

# PROPERTIES IN THE CARE OF SCOTTISH MINISTERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA





Report compiled by:

Alexa Tweddle, Data Analyst  
Chris Weatherill, Analytics & Reporting Officer  
Julie Lochrie, Analytics Manager

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Any enquiries regarding this document should be sent to us at:

Historic Environment Scotland  
Longmore House  
Salisbury Place  
Edinburgh  
EH9 1SH

+44 (0) 131 668 8600

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot>

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the activity undertaken at the Properties in Care and the associated collections in 2024-2025 and serves to fulfil our *Schemes of Delegation* performance management reporting requirements.

This year we have continued to maintain, conserve and invest in our estate and have been developing a long-term strategy for the Properties in Care and associated collections and archives. The development of a new strategy is an opportunity to deliver a sustainable management approach.

In 2024-25 our expenditure on the Properties in Care and associated collections totalled 65.9 million which is a 17% increase compared to 2023-24 and marks the highest annual spend since the formation of Historic Environment Scotland in 2015. Staff salaries account for 64% of this year's total investments.

During 2024-25, 234 of our 336 Properties in Care were fully open to visitors without any reported restrictions. The leading cause of unplanned access restrictions are due to staffing or adverse weather.

Visitor numbers rose to 4.66 million, with overseas visitors making up 60% of footfall. Net direct tourism expenditure is estimated at 542 million which is a 27 million increase on 2023-24. In 2024-25, direct tourism expenditure supported an estimated 14,100 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs across Scotland.

We have continued to enhance access and engagement through interpretation upgrades, exhibitions, seasonal events, and inclusive learning programmes, directly engaging over 99,000 learners which is a rise of 11% from the previous year.

The second year of delivering the national strategy for Scotland's historic environment, [Our Past, Our Future](#) (OPOF), continues its mission to sustain and enhance the benefits of Scotland's historic environment for people and communities now and into the future. This year Historic Environment Scotland continues to support OPOF Priority 1 and the transition to net zero through investment in two important initiatives aimed at strengthening the traditional skills system.

We have keenly felt the impact of the heritage skills crisis and the significant shortage of trained professional in traditional skills. This is a key driver to several of our investment projects and our technical education and training programme which is detailed in this report.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body caring for Scotland's historic environment. We have been delegated authority from Scottish Ministers to care for 336 'Properties in Care' and their associated collections under the *Schemes of Delegation* (under Section 3 of the [Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014](#)).

The *Schemes of Delegation* require us to have mechanisms for performance management in relation to our delivery of the Schemes; namely a series of indicators used to assess the effectiveness of our operation of the Schemes. The indicators must enable measurement in exercising the delegated functions and must show:

- the condition of the Properties in Care (PiC)
  - the impact of the investment made in them
  - the provision of public access to the properties
- the condition of the associated collections
  - the standard of their care
  - the provision of public access to the collections

This report serves to demonstrate our performance in these areas and fulfils the requirement to report on the areas for monitoring by Scottish Government.

This report relates to the 2024-25 financial year which marks the final year of Historic Environment Scotland's 2023-2025 Corporate Plan. Throughout this year we have considered the direction of the organisation for the future and what our priorities should be for the next three years of our 2025-2028 Corporate Plan.

This year we have continued to maintain, conserve and invest in our estate and have been developing a long-term strategy for the Properties in Care and associated collections and archives. The development of a new strategy is an opportunity to deliver a sustainable management approach.

We have keenly felt the impact of the heritage skills crises and the significant shortage of trained professional in traditional skills. This is a key driver to several of our investment projects and our technical education and training programme.

## 2 KEY STATISTICS

**£65.9**

million

*Properties &  
Collections  
expenditure*

**99,000**

*learners engaged*



**46,119**

*Collections  
Items*



**£542** million

*NET direct tourism expenditure*



**63**

*High Level Fabric  
Inspections*



**4.66** million  
*visitors*



**460+**

*volunteers*



**8.87** out of 10

*for visitor enjoyment*



### 3 THE PROPERTIES IN CARE

The well-established challenge faced by historic environment asset managers in relation to the deterioration of sites, exacerbated by changing climate, has continued to be a key area of work for Historic Environment Scotland during 2024-25. The Properties in Care comprise many physical elements which include monuments, archaeology, landscapes, collections, archives, visitor facilities, staff facilities, and other ancillary assets. Maintaining and managing these in a sustainable way continues to be our focus.

Given the challenges faced in managing heritage assets, and the opportunities to take new approaches, we have been developing a long-term Strategy for the Properties in Care and associated collections. We have engaged with other heritage asset managers in the sector and colleagues across our organisation to better understand the challenges and opportunities, leading us to shape strategic objectives that will achieve improved management approaches and outcomes for people and place, the environment, economies, as well as the heritage assets we look after.

A 10-year strategy will address challenges and opportunities head-on and for the longer-term, building on good work and exemplar projects across the estate, but taking objectives for the sustainable management of the Properties in Care and collections further.

Central to this strategy, is our vision to increase understanding and achieve sustainable management of the Properties in Care and collections in our care. Increased understanding of the assets will be achieved through both gathering data and using expertise, producing a holistic view of the assets in themselves and in their context. This will enable informed decision-making and balancing of project and management outcomes across sustainable development pillars. We will be carrying out further colleague engagement alongside our planned public consultation of the strategy later this year.

The 2024-25 expenditure on our Properties in Care and their collections has continued its year-on-year increase. This year's 17% increase marks the highest annual spend since the formation of Historic Environment Scotland in 2015.

Our work continues to prioritise the safety of our people and our visitors, as well as expand our knowledge and understanding of our estate. Our comprehensive programme of inspections and strategic compliance projects continue across our estate. This year, in addition to our responsibilities, we now also manage one of the largest portfolios of burial ground sites in Scotland due to redefined compliance legislation.

Historic Environment Scotland has maintained our commitment to enhance access and engagement through site interpretation upgrades, exhibitions, seasonal events, and inclusive learning programmes, directly engaging learners. In 2024-25 visitor numbers rose to 4.66 million, with overseas visitors making up 60% of footfall.

The second year of delivering the national strategy for Scotland's historic environment, [Our Past, Our Future](#) (OPOF), continues its mission to sustain and enhance the benefits of Scotland's historic environment for people and communities now and into the future. Historic Environment Scotland continues to support OPOF Priority 1 and the transition to net zero through investment this year in two important initiatives aimed at strengthening the traditional skills system. Lock 16, Scotland's Centre of Excellence for Canals & Traditional Skills, a partnership project with Scottish Canals, and a new national centre for the retrofit of traditional buildings. Both projects focus on building capacity in traditional building techniques, which will allow their retrofit and subsequent improvements in energy efficiency. Building on these with increased and long-term investment and collaboration across the skills landscape remain critical to fully address the national climate challenges ahead.

In June 2025, Scotland's Historic Environment Forum (SHEF) ran the annual event where retrofit and traditional skills were among some of the key areas of focus for the coming years.

### 3.1 Condition of the Properties

The safety of our visitors and colleagues is always our first concern when prioritising our resources. Our schedule of inspections and surveys across the estate ensures that our sites are safe and accessible, as well as allowing us to identify potential fabric-related concerns that might affect our Properties in Care (PIC) in the future.

Work continues to ensure safety and compliance across the estate. The *High-Level Masonry Project*, which initially prioritised 70 high-risk properties, came to its conclusion in the previous financial year and a cyclical programme of high-level fabric inspections is now a core element of our inspection schedule. This allows potentially life-threatening hazards to be removed during the inspection process.

The landscapes and gardens across our estate are a vital part of each site's historic value and contribute significantly to visitors' experiences. This year, new tree stock has been planted at several PICs, and biosecurity measures have been introduced to help prevent the spread of pathogens, thereby enhancing and preserving these vital green spaces.

### 3.1.1 Inspection and Maintenance of Built Heritage

In 2024–25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to strengthen its approach to compliance, safety, and operational efficiency across the Properties in Care (PiC). A core part of this work was delivered through a comprehensive programme of inspections and strategic compliance projects. These included 618 maintenance inspections across 112 PiC, 34 flagpole inspections at 22 PiC, and memorial inspections at eight locations. These activities reflect a broader commitment to robust asset management, as outlined in our Asset Management Plan. Work is underway to develop accountable compliance systems that align with industry standards and legal obligations. This includes baseline assessments, asset register development, policy and procedure reviews, data management, training, and auditing. Current projects focus on high-risk compliance areas that impact staff, visitors, and contractors. These include landlord statutory compliance, maintenance inspections, and occupational health and safety practices such as dust control. Support also continues for the High-Level Fabric Inspection programme, which helps ensure the safety and integrity of historic structures.

Historic Environment Scotland responded to updated Scottish Government guidance on burial ground legislation, which redefined statutory responsibilities and significantly increased our compliance obligations for existing sites. As a result, our management responsibilities for our current portfolio of burial ground sites have expanded. In response, a strategic project was launched to assess current compliance status and develop a structured approach to meet new legislative requirements, including annual audits and mandatory headstone safety inspections.

#### 3.1.1.1 High-Level Fabric Inspections

High-Level Masonry Inspection remains a key corporate priority and a proactive step in managing our Properties in Care (PiC) within a changing environment, as well as fulfilling our statutory duties to our colleagues, visitors and contractors. High-Level Masonry Inspections form part of our mainstream operations and are an integral part of our ongoing survey and inspection work.

Inspections have been completed at 152 of the 206 PiC with identified High-Level Fabric, with 148 output reports produced. During 2024-25, 63 Inspections and 57 reports were completed.

The programme of High-Level Masonry Inspections allows us to collect critical data on the high-level fabric of our monuments and enables us to explore a deeper understanding of risk on our estate.

Guidance has been produced for each PiC to determine high-level access methodology and ground protection measures to protect sensitive archaeology. In addition to gathering information on the monument itself, ecology reports have been produced as part of the pre-inspection work. We can therefore continue to expand our knowledge of the ecology and biodiversity at our properties, as well as our understanding and approach to related constraints. This data helps inform our future approach to maintenance and conservation of our estate and enable informed decision-making.

Alongside the High-Level Fabric Inspections, we were tasked with providing improved information on the composition and condition of masonry materials on building façades to support a better understanding of High-Masonry Risk. This work is partially undertaken in partnership with the British Geological Survey (BGS).

A comprehensive survey of the stonework masonry has been developed, comprising three distinct processes:

- a rapid literature review of archived documents related to our Properties in Care, which is now 98% complete.
- a field survey to record the location, stone type, function, and estimated proportions of materials on external façades, currently 73% complete.

- and an investigative analysis involving laboratory testing of stone samples compared against standard reference materials, which is 9% complete.

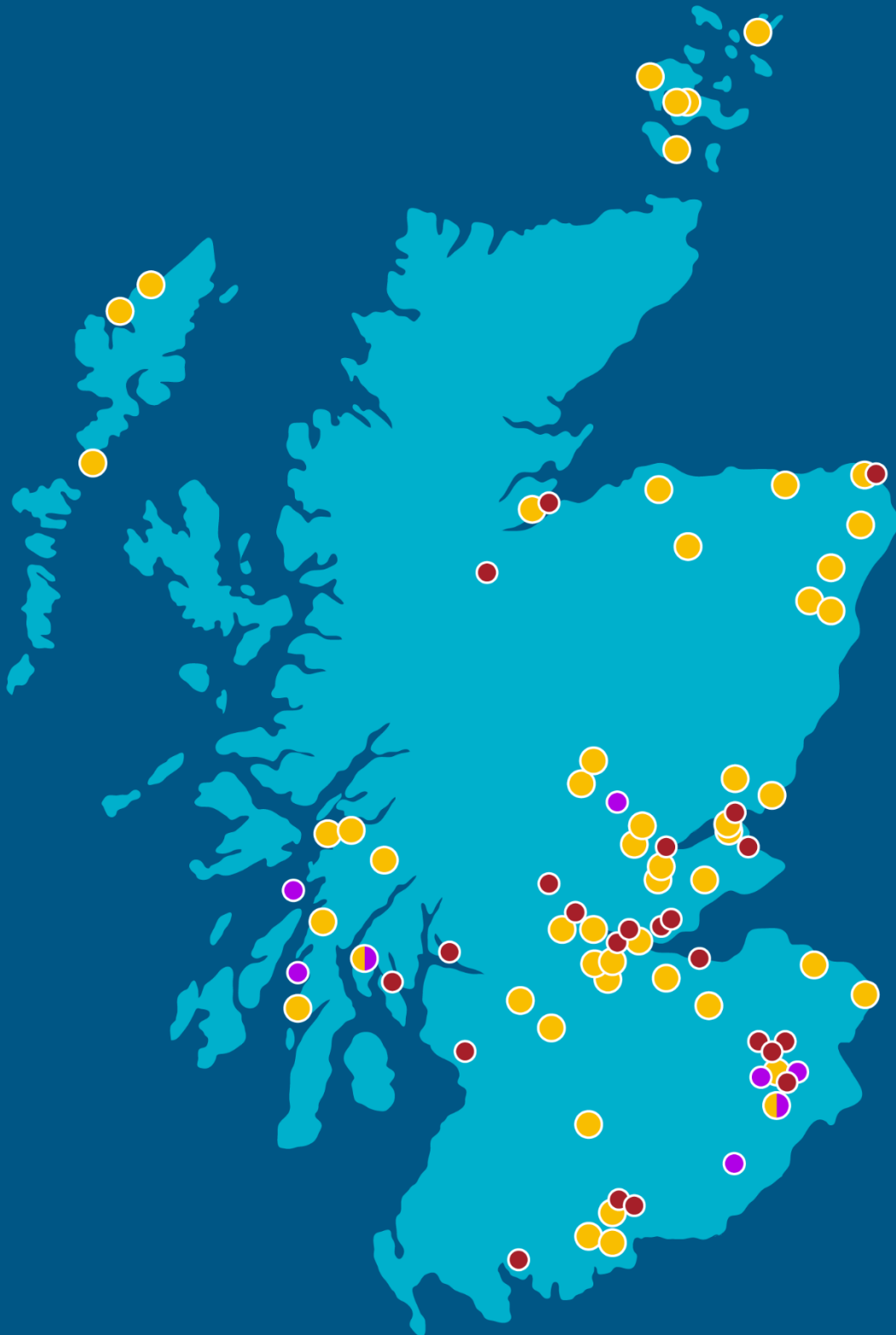
The results of these three processes provide information on the provenance of building stones observed across the 206 properties included in the study. Each process is supported by documentation and reporting procedures designed to ensure the methodology is replicable, and quality assessments are carried out to validate the data. For each high-level PiC, a report of the findings will be created and made accessible via our Asset Management System.

We are working towards developing a dynamic system that will recommend the most suitable building stone matches, both from available suppliers and from potential new resources identified through the [BGS study on potential for building stone resources](#).

The benefits of this study are threefold. First, it enables more strategic investment and management planning across our estates, allowing us to prioritise repairs and conservation efforts, allocate staff time according to risk levels, plan for visitor safety, and support the protection of stone resources. Second, it improves operational planning by enhancing the efficiency of repair and replacement work, promoting the use of appropriate stone materials, and

Figure 1 – the location of built heritage surveys and inspections delivered during 2024-25. Further information on this figure is contained within Appendix A.1

- Flagpole Inspection
- Memorial Inspection
- HLFi Inspection



drawing lessons from past conservation efforts. Third, it adds cultural and historical value to our properties by renewing our understanding of traditional craftsmanship and deepening our knowledge of historical stone trade practices. Some of the data generated will also contribute to the publicly accessible [Building Stone Database for Scotland](#).

### 3.1.2 Landscape and Environment

The landscapes in our care are integral to each Property in Care's (PiC) historic significance and to visitors' experience and enjoyment. Our gardens and designed landscapes are maintained and inspected regularly to help reduce risks and support safe access, while preserving their inherent beauty.

During the 2024-25 financial year, 68 tree surveys were carried out across 44 PiCs. Additionally, 51 rock slopes were inspected across 15 PiCs to monitor the landscape and help manage risks to our visitors and colleagues.

