



HISTORIC
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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

CORPORATE PLAN 2025-2028

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT - ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



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I. INTRODUCTION

I.1 WHAT IS STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)?

When public bodies are preparing plans, programmes and strategies, an assessment of their effect on the environment is undertaken. The public bodies preparing plans, programmes or strategies are the 'Responsible Authorities' for those documents.

The purpose of SEA is to ensure that information on the environmental effects of a plan, programme or policy are gathered and made available to plan-makers and decision takers as it is prepared and implemented. The overarching aim of SEA is to provide a high level of protection for the environment, to reduce environmental impact and to enhance environmental outcomes. It also ensures that policies and proposals are informed by relevant environmental information and provides further opportunities for people to get involved in the process.

In doing so, SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into plan preparation and decision-making
- improve plans and enhance environmental protection
- increase public participation in decision making
- facilitate openness and transparency

The key stages of SEA for the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 involve:

Stage	Activity
Screening	Determining if the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required.
Scoping	Deciding on the scope and level of detail for the assessment and the consultation period. This is done in liaison with NatureScot (NS) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).
Assessment, mitigation & enhancement	Testing the contents of the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 as it is developed, identifying mitigation measures and looking at ways to enhance positive effects.
Environmental Report	Publishing an Environmental Report on the findings of the assessment and consulting on that report and the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28.
Adoption & monitoring	Providing information on the adopted the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28, how consultation comments have been taken into account and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects arising from its implementation.

I.2 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT?

The purpose of this report is to document the findings of our environmental assessment of the draft HES Corporate Plan 2025-28. In doing so, it highlights the types of environmental issues that we have considered, at a strategic level, as being relevant for the actions that are likely to be brought forward. Where possible we have sought to identify the most significant effects (both positive and negative) and where relevant, suggest mitigation measures or opportunities for enhancement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This legislation sets out the process of undertaking SEA, from screening (where relevant) and scoping at the outset, to assessment, the preparation of an Environmental Report, and public consultation.

1.3 BACKGROUND TO THE HES CORPORATE PLAN 2025-28

HES is a charitable Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) whose statutory functions are set out in the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. Its primary purpose is to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment and to manage its collections as a national resource for reference, study and research - as set out in the Framework Document between Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Government.

HES's purpose, strategic aims and objectives, as agreed by the Scottish Ministers, are published in the HES Corporate Plan approved by Scottish Ministers. The Plan aligns to and leads the delivery of the priorities of the historic environment sector set out in historic environment strategy, "[Our Past Our Future](#)" and supports the Scottish Government's Purpose delivered through the [National Performance Framework](#). The Corporate Plan provides strategic direction for our shorter term annual plans such as the [Annual Operating Plan](#), annual Directorate Plans and individual performance objectives.

The current Corporate Plan '*Heritage for All*' commenced in April 2019 and was developed through comprehensive consultation with staff, external stakeholders and included wider audiences whose voices are not often heard in conversations about history and heritage. The feedback helped to fundamentally shape our aims and objectives and develop the five outcomes we were looking to achieve over a 3-year period - that the Historic Environment:

- makes a real difference to people's lives
- is looked after, protected, and managed for the generations to come
- makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people
- inspires a creative and vibrant Scotland
- is cared for and championed by a high performing organisation

The last iteration of the Corporate Plan was undertaken in 2022. Due to the ongoing pandemic, a light touch review was undertaken, which did not materially change from the 2019 version.

The plan for 2025-28 has undergone a more comprehensive review and, as such, requires a full SEA.

I.4 WHAT WAS THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE DRAFT HES CORPORATE PLAN 2025-28?

Thus far, the development of the Corporate Plan has been undertaken through extensive consultation with HES staff and external stakeholders from across the historic environment sector. A draft of the plan is now published for a 12- week online public consultation. As part of this, we are holding specific engagement events, focusing on areas where we are conducting impact assessments, including island communities and groups representing those seldom heard voices in conversations about heritage. The consultation asks a series of questions about the Plan's environmental impact and this report, and feedback from these responses will be considered for incorporation into the final version of the Plan.

I.5 CONSULTATION

The Environmental Report accompanies the draft Plan for a 10 -week public consultation between 23rd October 2024 and 3rd January 2025. Any comments that you would like to make on either document are welcomed. A number of questions are listed in the Response Form which you are encouraged to use to help structure your response to the draft plan and this Environmental Report.

With regards to the Environmental Report, and its detailed findings and predictions for likely significant effects set out in Annex A and summarised in Section 5, the main questions to consider are:

- **Has our environmental assessment identified the likely environmental effects of the plan?**
- **Do you think there are any additional mitigation, enhancement, or monitoring measures that should be considered?**
- **Do you have any other comments on the environmental assessment?**

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

2.1 WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN USED TO INFORM THE ASSESSMENT?

One of the early stages of the SEA process is to consider the relationship of the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 to other relevant policies, plans, strategies (PPS) and their environmental objectives. This allows key environmental objectives to be identified for consideration during the Corporate Plan preparation process. It is also important to identify both the plans, programmes and strategies that will influence the Corporate Plan and those that will be influenced by the Corporate Plan itself. An understanding of the context and the hierarchy that the Corporate Plan sits within is also useful for giving early thought to mitigation measures and where they may be best implemented.

Annex D contains a detailed review of the list of key plans, programmes and strategies and current legislation considered to be most directly relevant to the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 and includes details of how their environmental objectives have been considered as part of the scoping exercise.

2.2 WHAT EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT?

The key environmental protection objectives identified from our review of legislation, policies, plans and strategies therefore are:

- To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats
- To protect and enhance species, habitats and ecosystems
- To protect, enhance and – where appropriate – restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
- To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment
- To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment
- To promote and encourage opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy access to wildlife and the countryside
- To promote sustainable development
- To reduce the exposure of sensitive receptors to poor air quality
- To protect and enhance the water environment (with a requirement to ensure that the status of all waters are protected from deterioration)
- To protect soil resources from erosion and pollution
- To reduce our contribution to climate change and be positioned to respond to the predicted effects of climate change
- To improve health and wellbeing through access (including equality of access) to good quality natural, historic and built environments.

- To recognise the need to shape places which are nurturing of positive health, wellbeing and resilience.
- To make plans for local areas which meet the needs and ambitions of local people, and which give weight to the voice and views of local communities.
- To ensure that Scotland's built heritage remains one of the main motivators for visits to Scotland.

2.3 WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE INFORMATION HAS BEEN GATHERED?

To establish the environmental effects of our HES Corporate Plan 2025-28, it is necessary to understand the environmental baseline of the area that is likely to be affected. Schedule 3 of the Act lists the environmental topics that should be considered in SEA. To focus the SEA, baseline information has been gathered on the environmental issues that are likely to be affected by the Corporate Plan. Given that it covers our estate across Scotland, a national baseline has been reviewed. Annex B provides a detailed baseline, information about the environmental issues relevant to the Corporate Plan, and baseline sources.

3. APPROACH TO THE ASSESSMENT

3.1 WHAT ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COULD THE HES CORPORATE PLAN 2025-28 AFFECT?

A key part of the scoping process in SEA is to identify whether the environmental receptors set out in Schedule 3 of the Act are likely to be affected by the Corporate Plan . This can lead to some environmental receptors being “scoped out” of the assessment. The scoping process helps to focus the SEA on the key significant issues.

Based on the environmental protection objectives identified above and in Annex D, an assessment was undertaken to identify the environmental topics that are likely to be affected by the Corporate Plan . The Consultation Authorities were broadly supportive of this approach, with some specific recommendations which are detailed at Annex C.

Table 1 below sets out the scoping of SEA environmental receptors:

Table 1: Scoping in/out of environmental topics

Environmental topic	Scoped in/out	Potential issues arising from the Corporate Plan and justification for scoping in/out
Air	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for water as a result of Historic Environment Scotland’s priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, we do not consider these will be strategically significant. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan will not relate to air quality or lead to higher levels of pollution. Project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower-level business plans. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic out of the assessment.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In	The historic environment supports biodiversity, contributes to a range of habitats, and influences land use. The assessment will explore the potential for significant effects on Scotland’s habitats and species.
Climatic Factors	In	It is considered that the Corporate Plan could make a significant contribution to reducing the causes of climate change by setting targets for reduced emissions/efficiency. The predicted effects of climate change are also likely to have implications for the historic environment at a strategic level particularly through coastal erosion and increased incidence of extreme weather. The Corporate Plan may also have a role in contributing to effective adaptation particularly in terms of traditional buildings.
Cultural Heritage	In	Historic Environment Scotland’s core function is to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment. For this reason, it is likely that the Corporate Plan will have significantly positive effects for all aspects of the historic environment.

