

SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AUDIT 2016- SUMMARY



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SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Scotland's historic environment includes thousands of historic buildings and monuments as well as many historic landscapes, gardens and battlefields. Our historic environment attracts millions of visitors each year and provides the backdrop to our daily lives, creates a unique character and sense of place for our villages, towns and cities, generates employment opportunities and provides the inspiration for learning and education initiatives. It contributes to the economic and social well-being of Scotland, and as such its ongoing protection and enhancement is of critical importance.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) 2016 draws on current data and research to highlight key trends in the sector. It provides evidence to measure the delivery of **Our Place in Time** (OPiT) - the historic environment strategy for Scotland, and can be analysed by all groups with an interest in the historic environment.

Scotland's historic environment is explained in numbers and summary findings are set out under the four priorities of OPiT: Understand, Protect, Value and Cross-Cutting.

SHEA 2016 is the fifth report in the series. The picture presented by SHEA 2016 is inevitably partial and influenced by current data and research programmes. The SHEA 2016 full report and previous reports are available from Historic Environment Scotland's [website](#).

Scotland's historic environment in numbers:

- More than **56,000** protected sites/places
- Informed by at least **1.6 million** pieces of heritage information
- Involves around **1,900** staff across Historic Environment Scotland, National Trust for Scotland and small voluntary organisations
- Benefits from at least **17,100** volunteers
- **33%** of adults had visited a historic site in 2015
- Attracts **14.6 million** visitors
- **£1.2 billion** (including grants) was spent on repairing and maintaining the historic environment in 2015/16
- Between 2006 and 2016 Historic Environment Scotland awarded grants of more than **£140 million** that assisted repairs of over **£591 million**, evidencing the leverage that historic environment investment can deliver
- Supports **55,400** full time equivalent jobs (direct and induced)
- Scotland is ranked **12 out of 50** nations for its reputation of being rich in cultural heritage (Nation Brand)
- Contributes in excess of **£2.3 billion** to Scotland's economy (around **1.5%** of total spend in Scotland)
- **89%** of adults agreed "it is important to me that heritage buildings and places are well looked after"
- Those who visited a historic site were over **50%** more likely to report a high life satisfaction than those who did not







UNDERSTAND



Our understanding of the historic environment is increasing and this continues to influence how we present and enhance it.

Designated historic environment

Estimates suggest that around 5-10% of the historic environment is designated. **More than 56,000 historic assets are protected in 2016.** The total number of designated assets has reduced since 2014 due to the nationwide **dual designation** project, which is improving clarity for the future management of historic sites/structures. Dual designation (where sites are both listed and scheduled) is being removed from sites and they are being either listed or scheduled as most appropriate.

The designations that protect Scotland's historic environment are on Historic Environment Scotland's **website**.

In 2016 there are:

- 6 world heritage sites
- 47,288 listed buildings
- 8,164 scheduled monuments
- 663 conservation areas
- 377 designed gardens and landscapes
- 8 Historic Marine Protected Areas
- 7 scheduled wrecks
- 39 nationally important battlefields

Undesignated historic environment

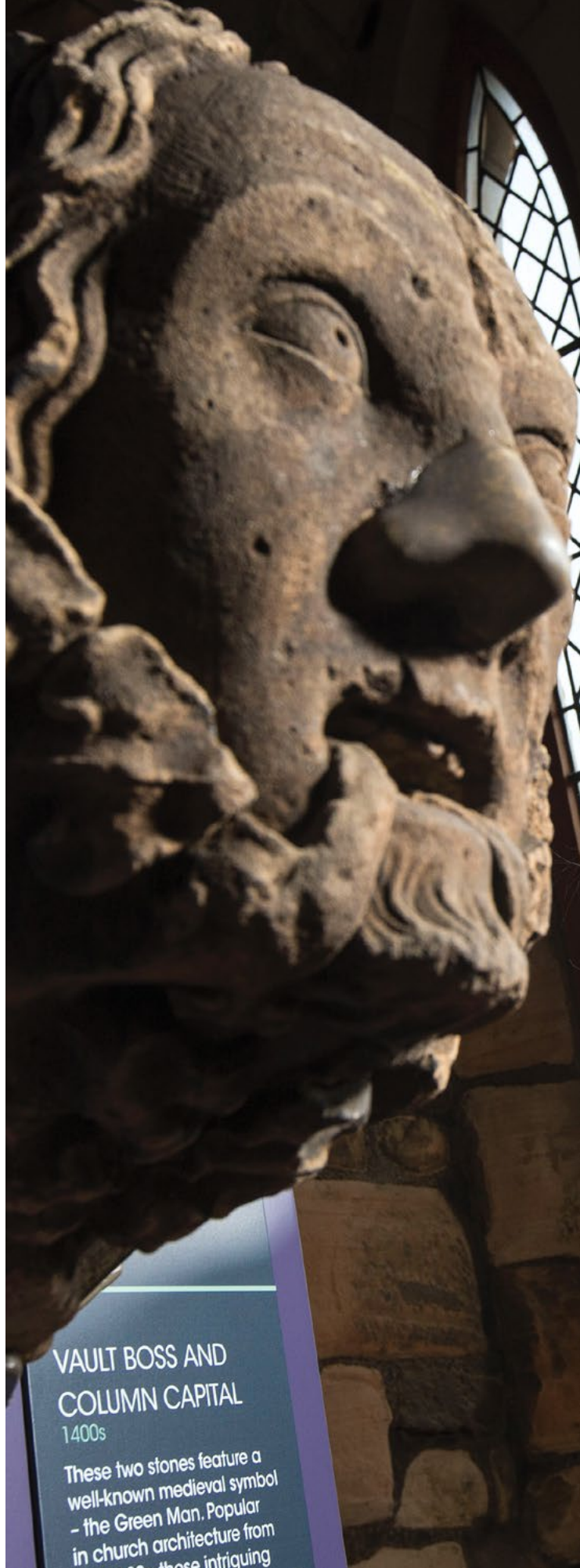
Most (90%-95%) of the historic environment is undesignated. While the majority of these known historic sites are not formally designated assets, they do provide important contextual information, which helps us better understand designated sites.