Several of our sites provided filming locations during 2024-25, from Doune Castle, Stirling, featuring again in *Outlander* to Holyrood Park, City of Edinburgh, in Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein*. In turn, the promotion and popularity of our landscapes create pressure from visitors, with erosion caused by footfall damaging the monuments and sensitive landscapes. These pressures are being

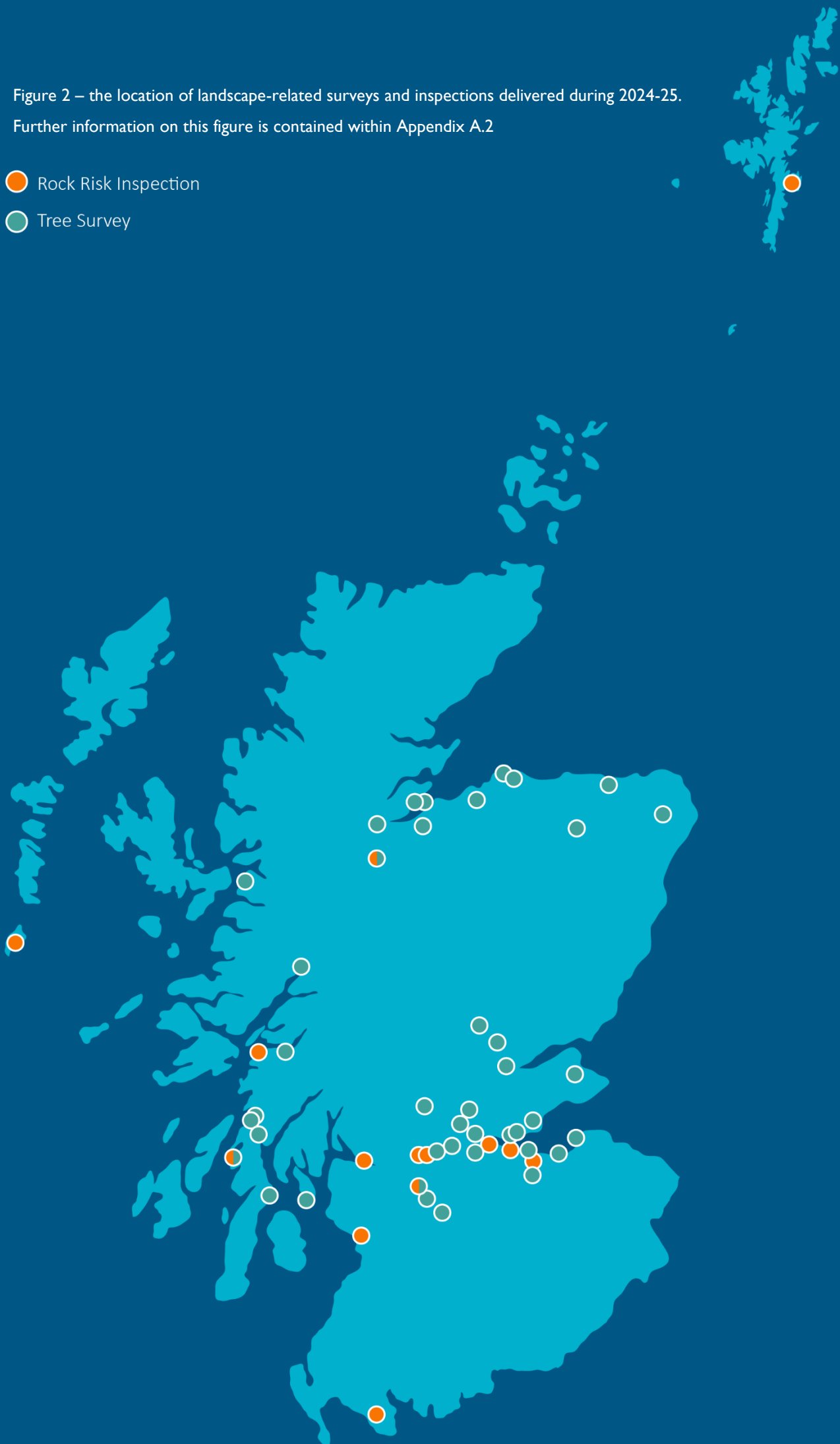
managed through visitor engagement, and in some cases the remediation of path and visitor infrastructure, such as the pitch stone construction of the 'zig-zag' path in Holyrood Park and the redevelopment of the entrance path at Dryburgh Abbey, Scottish Borders.

The [Holyrood Park Landscape Conservation Management Plan](#) was published during the 2024-25 financial year, which provides guidance and suggestions on the future management of the park from an informed basis. The plan was used to inform the principles, vision and objectives as set out in the 2024 Strategic Plan for the park. *The Landscape Conservation Management Plan* was produced in an interactive story-map format, which offers our staff and members of the public an engaging way to view and interrogate geospatial information for the park. Geospatial information gathered for the plan is being shared with other interested stakeholders including the City of Edinburgh.

Historic Environment Scotland staff have been vigilant with biosecurity on our sites with new issues being reported, such as the appearance of the Great Spruce Bark Beetle at Melrose Abbey, Scottish Borders; and control measures swiftly taken to minimise the spread within the locality. The control of invasive non-native species on our sites remains an ongoing issue, but eradication and general biodiversity improvements are being made as landscape

Figure 2 – the location of landscape-related surveys and inspections delivered during 2024-25.  
Further information on this figure is contained within Appendix A.2

- Rock Risk Inspection
- Tree Survey



maintenance plans are updated. We have been working closely with other statutory bodies across on casework, consents, and surveys. The 2024-25 financial year has seen continuing improvements made on the management of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the estate, such as the partial clearance of vegetation on Dumbarton Rock SSSI.

New planting has also been a feature of 2024-25, with several sites receiving new tree stock. Notably, we worked with the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, to replant a sapling from Europe's oldest Elm Tree at Beaulieu Priory, Highlands, which in the previous year succumbed to Dutch Elm disease. Alongside the Beaulieu Elm sapling, an additional specially bred disease resistant sapling was also planted to ensure longer term resilience of the species on site.

### 3.1.3 Heritage Crime

Criminal damage and unauthorised access can exacerbate the deterioration of our properties, as well as negatively impact our visitors' experience. In 2024-25, there were 319 such instances. Please note that due to a review of our reporting methodology, the data from previous years will not be directly comparable. This year is the highest number of heritage crime on record but some of this is due to the change in methodology, as well as the likely increased year-on-year uptake of the digital reporting system.

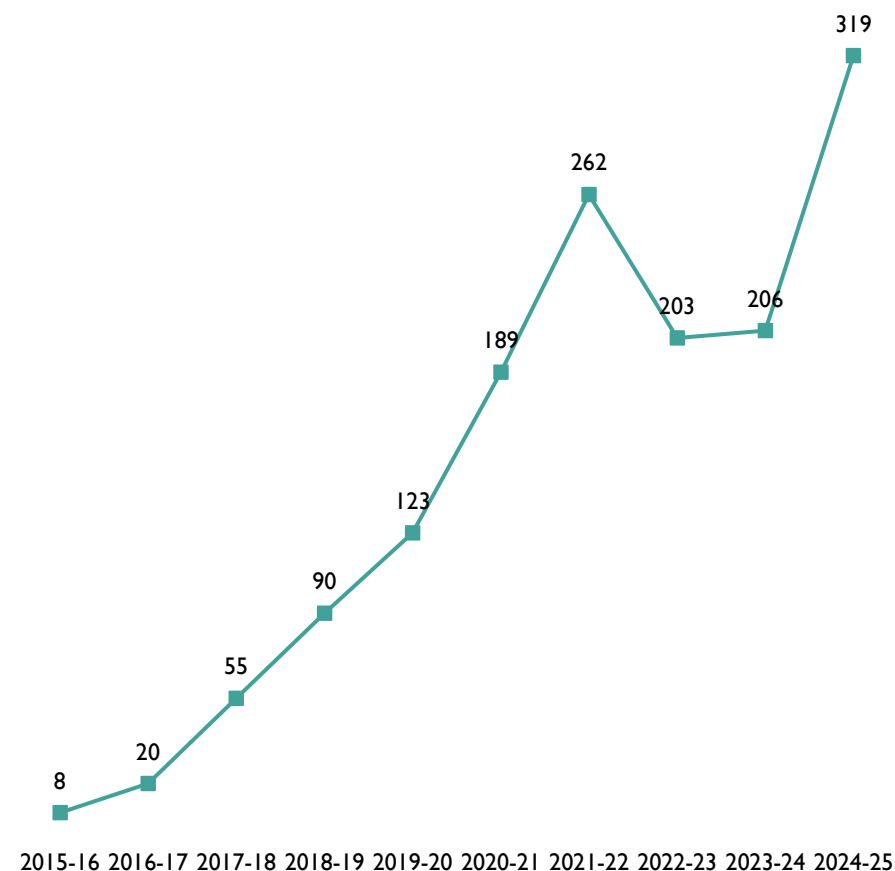


Figure 3 – Instances of heritage crime at Properties in Care during 2024-25.

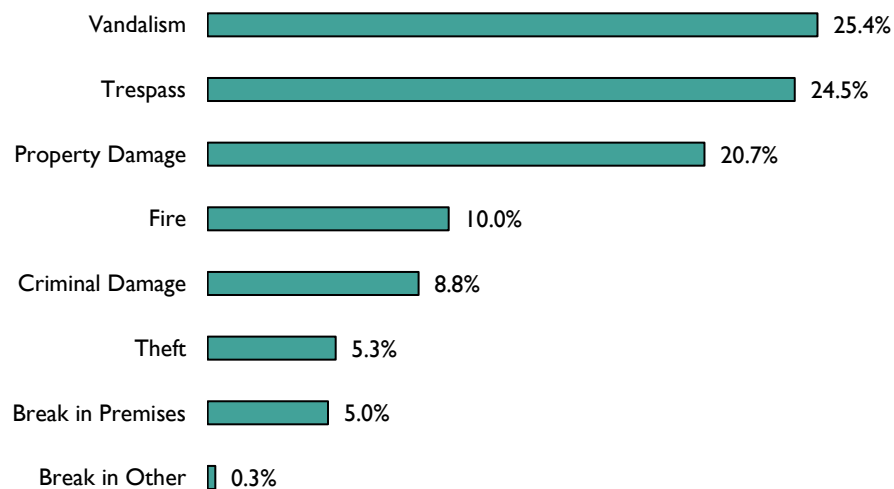


Figure 4 – Type of heritage crime at Properties in Care during 2024-25.

Vandalism, trespass and property damage accounted for 70.6% of all heritage crime in the 2024-25 financial year. At Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, our largest Property in Care in terms of hectareage, there were 88 (27.6%) reported incidents. This is 18 more than the previous financial year. Fires at Holyrood Park account for 15% of the site’s incidents and is almost half (47%) of the total fire incidents reported last year. However, despite our new reporting methodology allowing for more incidents to be processed, this is still a reduction on the 50% last year.

## 3.2 Research and Development

In 2024–25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to invest in digital innovation and heritage management through the expansion of the Properties in Care Asset Management System (PICAMS). Enhancements included new tools for linking inspections, defects, and remedial works, as well as the integration of visitor-submitted imagery to support conservation. The Rae Project advanced 3D documentation of sites and collections, while digitisation of deeds, architectural drawings, and historic guidebooks improved long-term preservation and access. Archaeological investigations and non-invasive surveys supported conservation planning, and the publication and revision of Statements of Significance—downloaded over 14,000 times—continued to inform public understanding and responsible stewardship of Scotland’s historic places. Citizen science, sustainability initiatives, and skills development programmes further strengthened our impact and reach.

### 3.2.1 Systems, Data and Documentation

PICAMS has become a vital tool in our property management operations, since its implementation in 2019. In 2024-25, PICAMS received over 26,000 logins and was used to document 692 site defects, 759 site inspections and 1,254 access restrictions.



To ensure more consistent reporting of defects and inspections, and associated planning of remedial actions, the functionality of PICAMS has been expanded. Key enhancements include new features for recording site works to resolve defects and document completed actions, and the ability to link defects, inspections and works with zones, i.e. specific areas within a site. Additionally, the digital capabilities of the [Monument Monitor](#) project, which records photographs submitted by site visitors as a form of micro-volunteering, has been integrated into PICAMS. This has also improved the system’s overall image management capabilities and PICAMS now stores 7,530 photographs totalling 5.57 gigabytes in size. Looking ahead, we have explored the use of 2D and 3D geospatial platforms to enable PICAMS to present data geospatially on maps and models.

Work continues to advance the *Rae Project*, a digital data capture initiative which uses cutting-edge technology to document in 3D our Properties in Care and objects that are part of our Collections. In 2024-25, we successfully completed 13 digital documentation projects, including:

- Seven of Fort Charlotte, Shetland Islands
- Skelmorlie Aisle, North Ayrshire
- Elcho Castle, Perth and Kinross
- Mousa Broch, Shetland Islands
- Dallas Dhu Distillery, Moray
- Dunglass Collegiate Church, East Lothian
- Aberlemno Sculptured Stone III, Angus

We also launched a large-scale project to fully capture Stirling Castle, to update outdated legacy data.

To support wider access, we continue to make high-resolution point cloud data of Properties in Care available to colleagues via the Potree Viewer, accessible through PICAMS. Currently, 87 unique datasets – or 113 including multiple epochs – are live. In this context, an *epoch* refers to a distinct capture or scan of the same site taken at different points in time. These repeated captures allow

us to track changes, monitor conservation efforts, or document deterioration over time. By including multiple epochs, we provide a richer, time-based record of our Properties in Care.

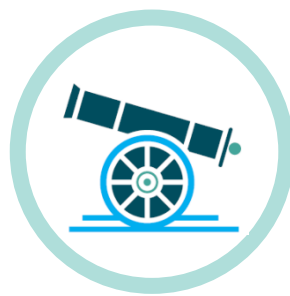
In addition, we continue to make steady progress with 3D capture of objects that are part of our Collections. During 2024-25, we captured 27 objects, including:



13 costumed figures  
from Smailholm Tower



The portrait of Francis  
Riddel in Trinity House



13 cannons and  
tombstones from Fort  
Charlotte

The Historic Environment Scotland [Sketchfab](#) account has 513 3D models of properties and Collections objects, attracting 4,811 followers and over 628,100 model views. We maintain an active publishing schedule to expand this platform.

The archive holds a rich and growing collection of materials documenting our Properties in Care, from antiquarian drawings and

notes to the latest digital photographs. This year, collaboration with Orkney Library and Archive led to a survey of private collections of material relating to Skara Brae, Orkney Islands. Among the findings was a collection, created by John Houston, architect (1891-1953), comprising one print drawing by Houston, and 15 photographic prints documenting the 1927-29 excavation at Skara Brae by Professor Vere Gordon Childe. The photographs required conservation work as they were tightly curled, preventing consultation and digitisation. Along with the drawing, they were transferred to John Sinclair House, City of Edinburgh, where treatment to flatten them was carried out. The photographs were then digitised to minimise the need for further handling, and they were rehoused in photographic sleeves. The original items will be returned to Orkney Library and Archive, along with reference copies. Other accessions relating to Properties in Care include:

- Digital files from Ground Penetrating Radar investigations at Dunfermline Abbey, Fife, by Michael Penman, University of Stirling.
- Archive from excavations at Brough of Birsay, Orkney Islands, which informed the publication of *The Birsay Bay Project Vol. 3* by Chris Morris (1954-2014).

- A letter regarding the harling of Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire, sent by William Steuart to John Adam, Esq., dated 24 May 1790.
- Archive from excavations at Earl's Bu, Orphir, Orkney Islands by Colleen Batey (1979-2010).

In September 2024, architectural drawings and plan chests were transferred from Fort George, Highlands. These paper drawings document Properties in Care in the north of Scotland. In 2025-26, work will begin to audit and rehouse these drawings, and to edit and ingest their listings into the archive catalogue and information database. Once complete, these drawings will be added to the ongoing digitisation programme, which saw 1,800 drawings digitised in 2024-25.

Additionally, a large number of historic Properties in Care guidebooks – produced by Historic Environment Scotland and predecessor bodies – were discovered at Longmore House, City of Edinburgh. These will be appraised and used to strengthen our collection of historic publications for both public and staff research.

The digitisation of the Historic Environment Scotland deeds collection – comprising property titles and leases for our Properties in Care and auxiliary sites – is now nearing completion. In 2020, approximately 2,700 deeds were securely stored in fireproof

cabinets at Longmore House, City of Edinburgh, before being permanently relocated to John Sinclair House, City of Edinburgh, during the COVID-19 pandemic, where they are now housed in climate-controlled archival conditions. Over the past 5 years, work has been underway to catalogue, conserve and in some cases, treat these records in preparation for digitisation and storage. With the digitisation phase now complete for 96% of the collection, the remaining 4% require further conservation treatment. To date, 18% of the digitised deeds have been ingested into the Digital Archive, where they will be preserved and made accessible via the Digital Archive Downloads application.