Landscape (including seascapes and urban and suburban landscapes)	In	We recognise that landscapes form an important element of the historic environment. The linkages between cultural and natural landscapes are recognised and the potential for significant effects on the baseline condition of Scotland's natural landscape character and scenic value will be explored. In light of this landscape has been scoped into the assessment.
Material Assets	In	There are strong links between the historic environment and material assets. These links range from the materials that are required to support the historic environment (and their availability) to the role the historic environment plays in providing our existing infrastructure. We therefore are of the view that significant effects on this topic are likely.
Population and Human Health	In	The Corporate Plan is likely to have positive effects for population and human health through outcomes and targets which will lead to continued access to cultural sites in the care of Scottish Ministers and activities relating to further interpretation and understanding of Scotland's historic environment and the role it can play in creating better communities and places.
Soil	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for soil as a result of Historic Environment Scotland's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, we do not consider these will be strategically significant. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan will not relate to soil function or capacity. Project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower-level business plans. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic out of the assessment.
Water	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for water as a result of Historic Environment Scotland's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, we do not consider these will be strategically significant. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan will not relate to water quality, flow, flooding or pollution. Project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower-level business plans. Consequently we propose to scope this topic out of the assessment.

3.2 HOW HAS THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025-28 BEEN ASSESSED?

SEA objectives were developed for each of the environmental receptors scoped into the assessment. These are supported by more detailed assessment criteria. The SEA objectives and criteria are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: SEA Objectives and Assessment Criteria

Environmental Topic	SEA Objective	How will the Corporate Plan affect
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	To safeguard and enhance biodiversity	Habitats Species Green / blue networks

Climatic Factors	Reduce the causes of climate change Contribute to effective adaptation to the predicted effects of climate change	CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions Effective adaptation to the effects of climate change
Cultural Heritage	Safeguard and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	The safeguarding of designated tangible features of the historic environment The safeguarding of undesignated / unknown tangible features of the historic environment The safeguarding of intangible features of the historic environment Elements of the historic environment which have been identified as at risk Address the consequences of climate change for the historic environment
Landscape (including seascapes, urban and suburban landscapes)	To safeguard and enhance the distinct identity, the diverse character and the special qualities of Scotland's landscapes as a whole.	The protection of landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
Material assets	Sustainable use of existing assets Support local infrastructure To support high quality place making Support circular economy and zero waste principles	Sustainable use or reuse of existing infrastructure, materials or assets Creation of high quality places and spaces Reduce waste and promote uptake of sustainable, traditional materials
Population and Human Health	Promote celebration, understanding, enjoyment and access to the natural and cultural heritage Support healthy living and working environments To reduce inequalities	Access to the historic environment Understanding of the value of the historic environment Community involvement in decisions affecting their places and spaces. The condition of the historic environment as a place to work and live.

3.3 HOW WERE ALTERNATIVES IDENTIFIED AND ASSESSED?

The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 requires Historic Environment Scotland to prepare a Corporate Plan. Strategic alternatives to the preparation of the Corporate Plan are therefore relatively constrained and the 'do nothing' approach is not considered to be reasonable in this case. In view of this, our assessment of alternatives focussed on the contents of the plan. We assessed the environmental effects of preferred and reasonable alternatives that were considered during the plan preparation process.

The following plan elements were assessed:

- Purpose

- Vision
- Priorities
- Outcomes

All alternative options were assessed to the same level of detail. The assessments considered whether effects would be positive or negative and short, medium, or long term. Once each option had been assessed, the findings were brought together to identify whether elements of the Corporate Plan are likely to generate cumulative effects on any of the environmental receptors scoped into the assessment.

The draft of the Corporate Plan issued for consultation contains a series of indicative actions. These actions are examples of how HES might deliver against the outcomes, and included to help consultees see the types of work that HES might be undertaking across the next three years. They have been clearly labelled as indicative in both the draft Plan, and corresponding consultation questions. Therefore, they have not been assessed as part of the impact assessments.

3.4 HOW HAS THE SEA HELPED TO AVOID OR MINIMISE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ENHANCE POSITIVE EFFECTS?

Environmental considerations have informed the development of the draft HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 from the start. The findings of this SEA will be used to inform the final iteration of the Corporate Plan prior to adoption, followed by the detailed design and development process for related activity. It will be ensured that key mitigation / enhancement measures are incorporated into the design, development and operation of any Corporate Plan activity going forward.

4. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

4.1 SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Assessment matrices setting out the detailed findings in relation to each outcome, and underpinning aspirations, are provided in Annex A. We have provided a narrative summary of those findings below.

As may be expected, we have found that the biggest impact of the Corporate Plan will be on cultural heritage, with almost every element of the plan assessed as having a positive impact on this area. As our core functions are to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment, it makes sense that this would be the case. In every area of our work as outlined in the plan, the successful delivery of the outcomes sought will make a positive impact.

As might also be anticipated, this leads to an overall either positive or neutral effect on material assets and landscape, both through any work that we might look to undertake with our own properties around conservation and sustainable management, developing much needed skills to conserve the historic environment, and through the advice and support that we will give to the historic environment sector. This positive impact also results from the focussing on the role that the historic environment can play in placemaking.

We have also found that the Corporate Plan will have either a positive or neutral impact on climatic factors and a largely neutral effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna. In particular, our work around progressing to net zero, sustainably managing our historic assets, supporting retrofit of historic buildings and ensuring that the historic environment is capable of adapting to and mitigating against the effects of climate change will make a positive impact in this area.

Our impact on population and human health will, again, be either positive or neutral. These are most noticeable in our proposed work around enhancing the visitor experience, developing historic skills and making the historic environment a valued resource for learning. In delivering these, we will ensure that we can broaden those engaged with and participating in activities through the historic environment, and all the health and wellbeing benefits that that will bring.

4.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The assessment methodology incorporates a cumulative assessment of priorities and outcomes, which has contributed to the findings for the overarching outcomes. This is outlined in the summary above, and in the detailed assessment matrices.

We also considered whether delivery of the priorities and outcomes in combination would have cumulative effects and have concluded that this will not result in any significant additional effects.

4.3 MITIGATION, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND MONITORING

Mitigation and enhancement measures are set out in detail in the detailed assessment matrices, and will be embedded into the decision-making processes for the implementation of the Corporate Plan.

It will be important to understand how the Corporate Plan is affecting the environment once it is implemented. This will help to identify any effects arising which were not predicted through the assessment and allow appropriate mitigation to be sought.

Monitoring of the Corporate Plan will likely rely on Key Performance Indicators, which are currently under development. We will ensure that environmental indicators and the issues identified in this assessment are factored into this process.

5. NEXT STEPS

The public consultation period on our draft HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 ends on 3rd January 2025. A final version of our Corporate Plan will be prepared following the consultation period to take into account comments made.

All changes will be screened to consider if they raise significant environmental issues that have not already been taken into consideration in the environmental assessment. If the potential for significant environmental effects is identified, an assessment will be undertaken of their impact, and reported in the SEA Post Adoption Statement. This will be published along with the finalised plan.

The SEA Post Adoption Statement, which will be published along with the final version of our plan, will show how the ER (and all the comments expressed on it) has been taken into account in the adopted HES Corporate Plan 2025-28.

Milestones	Date
Public consultation on the Environmental Report and draft HES Corporate Plan 2025-28	October 2024 - January 2025
Finalise HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 on the basis of consultation responses	January 2025 - March 2025
Publish finalised Corporate Plan and Post-Adoption SEA Statement	31 st March 2025

ANNEX A – DETAILED ASSESSMENT MATRICES

Legend:

++	Significantly positive effects.
+	Positive effects.
0	Minor or neutral effect.
?	Uncertain effects.
-	Adverse effects.
--	Significantly adverse effects.

PURPOSE

Preferred Purpose:

Our Purpose is to investigate, care for, and promote Scotland's historic environment for the benefit of people and communities across the country.