Records of known historic sites

Our understanding of the historic environment is informed by at least **1.6 million pieces of heritage information**, and this is increasing year on year.

Access to information continues to improve with extensive and increasing use of online resources. Scotland's Historic Environment Data Strategy (**SHED**) outlines a sector-wide initiative to improve access to historic environment information. Online records include:

- **Canmore** (maintained by Historic Environment Scotland) is an online catalogue of Scotland's historic sites and places (317,000 records in 2016).
- Local Authorities maintain Sites and Monuments Records/Historic Environment Records (SMR/HER). There are 291,000 records in 2016 (many of these records are also held within Canmore). 69% of SMRs/HERs are now available online.
- **National collections catalogues** held by Historic Environment Scotland have 1.275 million entries in 2016. This includes drawings, photographs, manuscripts and other objects.
- **Historic Landuse Assessment** provides a Scotland-wide view of land use in modern and past times.
- **Scotland's Places website** provides access to historical resources relating to places and had 383,000 users, viewing 2.8 million pages in 2015/16.





Collections Manager, Rona Walker, with one of the carved stones on display at Elgin Cathedral.

PROTECT

A wide range of organisations and individuals care for the historic environment across the private, public and voluntary sectors.



Conservation of medieval carved stones at Elgin Cathedral.

Condition and management

Those elements of the historic environment for which we have robust condition data appear to be relatively stable. Ongoing protection, maintenance and investment are needed if they are to remain stable.

Our understanding of the condition of the historic environment is increasing as more historic sites undertake condition surveys and have management plans in place. The extent to which these plans and surveys are acted on requires bespoke research.

Key facts on condition are:

- **Pre-1919 dwelling condition:**
One in five (488,000) of Scotland's dwellings are more than 97 years old (built pre-1919). 68% of these pre-1919 dwellings had critical element disrepair (which refers to weather tightness and structural stability) in 2015, compared to 72% in 2014, 73% in 2013. *SHCS Key Findings 2015: gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511081.pdf*
- **7.6% of Scotland's A-listed buildings are at risk in 2015**, based on estimates from the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR), available **online**. This is an improvement in performance, compared to the 2009 baseline when 8.7% of A-listed buildings were at risk. Most buildings are removed from the BARR for positive reasons (70% of buildings have been saved or are being saved). Since 2009, 3 buildings have been demolished and some entries have been removed due to data cleansing.

- **87% of scheduled monuments are perceived to be in an optimal or generally satisfactory condition in 2015/16**, according to Historic Environment Scotland's records (similar to that found in 2014).

Funding

An estimated £1.2 billion (including grants) was spent on repairing and maintaining the historic environment in 2015/16. This spend, which comes from a variety of sources across the private, public and voluntary sectors represents a considerable increase following year-on-year decline since 2011/12, mirroring the trend in the construction industry as a whole.

The largest sources of finance are explained below.

Private investment accounts for three quarters of all funding for the historic environment (including private individuals and organisations such as the Historic Houses Association). As most assets are privately owned, the ability of private owners to invest sufficiently in the maintenance of historic buildings/places is crucial to the long-term survival of the historic environment. Historic Environment Scotland and other organisations produce and disseminate advice to

building owners and professionals to ensure best practice in maintenance and repair. For example, in 2015/16 more than 2,000 delegates (23% increase on 2014/15) attended 44 events about how to protect traditional buildings and thousands of people downloaded guides for traditional building owners.

Local authority expenditure on archaeology services, built conservation services and other management of historic assets falls mostly under Planning and Economic Development (PED), Environmental Services and Culture and Related Services. Net revenue expenditure on PED has reduced from £308m in 2010/11 to £278m in 2014/15. Over the same period, spend on Culture and Related Services has increased from £635m to £643m. Within this, spend on Culture and Heritage Services has increased by 22% between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Nationally, **Historic Environment Scotland's** (£87.7m spent in 2015/16) and the **National Trust for Scotland's** (£53.1m spent in 2015/16) year on year expenditure has increased. The **Heritage Lottery Fund** spent £56.9m in Scotland in 2015/16.