Historic Environment Scotland has been working closely with external legal advisers since 2016 to register all 70 Properties in Care owned by Scottish Ministers, along with 51 Historic Environment Scotland-owned land and ancillary properties. All Scottish Ministers' properties were fully registered by 30 June 2024, and 91% of Historic Environment Scotland land and ancillary sites have been added to the Land Register. The remaining 9% have been submitted and are currently awaiting registration by the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland.

Historic Environment Scotland's Statements of Significance provide detailed insights into the history, development, and cultural value of our Properties in Care. These documents help articulate what



14,306

Statements of Significance  
Downloads

1. Edinburgh Castle
2. Ruthven Barracks, Highlands
3. Skara Brae, Orkney Islands

Statements of  
Significance with the  
most downloads

makes each site special – whether through its national heritage, local significance, ecological value, or contribution to Scotland’s identity. They serve as a foundation for conservation planning, visitor interpretation, and identifying areas for further research.

As part of the ongoing programme to revise and improve these documents, four updated statements were published in 2024-25 for Loch Doon Castle, East Ayrshire, Lochleven Castle, Perth and Kinross, Restenneth Priory, Angus and Cairnpapple Hill, West Lothian.

The Statements of Significance are freely available to download from the [Historic Environment Scotland website](#) and are used by a wide range of audiences, including visitors, academics, researchers, and anyone interested in Scotland’s historic places. In

2024-25, there were 14,306 downloads – two-thirds from within the UK and one-third from international users, highlighting growing global interest in Scotland’s heritage. This international engagement is also reflected in site visitation, with overseas accounting for 60% of total footfall (see section 2.3.2 Heritage Tourism for more information). The most downloaded statements were for Ruthven Barracks, Highlands, Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, and Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh.

### 3.2.2 Climate Action

In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to advance its climate action agenda through a range of innovative and community-focussed initiatives.

*Monument Monitor*, a citizen science project originally developed from a 2018 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree research project on crowdsourcing conservation, saw significant progress. Funded by Historic Environment Scotland in collaboration with the Institute for Sustainable Heritage at University College London, the project was further developed during a post-doctoral placement in 2022 to become an in-house service. Over the last year, *Monument Monitor* was integrated into PICAMS, enhancing staff access to crowdsourced images submitted through micro-volunteering. As of

April 2025, the public had submitted 13,320 photographs, helping to document conservation issues such as:

- Flood monitoring at Machrie Moor Stone Circles, North Ayrshire
- Ground erosion at Clava Cairns, Highlands
- Heritage crime incidents, including damage to Taversöe Tuick Chambered Cairn, Orkney Islands

Over the past year, *Monument Monitor* has also helped identify 27 previously unrecorded issues at Properties in Care relating to maintenance needs, repair requirements and instances of antisocial behaviour.

To support sustainable travel, Historic Environment Scotland installed cycle parking facilities at Crichton Castle, Midlothian, Hermitage Castle, Scottish Borders, New Abbey Corn Mill, Dumfries and Galloway and Dundrennan Abbey, Dumfries and Galloway. The *Good Journey* promotion, which offers a 25% discount on tickets for visitors traveling by bike or public transport, was expanded in 2024 to include Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire, Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian and Aberdour Castle, Fife. In March 2025, Jarlshof, Shetland Islands, Newark Castle, Inverclyde, Bishop's and

Earl's Palaces, Orkney Islands, Elgin Cathedral, Moray and Bonawe Iron Furnace, Argyll and Bute were added to the scheme. In 2025, Historic Scotland members visiting these *Good Journey* sites without a car became eligible to receive the "Good Traveller" History Hunt card, a limited-time incentive to encourage low-carbon travel.

Historic Environment Scotland also published the third and fourth instalments of our [Climate Change Case Studies series](#): *Responsible Retail at Caerlaverock Castle* and *Greener Archives: Making Conservation More Sustainable*. Since its refurbishment in 2022, the gift shop at Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries and Galloway, has been one of eight pilot sites for the 'Made in Scotland' retail initiative, which aims to ensure that 80% of the products stocked are produced within Scotland. This case study highlights Historic Environment Scotland's commitment to responsible tourism by reducing environmental impact through sourcing local products, thereby decreasing transportation emissions, and supporting the local economy, all while meeting visitor expectations. In Stirling, Historic Environment Scotland secured £1 million in funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) through the *Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science* (RICHeS) fund to establish the Retrofit Lab. Located adjacent to the Engine Shed, Stirling, the Retrofit Lab will serve as a centre for

research, innovation, and training in the retrofit of traditional buildings using low-carbon materials to improve thermal efficiency. In 2024-25, the project entered its design development phase, including negotiating a lease for the land adjacent to the Engine Shed, and planning application approval, with delivery expected into 2026-27.

### 3.2.3 Science and Research

In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland undertook a range of archaeological works across several Properties in Care, as part of ongoing efforts to better understand and protect Scotland's historic assets. These works include invasive archaeology that involves physically disturbing a site to gather information, as well as non-invasive techniques, which aim to gather information without disturbing the site. Our approach to archaeological work across the HES estate positions us as a sector lead and promotes best practice in managing and protecting Scotland's cultural heritage.

Non-invasive investigations included a digital survey of the Calanais Standing Stones, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, to assess erosion risks and produce a detailed 3D model of the site and its surroundings. Geophysical surveys were carried out using resistance techniques at Aberdour Castle, Fife, and ground

penetrating radar at Dunblane Cathedral, Stirling, covering both the graveyard and interior of the cathedral. These methods allow for identification of buried archaeological features without disturbing the ground. At Inchcolm Abbey, Fife, a standing building survey was completed to record the base of a World War II-era Nissen Hut threatened with erosion, while similar surveys were undertaken at Dunkeld Cathedral, Perth and Kinross and Melrose Abbey Priory Farm, Scottish Borders. Additionally, an assessment of the attic space within the King's Old Buildings at Stirling Castle was conducted to inform future conservation planning.

Invasive and monitoring-based investigations were carried out in response to development works and unauthorised activity. At Craigmillar Castle, City of Edinburgh and Holyrood Park, City of Edinburgh, archaeological investigations were undertaken following incidents of unauthorised metal detecting. At Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire, excavations were undertaken in the floor of the Governor's House, as part of the works to develop a new exhibition offer (see Section 2.3.3 Experience and Engagement for more information). Emergency survey and recording of the outer defences of Fort George, Highlands, were carried out following subsidence damage to the northernmost Place of Arms due to storm activity.

Several archaeological watching briefs were conducted in 2024-25. A watching brief is a form of archaeological monitoring carried out during development or conservation works to ensure that any unexpected discoveries are appropriately recorded and protected. These were implemented to support path upgrades at Jacob's Ladder and repairs to the boundary wall at Clockmill Gate, both within Holyrood Park, City of Edinburgh. Additional watching briefs were conducted during the excavation of a utilities trench at Lochleven Castle, Perth and Kinross, handrail installation at Newark Castle, Inverclyde, footbridge replacement at Rough Castle, Falkirk, rock buttress works at Smailholm Tower, Scottish Borders, and conservation activity at the Prior's House at St Andrews Cathedral, Fife. At Stirling Castle, monitoring supported resurfacing works on the Prince's Tower wall walk, a gas main replacement in Douglas Gardens, and roof repairs to the Prince's Tower. Further monitoring was carried out at Glasgow Cathedral during investigations into the drainage system, and at Torr a'Chaisteal, North Ayrshire, to support track upgrades to the site.

Although rescue excavations at the Links of Noltland, Orkney Islands, a Neolithic and Bronze Age site, have been temporarily paused, post-excavation analysis continues in preparation for a suite of future publications. In addition, work was undertaken to

refresh the onsite interpretation, with a suite of new panels scheduled for installation in 2025.



Figure 5: The Links of Noltland Area 5 during excavation

Our Cultural Resources Trainee completed their time working with the team in October 2024. This provided a great opportunity to strengthen the heritage sector by developing skills in the applied management of cultural heritage (including cultural significance) as well as pursuing targeted research. In addition to a project looking at the vault bosses within the Blackadder Aisle of Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow City, the trainee scoped and delivered a historic building survey of Foulden Tithe Barn, Scottish Borders, the first time this enigmatic Property in Care has been fully investigated.

In 2021 a research project, *Surveying and Analysing Connections between Properties in Care and the British Empire, c.1600-1997* was commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland. The study examined possible connections between the British Empire and Historic Environment Scotland's Properties in Care (PiC) and delivered by a team from the University of Glasgow in collaboration with a steering group of Historic Environment Scotland staff and an advisory board of external experts. Published in February 2024, the report found that 37.5% of the PiC have one or more identifiable "empire connections". These range from sites that played a direct role in the Empire to those associated with individuals or families involved in imperial activities between circa 1600 and 1997. In 2024-25, the report was downloaded more than 280 times from the Historic Environment Scotland website, and the webpage received over 700 views, highlighting strong interest in its findings.

Historic Environment Scotland is committed to using the findings of this report to inform future decision-making, including updates to visitor interpretation. These connections are already being incorporated into revised Statements of Significance, and the organisation is developing new resources and initiatives to help visitors explore Scotland's complex relationship with the British Empire.

### 3.2.4 Skills Development

One of the core principles of *Our Past, Our Future*—Scotland's strategy for the historic environment—is to foster an inclusive, diverse, and skilled workforce. A survey conducted by Historic Environment Scotland in 2023 revealed that more than two thirds of employers (68%) anticipate a skills shortage by 2028. An aging workforce combined with a lack of available learning opportunities for traditional skills has developed into a skills crisis which will have a significant impact on not only our Properties in Care but all of Scotland's built heritage.

Historic Environment Scotland is working with the Institute of Conservation (Icon) and partners to develop a new risk register to highlight the traditional building and heritage skills most at risk of disappearing. The project will create the *Heritage Skills At Risk Register* which will enable the identification, assessment and classification of skills such as thatching, traditional stained and leaded glass making, architectural blacksmithing, and stonemasonry.

We play a central, pro-active role in providing learning opportunities by delivering a wide range of technical training programmes that support the conservation, repair, and sustainable management of the historic environment. Not only do we develop our own workforce

through internal learning programmes we also support learning roles which allow learning while you work. At present we support delivery of pre-apprenticeships, modern apprenticeships, traineeships, craft fellowships and qualification development and delivery.

We are committed to developing the skills of our workforce through targeted internal training programmes. Designed specifically for Historic Environment Scotland staff, these initiatives support professional development and ensure teams are equipped to meet the organisation's operational and regulatory responsibilities. One such programme is the Asset Management Training initiative, which focuses on building the competencies required for the sustainable management of our historic estate. For instance, a dust awareness course has been developed, aimed at equipping approximately 1,100 staff who work on our Properties in Care with essential baseline knowledge on the different types of dusts they may be exposed to and the harmful effects these may pose. The course includes an assessment component, which ensures that all who pass can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Now in its third round, the *Pre-apprenticeship Programme* is delivered in partnership with Fife Council and Fife College, and The Ridge. This 16-week course leads towards a Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Level 4 National Progression

Award (NPA) in *Construction Craft and Technician*. The programme includes work placements, employability skills development, construction training courses and site visits to heritage locations including Dunfermline Abbey, Fife, Stirling Castle, Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian, Blackness Castle and Kinneil House, Falkirk, Tantallon Castle and Dirlton Castle, East Lothian. During these visits, participants learn about the conservation works at these sites, hear from Historic Environment Scotland staff about their careers in stonemasonry and gain first-hand experience of working on a Historic Environment Scotland site. These activities help inspire the next generation of heritage professionals and provide meaningful pathways into the sector.

In 2024-25 Historic Environment Scotland hosted 37 Modern Apprenticeships who work at or on our Properties in Care and associated Collections. These include one Heritage Science Apprentice, one Collections Care Apprentice, 18 Apprentice Stonemasons, four Apprentice Joiners, one Apprentice Painter, three Apprentice Gardeners and nine Cultural Venue Apprentices.

In addition to offering apprenticeship opportunities, Historic Environment Scotland (along with the City of Glasgow College) is now one of only two providers of the Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Stonemasonry training in Scotland. Operating under the approval of the Engine Shed, Stirling, an SQA and NOCN (National Open

College Network) accredited centre, our well-established training centres in Stirling and Elgin work in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Fife Council to support apprentices as they work toward two nationally recognised qualifications:

- *The Professional Development Award (PDA) in Stonemasonry at SCQF Level 6*
- *The Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Stonemasonry at SCQF Level 6*

These qualifications form the standard route for craft qualification in Scotland. The MA model combines formal qualifications with on-the-job experience, allowing apprentices to earn while they learn. In 2024-25, 21 apprentices were enrolled across both training centres, with full capacity expected again in 2025-26. Apprentices working toward their SVQ at SCQF Level 6 are observed by on-site assessors and internal verifiers throughout their training to support the development of their work-based portfolios. In addition, “Skills Tests” are carried out upon completion of the SVQ portfolio. Over 15 candidates qualified as stonemasons in 2024-25. Historic Environment Scotland also offers the optional *Advanced Craft Certificate* for third- and fourth-year apprentice stonemasons, or for

more experienced stonemasons wishing to enhance their skills, with eight candidates enrolled in 2024-25.

The Historic Environment Traineeship Programme offers work-based learning in heritage conservation. Trainees, often new to the sector, are placed within Historic Environment Scotland teams – primarily in the Cultural Assets Directorate – where they develop practical skills and contribute to conservation projects. The programme supports a wide range of conservation disciplines, and the 2024-25 cohort included trainees in Digital Innovation, Responsible Tourism, Sustainable Travel, and Applied Conservation. The Digital Innovation Trainee is supporting a survey of Stirling Castle with laser scanners, and terrestrial and drone photogrammetry. They have also created a 3D model of Dwarfie Stane, Orkney Islands, using advanced digital tools - which is now hosted on the Historic Environment Scotland Sketchfab account.

The Craft Fellowship Programme addresses traditional skills shortages in the historic environment sector by offering individuals the opportunity to develop specialist heritage craft skills through hands-on experience with expert practitioners. Craft Fellows are employed by Historic Environment Scotland and hosted by external organisations that specialise in traditional crafts such as stone carving, thatching, stained glass, blacksmithing, and vernacular building techniques. Craft Fellowships typically last 18 months, and

nine Craft Fellowships were active during the 2024-25 period. The 2024-25 cohort includes specialisms in stone carving, thatching, stained glass, vernacular building, and two blacksmithing placements. The 2024-25 cohort includes fellowships in memorial stone surveying, blacksmithing, and stained glass.

The Craft Fellowship programme continues to deliver significant impact, and this year's highlights reflect the breadth of skills development, conservation support, and collaborative learning it enables. One of the blacksmithing Craft Fellows contributed to the repair of a weathervane on Glasgow Cathedral, a project that featured on the BBC One programme *The Repair Shop on the Road*. Educational visits are integral to the Trainee and Craft Fellow programmes. In May 2024, participants visited several PiC in Argyll and Bute (Dunstaffnage Castle, Bonawe Iron Furnace, Iona Abbey and Kilchurn Castle) to learn about conservation practices and engage with Historic Environment Scotland staff.

Historic Environment Scotland plays a leading role in supporting skills development across the wider historic environment sector. Through a range of accessible training programmes, qualifications, and learning events, Historic Environment Scotland helps individuals and organisations build the knowledge and capabilities needed to care for Scotland's historic assets. These opportunities are designed to address sector-wide skills gaps—particularly in

traditional building crafts—and to promote high standards in conservation practice. These programmes include training in traditional craft skills and technical qualifications tailored to the needs of the sector—addressing a well-recognised skills gap within the building industry. This work is essential to ensure that Historic Environment Scotland has the expertise required to care for its Properties in Care (PiCs) safely, effectively, and appropriately, both now and in the future.

A key initiative has been the delivery of the Diploma in *Surveying, Assessing and Recording the Condition of Built Assets for Conservation* (SAC8), a bespoke qualification developed for Historic Environment Scotland staff working on our Properties in Care to ensure competency. The SAC8 has been completed by five cohorts as of May 2025, including 18 learners trained during the 2024-25 year. Additional training, such as memorial inspection, is being developed to meet the evolving skills needs of Historic Environment Scotland and the wider sector in the sustainable management of historic assets.