Commentary:

This sets out the core purpose of HES as an organisation and the wording is taken from the three general functions of HES, as set out in the Historic Environment (Scotland) Act of 2014.

In investigating, caring for and promoting Scotland's historic environment, HES will be seeking to ensure that we have a good evidence base for how we care for our own properties and that the advice and support that we give across the sector is well-informed, leading to a positive impact on both cultural heritage, material assets and landscape. In seeking to benefit people and communities across Scotland and promoting engagement with the historic environment as widely as possible, we will be able to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing as well.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	+	+	+

Reasonable Alternative Purpose Statement:

Our purpose is to sustain and enhance the benefits of the historic environment for people and communities, now and into the future.

Commentary:

The Purpose sets out what HES seeks to do as an organisation. This statement includes our responsibilities to not only to ensure that the historic environment, including our properties and historic assets, is adequately preserved, but that it is done so in such a way that ensures its long term future. This will include consideration of the impact of climate change and how we need to adapt our conservation measures and our advice to others. This will have a positive impact on mitigation and adaptation of climatic factors, along with the landscape and maintenance of material assets. In stating that we are doing this for people and communities, we are seeking to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, preserving those spaces to enable engagement and participation, and the proven positive impacts that this can bring to the population.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	++	++

Reasonable Alternative Purpose Statement:

Our Purpose as an organisation is to understand, protect, and promote Scotland's historic environment, and to ensure it delivers real benefits for people and communities across the country.

Commentary:

The Purpose of the plan sets out the purpose of HES as an organisation. It encompasses our responsibility for the historic environment and for the people and communities across Scotland.

Delivering the Purpose of HES has the potential to have benefits for cultural heritage, the landscape and material assets, both through the work undertaken at our properties and through our support in conserving and valuing the historic environment, whether in an urban or rural community. The benefits of engaging with the historic environment and the spaces which it provides, have been well documented on both mental and physical health, so it is likely to have a significant positive impact on health and wellbeing across Scotland.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	+	++	++

VISION

Preferred Vision:

Our vision is heritage for all

Commentary:

As 'Heritage for All' is the title of our Plan, we want to ensure that the concept is embedded across the document and our work in general. We have therefore chosen to also make 'heritage for all' our vision, as a simple and clear statement of our aims. We anticipate that this will have a positive impact on cultural heritage and health, as we seek to conserve and preserve the historic environment for the broadest benefit.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable Alternative Vision Statement:

Our vision through this plan is for heritage to be for everyone, regardless of who they are or where they're from

Commentary:

In seeking to achieve the widest possible engagement with the historic environment, we will be looking to achieve the widest possible benefit. Reaching a diverse audience will lead to a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable Alternative Vision Statement:

Our vision through this plan is to sustain and enhance the benefits of the historic environment for people and communities, now and into the future.

Commentary:

This vision sets out our commitment to ensuring that the historic environment is sustainable, caring for our properties and providing support to ensure that the wider historic environment survives into the future. This will ensure that its benefits can be felt both now and for future generations. In doing so, we seek to have a positive impact on cultural heritage, the landscape and places and communities. It is anticipated that this Vision will have significant positive effects on cultural heritage, and positive impact on landscape and material assets,

as we seek to preserve and promote the historic environment. Part of this work will be to ensure that buildings, sites and monuments are adapted for climate change, as well as being able to work towards net zero contribution. Finally, in preserving the historic environment, we will also look to ensure the benefit of it lasts for future generations, having a long lasting impact on health and wellbeing.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

Reasonable Alternative Vision Statement:

Our vision through this plan is for the historic environment to sit at the heart of a flourishing, inclusive Scotland, cared for across generations.

Commentary:

This option for the vision sets out how the historic environment can contribute to national outcomes and priorities by placing it central to developing a successful, inclusive and sustainable country. In doing this, there would be clear positive impact on biodiversity, climatic factors and material assets as we seek to ensure that the historic environment addresses mitigation and adaptation, both across our own estate and in the support that we give to the sector. In addition, looking to contribute to an inclusive Scotland will ensure that a broader sector of the population is benefit from the health and wellbeing impacts of engaging with the historic environment. Lastly, the landscape, cultural heritage and material assets will be positively impacted through our contribution to developing local economies and working to secure the future of the historic environment for those generations to come.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

Reasonable Alternative Vision Statement:

Our vision through this plan is for everyone to have opportunities to learn from, care for, and celebrate Scotland's historic environment

Commentary:

Through this vision, we are seeking a wide engagement with the historic environment. This will have a direct positive impact on material assets and cultural heritage, as we work collectively to care for the historic environment. In addition, widening access and promoting learning from the historic environment will be of benefit to the health and wellbeing of those who are engaged.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	+	+

PRIORITIES

Preferred Priority: Scotland's heritage

Commentary:

Investigating, caring for, and promoting Scotland's historic environment is fundamental to HES's purpose, as outlined by the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. This priority centres the heritage assets that we work with, the policies we develop to help us and others care for them, and the research and evidence base we use to inform that work. By improving the way that we and others care for Scotland's heritage, we will help to sustain and enhance its benefits, and promote positive social cultural, economic, and environmental outcomes.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

Preferred Priority: Skills and Learning

Commentary:

Ensuring that people have the right skills to work with the historic environment is vital to its long-term care and preservation. Helping people to engage with, and learn about, Scotland's heritage is also vital to ensuring that it's enjoyed and valued, and to ensuring people have a say in the heritage that matters to them.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	0	+	+

Preferred Priority: People and Places

Commentary:

The historic environment is a huge asset for Scotland, and one found in every community. Ensuring that these assets deliver for people and places is fundamental to HES's work, and to realising our outcomes. But we need to do this in a way that promotes fair, green growth,

and also need to support the organisations who work with Scotland's heritage to be more resilient in the face of a changing world.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	0	+	+

Preferred Priority: Climate Action

Commentary:

Reacting to the climate emergency will be vital for HES and Scotland's historic environment in the coming years. Climate change is already having impacts on the historic environment, and we need to understand and respond to these impacts alongside reducing emissions as both an organisation and a sector.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	++	++	0	+	0

Preferred Priority: Inclusion and resilience

Commentary:

This priority seeks to ensure that HES has the resources to deliver our Corporate Plan and that HES is a safe and welcoming place to work. In addition, it seeks to ensure that our work and services are fully accessible. Through this, it will have a positive impact on cultural heritage, as having a resilient HES will secure our work, programmes and care of our historic assets and collections. It will also have a positive impact on the historic environment at large, as we will be able to provide advice and support across the sector through our support and grants programmes. In securing a wide accessibility to our work and services, we will have a positive impact on population health, as we seek to engage on as broad a base as possible, bringing health and wellbeing benefits.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Building an inclusive and resilient HES**Commentary:**

We'll never realise our ambitions or provide leadership to our sector if our organisation isn't fit for purpose, or fit for the future. We need to ensure that we're delivering the right work in the right places, and prioritising work that delivers the strongest impacts. This means having the right people with the right skills to tackle the challenges ahead, and creating a working environment and culture in which everyone at HES can flourish. We also need to ensure that we're financially sustainable moving forward, and resilient in the face of an uncertain economic future. Ensuring that HES is inclusive and resilient will have positive benefits for the historic environment as a whole.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Promoting and delivering the sustainable management of historic assets**Commentary:**

In adhering to this priority, we will be emphasising the importance of our collections and the information and benefits that they bring to the management of our historic assets. In addition, we will ensure that the support and advice that we offer the sector will be fit for purpose, including meeting the challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises, net zero and others. We will ensure that our data is robust and helps us to decide on a clear direction for our work.

