



Your Historic Place lens for the Place Standard Tool – Pilot Project

Frequently asked questions

Why have a lens focused on the historic environment?

The historic environment shapes our identity. It is central to our everyday lives and our sense of place, identity and wellbeing.

It tells us about the past, the present – and even points the way to the future.

Understanding how the historic environment shapes a place and the way it is used and experienced is vital to developing an understanding of the place itself. It can help us all to make better decisions about the places where we live, work, visit and play.

Are there other thematic lenses for the Place Standard Tool?

Yes. The development of the Your Historic Place lens follows the successful launch of a Climate Change lens and an Air Quality lens. [Discover more about the Place Standard Tool](#)

Why is there a pilot version?

We want to make sure the lens works as well as it can, for everyone who might want to use it. We think the best way to do that is to test it on real life projects, and learn from those who have trialled it. That will help us shape a final version which is informed by a wider range of views and experiences.

How long will the pilot last?

The pilot phase will run until summer 2024. Once we've gathered and analysed the feedback, we're hoping to make a final version available soon after.

Who can use the pilot version?

Anyone who thinks they might find it useful.

What kind of projects is the lens intended to be used for?

The Place Standard Tool and its lenses are often used in the context of place-making projects, community planning and spatial planning. But there are no limitations to where it could be used, and we welcome innovative approaches. If you think it could be useful, in whatever context, then we encourage you to give it a go and then let us know what you thought.

Should the lens be used with the core Place Standard Tool prompts, or by itself?

You can do either (or a bit of both!). Choose the approach that will best suit the aims and outcomes of your project. If you do decide to use the lens by itself, we still



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

encourage you to familiarise yourself with the [Place Standard guidance](#), if you are not already familiar with using the Tool.

Can we alter the lens in any way when we use it?

If the wording of a prompt isn't quite working for your project, then feel free to alter it. We'd really appreciate you keeping a record of any alterations, and telling us about them when you give your feedback.

Do we have to use all of the prompts / themes?

No. Some projects will want to use all 14 themes and additional prompts, others will want to be more selective. Either way is fine.

Can we print the lens, or cut and paste the text to use in our own material?

Yes, do what works best for you.

Will Historic Environment Scotland provide support to help us facilitate our use of the lens?

Not usually. We think it's important to test the pilot in 'real world' circumstances, and in ways that can be scaled up when the final version is released. As with the Place Standard Tool itself, and the other lenses, Your Historic Place is designed so projects can use it independently. You can choose whether to have historic environment specialists to help facilitate your events and engagement using the lens, but it's definitely not essential!

For projects where Historic Environment Scotland already has an active involvement, we may provide additional support as part of our wider engagement.

How do we give feedback?

We are gathering feedback via a short online survey, which can be found [here](#)

Why is giving feedback important?

We really hope you'll tell us what you thought of the lens. The survey won't take much of your time, and your views are valuable. The feedback you give will help us make sure that the final version of the lens is as good as it can be.

Do HES need to know in advance if we are going to use the pilot version of the lens?

No. But if you'd like to tell us that you're planning to use it, that would be great. You can do that by getting in touch with our project lead Ginny Sharp at virginia.sharp@hes.scot

Any other questions?

If you've questions that aren't answered here, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our project lead Ginny Sharp at virginia.sharp@hes.scot



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



© Historic Environment Scotland 2023

You may re-use this information (excluding logos and images) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated.

To view this licence, visit <http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

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
www.historicenvironment.scot

You can download this publication from our website at www.historicenvironment.scot