The *Professional Development Award (PDA) in Repair and Maintenance of Traditional Structures* certifies learners in the specialist skills required for conserving traditional (pre-1919) masonry structures. The qualification is owned jointly by Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

This qualification addresses critical skills shortages by offering flexible access and delivery options and establishing a benchmark for conservation standards within the stonemasonry industry, helping to raise overall quality in repair and maintenance practices. The award is tailored for individuals who already hold competencies and qualifications in construction. In early 2024, five Historic Environment Scotland staff members completed the course. The course has recently been updated to reflect sector feedback and now offers a new group award specification, four revised core units and four new optional units.

#### *Repair and Maintenance of Traditional Structures*

##### Optional Units:

- Surface Finishing to Masonry Walling
- Basic Stonemasonry Components
- Memorial Repairs
- Retrofit Internal Wall Insulation to Traditional Mass Masonry Walling

The Engine Shed, Stirling, also offers a year-round programme of Learning Sessions and an annual week-long Learning Event, open to all Historic Environment Scotland staff. The Learning Sessions provide accessible, expert-led introductions to key topics in building

conservation, including heritage planning, the impact of climate change on heritage, energy efficiency and adaptive reuse of buildings, traditional materials, and practices. In 2024, 272 of the 638 available tickets for these Learning Sessions were allocated to Historic Environment Scotland staff, including Craft Fellows, Trainees and Apprentices.

In addition to developing and delivering courses, Historic Environment Scotland also provides internal quality assurance (IQA) for regulated qualifications, including the *National Open College Network (NOCN) Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings*. This qualification is relevant for Historic Environment Scotland staff who are working directly on our Properties in Care. Effective IQA ensures it remains deliverable and continues to benefit both Historic Environment Scotland staff and the sites they support.

Historic Environment Scotland staff also contribute to the development and maintenance of National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Stonemasonry and Specialist Occupations. These standards define competency in the workplace for specific tasks and occupations and include performance and underpinning knowledge requirements. In 2024, Historic Environment Scotland supported the review, update and publication of 14 NOS – two Specialist Occupation NOS, eight NOS for the *Professional*

*Development Award (PDA) in Repair and Maintenance of Traditional Masonry Structures*, and four Stonemasonry NOS. This brings our total contribution to 25 NOS, including 15 covering Stonemasonry.

### 3.3 Provision of Public Access to the Properties

In 2024-25, 70% of our Properties in Care were fully open to visitors throughout the year, reflecting progress in delivery of high-level masonry inspections, and a 3% increase from the previous year. Visitor numbers rose to 4.66 million, with overseas visitors making up 60% of footfall. Historic Environment Scotland continued to enhance access and engagement through interpretation upgrades, exhibitions, seasonal events, and inclusive learning programmes, directly engaging over 99,000 learners – a rise of 11% from the previous year. The organisation also participated in the Mystery Visit programme, achieving an average score of 88.7%, up from 88% in 2023-24.

#### 3.3.1 Status of Properties

During 2024-25, 234 of our 336 Properties in Care – representing 70% of the total – were fully open to visitors without any reported restrictions. This marks an increase of 3% compared to the previous year, when 225 sites reported no restrictions. This improvement

reflects the continued completion of high-level masonry inspections, which are undertaken as part of our commitment to prioritising the health and safety of both visitors and staff. As a result, associated access restrictions were lifted. Figure 6 illustrates the access status of Properties in Care based on the highest level of impact experienced at any point during the year. A high-level impact includes any closure – planned or unplanned – that prevented the public access to a property for duration.

Unplanned closures or restrictions – primarily due to staffing and adverse weather – remained the leading cause of site access restrictions in 2024-25 (see Figure 7, page 28). These types of disruptions are inherently more unpredictable and therefore more likely to impact upon visitor experience.

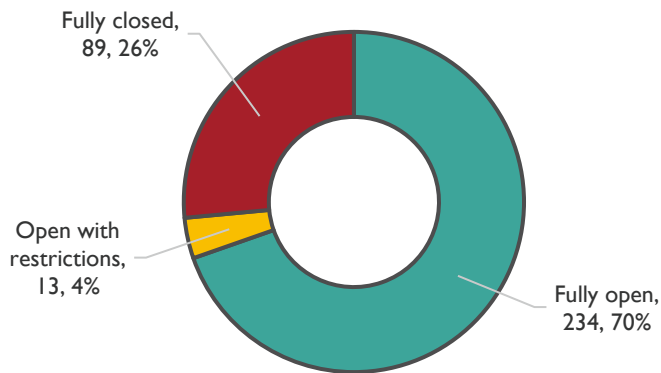


Figure 6 – Status of the Properties in Care by their highest impact level at any point during 2024-25.

In contrast, planned site restrictions tend to be less disruptive and often stem from positive developments, such as conservation work or public events. Notably, events were the fourth most common reason for access restrictions during the year. Our priority continues to be ensuring public access to our Properties in Care wherever possible. When temporary restrictions are necessary, we strive to balance operational needs with enriching visitor experiences.

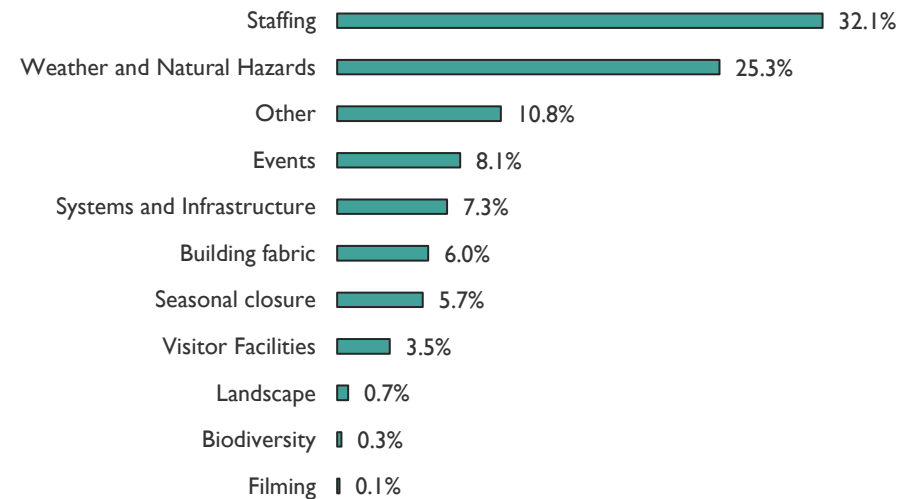


Figure 7 – The reasons for access restriction.

### 3.3.2 Heritage Tourism

In the 2024-25 financial year, our staffed Properties in Care welcomed a total of 4,656,954 visitors, marking a 3.5% increase compared to 2023-24. While this growth is more modest than the previous year's 36% surge, it is a reflection that the tourism market is continuing to stabilise following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As shown in Table 1, the top ten most visited sites account for the majority of footfall, with the top five alone attracting 77% of all

visitors. Notably, Doune Castle, Stirling, retained its position among the top five, having overtaken Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, which moved to sixth place during 2023-24.

International interest in our heritage continues to grow, with overseas visitors making up 60% of total footfall across the estate – an increase of 2% on the previous year.

Site Name	Local Authority	Number of Visitors
Edinburgh Castle	City of Edinburgh	1,951,022
Stirling Castle	Stirling	593,655
Urquhart Castle	Highlands	472,678
Glasgow Cathedral	City of Glasgow	427,710
Doune Castle	Stirling	122,122
Skara Brae	Orkney Islands	105,703
Linlithgow Palace	West Lothian	82,939
Blackness Castle	Falkirk	77,135
St Andrews Castle	Fife	75,048
Fort George	Highlands	68,024

Table 1: visitor numbers at top 10 visited sites in 2024-25.

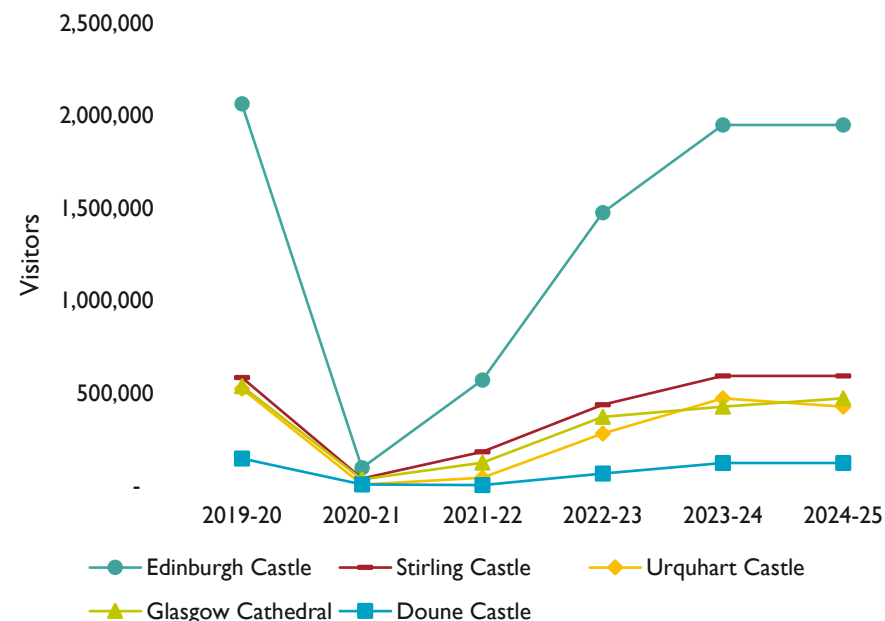


Figure 8 – visitor numbers at top 5 visited sites in 2024-25 with comparison to previous years.

In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to advance its commitment to responsible tourism and sustainable heritage management through a series of collaborative initiatives, stakeholder engagements, and site-based improvements.

One such initiative is our collaboration with the University of Glasgow and the Be.CULTOUR (Beyond CULTural TOURism), a European Union-funded programme. Be.CULTOUR aims to

co-create and test sustainable, human-centred innovations for circular cultural tourism. It focuses on heritage-led regeneration in remote, rural or under-visited areas, fostering inclusive economic growth, community wellbeing, and environmental resilience. In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland supported a new cohort of students assessing the circularity of Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries and Galloway. Using [Be.CULTOUR's Sustainable Cultural Tourism Impacts Assessment Framework](#), students conducted research that culminated in a final workshop. During this event, students presented their findings and engaged with local stakeholders from Dumfries and Galloway, alongside Historic Environment Scotland staff, to explore the potential of Caerlaverock Castle as a shared destination – one that benefits the local environment, community, and visitor experience. This initiative aligns with Historic Environment Scotland's commitment to knowledge sharing and leadership in developing sustainable places through responsible tourism. The shared destination approach supports several key areas of Historic Environment Scotland's work on climate and sustainability, including the circular economy, sustainable procurement, sustainable travel, and responsible tourism.

In February 2025, Historic Environment Scotland hosted a workshop with key stakeholders from the Scottish heritage tourism sector to explore a unified approach to measuring visitor travel

emissions. This work supports international Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Scotland's national tourism strategy, *Scotland Outlook 2030*, which promotes low-impact tourism and sustainable transport, and *Our Past, Our Future* – the national strategy for the historic environment, which emphasises emission reduction across the heritage sector. The workshop led to the formation of three sub-working groups, each with a distinct focus, now being populated by attendees.

### 3.3.3 Experience and Engagement

Historic Environment Scotland continues to enhance access, engagement, and visitor experience across the Properties in Care through a wide range of interpretation, exhibition, and customer service initiatives.

The programme to update interpretive panels across all Properties in Care continued, with upgrades completed at several properties including Edinburgh Castle, Hilton of Cadboll, Highlands, Eagle Rock, City of Edinburgh, Skipness Castle and Chapel, Argyll and Bute, Greenknowe Tower, Scottish Borders, and Loch Doon Castle, East Ayrshire. During 2024-25 we have been busy preparing for the *Rock of Ages* exhibition at Dumbarton Castle. West Dunbartonshire

– opening summer 2025 – which will showcase artefacts from the site's rich history, many on display for the first time. Highlights include a Viking-era sword pommel, medieval coins and arrowheads from the Wars of Independence, and a replica of an embroidery panel created by Mary, Queen of Scots.

Edinburgh Castle saw a series of visitor experience improvements, including a new souvenir guidebook featuring previously untold stories of the castle, refreshed graphics in the *Honours of Scotland* exhibition, and the launch of sensory backpacks and a sensory map of the castle. Additional enhancements included training more British Sign Language tour guides and developing new audio guide signage making it easier to navigate the castle's rich, engaging audio tour. In spring 2025, the Western Defences were opened to the public with signage and interpretation for this exciting new visitor route along the castle battlements. Also launched in spring 2025, a family mystery trail was introduced, inviting visitors on a puzzle-solving quest to find a mysterious missing artefact from the inventories of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Upgrades to retail spaces included repurposing the former visitor information space at Edinburgh Castle as an extension to the Portcullis gift shop to ease congestion within the main shop and offer a curated product selection. Meanwhile, at Maes Howe

Chambered Cairn, Orkney Islands, visitor centre, new cabinetry was installed to create a cohesive retail space and to expand the product range to include locally produced alcohol.

Seasonal events brought history to life for visitors, with highlights including *Spectacular Jousting* at Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian and Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries, *Unicorn* at Stirling Castle, *Celebration of the Centuries* at Fort George, Highlands, *Siege on the Forth* at Blackness Castle, Falkirk, and *Castle of Light* at Edinburgh Castle. Living history activities were delivered across multiple properties during the Easter, Summer and October school holidays.

Several thought-provoking temporary exhibitions were taken on tour. *David I: A revolution*, explored the impact of the reign of David I on the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his coronation. *In the Land of the People* also toured several properties, exploring Scottish folklore and bringing in contemporary reflections and meanings to age old tales. At Duff House, Aberdeenshire, Arpita Shah's *Nalini* explored themes of migration and identity, juxtaposing domestic life with the stately heritage and centring on the experiences of women of colour in a space of white male privilege.

Historic Environment Scotland continued its participation in the Mystery Visit programme in 2024-25, receiving 78 visits to staffed sites and achieving an average score of 88.7% – a slight improvement from 88% in 2023-24, and just below the sector average of 90%. The Mystery Visit programme provides objective, anonymous assessments of visitor experiences, allowing organisations like Historic Environment Scotland to benchmark performance against over 100 other attractions across the United Kingdom. These insights help identify strengths and areas for improvement, ensuring consistently high standards of service and engagement across Historic Environment Scotland sites.

To support high standards of customer service, 24 training courses were delivered to 211 delegates. These included:

- *Telling Our Stories* – 2 courses, 22 delegates
- *Exceeding Visitor Expectations* – 13 courses, 117 delegates
- *Promoting Our Product* – 9 courses, 72 delegates

Visitor feedback remained strong in 2024-25, with over 19,000 survey responses from visitors who booked tickets online. The

Overall Enjoyment score reached 8.87 out of 10 – an improvement from 8.4 in 2023-24 – meeting Historic Environment Scotland's Key Performance Indicator for visitor satisfaction.

### 3.3.4 Learning and inclusion

In October 2024 we launched *Making Sense of Scotland*, our new strategic framework for outreach and learning. This framework aims to make Scotland's historic environment a valued national resource for lifelong learning by engaging more diverse audiences across the country. Our Properties in Care play a central role in delivering this vision. They are not only learning resources in their own right, but also gateways to wider local and national heritage, and sources of creative inspiration and reflection.

During 2024-25, demand for our learning and inclusion services remained high, supported by the continued rollout of a refreshed and engaging programme. We welcomed over 99,000 learners of all ages, an increase of 11% up on the previous year, with demand once again exceeding expectations.

Learning visits to Properties in Care numbered 61,818 in 2024-25, up 9% from the previous year, and the number of sites being visited also increased. This clearly evidences that our sites are seen as

safe, inspiring learning destinations that support a wide range of topics and themes as well as wider initiatives such as outdoor learning and wellbeing. In response to growing demand, we secured increased funding from Scottish Government for the Heritage Travel Subsidy, which saw full uptake and remains a vital tool for enabling schools to access heritage sites across Scotland.