In working to secure the long term future of historic assets, we will be looking to adapt to and mitigate against the impact of climate change, both for the work with our collections and in our work with others. In particular, by ensuring that our approach to designations and advice are fit for purpose, we will support the historic environment sector to meet those challenges. In ensuring that we have robust data, we will be able to advocate more clearly for the sector, setting out the impact that it can have on communities, the preservation of landscape and the journey towards net zero.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Strengthening the role of the historic environment in communities, regeneration, and placemaking

Commentary:

This priority seeks to site the historic environment as a key part of any community. It also looks to establish the role that the historic environment can play in regeneration and placemaking, contributing to the retention of material assets within a place or landscape and ensuring a wide impact for our management of the historic environment. In working to strengthen the role of the historic environment, we would seek to contribute to the wellbeing of communities, through ensuring there are places to enjoy and engage with heritage and sites and, in some cases, retaining community centres and shared spaces.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	+	+	+

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Strengthening the role of the historic environment in communities and placemaking

Commentary:

This priority seeks to site the historic environment as a key part of any community. It also looks to establish the role that the historic environment can play in placemaking, contributing to the retention of material assets within a place or landscape and ensuring a wide impact for our management of the historic environment. In working to strengthen the role of the historic environment, we would seek to contribute to the wellbeing of communities, through ensuring there are places to enjoy and engage with heritage and sites and, in some cases, retaining community centres and shared spaces.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	+	++	++	0	+	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Supporting and delivering the historic environment's role in climate and biodiversity action

Commentary:

This priority seeks to bring together many strands of our work which contribute both to our own journey towards net zero, as well as our work to support the sector in this area. This includes work to reduce carbon emissions, work around guidance for retrofitting historic buildings, adapting buildings and sites to be more energy efficient and improving the climate resilience of the historic environment. In making this a priority, we seek to make a strong

contribution to Scotland's transition to net zero. We will also support taking a nature positive approach to managing Scotland's historic environment, leading to a positive impact on biodiversity. We would anticipate working in partnership with local authorities, asset owners and Scottish Government to achieve this.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	+	++	++	-	+	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Supporting and delivering the historic environment's role in climate action

Commentary:

This priority seeks to bring together many strands of our work which contribute both to our own journey towards net zero, as well as our work to support the sector in this area. This includes work to reduce carbon emissions, work around guidance for retrofitting historic buildings, adapting buildings and sites to be more energy efficient and improving the climate resilience of the historic environment. In making this a priority, we seek to make a strong contribution to Scotland's transition to net zero. We would anticipate working in partnership with local authorities, asset owners and Scottish Government to achieve this. This has changed from the previous wording to exclude biodiversity explicitly, as there were concerns that this was straying outwith our remit and we would not have the resources to deliver meaningfully in this area.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	++	++	0	+	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Building an inclusive and resilient HES

Commentary:

This priority seeks to build on the foundations already laid to ensure that HES is a strong and robust organisation, which can meet the challenges of the current world and in the future. In doing so, it will ensure that the cultural heritage of Scotland also has a robust foundation, as we work with partners across the sector and beyond. In addition, it will ensure that HES as an organisation is in a strong position to care for the historical assets in its control and can support the historic environment sector to develop and grow sustainably. We will also seek to make HES an inclusive organisation through our equalities, diversity and inclusion work, based around the delivery of our equality outcomes.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	0	0	0

Reasonable Alternative Priority: Our heritage assets

Commentary:

At HES we look after a range of historically important properties, collections, and records. We also shape and influence how others care for and protect the historic assets in their care. To look after these assets properly, and ensure their benefits are felt by as many people as possible, requires us to have the best evidence we can to support policy and decision making, and to ensure that communities sit at the heart of our decision making. In seeking to secure a long term future for our heritage assets, we will look at how to mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency, ensuring that our properties and collections are looked after in a sustainable way. This will have a positive impact on climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape and material assets. We would anticipate no negative impact on biodiversity or health.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	++	0

CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

Taken as a whole, the priorities we have identified will have either a positive or neutral effect on each of the areas. The greatest impacts will be on cultural heritage, climatic factors, material assets and population health. Having a robust historic environment sector and lead body, as HES is, will ensure that much work can be undertaken around widening access, playing a vital part in communities and places, developing the right skills and addressing the climate emergency. Doing this will ensure that the wellbeing and health benefits of engaging with the historic environment will benefit the population of Scotland now and into the future.

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	0	+	+

OUTCOMES

PRIORITY: SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE

Preferred outcome: Outcome 1: we will have built strong foundations for the long-term future of the properties, collections, records, and archives in our care

Commentary:

In delivering this outcome, we are looking to ensure that those historic assets in our care - be they records, artefacts or properties - are conserved and protected for the future. In doing this, we are looking to ensure that future generations will be able to benefit from these assets just as we do as a society in the present day. This outcome will help us to preserve landscapes, historic sites and buildings which play key parts in communities, and ensure that heritage continues to contribute to people's health and wellbeing.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	+	+	+

Preferred outcome: Outcome 2: we will have the right evidence to inform policy and decision making

Commentary:

Ensuring that we have the most appropriate data and evidence to inform decisions made about Scotland's historic environment is vital to realising corporate and sectoral goals. Improving our evidence base in key areas will have a positive impact across areas, as it will help us to better understand the social, cultural, environmental, and economic values and benefits created by the historic environment, and how they can be sustained and enhanced.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	+	+	+	+	+	+

Preferred outcome: Outcome 3: we will have developed advice and guidance to support people seeking to reuse existing buildings

Commentary:

Our advice and guidance play an important role in helping others working with the built environment to enable them to adapt historic buildings for the needs of the 21st century,

including retrofit and adaptation and mitigation against the effects of climate change. In developing this specific advice and guidance, we will have a positive impact on climatic effects, as more buildings are fit to be used, instead of new buildings. It will ensure that more of the historic environment is preserved and, in updating, retrofitting and adapting buildings, will ensure a more robust historic built environment. Enabling historic buildings to be reused will impact on population health as the character of places can be maintained, but also so that buildings will be fit for purpose and not impact on the health of those working and living within them.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	0	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We will have heritage management policy and advice that meet people's needs in a changing world

Commentary:

Our heritage management policy, and the way we approach the designation and regulation of Scotland's historic environment, has a major influence on how Scotland's heritage is looked after. We are committed to continuous improvement of these areas of our work, to ensure our activity aligns to and supports national policy, and to ensure that it is fit for purpose given major trends such as climate change. Having effective policy and approaches will lead to benefits for cultural heritage, and for people and places.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	0	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: By 2028, we will have supported the long-term future of the properties, collections, records and archives in our care

Commentary:

In delivering this outcome, we are looking to ensure that those historic assets in our care, be they records, artefacts or properties, are conserved and protected for the future. In doing this, we are looking to ensure that future generations will be able to benefit from these assets, whether being able to access information about the historic landscape, or to visit sites across Scotland. In doing this, we will be preserving landscapes, historic sites and buildings which play key parts in communities and ensuring that places can continue be engaged with and contribute to people's health and wellbeing.

Our plan to develop and implement a new strategy for the properties and associated collections in our care and to launch our Trove.scot project, will ensure wider access to the records and information we hold about Scotland's historic environment, and provide a more coherent management plan for our historic assets.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	+	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We have the right evidence to inform policy and decision making across the historic environment sector

Commentary:

Ensuring that we are gathering the most appropriate data to help inform our decision making will ensure that we are able to prioritise future work, make well informed decisions about the organisation's work and advocate effectively for the historic environment.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	0

Reasonable alternative outcome: By 2028, we will have reviewed our services to ensure they meet the needs of a changing world

Commentary:

We are seeking ensure that the advice that we provide for the historic environment sectors is fit for purpose in a challenging world. This includes updating advice on areas such as conservation areas, retrofit, landscape, accessibility and agriculture. These will also look to support national policy priorities, including net zero, supporting people and communities, and helping current and future generations to live well. In addressing retrofit, we will be contributing to ensuring that historic buildings are fit for purpose and can be utilised into the future.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

Cumulative assessment of all outcomes under Priority 1

Commentary:

The outcomes under this priority will have a largely positive effect on many of the areas, but especially the cultural heritage. Working to protect and conserve both our historic assets, but also those across the historic environment sector, will ensure that the sites, buildings and monuments will remain to be enjoyed and benefit communities now and in the future. In particular, our work around reviewing our national heritage management policy and ensuring the sustainable management of our historic assets will have particularly positive impacts on cultural heritage, climatic change, landscape and material assets.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

PRIORITY: SKILLS AND LEARNING

Preferred outcome: Outcome 4 - we will have improved pathways across Scotland for key historic environment skills

Commentary:

We aim to ensure that we can preserve the skills needed to conserve the historic environment and provide a clear pathway to those seeking to develop those skills. In focussing on those skills needed to deliver retrofit, we will be contributing to the climate change emergency, ensuring that historic buildings are fit for use both now and in the future. Delivery of our UKRI-funded Retrolab project will support innovation and training around the retrofit of traditional buildings, a key component in ensuring a positive impact on cultural heritage and the material assets.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	0	+	0