VALUE



Scotland's historic environment makes a valuable contribution to our quality of life, cultural identity, education and economy.

Scotland retains a strong reputation for tourism and heritage

The **Nation Brands Index 2014** shows that Scotland is ranked 12 out of 50 nations for cultural heritage (being rich in historic buildings and monuments) and 12 out of 50 for tourism. Protecting and enhancing our historic environment will enhance the perception of Scotland.

Tourism and engagement

Tourism is one of the most important industries in Scotland, and the historic environment is a major contributor to that industry and is a strong driver for inward investment.

Wellbeing

There is evidence to suggest that participating in heritage is good for your health and wellbeing. Those who visited a historic site or archaeological place were over 50% more likely to report a high life satisfaction than those who did not, according to Scottish Government's report **Healthy Attendance**.

There is evidence that people value the historic environment and that engagement is increasing.

- An estimated 14.6m people visited historic environment attractions (around one in four of all recorded visits to all Scottish attractions), according to the **Moffat Centre for Tourism** in 2015.
- Visitor numbers to paid sites of Historic Environment Scotland (3.6m in 2015/16) and the National Trust for Scotland (0.48m in 2015/16) have increased steadily since 2008.
- One third (33%) of adults had visited a historic or archaeological site in the 12 months prior to 2015, compared to 28% in 2012. **Scottish Household Survey 2015**.
- Nine out of ten adults (89%) strongly agreed or tended to agree that "it is important to me that heritage buildings and places (important buildings, sites and monuments) are well looked after." **People, Culture and Heritage, 2015**.

Volunteering and participation

The historic environment provides strong opportunities for participation and volunteering.

- In 2015 an estimated 17,100 volunteers contributed to the historic environment in Scotland. The economic value of volunteering in the historic environment is estimated at over £14.7m per annum (121,000 volunteer days).
Volunteering in the Historic Environment.
- Membership of the two largest historic environment membership organisations has increased steadily over the period 2008 to 2016. In 2016 the National Trust for Scotland has 351,000 members and Historic Environment Scotland has 162,764 members.
- Participation in **Doors Open Days** (co-ordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust) and the Archaeology Scotland led **Scottish Archaeology Month** and **Adopt-a-Monument** is strong and they are attracting a healthy number of visitors and volunteers.

Education and training

The historic environment remains a significant contributor to education and training programmes.

The following key statistics for 2015/16 illustrates the scale of this:

- 36,010 candidates entered for history exams (Highers/other school level exams).
- 10,035 students studied historic environment related courses at higher education institutions.
- 97,008 learners benefited from Historic Environment Scotland free education visits.
- 924 schools and 34,921 learners took up the Scottish Government travel subsidy for schools.
- 46 apprentices were trained in traditional crafts by Historic Environment Scotland.
- The sector plays an important role in promoting vocational training and in up-skilling the construction workforce. The **Engine Shed** conservation hub, due to open in 2017, is a good example of this.

CROSS CUTTING

Given its many values and benefits, the historic environment should be viewed as an integral and important part of the fabric of our society.

Economic

The historic environment contributed in excess of £2.3 billion to Scotland's economy in 2015/16 (around 1.5% of total spend in Scotland).

Employment

The historic environment is a major employer, directly supporting more than **34,330 full time equivalent employees** in Scotland. Including indirect and induced effects, the historic environment sector supports in excess **of 55,000 full-time equivalent employees** in Scotland (accounting for around 1.3% of Scotland's total employment, based on the Labour Force Survey, January - August 2016). It has not been possible to update 2008 figures on a totally consistent basis. However, best estimates suggest an overall growth of jobs supported by the sector of around 14% since 2008.

The number of full time equivalent staff employed by Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland has reduced between 2014 and 2016. The number of archaeology staff employed by local authorities across Scotland has reduced from 24.6 in 2014 to 21.6 in 2016.

Regeneration

Grants help to regenerate areas. They are a stimulus to conserving our built heritage, benefiting communities and the general economy by generating work in the construction industry and supporting tourism. For example, between 2006 and 2016 Historic Environment Scotland **awarded grants of more than £140 million that assisted repairs of over £591 million**, evidencing the significant leverage that historic environment investment can deliver.

Climate change and sustainability

The historic environment can play a vital role in tackling climate change and contributes to the broader sustainability agenda. The sensitive re-use of historic buildings is crucial if Scotland is to meet the target of cutting 80% of all carbon emissions by 2050. **Historic Environment Scotland** and other organisations produce and disseminate a range of research and guidance to inform this.

Community empowerment

The **Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** added Historic Environment Scotland as a statutory partner from July 2016. This will allow Historic Environment Scotland to lead and enable local communities, to increase understanding and participation and to showcase the benefits of the historic environment at a local level through community planning partnerships.

This summary has provided evidence that our historic environment continues to make a significant contribution to the nation's cultural, social and economic wellbeing.



Regional Collections Manager, Jill Van Millingen, with a wooden comb found at Caerlaverock Castle.



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