A particularly positive achievement was the direct engagement of over 37,717 learners through our programme of activities and projects, a 14% increase on the previous year. The programme was designed to be creative, inclusive, and far-reaching, often delivered in partnership with organisations that helped us reach audiences who might not otherwise engage with heritage. Highlights included:

- Schools outreach programmes, including Junior Tour Guides projects at seven Properties in Care, *Defend Scotland's Heritage* workshops delivered at local science festivals and schools, and the *Castle Science* programme in partnership with Glasgow Science Centre, exploring climate change impacts on historic sites.
- *Heritage Remixed Youth Engagement Programme*, with projects delivered alongside local youth and creative partners in Highland, Moray, Orkney, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leith.

- Delivery of a year-round refreshed programming for schools, communities, and families at Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh and Stirling Castle, Stirling.
- *Creative Caerlaverock*, now in its third year, delivered in collaboration with The Stove Network focusing on working with underrepresented groups.
- *Big Lego Builds* activities were hosted in community venues, where participants recreated iconic local landmarks such as Kelso Abbey, Scottish Borders, Dunfermline Abbey Fife and Elgin Cathedral, Moray. The Elgin Cathedral build formed part of *Elgin 800*, a two-day celebration marking the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cathedral's founding.
- *Picturing the Past*, a partnership project working with adults with complex support needs, culminating in an exhibition of participants work at Stirling Castle, Stirling.
- Re-Symposium event in response to the findings of a report exploring the extent and character of relationships between Properties in Care and the British Empire. The Re-Symposium event was delivered in partnership with Craft Scotland, alongside a youth engagement project with Impact Arts at Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow City. These initiatives aimed to share the report's insights, foster

inclusive dialogue, and explore how Scotland's colonial past is reflected in its historic sites.

- Archives outreach talks and workshops, engaging adult learners and community groups. Many of these sessions were delivered in partnership with organisations such as Alzheimer Scotland, using reminiscence-based approach often incorporating Properties in Care within local heritage contexts.

Looking ahead, with the *Making Sense of Scotland* framework now in place, we plan to re-launch our full programme under this banner. A new thematic approach will guide key strands of curated content, with delivery at – and inspired by – our Properties in Care continuing to form a central part of our offer. With audience demand remaining high, we are committed to maintaining a sustainable approach that balances delivery of core services with a prioritised and inclusive approach to programming.

### 3.4 Investment and Impact on the Properties

In 2024-25, we had a total spend of £65.9 million on our Properties in Care and associated collections. This figure includes costs related to conservation and maintenance of the properties, visitor-facing asset management, learning and inclusion initiatives, capital investment, staffing and operational support. It represents a 17% increase compared to 2023-24 and marks the highest annual spend since the formation of Historic Environment Scotland in 2015. Staff salaries account for 64% of this year's total spend.

Of the total spend, £19.2 million was directly allocated to the conservation and maintenance of properties and depots, not including staffing costs. While this reflects a slight 1% decrease from the previous year, it remains significantly higher than the 2022-23 figure and represents us moving towards sustainable investment. It is also notable that while this figure has seen no substantial increase, salaries for staff delivering the conservation and maintenance of our properties and depots has increased by £2.9 million from 2023-24. This represents our commitment to investing in our people and tackling the skills crises facing the heritage sector.



Total spend on our PiCs

\*Including staff costs



Maintenance  
and conservation spend

\*Excluding staff costs

Like many heritage organisations, we face growing challenges in meeting the investment needs of our estate and associated collections. These pressures are prompting a strategic reassessment of how we care for and sustain our assets in the future.

In 2024-25 work to develop and deliver major investment projects across the estate continued. This included the development of strategic plans for several of our properties.

At Holyrood Park, City of Edinburgh, traffic sensors were installed to support data gathering for a future movement strategy. This initiative forms part of the park's strategic plan, which aims to

deliver greater benefits for people, nature, and heritage. The data collected will help inform the development of the strategy and support alignment with the City of Edinburgh's [Our Future Streets](#) circulation plan. The objectives of the data collection include:

- Better understanding of visitor numbers and patterns of use.
- Establishing a robust baseline of visitor numbers for a business plan.
- Providing data to underpin development of the movement strategy.
- Measuring the impact of any trials or developments (including in neighbouring areas).
- Identifying how many car users stop to visit the park versus those who drive through.

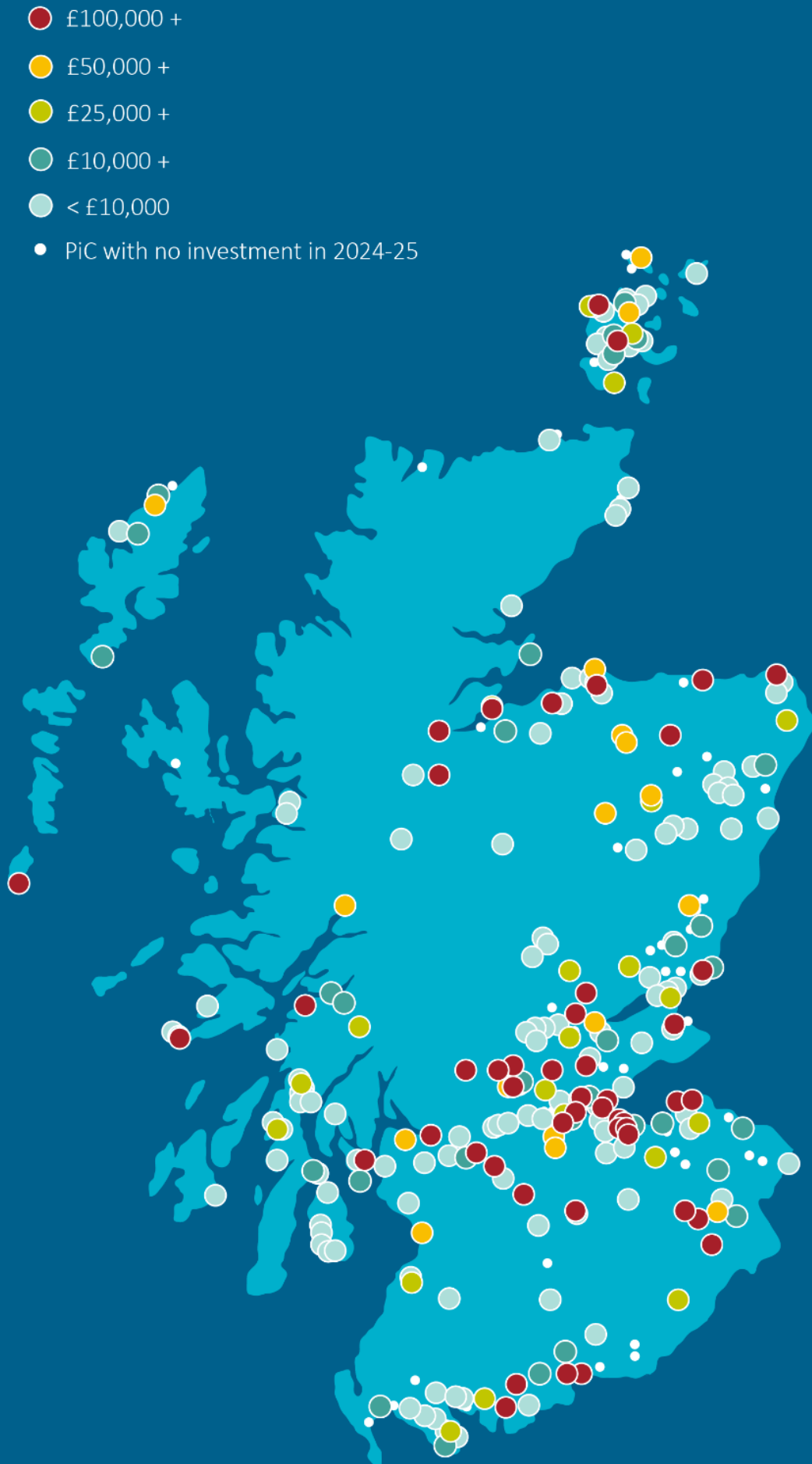
Consultants were appointed to undertake a high-level strategic review of heritage activities and development opportunities at a range of assets managed by Historic Environment Scotland in the Edinburgh area. This work is intended to inform and support the high-level strategic plan for Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh, and aims to identify opportunities that align with wider corporate

and Scottish Government policy objectives, while fostering effective partnerships across the area.

At Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh, the Crown Room project progressed as part of a two-year programme extending into 2025-26. The project involves replacing the Honours of Scotland display case with a bespoke, modern case that ensures the continued security and environmental stability of the Honours. While the display case is replaced, associated works to the Crown Room vault will be carried out. In 2024-25, preparatory work included the early feasibility and concept design work covering interpretation, lighting, and case design.

In 2024-25, we made strategic property acquisitions to support operational efficiency and enhance conservation capacity. A new depot at Moycroft Road in Elgin will enable the Monument Conservation Unit to relocate, improving working practices and allowing the Elgin Skills Training Centre to expand. In Arbroath, a three-part deal secured a new depot, disposed of an outdated yard without cost, and maintained favourable lease terms on a key operational building. Additional investments included a new storage unit in Stirling and active lease negotiations for the Lock-16 project in Falkirk, supporting future infrastructure and service delivery.

Figure 9 – Spend at the Properties in Care during the 2024-25 financial year. Sites marked as having 'no investment' still undergo regular maintenance and compliance checks. Further information on this figure is contained within Appendix A.3



### 3.4.1 Economic Impact

The economic contribution of our Properties in Care can be measured through net direct tourism expenditure – the spending by visitors both on-site and in the surrounding local area that would not occur in the absence of these heritage assets.

In 2024-25, net direct tourism expenditure linked to the Historic Environment Scotland estate reached £542 million. When accounting for supply chain effects, where local businesses increase their spending to meet visitor demand, this figure rises to £935 million (see Figure 10 on page 38).

Compared to the previous financial year, net direct tourism expenditure increased by £27 million, and by £48 million when including supply chain multipliers. These figures highlight the continued and growing importance of Scotland’s historic environment to the national and local economies.

While net direct tourism expenditure has shown encouraging signs of recovery following the sharp decline in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not yet returned to pre-2020 levels. Several factors may be influencing this slower rebound. These include the enduring impact of the pandemic on travel behaviours, ongoing access restrictions related to the high-level fabric

inspection programme, and broader economic pressures such as rising living costs driven by inflation.

In 2024-25, direct tourism expenditure supported an estimated 14,100 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs across Scotland, rising to 21,800 when supply chain effects are included. This reflects an increase from 13,425 direct FTE jobs and 20,676 FTE jobs including supply chain impacts in 2023-24.



Net direct tourism expenditure



Full-time equivalent jobs (including supply chain effects)

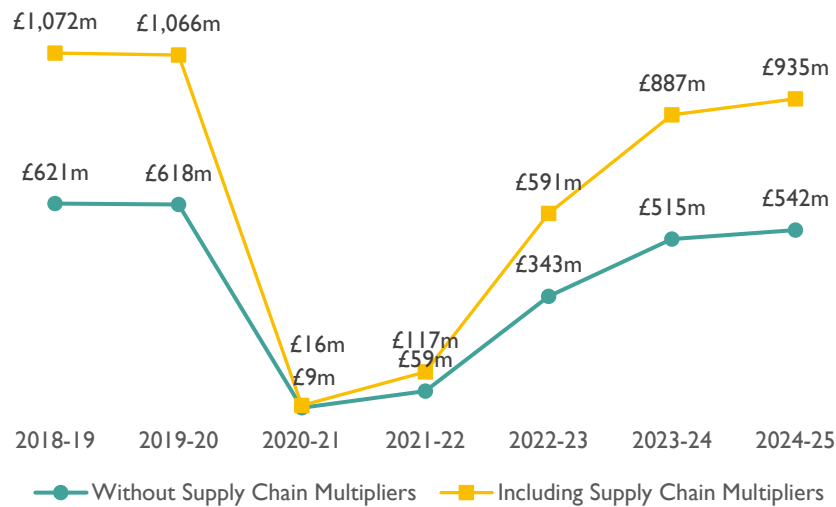


Figure 10 – Net direct tourism impact and pre-COVID-19 figures for all staffed properties. The supply chain multipliers have been included to demonstrate the wider economic impact of tourism on the Scottish economy.

In 2024-25, the average net direct tourism impact per visitor across the estate was £116, representing a £2 increase compared to the previous financial year. This figure rose significantly for overseas visitors, who contributed an average of £170 each. Although they accounted for 60% of total footfall, their spending represented 88% of the overall net direct tourism impact – a 1% increase from the previous year. These figures highlight the continued importance of

international tourism to the economic sustainability of our heritage estate.

In 2024-25, the ten most visited sites were also the top ten in terms of net direct tourism expenditure (see Figure 11 on page 39), although their rankings varied between the two measures. The top five sites were consistent across both categories:

1. Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh
2. Stirling Castle, Stirling
3. Urquhart Castle, Highlands
4. Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow City
5. Doune Castle, Stirling

Within sites five to 10, there were some notable differences. St Andrews Castle, Fife, ranked sixth for net direct tourism but ninth in visitor numbers. Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, was seventh for net direct tourism but sixth in visitor numbers. Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian, ranked ninth for net direct tourism but seventh in visitor numbers.

Edinburgh Castle recorded the highest visitor numbers and net direct tourism expenditure in 2024-25, accounting for 42% of total footfall and 47% of overall tourism impact.

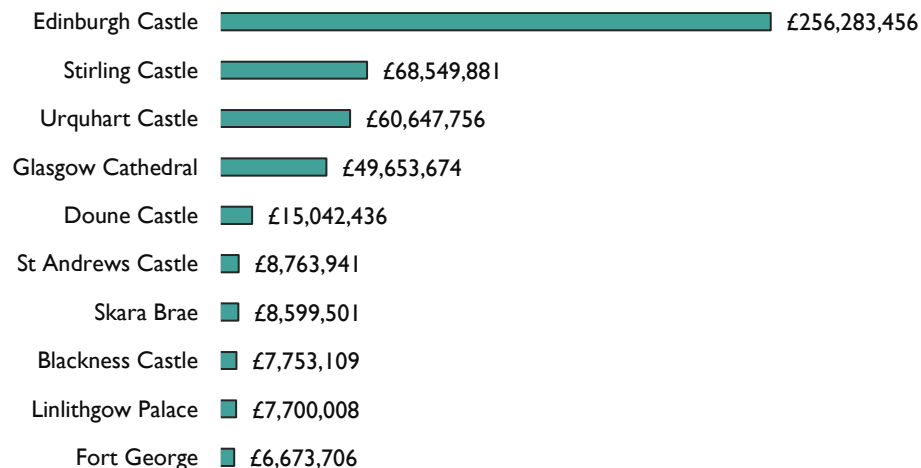


Figure 11 – Top 10 Properties in Care by net impact (no supply chain multipliers).

### 3.4.2 Community and Social Impact

In 2024-25, 49% of our site-specific spending was in areas classified as having average or above-average levels of deprivation (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, ≤ 5th decile). This mirrors the proportion recorded in both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial

years, reinforcing our commitment to generating positive social impact within these communities.

Additionally, 38% of our direct spend was in rural areas classified as 5 or higher on the Scottish Government’s 8-point Urban Rural Classification scale. This represents a 12% decrease from the previous year’s figure of 50%, reflecting a shift in investment while still maintaining substantial support for rural heritage sites.

In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to expand and enhance the volunteer programme, offering meaningful opportunities for individuals to contribute to the care and interpretation of Scotland’s historic environment. Volunteers were active at more than 45 Properties in Care, engaging in a wide range of roles that supported practical conservation tasks and biodiversity surveys, visitor engagement, community outreach.

To improve the volunteer experience and streamline coordination, Historic Environment Scotland began transitioning to a new digital volunteer management system during 2024-25, providing a modern digital service for volunteers and streamlined management for volunteer coordinators.

Volunteer roles at Historic Environment Scotland are designed to accommodate a variety of interests and availability. Visitor Connectors help enhance the visitor experience by leading tours,

facilitating hands-on activities, sharing stories, and supporting events. Their contributions are often co-created, allowing them to share personal insights and favourite aspects of the sites.

Event Volunteers assist with the delivery of public events, providing logistical support such as crowd management, visitor orientation, and information sharing. In 2024-25, they played a key role in events at the Engine Shed, Stirling, the *Spectacular Jousting* at Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian, the *Celebration of the Centuries* at Fort George, Highlands, and the *Castle of Light* access night at Edinburgh Castle.