Outcome 5 – we will be a sector leader for delivering heritage skills

Commentary:

In seeking to become a sector leader in delivering heritage skills, we are looking to secure the continuation of skills development necessary for the conservation and preservation of the historic environment. This will have a direct positive impact on the cultural heritage sector,

but also on the material assets, as we will retain and develop those skills needed, especially as we address the impact of climate change on the historic environment.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	+	0

Preferred outcome: Outcome 6 – we will have made Scotland’s historic environment a valued national resource for lifelong learning

Commentary:

There are many facets to the learning which the historic environment can provide, from school visits to skills development, to interpretation of sites and the historic environment. There is much that it can contribute both within and outwith the formal learning frameworks. In making it a valued national resource, we hope to increase the understanding and sense of ownership of the people of Scotland and the impact it can have around wellbeing and to enhance learning experiences. In this way, it is judged to have a positive impact for both the cultural heritage and population health.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Cumulative assessment of all outcomes under Priority 2

Commentary:

The outcomes in this priority all seek to highlight the key role that HES and the historic environment have to play in enhancing lifelong learning and playing an active role in developing pathways for essential skills for the historic environment. In doing so, we will have a positive impact on cultural heritage, the preservation of material assets and the health and wellbeing of the population across Scotland.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	+	+

PRIORITY: PEOPLE AND PLACES

Preferred outcome: Outcome 7 - we will have increased and broadened our contribution to a growing Scottish economy

Commentary:

We are seeking to enhance the local economic impacts of our operations and to attract visitors to sites all around the country, thereby supporting local economic growth. In this way, we seek to benefit local tourism economies, balancing social, economic and environmental factors.

In doing so, we anticipate having a small but positive impact on climatic factors, through spreading tourist footfall across the country, promoting visits across the whole year, and promoting longer tourist stays in localities. This will promote responsible tourism, and increase knowledge and understanding of the historic environment.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	0	0	0

Preferred outcome: Outcome 8 - we will have used our grants and influence to build a more resilient historic environment sector

Commentary:

We will support the historic environment sector to create more resilient organisations, through supporting the delivery of the historic environment strategy, *Our Past, Our Future* especially through facilitating sector action, collaboration, and reporting. We will also deliver financial support through our grants programme and seek to clearly define HES's role in leading and supporting the sector across a number of areas.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	+	0

Preferred outcome: Outcome 9 - we will have developed authentic and memorable visitor experiences at the properties in care

Commentary:

The Properties in Care of Scottish Ministers are a unique and vital resource for the people of Scotland. Improving and enhancing the quality of the offer they provide to visitors will increase their financial sustainability, and help to engage more people and learners with culture and heritage. This will have benefits for cultural heritage, for local communities, and for wellbeing.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We will have increased and broadened our contribution to a fair, green and growing economy of Scotland

Commentary:

Through this outcome, we are focussing on the local impact of our work and the role that our sites play in attracting visitors to a wider geographic area, their impact on local economies and the role that they can play in regeneration. In doing this, we would seek to ensure that social, economic and environmental factors are all balanced. This has the potential to have positive impacts on climatic factors through supporting local businesses to supply goods and work, minimising travel. It will also help to contribute to regeneration and re-use of traditional stock, helping to ensure that historic buildings can continue to play important roles in local communities and economies. In particular, we are seeking to use our procurement to support Scottish businesses.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	++	+	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We have broadened the reach of our work and services, with a particular focus on marginalised and under-served communities

Commentary:

This outcome seeks to ensure that we are working across the population of Scotland to engage them with our work and services. In focussing on marginalised and under-served communities, we are looking to ensure that we can help them to benefit from engagement with the historic environment and to include their voices. In addition, we are looking to support the preservation and continuation of their own heritage, through supporting Gaelic communities and developing support for intangible cultural heritage.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	0	0	0	++

Cumulative assessment of all outcomes under Priority 3

Commentary:

Outcomes in this priority will particularly have a positive impact on landscape, climatic change, population health, and material assets, as we seek to centralise the historic environment's role in developing and regenerating communities and developing local economies. The overall impact will be to ensure that traditional buildings are still utilised after being adapted to be more energy efficient and to deal with the effects of climate change, therefore preserving the material assets and the landscapes in which they sit.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

PRIORITY: CLIMATE ACTION

Preferred outcome: Outcome 10 - we will have reduced carbon emissions from historic environment assets across Scotland

Commentary:

This outcome is focussed on our own plans to reduce our carbon emissions and how we will support the wider historic environment to do this also. We will do this through such initiatives as leading the production of a route map for net zero for the historic environment, produce guidance to support retrofit solutions and develop the knowledge and skills required to implement energy efficiency measures in traditionally constructed buildings. The impact of these measures will be a reduction in carbon emissions, contributing to reaching Scotland's net zero targets. These will have positive impacts on climatic factors and, in looking to develop retrofit and reduce carbon emissions across the sector, it will help the adaptation of the material assets across the sector.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	++	+	0	0	+

Preferred outcome: Outcome 11 - we will have supported Scotland's historic environment to adapt to meet the changing climate

Commentary:

We will be able to use our Climate Action Plan to develop and deliver our own response to the climate emergency, as well as using our grant funding to support others in the sector to do the same.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	0	0	0

Reasonable alternative outcome: We've helped historic environment assets across Scotland to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions

Commentary:

In this outcome, we will deliver our own route map to net zero, as well as supporting those in the sector with traditional buildings to develop energy efficiency measures. We will also champion the role that the historic environment can play in reaching net zero. Through this, we will be able to make a significant contribution to reaching net zero and adapting and mitigating against the effects of climate change. This will therefore make a positive impact on climatic factors and the material assets of the historic environment sector. Reducing carbon emissions will contribute to the overall health of the population.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	++	+	0	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We've supported a nature positive approach to managing Scotland's historic environment

Commentary:

We will look to deliver biodiversity actions across our properties, in line with Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy, as well as understanding how our work can contribute to a nature positive Scotland. These will have positive impacts on the flora and fauna across our sites. We will also look to support land managers and communities to address biodiversity loss on any historic sites and how to more sustainably manage the heritage in their care. This will result in a positive impact on biodiversity across the historic environment estate as far as possible across Scotland. There will be knock on effects on climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape and material assets, as sites become more sustainably managed.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	++	+	+	+	+	0

Cumulative assessment of all outcomes under Priority 4

Commentary:

The outcomes under this priority will cumulatively have a significant positive effect on climatic factors as they seek to reduce carbon emissions and support the move to increasing energy efficiency across the built environment. They also seek to support the sector and ourselves to address issues arising from the climate emergency.

These all result in positive impacts on the material assets and the cultural heritage, as it becomes better able to adapt to and mitigate against climate change.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	+	+	+

PRIORITY: BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT HES

Preferred outcome: Outcome 12 - we will have generated the financial resources to deliver our priorities

Commentary:

In ensuring that we have the financial resources to deliver our priorities, we will be able to achieve the impacts outlined in the previous outcomes and therefore have a positive impact across all areas.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	+	+	+

Preferred outcome: Outcome 13 – we will have cultivated the environment for a safe and welcoming workplace

Commentary:

We want HES to be a great place to work and to be as diverse and inclusive as possible. We also want to ensure that we have the right skills to deliver our Corporate Plan and to maintain safe and inclusive working environments. In undertaking this, we will have a positive impact on the cultural heritage, as we will have a skilled workforce to enable us to deliver our advice, guidance and support to the historic environment, and to have the knowledge and research to ensure the care of our own historic assets.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	0

Preferred outcome: Outcome 14 - we will have made our work and services accessible to everyone in Scotland

Commentary:

We are seeking to ensure that every aspect of our work is as widely accessible as possible. This means both physical and intellectual access and seeking to work with under-served and under-represented groups. In doing this, we aim to have a positive impact on cultural heritage, as a broader audience is able to participate and engage with our work and services. This will enable a greater number to access the health and wellbeing benefits gained from engaging and participating with the historic environment.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We will create a workplace where everyone can thrive

Commentary:

By creating a workplace where all can thrive and develop, we will ensure that we have a workforce that can deliver our priorities, therefore having a positive impact on cultural heritage and the material assets that we hold.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	0	+	0	0	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: Our financial resources support delivery of our new corporate plan priorities

Commentary:

In ensuring that we have the financial resources to deliver the corporate plan, we will be able to achieve the impacts outlined in the previous outcomes and therefore have a positive impact across all areas.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	+	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: We attract, retain, and develop our people to deliver our corporate plan priorities

Commentary:

In ensuring that we have a knowledgeable and skilled workforce with the abilities to deliver our corporate plan to a high standard, we will achieve a positive impact as outlined across the previous outcomes.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	+	+	+

Reasonable alternative outcome: By 2028, we will have reviewed our services to ensure they meet the needs of a changing world

Commentary:

We are seeking ensure that the advice that we provide for the historic environment sectors is fit for purpose in a challenging world. This includes updating advice on areas such as conservation areas, retrofit, landscape, accessibility and agriculture. These will also look to support national policy priorities, including net zero, supporting people and communities, and helping current and future generations to live well. In addressing retrofit, we will be

contributing to ensuring that historic buildings are fit for purpose and can be utilised into the future.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	++	+	+	+

Cumulative assessment of all outcomes under Priority 5

Commentary:

This priority focusses on ensuring that HES has a solid financial base and a highly skilled and thriving workforce, working in a safe environment, and that our services are accessible and inclusive.

