These charities exist to help care for the historic environment. They award grants for building conservation and support local communities to explore and promote the local heritage that matters to them.

Visit the City Heritage Trust websites to see exactly what each one does:

- [Aberdeen City Heritage Trust](#)
- [Glasgow City Heritage Trust](#)
- [Inverness City Heritage Trust](#)
- [Stirling City Heritage Trust](#)
- [Dundee Historic Environment Trust](#)

Perth is part of the [Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust](#). Edinburgh has [Edinburgh World Heritage](#).



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

To find out how we can help your local community group, explore the [communities pages](#) of our website.

FUNDING

Community bodies have many options for ways to pay for their activities. But this can mean that it's hard to know which route to try first.

Not all ways to raise money will suit every community body or every project. It's a good idea to lay out your goal, how you plan to achieve it and who will benefit. Then you can think about fund-raising options.

We've put together details on a few ways to obtain the money and other resources that your group will need. Find out more in the [Communities and Funding](#) section of our web site.

You can also explore [our grants and how to apply](#).

VOLUNTEERING

Think about whether you could encourage volunteers to help you. People who share your passion for heritage may be willing to give their time and skills at a reduced cost – or even for free.

Are you part of an organisation that works with volunteers? Get involved with the [Make Your Mark in Volunteering campaign](#). Make Your Mark connects volunteers with heritage organisations. Its core aim is to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers in Scotland.

Museums, galleries and heritage organisations offer many opportunities for people who want to volunteer their time. You can search for heritage volunteering opportunities through the [Make Your Mark Volunteer portal](#). Or, have a look at [Volunteer Scotland's recruitment portal](#).

You can try out volunteering with Historic Environment Scotland – see how to [volunteer with us](#).



CASE STUDY : THE WHITE HOUSE, CRAIGMILLAR, EDINBURGH

The White House had always been a popular building in Craigmillar, not least because when first built, it was one of very few pubs in the area. An original Edinburgh 'roadhouse' – a sort of cross between a pub and a hotel – it dates from the 1930s.

In the early 2000s, the White House lay empty for more than five years. It became a target for antisocial behaviour and was vandalised and even set on fire several times. It looked like the situation would only get worse, both for the building and the local community. But it was the community's enduring affection for the White House that saved it from being lost entirely.

PARC Craigmillar Developments Ltd. bought the building in 2007. The publicly owned development company was given funding by the Scottish Government and Historic Scotland to restore the White House to its former glory.

But it was the local community who gave the building a long-term future. The community set up a [development trust](#) and agreed a lease for the building. Using the White House as a base, the [Community Alliance Trust](#) set up a social enterprise to benefit the community.

The [White House Kitchen](#) offers a wide range of affordable food. The building also hosts local festivals and music events and is a hub for the community.



CASE STUDY : PORTSOY COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE, ABERDEENSHIRE

Every June, the harbour town of Portsoy hosts the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, bringing in about 20,000 visitors from all over the world.

The event has grown since the first festival was held in 1993. [Portsoy Community Enterprise](#) (PCE) has turned derelict harbour buildings into a boat-building workshop; restored a former salmon house as a museum; and taken on the lease of a caravan park.

These initiatives generate significant economic benefit from tourism for the town of Portsoy and surrounds. All assets belong to the community. PCE is a social enterprise that offers year-round opportunities to get involved in traditional boat building and other cultural programmes.

Most recently, PCE had the idea to run residential boat-building courses. But the community would first need new accommodation for the participants.

To create this, the [Sail Loft project](#) was led by [North East Scotland Preservation Trust](#), in partnership with PCE. Support came from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Enterprise Scheme and the [Coastal Communities Fund](#). Historic Environment Scotland also provided a grant, via the local [Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme](#).

With that money, a [group of 18th-century listed buildings](#) was repaired and converted into [4-star hostel accommodation](#). Previously, the buildings had been on the [Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland](#). As well as financial support, we gave advice on the detailed design of the Sail Loft accommodation.





There's so much to celebrate about Scotland's heritage, and plenty that we can learn from.

Think about what, where and who could benefit from you talking about heritage.

Each of us has a unique perspective on the past. Having your voice heard could change how our heritage is understood, valued and protected in the future.

It's time to add your voice to the conversations that matter most.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE

If you would like further information about how you can contribute to shaping Scotland's heritage, please get in touch with us at [Historic Environment Scotland](#).



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