Conservation Volunteers support the Holyrood Park Ranger Service with environmental stewardship tasks, including invasive species control, habitat management, and monitoring of rare flora and fauna.

Volunteers with the *Scottish Stonemasons' Marks* project – an initiative with which Historic Environment Scotland is working in partnership – are recording masons' marks at sites including Glasgow Cathedral. Their contributions are helping to build a detailed record that will eventually be digitised and added to the online archives.

Micro-volunteering offers flexible, low-commitment opportunities that can often be completed in under 30 minutes, either in person or

online. Volunteers contribute to initiatives such as *Monument Monitor* – a citizen science project that uses visitor-submitted photographs to track the condition of historic sites (see section 2.2.2 Climate Action on page 18 for more information on *Monument Monitor*). Other micro-volunteering activities include beach cleans and litter picks at sites like Blackness Castle, Falkirk, Holyrood Park, City of Edinburgh and Broch of Gurness, Orkney Islands.

Through these diverse roles, Historic Environment Scotland continues to foster inclusive participation, enabling volunteers to gain new skills, build confidence, and make a meaningful impact on Scotland's heritage.

In 2024-25, more than 460 volunteers participated in regular and one-off activities at our Properties in Care, an increase from 334 volunteers in 2023-24, contributing over 3,700 hours of service (see Appendix A.5 on page 63 for more information). In addition, digital micro-volunteering saw 5,352 contributions, reflecting the growing accessibility and flexibility of volunteer engagement.

In 2024-25, Historic Environment Scotland continued to support community archaeology projects that bring together volunteers, students, and local schools to explore and better understand Scotland's historic environment through hands-on fieldwork.

In September 2024, excavations resumed at Dundonald Castle, South Ayrshire, in partnership with Friends of Dundonald Castle. The dig uncovered archaeological remains in two of the four trenches opened, confirming the presence of a medieval stone quarry and revealing levelled surfaces within a stone revetment at the base of the castle. Over nine days, nearly 80 volunteers contributed 843 hours of excavation and recording, guided by professional archaeologists. The project also welcomed 52 primary school pupils from local schools, who had the opportunity to learn archaeological techniques through practical experience.

A fourth season of the Holyrood Park Field School ran between August and September 2024. This is collaborative project, grant funded by HES and delivered by AOC Archaeology and the University of Edinburgh. The field school provided essential training for 40 archaeology students in practical excavation skills, archaeological recording and survey. It also supports HES in meeting our objectives set out in the Landscape Conservation Management Plan, as the group continue to investigate, record and enhance our understanding of Holyrood Park's, City of Edinburgh, fragile and often poorly understood archaeological remains. This season's work focused upon the later prehistoric sites at Samson's Ribs and Dunsapie and the remains of a probable prehistoric round house and cultivation terraces on the lower slopes of Crow Hill. The

discovery of a previously unknown probable prehistoric round house highlights the high archaeological potential of the whole site and the value of archaeological survey and investigation, supporting us to better understand the Park's significance.

The programme also engaged 138 pupils from three primary schools and attracted 68 visitors to an open day. Social media updates extended the reach of the project, with a cumulative audience of 16,704 people.



Volunteers across our PiCs



Hours of volunteer service

## 4 THE ASSOCIATED COLLECTIONS

This year various projects were delivered which have directly enhanced access to collections and their care. We worked in partnership with colleagues from Culture Perth and Kinross to transfer the Stone of Destiny to its new home in Perth City Museum, new displays were created and access improved at Bonawe Iron Furnace, Argyll and Bute, and we worked with colleagues across the organisation to deliver new exhibitions at Duff House, Aberdeenshire (Arpita Shah, Scottish Portrait Awards, National Galleries Scotland work in focus 'Berenice'). Significant work was undertaken to create display enhancements at Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire, and Dirleton Castle, East Lothian, which are due to open in 2025-26. We supported the 25th anniversary of the Opening of Scottish Parliament, making the Crown of Scotland (part of the Honours of Scotland) available for ceremonial duty. We have begun to explore options for maintenance of our ordnance collections (cannons and related material) across the estate. Our stone conservation specialists were part of a cross-organisational team that responded to the incident of the Aberlemno III carved stone, Angus, damage – when the significant standing stone blew over in high winds. Efforts are ongoing to assess and respond to the damage and look at options for reinstatement.

The access and engagement programme at Trinity House, City of Edinburgh, has developed to include regular tours, open days, a series of learning and outreach events, and activities which enable a range of communities to engage in the rich history of the maritime collections there. We continue to work in partnership with others to deliver best public benefit and this has included developing a collaborative RiCHES-funded project to house human remains collections with National Museums Scotland, and contributing to a Scottish Government led Public Service Reform group focussed on culture and efficient collections storage planning. Advocacy and sector support continue to be delivered, with key staff contributing to the UK Museums Accreditation Panel, representing Historic Environment Scotland at the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel and Treasure Trove Steering Group, and our Head of Applied Conservation acting as Chair of Icon Scotland (The Institute of Conservation – the professional body for museum/heritage conservators in Scotland).

The *Government Indemnity Scheme* (GIS) Action Plan continued its work in 2024-25 at 14 sites. Over the three-year programme, deliverables have changed based on what was found on site, with many tasks identified as part of the original project scope being modified, cancelled or new tasks added to help deliver the best most effective outcomes. We have completed all deliverables (66%)

of the three-year programme as originally scoped, and the revised programme forecast represents a much larger delivery profile of 126%. Highlights include replacing the display cases in the Prisoners of War exhibition at Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh, where monitoring is showing an improvement in the environment already.

A permanent humidistat-controlled heating solution was implemented at Iona Abbey, Argyll and Bute, environmental control was further improved at Skara Brae, Orkney Islands, and vulnerable paintings were glazed at Edinburgh Castle. Significant renovation work and improvements to security and environment were undertaken at both Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire and Dirleton Castle Gazebo, East Lothian, to prepare for new exhibitions in 2025-26. This was possible due to close collaboration between teams across the organisation. The project has been extended for a fourth year to undertake further improvements identified during the project and to extend it to one further site. Project works are now complete at six sites.

In 2024-25 we continued the *Collections Inventory Project*, which is on track to complete by end of 2025-26. This project will allow us to capture, record and enhance information about our collections,

ultimately making them more discoverable and accessible. During the 2024-25 year we inventoried 5,127 objects at 39 properties, and



Figure 12: Collection items are shown to First Minister John Swinney and his family

9,819 objects at our central Edinburgh collection store. During this year, we also completed complex inventories of carved stones at Scottish Borders PiC, Dryburgh Abbey, Jedburgh Abbey and Melrose Abbey, which involved using contractors and equipment to access and move the stones for inventory to take place. We

continue to refine processes and provide opportunities for others to learn, including working with trainees and apprentices, and providing work shadowing opportunities for Historic Environment Scotland staff wanting to learn more about collections work.

#### 4.1 Standard of Collections Care

To date, there are 33,777 objects recorded as part of the Scottish Ministers' collections and a further 12,342 objects that are not part of the Scottish Ministers' collections. This brings our current collections size to 46,119 objects. Some 2,645 new records were added to our collections database during the 2024-25 period. This figure includes a mixture of new acquisitions and records created through retrospective documentation.

Our programme of condition checking is aligned with the work of the *Collections Inventory Project*. The programme has allowed for steady progress in capturing the condition of the objects in our care. We have now undertaken condition checks for 81.5% of Scottish

Ministers' collections in line with Scheme of Delegation requirements. This information provides us with a better understanding of the conservation, storage, and display needs of our collections, and allows us to actively plan improvements required.

We are in the initial phases of scoping requirements for sustainable management and delivery of collections facilities and storage, an area which requires some strategic investment and direction. We currently have a wide range of collections storage arrangements across the Estate and we are advancing scoping to create a strategic plan to address future need.

We continue to make progress with our Collections Salvage Planning programme. We completed 17 plans last year, 3 of which were updates from an old plan format, and 14 of which were new plans. Training was delivered at Duff House, Aberdeenshire in October, which gave staff an opportunity to work through call out



### Scottish Ministers' Collections

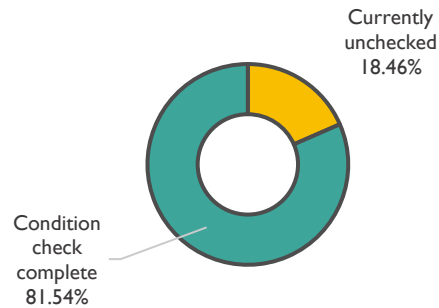


Figure 13a – Progress of object condition checking for Scottish Ministers' collections. For the purpose of this data, this refers to condition checking carried out from October 2015 onwards. Any objects checked prior to this date will be considered currently unchecked.

### Non-Scottish Ministers Collections

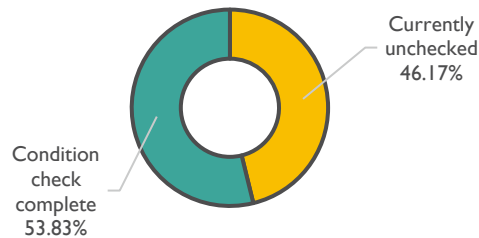


Figure 13b – Progress of object condition checking for Non-Scottish Ministers collections. For the purpose of this data, this refers to condition checking carried out from October 2015 onwards. Any objects checked prior to this date will be considered currently unchecked.

procedures and initial steps during an incident and maintain the relationship with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

We hold full Museum Accreditation status at 12 of our sites, and provisional accreditation at one site. In September 2024, St Andrews Cathedral Museum, Fife, moved to provisional Accreditation status following the ongoing closure of the museum due to environmental challenges. We are continuing to work to find a solution to this issue. During the 2024-25 period we submitted our corporate overview documents for reassessment and returned renewal applications for three of our Properties in Care.

## 4.2 Condition of the Collections

Through the *Collections Inventory Project*, we have continued to increase our condition checking activity, as evidenced in Figures 13a and 13b. During 2024-25, 8,297 objects were condition checked, the vast majority of which are part of the Scottish Ministers' collections. The large increase in condition checks seen in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, as demonstrated by Figure 14 below, shows the impact of the work completed by the *Collections Inventory Project*. Figure 15 shows the number of Properties in Care (PiC) at various levels of progress in relation to the condition checking of objects.

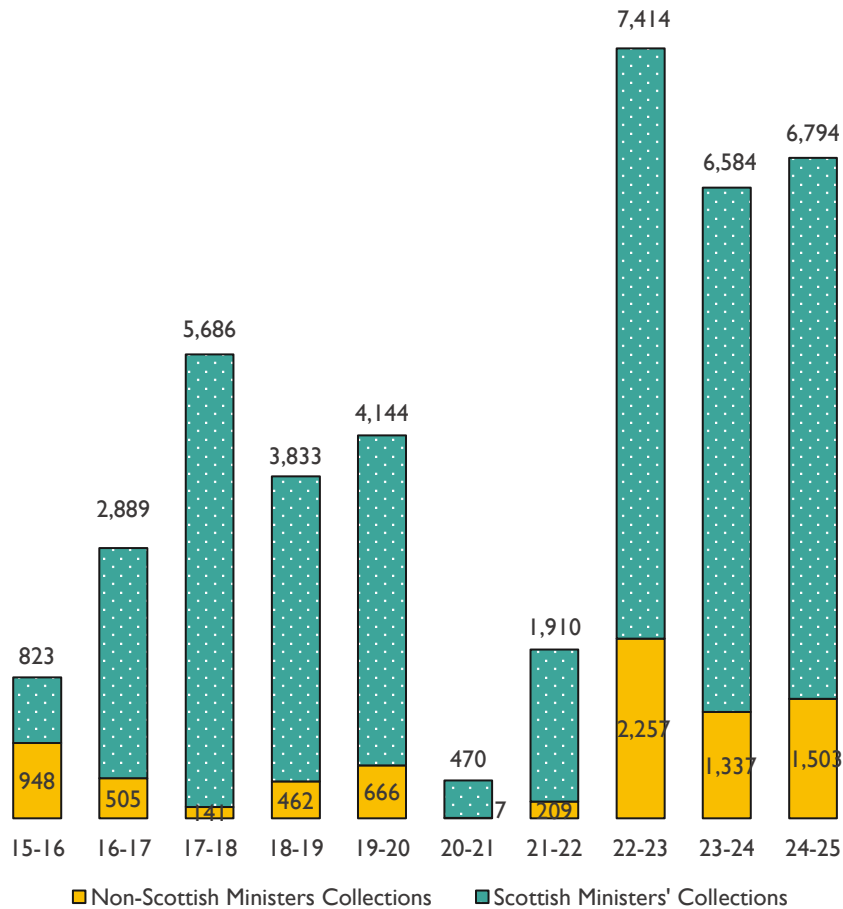


Figure 14 – Condition checking activity by year. Due to the re-checking of some objects each year, figures for previous years can differ slightly between reports.

Over time, more PiCs will reach the higher end of the scale as the condition checking for each site nears its baseline completion. However, if a collection increases in size the proportion of objects condition checked may decrease.

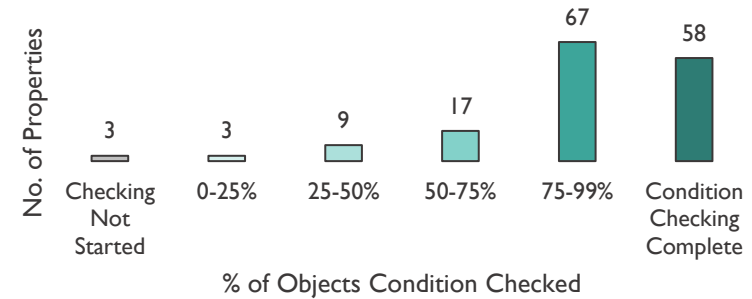


Figure 15 – Number of PiCs at various levels of progress in relation to condition checking of objects. The graph above relates to Scottish Ministers' collections only.

The condition checking process assigns a 'condition status' to each object, which indicates the overall condition of that object and provides an indication of its stability. The categories are:

- Stable – no action required
- Stable – action required
- Unstable – action low priority
- Unstable – action high priority
- Unstable – action immediate

Figure 16 shows the proportion of objects in each category and the proportion of objects that are in a stable versus unstable state. We can track the changing stability of the collections and our progress in improving condition by tracking the proportion of Properties in Care (PiCs) at which the collection falls within a certain stability banding. As shown in Figure 16, 0.33% of the Scottish Ministers' collections are known to require immediate action, a slight decrease on last year's figure of 0.36%. The figure for collections considered a high priority decreased from 3.25% to 3.09%. As shown in Figure 17, the overall figure for collections in an unstable condition was 24.98%, a decrease from last year's 26.4%. Despite the consistency between this year's and last year's figures, it should be noted that these values are likely to fluctuate over time as the number of collections checked increases and we learn more about the objects in our care.

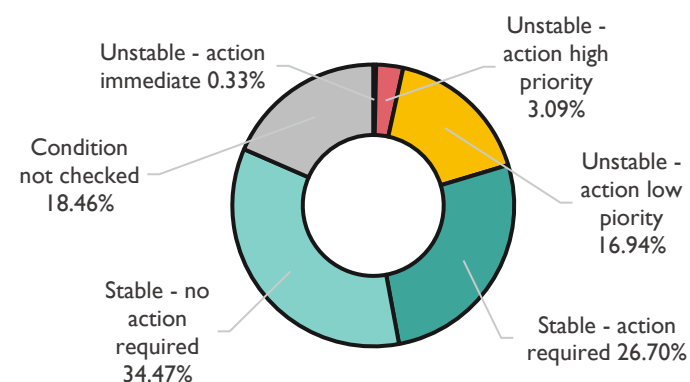


Figure 16 – Proportion of Scottish Ministers' collections objects within each condition category.

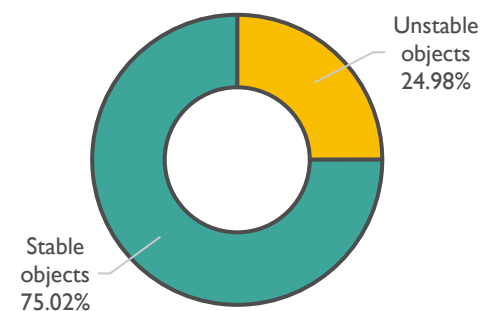


Figure 17 - Proportion of objects in the Scottish Minister's collection that are in a stable versus unstable state.