Scoring

How will the purpose affect...	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Climatic factors	Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Material assets	Population and human health
Score	0	+	+	+	+	+

ANNEX B – ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

In order to establish the environmental effects of the Corporate Plan it is necessary to understand the environmental baseline of the area that is likely to be affected. Schedule 3 of the Act lists the environmental topics that should be considered in SEA. To focus the SEA, baseline information has been gathered on the environmental issues that are likely to be affected by the Corporate Plan. Given that the Corporate Plan covers Historic Environment Scotland's activities across Scotland, a national baseline has been reviewed. A summary of the key baseline information for each relevant environmental topic is set out below.

Cultural Heritage

Baseline Data	Sources
Buildings at Risk Investment in the Historic Environment Designated Sites, Buildings, Landscapes and Battlefields Properties in Care Non-designated historic environment features Marine Heritage Local Character and Townscapes	Historic Environment Scotland GIS Downloader National Record of the Historic Environment (includes equivalent data to the Sites and Monuments Records) Scotland's Historic Environment Audit 2024 Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (BARR) Scotland's Environment Web

The historic environment is a legacy of our long history, from the 'eco homes' at Skara Brae, to the post-war homes and churches built by Scotland's leading architects, and with a great deal in between. Scotland's historic environment is a unique asset, attracting millions of visitors each year and generating income and jobs across Scotland. As such, the historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and the purpose, values and national outcomes stated in the National Performance Framework.

Scotland has seven World Heritage Sites, over 47,000 listed buildings and more than 600 conservation areas. Nearly 400 sites are currently identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and 40 sites are on the Inventory of Battlefields. The actual extent of archaeological remains in Scotland is unknown with just over 8,000 Scheduled Monuments representing only a small proportion of the archaeological sites for which HES holds records. There are many more unrecorded sites, features and unknown resources throughout the country. Landscapes are a key part of our cultural heritage; they have huge economic potential and are a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being.

The key information relating to the context for the Corporate Plan, and what we have based our assessment upon, can be found in the 2024 Heritage Audit and in the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, *Our Past, Our Future*.

Population and Human Health

Baseline Data	Sources
Access to historic environment sites, records and collections Tourism revenue and visitor numbers Health and Place data Socio-economic data	Historic Environment Scotland Visit Scotland NHS Scotland Scottish Government SEPA Guidance on consideration of health factors in SEA

The environment provides a variety of services that are beneficial to human health including opportunities for education and recreation. Access to historic environment sites, forests, woodlands and nature conservation sites as well as the wider environment can help to promote healthier lifestyles, having positive effects on both physical and mental health. The quality of the environment and places and buildings in which we live can also impact on our quality of life. High quality urban environments, including natural landscapes, can create a sense of place and improve well-being. Poorly maintained housing and neglected community spaces can have a negative impact on physical and mental well-being.

The historic environment needs to be managed in a sustainable way to ensure that the positive and distinctive contribution it can make to our well-being, landscape, and sense of history, identity and place can be realised.

Community Planning is an increasingly important area in which the connection between people and place and the associated impacts (for example; health, wellbeing and social inclusion) can be seen as a driver towards better outcomes in these areas.

Climatic Factors

Baseline Data	Sources
CO2 Emissions Carbon Footprint SNIFFER 2014 Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) Climate Modelling Dynamic Coast – National Coastal Change Assessment Flood risk	SNIFFER SEPA Guidance on consideration of climatic factors in Strategic Environmental Assessment UKCIP Historic Environment Scotland – climate change research and reports Dynamic Coast SEPA Flood Hazard maps Local Flood Risk Management plans

Our archaeology and coastal landscapes are vulnerable to coastal erosion, rises in sea level, flooding and storminess. Some of Scotland's unique and special sites such as Skara Brae in Orkney are most at risk. Built heritage can also suffer adverse effects from storms,

subsidence and increased wetting and weathering. More rainfall will mean that traditional buildings will be wetter for longer periods of time resulting in increased weathering of stone, algal and fungal growth, corrosion of metals and timber decay. The spread of pests and disease as a result of a warmer climate and milder wetter winters can also have effects upon various materials and furnishings. Measures to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings need to be considered carefully with thought given to the carbon footprint, embodied energy, longevity and sustainability of existing and replacement materials.

For example, reducing air leakage in traditional buildings to prevent heat loss might result in condensation and mould growth, with damaging effects on the building fabric and the health of those living there. Careful consideration also needs to be given to the renewable energy projects (such as micro renewables) which may have a detrimental effect on the character or setting of historic environment features, landscapes and townscape.

We also need to be mindful of the relationship between resource use and work in the area of waste reduction and their link with climatic factors.

Landscape (including seascapes and urban and suburban landscapes)

Baseline Data	Sources
Wild land	Historic Land Use Assessment
National, Regional and Country Parks	NatureScot
National Scenic Areas	Coastal Character Assessment
Local Landscape Areas	Landscape Character Assessment and associated guidance
Historic Land Use	National Scenic Areas and their Special Qualities
Coastal Character	Wild land
Landscape Character	

Scotland's diverse and distinctive landscapes are a significant part of the country's natural and cultural heritage, making an important and positive contribution to the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of the nation.

The European Landscape Convention aims are to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes, not just protected areas. Landscape is a component of a number of environmental designations and there is an intricate relationship between landscape, conservation, other environmental objectives, community identity and wellbeing and economic development. It is a key part of our cultural heritage which has huge economic potential and is a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being. This relationship between the perception of natural and historic landscape means that the sustainable management of the historic environment can impact on landscape as a whole.

NatureScot have, in partnership with others, produced a series of 30 regional Landscape Character Assessment studies that identify and map the landscape character of all of Scotland. These are currently being reviewed with the aim of producing a single national dataset. The Landscape Character Assessments are used heavily in policy making,

development planning and management and form an important tool in the appropriate consideration of landscape-scale change.

Work in the area of Coastal Character Assessment is also being brought forward by NatureScot with a Guidance Note on the topic published in 2017. Coastal Character Assessment identifies, describes and maps Scotland's coasts and these will underpin marine plans, development plans and specific development proposals. Coastal Character Types have been identified at a national level and a Coastal Character Assessment for Orkney and Caithness in 2016.

Material assets

Baseline Data	Sources
Agricultural and forestry land use data	Scottish Government
Housing supply data	Transport Scotland
Transport data	Forestry and Land Scotland
Tourism revenue and visitor numbers	SEPA Guidance on consideration of material assets in Strategic Environmental Assessment
Waste data	Visit Scotland

Agricultural and forestry policies promote sustainable land use, environmental protection and stewardship, and emphasise the importance of delivering public goods out with market mechanisms. The Scottish Government's Draft Climate Change Plan, published in January 2017, sets specific targets for future woodland expansion to cover 21% of Scotland by 2032. To deliver this, the draft plan proposes that the rate of new afforestation rises to 15,000 hectares per year by 2024. Scotland's forests are the most productive in the UK. Our woodlands and forests offer many benefits: economic (including timber, non-timber and tourism), health and wellbeing, carbon storage and ecosystems services. The National Forest Estate covers nearly 9% of Scotland, extending to over 650,000 hectares. There are 323 Scheduled Monuments and 31 listed buildings on the Forestry and Land Scotland Designated Historic Assets Register. There are also around 12,000 individual historic environment features on the Forester GIS (Geographic Information System) Heritage Module. Around 80% of Scotland's land mass is used for agriculture, and agricultural practices, both historic and current, have helped shape our landscape and historic environment.

Construction accounts for about 50% of all waste in Scotland and is a major influence on efficient use of resources. The Scottish Government has published a strategy – Safeguarding Scotland's resources – that focuses on waste prevention and the circular economy. It includes a target to reduce the amount of waste generated in Scotland by 15% by 2025. The historic environment and its ongoing upkeep is inherently sustainable as it reuses existing buildings and minimises the use of new resources. Traditional buildings have embedded energy (the energy required to extract, process, manufacture, transport and install building materials). Although traditional buildings usually have a lower thermal performance than new buildings, continuing to use them can avoid some new carbon by reducing the need for new buildings. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with

the upkeep of old buildings, while maintaining their cultural significance, is a challenge. All measures to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings need to be considered carefully with thought given to the carbon footprint, lifespan and the sustainability of existing and replacement materials. In improving energy efficiency, it is important to avoid damaging effects on traditional buildings. For example, reducing air leakage in buildings to prevent heat loss may result in condensation and fungus growth, with damaging effects on the fabric of the building and the health of people using it.

Traditionally constructed buildings including housing make a major contribution to Scotland's existing built environment. The Scottish House Condition Survey (SCHS) 2015 estimates that around 20% of Scottish dwellings were built before 1919 (488,000 dwellings). 68% of pre-1919 buildings had a degree of critical element disrepair in 2015, compared to 72% in 2014 and 73% in 2013. The Scottish average was 52% in 2015, 53% in 2014 and 57% in 2013. Around 9% of households live in conservation areas, which cover about 0.3% of Scotland's land area. The Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing states a need for new housing supply, and also that bringing empty homes back into active use would represent an important contribution to effective new supply.

Scotland's transport infrastructure is also a key asset in connecting our urban and more remote rural areas, and supporting future growth. Many elements of the road, rail and canal networks across the country are of traditional construction.

Tourism is a key economic driver and the historic environment is one of the main motivators for tourism activity in Scotland. Heritage-based tourism created an estimated £780 million for the Scottish economy in 2015, supporting 23,100 FTE jobs across the sector.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Baseline Data	Sources
Special Protection Areas	NatureScot
Special Areas of Conservation	SiteLink
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	
National Nature Reserves	
Local Nature Reserves	
Woodland (including ancient and semi-natural)	

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or certain regularly occurring migratory species. Scotland is internationally important for many species of wild birds due to our location in north-west Europe, and our varied range of wild and semi-natural habitats.

Scotland has 162 classified SPAs, from the north of Shetland to the cross border Solway Firth SPA, as well as within inshore and offshore waters. This also includes a suite of [12 marine SPAs](#) which were classified in December 2020. Together they cover an area of around 2.75 million hectares (27,500 square kilometres) of Scotland's land and sea. Find out more about [marine European sites](#).

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or [marine](#) – listed in the [Habitats Directive](#). Scotland has 243 designated SACs, including three that straddle the border with England and two which straddle the 12nm inshore/offshore territorial boundary. There are also eight designated SACs entirely in Scotland's offshore waters. Together they cover more than 3.84 million hectares (38,400 square kilometres) of Scotland's land, inshore and offshore waters.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are areas of land set aside for nature. As in other countries, the accolade is given to Scotland's best wildlife sites, to promote their conservation and enjoyment. Most reserves contain nationally or internationally important habitats and species, so the wildlife is managed very carefully. Visitor facilities are designed and managed to ensure that people can enjoy NNRs without harming or disturbing the wildlife that lives there.

[Scotland has 43 NNRs](#); these are special places, showcasing the very best of Scotland's nature, and cover just under 2% of Scotland's land area. Included in the series are mountain tops, ancient woodlands, remote islands with huge colonies of breeding seabirds, and lowland lochs that are vitally important staging posts for migrating birds.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are those areas of land and water that are considered to best represent our natural heritage in terms of their:

- flora – i.e. plants
- fauna – i.e. animals
- geology – i.e. rocks
- geomorphology – i.e. landforms
- a mixture of these natural features

Scotland has 1,422 SSSIs, covering around 1,011,000 hectares or 12.6% of Scotland's land area (above mean low water springs). Sites range in size from the very small, like Bo'mains Meadow SSSI, at just under a hectare, to the vast Cairngorms SSSI, which extends to more than 29,000 hectares. Many SSSIs are also designated as [European sites](#) – whether as [Special Areas of Conservation](#) or [Special Protection Areas](#).

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are areas of natural heritage that are at least locally important. There are 75 LNRs in Scotland, usually close to towns and cities. Local authorities select and designate LNRs under Section 21 of the [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#) (as amended).

Native tree and shrub species provide much of our native wildlife with its natural habitats, so are a valuable part of Britain's nature and landscapes. Woodland's importance for biodiversity is closely related to its age. In Scotland, ancient woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded since at least 1750. The wildlife communities, soils and structure of ancient woodlands have had the longest time to develop. So these aspects are generally, but not always, richer than in more recent woods.

Not all of Scotland's woodlands are in as good condition as they might be, because of problems and poor management. Overgrazing and undergrazing, invasive species and

pathogens, fragmentation, neglect and climate change all threaten the condition of our woodlands.

Many properties in the care of Historic Environment Scotland are within, or near to, land which has been designated for its natural environment value, and many will also be close to, or contain, woodland of biodiversity value, including ancient and semi natural woodland.

Scotland has world-class geodiversity that provides the foundation of our remarkable geoheritage and essential benefits for people and nature. It has a profound influence on landscape, the economy, historical and cultural heritage, habitats and species, education, health and well-being.

ANNEX C – SCOPING COMMENTS FROM CONSULTATION AUTHORITIES

SEPA comments	Our response
It is noted that there is no alternative to a new Corporate Plan as it is a legislative requirement. We are satisfied that the alternatives to be considered will be different approaches to the structure and level of detail included in the Corporate Plan. These should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.	Noted
It is noted that it is proposed to scope out air, soil and water as it is not considered that the effects on these environmental topics will be strategically significant. Any impacts on these environmental topics at a project level in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be assessed in lower-level plans. We agree with the proposed scope of the assessment.	Noted
As part of the baseline data for climatic factors we suggest that flood risk is considered. The effects of flooding and the role of flood protection and prevention measures could have an impact on the historic environment. The SEPA Flood Hazard maps display the land affected by coastal, fluvial, and pluvial flooding and also include future flood maps. Local Flood Risk Management plans available on local authorities' websites could also provide useful information.	Baseline data added
We expect all aspects of the PPS which could have significant effects to be assessed. We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects.	Noted.
We are content with the proposed detailed assessment matrix and particularly welcome the commentary box to fully explain the rationale behind the assessment results and the consideration of mitigation/ enhancement measures.	Noted
We are satisfied with the proposal for a minimum 8 week consultation period for the Environmental Report	Noted. Consultation period to be 10 weeks

NatureScot comments	Our response
<p><i>Table 2, Environmental Policy Context for the Corporate Plan</i></p> <p>SEA topic: landscape. We recommend you include, under 'Plan Programme or Strategy', "People Place and Landscape", the joint position statement on landscape produced by HES and NatureScot.</p> <p>It would be clearer to refer simply to "National Scenic Areas" and omit "Programme (2009)" NSAs.</p>	<p>Added and amended accordingly</p>
<p>SEA topic: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. It would be clearer to refer to "landscape-scale" approach rather than a "landscape" approach in the final sentence.</p> <p>We strongly recommend listing the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy in the 'Plan Programme or Strategy' column. You could also refer to geodiversity, for clarity.</p>	<p>Added and amended accordingly</p>
<p>We agree with the proposed scoping in/out of environmental topics. As a minor point, there is mismatch of text between the air and water topics.</p>	<p>Notes</p>
<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna: The presentation could be clearer, and more like other sections, by separating designations. And, also echoing some other sections, separating data and designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Protection Areas • Special Areas of Conservation • Sites of Special Scientific Interest • National Nature Reserves • Local Nature Reserves • Woodland (including ancient and semi-natural) 	<p>Amended accordingly</p>
<p>We note that a period of eight weeks is proposed for consultation on the Environmental Report. We are content with this proposed timescale.</p>	<p>Noted. Consultation period to be 10 weeks</p>

ANNEX D - OTHER PLANS, PROGRAMMES, STRATEGIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Table 4 below summarises the findings of the review of the current legislation, policies, plans and strategies that are considered to be most directly relevant to the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28. It has been assumed that the key environmental protection objectives for each of the environmental topics identified in Schedule 3 of the Act are translated into national policy and strategy. The environmental protection provided by European legislation has not been reviewed in detail. Instead, the focus has been to review the key areas of legislation relevant to the HES Corporate Plan 2025-28 and its assessment.

Table 3: Environmental Policy Context for the HES Corporate Plan 2025-

28

SEA topic	Summary of environmental objectives	Plan, Programme or Strategy
Climatic factors	<p>Policies focus on the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. National targets are net zero by 2045, making a contribution to climate change abatement targets set at the UK, EU and international levels.</p> <p>Energy policy highlights the importance of energy efficiency, and the need to achieve a shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. There is also a need for adequate, planned adaptation to future climates in order to increase the resilience of communities, and natural and economic systems.</p> <p>The HES Climate Action Plan details our climate action ambitions for the historic environment for 2020–2025</p>	<p>UK Climate Change Act 2008</p> <p>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009</p> <p>Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019</p> <p>Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009)</p> <p>Climate Change Adaptation Corporate Plan (2009)</p> <p>UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)</p> <p>Climate Change Plan update</p> <p>Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)</p> <p>Conserve and Save: Consultation on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2010)</p> <p>HES Climate Action Plan (2020-2025)</p> <p>Climate Ready HES</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Policies outlines the need to seek to improve health and quality of life.</p> <p>There is now a growing recognition of an additional need to shape places which</p>	<p>Improving Health in Scotland – the Challenge (2003)</p> <p>Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015</p> <p>The Islands (Scotland) Bill (emerging legislation)</p>

	<p>are nurturing of positive health, wellbeing and resilience.</p> <p>Community Planning Partnerships, which involve a number of public bodies, including HES, have a duty to make plans for local areas which meet the needs and ambitions of local people. Community planning priorities stress the important role played by communities in shaping and making local decisions.</p> <p>The Islands Bill is emerging legislation (currently before Parliament) with provision to 'island-proof' decision-making across the public sector will ensure the interests of islanders are reflected in future legislation and policy from the very outset.</p> <p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone rights of responsible access to most land in Scotland. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code sets out the responsibilities.</p>	<p>Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland</p> <p>Homes fit for the 21st century – the Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing 2011-2020</p> <p>Good Places Better Health (2008)</p> <p>Equally Well: Implementation Plan (2008) and 2010 Review Recommendations</p> <p>Scotland's Economic Strategy</p> <p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</p>
Landscape	<p>Landscape policies aim to not only safeguard protected areas, but to recognise and conserve wider landscapes. These may not be formally designated but make an important contribution to the quality of environment.</p> <p>The Strategic Historic Environment Forum's vision is for the historic dimension of landscape to be fully acknowledged and valued. It is at the core of a shared and unifying approach to managing change in our landscape in ways which maximise public benefit for present and future generations.</p> <p>Natural Heritage Futures policies aim to guide the sustainable management and use of Scotland's nature and landscapes.</p>	<p>Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention (2000)</p> <p>Naturescot Natural Heritage Futures</p> <p>Scotland's Landscape Charter</p> <p>Landscape and the Historic Environment – A Common Statement (Strategic Historic Environment Forum)</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage's Landscape Policy Corporate Plan : Policy Statement No. 05/01</p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (National Scenic Areas) (Scotland) Designation Directions 2010</p> <p>People, Place and Landscape: A position statement from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland</p>

	Our landscapes are changing and will continue to change. People, Place and Landscape sets out our approach, working towards a shared vision where all of our landscapes are vibrant, resilient, inspiring and beneficial.	
Cultural Heritage	<p>Historic environment policies aim to identify and protect historic buildings and sites from inappropriate development and damage. Policies extend beyond specific designated sites to reflect the value of undesignated / unknown sites, wider townscapes, the setting of monuments and historic buildings, and wider cultural landscapes.</p> <p>The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) sets out principles and policies to direct decision-making which affects the historic environment.</p>	<p>Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014</p> <p>Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019)</p> <p>National Planning Framework 4</p> <p>Historic Environment Scotland Corporate Plan</p> <p>SG Culture Strategy (2020)</p> <p>PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology</p> <p>Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes</p> <p>Our Past Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment (2023)</p> <p>Various Historic Environment legislation including Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</p> <p>Other Historic Environment Scotland guidance documents</p> <p>Monument Investment Plans</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>Biodiversity policies from international to local levels aim in particular to conserve habitats, species and ecosystems. Halting the decline of key species is important, and where possible remedial action and enhancement should be implemented in degraded areas. Policies also note the importance of an ecosystem approach – a holistic, landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that goes beyond the traditional emphasis on protecting individual sites.</p>	<p>The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC</p> <p>The Habitats Directive 1992/43/EEC</p> <p>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</p> <p>Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007</p> <p>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2007</p> <p>UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Corporate Plan</p> <p>Scotland's Biodiversity – It's In Your Hands (2004)</p>

	The draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy sets out Scottish Government's likely direction of travel going forward.	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013) draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
Soil	Policies on soil seek to protect resources from a range of impacts, including soil sealing by development, increased susceptibility to erosion and soil pollution.	Scottish Soil Framework (2009) National Peatland Plan
Water	Water related policies aim to protect water resources, and achieve an improvement in their ecological condition where appropriate. River Basin Management Plans, which were prepared under the Water Corporate Plan Directive and WEWS Act set specific objectives for the protection and improvement of water resources within each river basin.	The Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC Water Directive 2000/60/EC Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) Act Water Environment (River Basin Management Planning: Further Provision) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 Cross-Border River Basin Districts (Scotland) Directions 2014 River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021-2027 River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed River Basin District: 2021
Air	Air quality targets have been set at the European and UK levels. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others. Good progress is being made towards meeting them.	2008/50/EC Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016

		Cleaner air for Scotland: the road to a healthier future
Material Assets	<p>Agricultural and forestry policies promote sustainable land use, environmental protection, and stewardship, and emphasise the importance of delivering public goods out with market mechanisms. Policy sets a target of increasing forest cover to 25% of land cover.</p> <p>The planning system highlights the need to allow the development of high quality, well designed, energy efficient housing. Efficient design will contribute to climate change abatement targets, as will transport emission reductions. Redevelopment of urban and rural brownfield sites is preferred to development on greenfield sites</p> <p>Place is an agent of change. Good buildings and places can enrich our lives as individuals and as a society in many different ways.</p> <p>The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best-value decision making.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing states a need for new housing supply, and also that bringing empty homes back into active use would represent an important contribution to effective new supply.</p> <p>Tourism is a key economic driver, and the historic environment is one of the main motivators for tourism activity in Scotland.</p>	<p>Scottish Forestry Strategy</p> <p>National Transport Strategy 2 (2020)</p> <p>The Strategic Transport Project Review 2(STPR) (2019)</p> <p>Local Housing Strategies</p> <p>A Vision for Scottish Agriculture</p> <p>Town Centre First Principle</p> <p>Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland</p> <p>Homes fit for the 21st century – the Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing 2011-2020</p> <p>The Future for Scottish Agriculture (2015)</p> <p>The Future for Scottish Agriculture and Summary of the National Discussion (2016)</p> <p>Scotland Outlook 2030</p> <p>People make Heritage 2020</p> <p>Giant Strides 2020-25</p> <p>Forthcoming Outdoors Tourism Strategy</p> <p>Visitor management strategic framework for Scotland</p> <p>Waste (Scotland) Regulations</p> <p>proposed Circular Economy Bill and Route Map</p> <p>emerging National Litter and Flytipping Strategy</p> <p>Scotland's Zero Waste Plan</p>

	<p>To cut emissions significantly and meet ambitious waste and recycling targets, action across society must accelerate to reduce the demand for raw material in products and encourage reuse and repairs through responsible production and consumption, and recycle waste and energy to maximise the value of any waste that is generated.</p>	
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We want to make sure Scotland's heritage is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride by everyone.

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