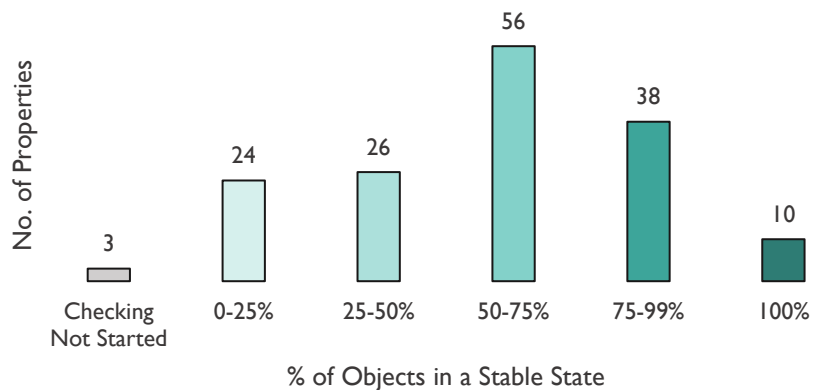


Figure 18 - Objects in a stable state in relation to number of Properties in Care.

### 4.3 Provision of Public Access to the Collections

At present, 33.84% of the Scottish Ministers' collections are on display, a fractional decrease compared with 34% last year. To put this into context, many institutions struggle to achieve 10%. We maintained 75 inward loans from 57 individual lenders to enhance our collections. In addition to managing our own displays, we had outward loans of 105 objects across 21 outward loans to 15 different borrowers, the majority of which are objects on long-term loan. We supported several exciting exhibitions and loans projects, including Rock of Ages at Dumbarton Castle, West Dunbartonshire,

involving new loans and lender partnerships with the Hunterian (University of Glasgow), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum and English Heritage, an exhibition of Scottish landscape artist George Wilson at Duff House, Aberdeenshire, in partnership with National Gallery of Scotland and refreshing current exhibition spaces at Edinburgh Castle, City of Edinburgh, working with lenders like National Museums Scotland.

There are currently 1,947 object records published online, a decrease of ten compared with last year. This is likely due to objects which were on loan to Historic Environment Scotland being returned, and those records subsequently being unpublished. The content and procedural work began in 2023-24 to help inform decision making around publishing new records online was delayed due to capacity and is now due for completion in the 2025-26 financial year. We have continued to collaborate on the trove.scot project, ensuring that no functionality between the existing collections website and the object records on trove.scot is lost. This new platform has also enabled us to make improvements for the object records already available, such as the publishing of multiple images and the inclusion of additional collections classification themes on the object landing page. There have been 27 objects digitally documented as part of the Rae Project.

Our Collections Management Apprentice was awarded their Modern Apprenticeship qualification in April 2024. This was a huge achievement for both the individual involved and the department. The apprentice continued to gain practical experience until the end of their contract in October 2024 and has since found employment within the heritage sector. Our Collections Access Trainee worked alongside us up until August 2024, when they moved into an interpretation role elsewhere in the organisation. Our first Paintings Conservation Trainee hosted by Applied Conservation completed their traineeship in November 2024. This was a great opportunity to provide hands on practical experience as well as scope to pursue some tailored research activities, helping to foster these skills for the wider sector benefit. We subsequently offered a second intake, with our current Trainee starting in October 2024. We plan to reflect on and evaluate the training opportunities we have provided to date, and to forward plan how we can approach this area of work in the future to ensure that we are providing a sustainable programme that meets the changing needs of both the organisation and the wider sector.

We continued to explore the mutual benefits of internal work placements by offering a six-week placement to a staff member studying for a master's degree, as well as shadowing opportunities for other colleagues assisting with our events programme. The

collaborative project with University of Stirling, focused on Trinity House, City of Edinburgh, is in its third year, with the thesis submission date planned for January 2027. During 2024-25, a candidate studying for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree continued primary research with the collection objects using relevant documentary sources identified in other institutions, including National Records of Scotland, National Maritime Museum and the British Newspaper Archives. This research is being used to enhance the information we hold about these objects and will be recorded on our collections management system. Aspects of this research is already being shared, with papers presented at the International Congress of the Society of Ethnology and Folklore, June 2025 and University of Stirling Annual Postgraduate Conference during June 2024 and May 2025.

We continued to support outreach activities and events in 2024-25. This included hosting temporary collections displays at the *Spectacular Jousting* events at Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian and Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries and Galloway, and the *Celebration of the Centuries* event at Fort George, Highlands. We also oversaw a successful tours and events programme at Trinity House Maritime Museum, City of Edinburgh, which welcomed 2,317 visitors throughout the year. The house reopened for weekly guided tours, which ran between April and September. We used this as a trial

period to test our updated tour script based on new research undertaken into the collections and have incorporated visitor feedback for the 2025 season. In partnership with our learning contractors, we ran a series of new events during the 2024-25 period including:

- Pirate themed open days over the school Easter holidays
- A Sea Shanty Workshop on the theme of whaling, ran in collaboration with a local folk singer. This event will be run again in 2025.
- Participated in Maths Week Scotland and ran maths related activities as part of our Doors Open Day weekend event.
- A 'Leith's Forgotten Wars' tour as part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival. The tour focused on how war has shaped the story of Leith between 16th-18th centuries and involved a guided walk and tour of Trinity House, City of Edinburgh.
- An evening tour and storytelling session to celebrate the 150th birthday of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton. The tour was sold out and we plan to run this as an annual event on his birthday.

As well as the above, we continue to run our annual Black History Month tours and Halloween Tales tours and provide open access to the house over Edinburgh's Doors Open Day weekend and for our yearly Christmas event.

## A.1 The location of built heritage surveys and inspections delivered during 2024-25

Type	Name	Local Authority	Number
Flagpole	Aberdour Castle	Fife Council	1
Flagpole	Abernethy Round Tower	Perth and Kinross Council	2
Flagpole	Blackness Castle	Falkirk Council	2
Flagpole	Broughty Castle	Dundee City Council	1
Flagpole	Caerlaverock Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
Flagpole	Cardoness Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
Flagpole	Doune Castle and Roman Camp	Stirling Council	1
Flagpole	Dryburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	1
Flagpole	Dundonald Castle	South Ayrshire Council	1
Flagpole	Fort George	The Highland Council	1
Flagpole	Huntingtower Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Flagpole	Inchcolm Abbey	Fife Council	1
Flagpole	Jedburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	2
Flagpole	Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Flagpole	Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park	West Lothian Council	3
Flagpole	Melrose Abbey & Precinct	Scottish Borders Council	2
Flagpole	Newark Castle	Inverclyde Council	1
Flagpole	Rothsay Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	3
Flagpole	Smailholm Tower	Scottish Borders Council	1
Flagpole	St Andrews Castle	Fife Council	2
Flagpole	Stirling Castle	Stirling Council	1
Flagpole	Sweetheart Abbey & Precinct Walls	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
Flagpole	Trinity House	City of Edinburgh Council	1
Flagpole	Urquhart Castle	The Highland Council	3
Flagpole	West Port, St Andrews	Fife Council	1
HLFI	Abernethy Round Tower	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	Ardchattan Priory	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Argyll's Lodging	Stirling Council	1
HLFI	Arnol Blackhouse No. 39	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1
HLFI	Arnol Blackhouse No. 42	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1
HLFI	Balvaird Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	Balvenie Castle	The Moray Council	1
HLFI	Broughty Castle	Dundee City Council	1
HLFI	Cadzow Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	1
HLFI	Carnasserie Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Clackmannan Tower	Clackmannanshire Council	1

Type	Name	Local Authority	Number
HLFI	Claypotts Castle	Dundee City Council	1
HLFI	Corstorphine Dovecot	City of Edinburgh Council	1
HLFI	Crichton Castle	Midlothian Council	1
HLFI	Deer Abbey	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Drumcoltran Tower	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
HLFI	Duff House	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Dun Carloway	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1
HLFI	Dunfermline Abbey Palace & Nave	Fife Council	1
HLFI	Dunglass Collegiate Church	East Lothian Council	1
HLFI	Dunstaffnage Castle & Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Dyce Symbol Stones	Aberdeen City Council	1
HLFI	Elgin Cathedral	The Moray Council	1
HLFI	Elgin Pans Port & Precinct Wall	The Moray Council	1
HLFI	Fortrose Cathedral	The Highland Council	1
HLFI	Foulden Tithe Barn	Scottish Borders Council	1
HLFI	Glasgow Cathedral	Glasgow City Council	1
HLFI	Hackness Battery & Martello Tower	Orkney Islands Council	1
HLFI	Huntingtower Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	Jedburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	1
HLFI	Kilberry Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Kilchurn Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Kilmodan Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	1
HLFI	Kinkell Church	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Kinneil House	Falkirk Council	1
HLFI	Lincluden Collegiate Church	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
HLFI	Maes Howe Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	1
HLFI	New Abbey Corn Mill	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
HLFI	Quoyness Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	1
HLFI	Restenneth Priory	Angus Council	1
HLFI	Scotstarvit Tower	Fife Council	1
HLFI	Skara Brae	Orkney Islands Council	1
HLFI	Smailholm Tower	Scottish Borders Council	1
HLFI	St Clement's Church, Rodel	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	1
HLFI	St Mary's Church, Grandtully	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	St Vigean's Stones (& Museum)	Angus Council	1
HLFI	Stanley Mills	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	Sunnybrae Cottage	Perth and Kinross Council	1
HLFI	Tarves Tomb	Aberdeenshire Council	1
HLFI	Tormiston Mill	Orkney Islands Council	1
HLFI	Torphichen Preceptory	West Lothian Council	1

Type	Name	Local Authority	Number
HLFI	Wanlockhead Beam Engine	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
HLFI	Westquarter Dovecot	Falkirk Council	1
Memorial	Dryburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	1
Memorial	Dunkeld Cathedral	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Memorial	Eileach an Naoimh	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Memorial	Eilean Mor	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Memorial	Hermitage Castle & Chapel	Scottish Borders Council	1
Memorial	Jedburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	1
Memorial	Kelso Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	1
Memorial	Kilmodan Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	1

## A.2 The Location of landscape related surveys and inspections delivered during 2024-25

Type	Name	Local Authority	Number
Rockslopes	Antonine Wall - Bar Hill	East Dunbartonshire Council	1
Rockslopes	Antonine Wall - Croy Hill	North Lanarkshire Council	2
Rockslopes	Blackness Castle	Falkirk Council	5
Rockslopes	Bothwell Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	3
Rockslopes	Castle Sween	Argyll and Bute Council	4
Rockslopes	Craigmillar Castle	City of Edinburgh Council	1
Rockslopes	Dumbarton Castle	West Dunbartonshire Council	4
Rockslopes	Dundonald Castle	South Ayrshire Council	1
Rockslopes	Dunstaffnage Castle & Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Rockslopes	Eagle Rock	City of Edinburgh Council	1
Rockslopes	Fort Charlotte	Shetland Islands Council	2
Rockslopes	Inchcolm Abbey	Fife Council	15
Rockslopes	Kisimul Castle	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	3
Rockslopes	St Ninian's Cave	Dumfries and Galloway Council	1
Rockslopes	Urquhart Castle	The Highland Council	7
Trees	Aberdour Castle	Fife Council	1
Trees	Achnabreck Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Antonine Wall - Bantaskin	Falkirk Council	1
Trees	Antonine Wall - Tollpark	North Lanarkshire Council	1
Trees	Antonine Wall - Watling Lodge	Falkirk Council	1
Trees	Beaully Priory	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Bonawe Iron Furnace	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Bothwell Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Trees	Cadzow Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	1

Type	Name	Local Authority	Number
Trees	Carnasserie Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Castle Campbell	Clackmannanshire Council	1
Trees	Castle Sween	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Clackmannan Tower	Clackmannanshire Council	1
Trees	Clava Cairns	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Craignethan Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	1
Trees	Culross Abbey	Fife Council	1
Trees	Dallas Dhu Distillery	The Moray Council	1
Trees	Deer Abbey	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Trees	Dirleton Castle	East Lothian Council	1
Trees	Doune Castle and Roman Camp	Stirling Council	1
Trees	Duff House	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Trees	Dun Troddan	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Dunchraigaig Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Dunkeld Cathedral	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Trees	Elcho Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Trees	Fort George	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Fortrose Cathedral	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Huntly Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Trees	Inverlochy Castle	The Highland Council	1
Trees	Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park	West Lothian Council	1
Trees	Mavisbank Policies	Midlothian Council	1
Trees	Ravensraig Castle	Fife Council	1
Trees	Seton Collegiate Church	East Lothian Council	1
Trees	Skipness Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Spynie Palace	The Moray Council	1
Trees	St Andrews Castle	Fife Council	1
Trees	St Andrews Cathedral	Fife Council	1
Trees	St Blanes's Church	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	St Bridget's Kirk	Fife Council	1
Trees	St Peter's Church, Duffus	The Moray Council	1
Trees	Stanley Mills	Perth and Kinross Council	1
Trees	Temple Wood Stone Circles	Argyll and Bute Council	1
Trees	Trinity House	City of Edinburgh Council	1
Trees	Urquhart Castle	The Highland Council	1

### A.3 Spend at the Properties in Care during 2024-25

Property in Care Name	Local Authority	Investment Bracket
Aberdour Castle	Fife Council	£100,000+
Arbroath Abbey	Angus Council	£100,000+
Argyll's Lodging	Stirling Council	£100,000+

Beaulieu Priory	The Highland Council	£100,000+
Biggar Gasworks	South Lanarkshire Council	£100,000+
Blackness Castle	Falkirk Council	£100,000+
Bothwell Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	£100,000+
Caerlaverock Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£100,000+
Castle Campbell	Clackmannanshire Council	£100,000+
Craigmillar Castle	City of Edinburgh Council	£100,000+
Craignethan Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	£100,000+
Dallas Dhu Distillery	The Moray Council	£100,000+
Dirleton Castle	East Lothian Council	£100,000+
Doune Castle and Roman Camp	Stirling Council	£100,000+
Dryburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	£100,000+
Duff House	Aberdeenshire Council	£100,000+
Dumbarton Castle	West Dunbartonshire Council	£100,000+
Dunblane Cathedral	Stirling Council	£100,000+
Dunfermline Abbey Palace & Nave	Fife Council	£100,000+
Dunstaffnage Castle & Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	£100,000+
Edinburgh Castle	City of Edinburgh Council	£100,000+
Elgin Cathedral	The Moray Council	£100,000+
Fort George	The Highland Council	£100,000+
Glasgow Cathedral	Glasgow City Council	£100,000+
Holyrood Abbey	City of Edinburgh Council	£100,000+
Holyrood Park	City of Edinburgh Council	£100,000+
Huntingtower Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	£100,000+
Huntly Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	£100,000+
Inchcolm Abbey	Fife Council	£100,000+
Inchmahome Priory	Stirling Council	£100,000+
Iona Abbey	Argyll and Bute Council	£100,000+
Jarlshof	Shetland Islands Council	£100,000+
Jedburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	£100,000+
Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse	Aberdeenshire Council	£100,000+
Kisimul Castle	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£100,000+
Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park	West Lothian Council	£100,000+
Lochleven Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	£100,000+
MacLellan's Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£100,000+
Maes Howe Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	£100,000+
Melrose Abbey & Precinct	Scottish Borders Council	£100,000+
New Abbey Corn Mill	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£100,000+
Rothesay Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	£100,000+
Skara Brae	Orkney Islands Council	£100,000+
St Andrews Castle	Fife Council	£100,000+

St Andrews Cathedral	Fife Council	£100,000+
Stanley Mills	Perth and Kinross Council	£100,000+
Stirling Castle	Stirling Council	£100,000+
Sweetheart Abbey & Precinct Walls	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£100,000+
Tantallon Castle	East Lothian Council	£100,000+
Threave Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£100,000+
Trinity House	City of Edinburgh Council	£100,000+
Urquhart Castle	The Highland Council	£100,000+
Arnol Blackhouse No. 39	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£50,000+
Auchindoun Castle	The Moray Council	£50,000+
Balvenie Castle	The Moray Council	£50,000+
Broch of Gurness	Orkney Islands Council	£50,000+
Cairnpapple Hill	West Lothian Council	£50,000+
Corgarff Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	£50,000+
Dundonald Castle	South Ayrshire Council	£50,000+
Dundrennan Abbey	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£50,000+
Edzell Castle	Angus Council	£50,000+
Elcho Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	£50,000+
Fort Charlotte	Shetland Islands Council	£50,000+
Inverlochy Castle	The Highland Council	£50,000+
Kildrummy Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	£50,000+
Links of Noltland	Orkney Islands Council	£50,000+
Newark Castle	Inverclyde Council	£50,000+
Smailholm Tower	Scottish Borders Council	£50,000+
Spynie Palace	The Moray Council	£50,000+
Stirling Old Bridge	Stirling Council	£50,000+
Torphichen Preceptory	West Lothian Council	£50,000+
Bishop's Palace, Kirkwall	Orkney Islands Council	£25,000+
Brough of Birsay	Orkney Islands Council	£25,000+
Broughty Castle	Dundee City Council	£25,000+
Cardoness Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£25,000+
Carnasserie Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	£25,000+
Castle Sween	Argyll and Bute Council	£25,000+
Clackmannan Tower	Clackmannanshire Council	£25,000+
Crichton Castle	Midlothian Council	£25,000+
Crossraguel Abbey	South Ayrshire Council	£25,000+
Deer Abbey	Aberdeenshire Council	£25,000+
Dunkeld Cathedral	Perth and Kinross Council	£25,000+
Fortrose Cathedral	The Highland Council	£25,000+
Glenbuchat Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	£25,000+
Hackness Battery & Martello Tower	Orkney Islands Council	£25,000+

Hailes Castle	East Lothian Council	£25,000+
Hermitage Castle & Chapel	Scottish Borders Council	£25,000+
Kilchurn Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	£25,000+
Kinneil House	Falkirk Council	£25,000+
Meikle Stones (& Museum)	Perth and Kinross Council	£25,000+
St Ninian's Cave	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£25,000+
St Serf's Church, Dunning	Perth and Kinross Council	£25,000+
Ardchattan Priory	Argyll and Bute Council	£10,000+
Arnol Blackhouse No. 42	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£10,000+
Balvaird Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	£10,000+
Blackhammer Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	£10,000+
Bonawe Iron Furnace	Argyll and Bute Council	£10,000+
Brechin Round Tower	Angus Council	£10,000+
Calanais Standing Stones	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£10,000+
Clava Cairns	The Highland Council	£10,000+
Clickimin Broch	Shetland Islands Council	£10,000+
Crookston Castle	Glasgow City Council	£10,000+
Drumcoltran Tower	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£10,000+
Dunfermline Abbey Palace & Nave	Fife Council	£10,000+
Dunglass Collegiate Church	East Lothian Council	£10,000+
Earl's Palace, Birsay	Orkney Islands Council	£10,000+
Earl's Palace, Kirkwall	Orkney Islands Council	£10,000+
Glenluce Abbey	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£10,000+
Hilton of Cadboll	The Highland Council	£10,000+
Kelso Abbey	Scottish Borders Council	£10,000+
King's Knot	Stirling Council	£10,000+
Lincluden Collegiate Church	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£10,000+
Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park	West Lothian Council	£10,000+
Restenneth Priory	Angus Council	£10,000+
Scalloway Castle	Shetland Islands Council	£10,000+
Seton Collegiate Church	East Lothian Council	£10,000+
Skipness Castle	Argyll and Bute Council	£10,000+
St Blanes's Church	Argyll and Bute Council	£10,000+
St Clement's Church, Rodel	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£10,000+
St Nicholas Church, Orphir	Orkney Islands Council	£10,000+
St Triduana's Aisle	City of Edinburgh Council	£10,000+
St Vigean's Stones (& Museum)	Angus Council	£10,000+
Tolquhon Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	£10,000+
Tormiston Mill	Orkney Islands Council	£10,000+
Whithorn Crosses (& Museum)	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£10,000+

Whithorn Priory	Dumfries and Galloway Council	£10,000+
Aberlemno Sculptured Stones	Angus Council	< £10,000
Abernethy Round Tower	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Achnabreck Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Bar Hill	East Dunbartonshire Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Bearsden Bath-house	East Dunbartonshire Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Croy Hill	North Lanarkshire Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Dullatur	North Lanarkshire Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Rough Castle	Falkirk Council	< £10,000
Antonine Wall - Watling Lodge	Falkirk Council	< £10,000
Arbroath Abbey Abbot's House	Angus Council	< £10,000
Ardclach Bell Tower	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Ardestie Souterrain	Angus Council	< £10,000
Ardunie Roman Signal Station	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Auchagallon Stone Circle	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Baluachraig Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Barochan Cross	Renfrewshire Council	< £10,000
Barsalloch Fort	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Big Balcraig & Clachan Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Bishop's House, Elgin	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Blackfriars Chapel, St Andrews	Fife Council	< £10,000
Brandsbutt Stone	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Bridge of Oich	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Burghead Well	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Burleigh Castle	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Cadzow Castle	South Lanarkshire Council	< £10,000
Cairn Holy 1	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Cairn of Memsie	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Cairn O'Get	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Cairnbaan Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Cambuskenneth Abbey	Stirling Council	< £10,000
Carlungie Souterrain	Angus Council	< £10,000
Carn Ban Long Cairn	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Carn Liath	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Carsluith Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Castle of Old Wick	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Castle Semple Collegiate Church	Renfrewshire Council	< £10,000

Castlelaw Fort	Midlothian Council	< £10,000
Chapel Finian	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Chesters Hill Fort	East Lothian Council	< £10,000
Claypotts Castle	Dundee City Council	< £10,000
Click Mill, Dounby	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Cobbie Row's Castle	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Corrimony Chambered Cairn	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Corstorphine Dovecot	City of Edinburgh Council	< £10,000
Coulter Motte	South Lanarkshire Council	< £10,000
Crosskirk, Peebles	Scottish Borders Council	< £10,000
Cullerlie Stone Circle	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Culross Abbey	Fife Council	< £10,000
Culsh Earth House	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Druchtag Motte	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Drumtroddan Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Drumtroddan Standing Stones	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Duffus Castle	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Dun Carloway	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	< £10,000
Dun Telve	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Dun Troddan	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Dunadd Hill Fort	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Dunchraigaig Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Dunfallandy Stone	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Dunfermline Abbey Nether Yett	Fife Council	< £10,000
Eagle Rock	City of Edinburgh Council	< £10,000
Earl's Bu, Orphir	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
East Aquhorthies Stone Circle	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Eileach an Naoimh	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Eilean Mor	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Elgin Pans Port & Precinct Wall	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Foulden Tithe Barn	Scottish Borders Council	< £10,000
Grain Earth House	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Greenknowe Tower	Scottish Borders Council	< £10,000
Hill o'Many Stanes	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Inchkenneth Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Innerpeffray Chapel	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Iona Nunnery	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Keills Chapel & Cross	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilberry Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kildalton Cross	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilmartin Crosses	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilmartin Glebe Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000

Kilmichael Glassary Cup & Ring Mark Rock	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilmodan Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilmory Knap Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Kilpatrick Dun	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Kilwinning Abbey	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Kinkell Church	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Kinnaird Head Wine Tower	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Kirkhill Roman Signal Station	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Knap of Howar	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Knock Castle	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Knowe of Unstan Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Knowe of Yarso Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Lauderdale Aisle	East Lothian Council	< £10,000
Loanhead of Daviot Stone Circle	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Loch Doon Castle	East Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Lochmaben Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Lochranza Castle	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Machrie Moor Stone Circles	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
MacLean's Cross, Iona	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Maiden Stone	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Mar's Wark	Stirling Council	< £10,000
Mavisbank Policies	Midlothian Council	< £10,000
Maybole Collegiate Church	South Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Mid Howe Broch	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Mid Howe Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Morton Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Moss Farm Road Stone Circle	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Mousa Broch	Shetland Islands Council	< £10,000
Muir o'Fauld Roman Signal Station	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Muness Castle	Shetland Islands Council	< £10,000
Muthill Old Church and Tower	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Nether Largie Mid Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Nether Largie North Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Nether Largie South Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Noltland Castle	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Orchardton Tower	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Peel Ring of Lumphanan	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Quoyness Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Ravenscraig Castle	Fife Council	< £10,000
Rennibister Earth House	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000

Ri Cruin Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Ring of Brodgar	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Rispain Camp	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Ruthven Barracks	The Highland Council	< £10,000
Scotstarvit Tower	Fife Council	< £10,000
Skelmorlie Aisle	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Skipness Chapel	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
St Bride's Church	South Lanarkshire Council	< £10,000
St Bridget's Kirk	Fife Council	< £10,000
St Machar's Cathedral Transepts	Aberdeen City Council	< £10,000
St Magnus Church, Egilsay	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
St Martin's Church, Haddington	East Lothian Council	< £10,000
St Mary's Chapel, Crosskirk	The Highland Council	< £10,000
St Mary's Chapel, Rothesay	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
St Mary's Church, Grandtully	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
St Ninian's Chapel	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
St Peter's Church, Duffus	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Stones of Stenness	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Sueno's Stone	The Moray Council	< £10,000
Sunnybrae Cottage	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Tarves Tomb	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Tealing Dovecot	Angus Council	< £10,000
Temple Wood Stone Circles	Argyll and Bute Council	< £10,000
Tomnaverie Stone Circle	Aberdeenshire Council	< £10,000
Torhouse Stone Circle	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Torr a'Chaisteal	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Torrylin Cairn	North Ayrshire Council	< £10,000
Tullibardine Chapel	Perth and Kinross Council	< £10,000
Westquarter Dovecot	Falkirk Council	< £10,000
Wideford Hill Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	< £10,000
Wren's Egg	Dumfries and Galloway Council	< £10,000
Aberlemno Churchyard Cross Slab	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Affleck Castle	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Bantaskin	Falkirk Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Castlecary Fort	Falkirk Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Garnhall	North Lanarkshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Kirkintilloch	East Dunbartonshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance

Antonine Wall - Seabegs Wood	Falkirk Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Tollpark	North Lanarkshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Antonine Wall - Watling Lodge West	Falkirk Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Ballygowan Cup & Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Blackhill Roman Camp, Ardoch	Perth and Kinross Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Cairn Holy 2	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Castle of Park	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Caterthuns, Brown and White	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairn	The Highland Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dere Street Roman Road - North	Scottish Borders Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dere Street Roman Road - South	Scottish Borders Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Deskford Church	The Moray Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dogton Stone	Fife Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Doon Hill	East Lothian Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dun Beag	The Highland Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dun Dornaigil	The Highland Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dupplin Cross (housed in St Serf's Church, Dunning)	Perth and Kinross Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dwarfie Stane	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Dyce Symbol Stones	Aberdeen City Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Eassie Cross Slab	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Edin's Hall Broch	Scottish Borders Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Edrom Norman Arch	Scottish Borders Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Eynhallow Church	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Fowlis Wester Cross Slab	Perth and Kinross Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Grey Cairns of Camster	The Highland Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Holm of Papa Westray Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance

Kilmartin Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
King's Park	Stirling Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Kinneil Old Church Cross	Falkirk Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Kirkconnel Stones	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Kirkmadrine Stones	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Knocknagael Boar Stone	The Highland Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Laggangarn Standing Stones	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Lindsay Burial Aisle	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Maison Dieu Chapel, Brechin	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Merkland Cross	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Monreith Cross (housed in Whithorn Priory Museum)	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Ness of Burgi	Shetland Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Old Brig O'Dee (was Invercauld Bridge)	Aberdeenshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Ormiston Cross	East Lothian Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Picardy Symbol Stone	Aberdeenshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Pierowall Church	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Preston Market Cross	East Lothian Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Ruthwell Cross	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
St Mary's Chapel, Wyre	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
St Mary's Church, Auchindoir	Aberdeenshire Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
St Mary's Church, Kirkheugh, St Andrews	Fife Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
St Orland's Stone	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
St Serf's Priory, Lochleven	Perth and Kinross Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Stanydale Temple	Shetland Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Steinacleit Cairn & Stone Circle	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Regular maintenance and compliance
Taversoe Tuick Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Tealing Souterrain	Angus Council	Regular maintenance and compliance

Wanlockhead Beam Engine	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
West Port, St Andrews	Fife Council	Regular maintenance and compliance
Westside Church, Tuquoy	Orkney Islands Council	Regular maintenance and compliance

#### A.4 Statements of Significant Updated during 2024-25

<b>Statements of Significance Revised and Published in 2024-25</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
Antonine Wall – Bantaskin	Falkirk Council
Arnol Blackhouse no. 39	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Arnol Blackhouse no. 42	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ballygowan Cup and Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council
Baluachraig Cup and Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council
Cairnbaan Cup and Ring Mark Rocks	Argyll and Bute Council
Cardoness Castle	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dryburgh Abbey	Scottish Borders Council
Eilean Mor	Argyll and Bute Council
Inverlochy Castle	The Highland Council
Kilmartin Crosses	Argyll and Bute Council
Kilmartin Glebe Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council
Kilmartin Sculptured Stones	Argyll and Bute Council
Kilmichael Glassary Cup & Ring Mark Rock	Argyll and Bute Council
Kinneil House	Falkirk Council
Linlithgow Palace, Peel and Park	West Lothian Council
Maeshowe Chambered Cairn	Orkney Islands Council
Maybole Collegiate Church	South Ayrshire Council
Muir o’Fauld Roman Signal Station	Perth and Kinross Council
Nether Largie Mid Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council
Nether Largie North Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council
Nether Largie South Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council
Ri Cruin Cairn	Argyll and Bute Council
Temple Wood Stone Circles	Argyll and Bute Council
Tullibardine Chapel	Perth and Kinross Council

## A.5 Volunteering at Properties in Care 2024-25

Volunteer Role	Location	Number of Registered Volunteers
Visitor Connector	Bishop's Palace, Kirkwall, Earl's Palace, Kirkwall	1
Visitor Connector	Craigmillar Castle	11
Visitor Connector	Craignethan Castle	3
Visitor Connector	Duff House	1
Visitor Connector	Dumbarton Castle	10
Visitor Connector	Fort George	3
Visitor Connector	Huntly Castle	4
Visitor Connector	Jedburgh Abbey	2
Visitor Connector	Melrose Abbey & Precinct	4
Visitor Connector	Stanley Mills	2
Volunteer Gardener	Blackness Castle	3
Volunteer Musician	Duff House	1
Volunteer Musician	Fort George	1
Event Volunteer	Edinburgh Castle, Fort George, Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park	8
Event Volunteer	Engine Shed	5
Volunteer Ranger	Heart of Neolithic Orkney sites (Maeshowe Chambered Cairn, Ring of Brodgar, Skara Brae, Stones of Stenness)	3
Volunteer Ranger	Holyrood Park	2
Conservation Volunteers	Holyrood Park	15
Practical Conservation Groups	Holyrood Park	198
Community Archaeology Volunteers	Dundonald Castle, Hilton of Cadboll	79
Police Scotland Youth Volunteers*	Various	26

Volunteer Role	Location	Number of Registered Volunteers
Scottish Stonemasons' Mark*	Crookston Castle, Glasgow Cathedral, Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park, Craigmillar Castle	84
Micro Volunteering: Beach Cleans†	Blackness Castle, Broch of Gurness, Inchcolm Abbey, Iona Abbey, St Andrews Castle	N/A
Micro Volunteering: Litter Picks†	Dundonald Castle, Holyrood Park, Linlithgow Palace, Peel & Park, Stanley Mills	N/A
Micro Volunteering: Monument Monitor†	Aberdour Castle, Achnabreck Cup & Ring Mark Rocks, Antonine Wall - Rough Castle, Baluachraig Cup & Ring Mark Rocks, Carn Ban Long Cairn, Castle Semple Collegiate Church, Clava Cairns, Doune Castle and Roman Camp, Drumtroddan Cup & Ring Mark Rocks, Drumtroddan Standing Stones, Kelso Abbey, Kilwinning Abbey, Lincluden Collegiate Church, Loch Doon Castle, Machrie Moor Stone Circles, Maiden Stone, Mavisbank Policies, Ness of Burgi, Ravenscraig Castle, Ring of Brodgar, St Blane's Church, St Bridget's Kirk, St Mary's Church, Grandtully, Tarves Tomb, Tealing Soutterain	2,205 submissions

\* These individuals are not registered volunteers with Historic Environment Scotland

† The number of volunteers is not available for Micro Volunteering opportunities as participants do not need to register to take part

Our purpose is to investigate,  
care for, and promote Scotland's  
historic environment, for the  
benefit of people and  
communities everywhere. Our  
vision is heritage for all.



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Historic Environment Scotland Longmore House, Salisbury Place Edinburgh EH9 1SH

0131 668 8600 [historicenvironment.scot](http://historicenvironment.scot)

Historic Environment Scotland Scottish Charity No. SC045925 Registered Address:  
Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH