



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

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EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

# Designations Team

## 3 year plan

### 2016-19



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Front Cover: row one:

Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis;  
The Wreck of the light-cruiser SMS  
Köln, Scapa Flow © ScapaMap; The  
restored parterre garden at  
Pitmedden, Aberdeenshire; Dun  
Carloway Broch

Row two:

Muckrach Castle, Highland; Ring of  
Brodgar; Archaeologist excavates  
stern section, including door, of the  
Duart Point wreck, Sound of Mull,  
(Drs Colin and Paula Martin  
Collection)

Row three:

Oblique aerial view of Dunrobin  
Castle, walled garden and formal  
gardens, take from the East , (Aerial  
Photography Collection); Statue of  
Robert Bruce at Bannockburn

All photographs © HES unless otherwise stated

## Summary

This document sets out the 3 year plan for 2016-19 for Historic Environment Scotland's Designations Team.

## Background

### What do we do?

Protection for our built environment first became law in the United Kingdom in 1882. Under the law set out in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 we are required to compile and publish lists of the following designations:

- Scheduled monuments
- Listed buildings
- Gardens and designed landscapes
- Battlefields

We do this using criteria, research and consultation. Designation recognises the interest of Scotland's historic environment for the people of Scotland and future generations.

We also provide recommendations to designate to the Scottish Government for:

- Historic marine protected areas

In addition, we manage the online Dictionary of Scottish Architects.

### Who are we?

We have 17 full time and 6 part time staff managing over 55,000 individual designations across the whole of Scotland. The designations can be located on our remotest islands as well as in our busiest cities and even under water. Designations cover an astonishing time span, some date as far back as 8,000 years ago and others to as recently as the 1980s. Our staff have a wide range of experience and knowledge, and they include archaeologists, art and architectural historians as well as specialist support staff.

## Our work

We are part of Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Management Directorate and we work closely with our colleagues who provide advice on national planning matters and consents.

The work of the team contributes to the Scottish Government objectives as laid out in the National Performance Framework:

- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
- Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

*Our Place in Time*, which was published in 2014, sets out a 10 year vision for the historic environment. It was developed collaboratively and identified the need for strategic priorities to help align and prioritise sector activity towards a common goal.

Our 3 year plan is designed to help to deliver *Our Place in Time*.

We also have a core role in supporting Historic Environment Scotland's mission to:

- Enhance knowledge and understanding of Scotland's historic environment
- Protect, conserve and manage the historic environment for the enjoyment, enrichment and benefit of everyone - now, and in the future
- Share and celebrate our cultural heritage with the world

This is how our 3 year plan sits in relation to other vision and strategy documents:



## Designations at a glance

	<b>Scheduled monuments</b>	<b>Listed buildings</b>	<b>Gardens and designed landscapes</b>	<b>Battlefields</b>	<b>Historic marine protected areas</b>
<b>When did it start?</b>	1882	1957	1987	2011	2013
<b>How many?</b>	Around 8,000 All of national importance	Around 47,000 Put into three categories: A for national B for regional C for local importance	Around 380 All of national importance	Around 30 All of national importance	Around 8 All of national importance
<b>What are they?</b>	Archaeological sites and structures (such as prehistoric burial mounds, Roman forts, early Christian carved stones, anti-invasion defences) from 8,000 years ago up until the Second World War	Structures (such as bridges, churches, houses, schools) mostly from the post-Medieval period up until the 1980s	Grounds consciously laid out for artistic effect (such as country estate landscapes, botanic garden collections, urban parks and cemeteries)	Landscapes on which major battles took place and soldiers fought and died (such as Culloden and Bannockburn)	Marine historic assets such as particularly significant shipwrecks
<b>Who decides?</b>	Historic Environment Scotland	Historic Environment Scotland	Historic Environment Scotland	Historic Environment Scotland	We provide recommendations to the Scottish Government and they decide whether to designate

## Our priorities

### **Keeping our records up to date**

With over 55,000 designations, keeping information about each of them up to date is one of our biggest challenges. For listing and scheduling particularly, many of the existing records have not been reviewed for decades and their accompanying documentation is not as detailed as what we produce today. Changing priorities and resources as well as new research has inevitably led to variations, particularly for older designation records.

We want to target our reviews of existing designation records to where it is most needed.

### **Providing a responsive service**

Consultations, as well as producing comprehensive documentation about why a site, monument or building meets the criteria for designation, are just some of the things that we now routinely do to provide a continuously improving service for stakeholders. This replaces the nationwide resurvey projects that took place in the past.

We want to provide a responsive service which is targeted to where our input will add value and meet the needs of our users. For sites which are being considered for their development potential we want to engage as early as possible in the process.

### **Meeting public and customer expectations**

Designation can't be 'finished'. Each generation will have its ideas about what is important and how to present that information. Some sites, monuments and buildings will, for a variety of reasons, require review or no longer meet the criteria for designation.

We want to ensure that we meet public and customer expectations in terms of how long it takes to do our work, what we can achieve, what level of information we provide and what we publish about our work.

## Our aims for 2016-19

Our key focus for 2016-19 is to help to deliver *Our Place in Time* and our corporate plan with a particular emphasis on providing a high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive service.

We will:

- Promote the value of designation and provide expert advice
- Continue to innovate and look for efficiencies and develop open and accountable decision-making with clear and accessible documents
- Provide a responsive and timely service
- Continue to build relationships and collaborative partnerships with stakeholders
- Celebrate Scotland's designated heritage

## Our 3 year plan

Our aim	Corporate plan strategic theme	What we will do in 2016-19
Promote the value of designation and provide expert advice	Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with local authorities and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Contribute to conferences and seminars</li> <li>• Develop our website content</li> </ul>
Continue to innovate and look for efficiencies and develop open and accountable decision-making with clear and accessible documents	Protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the replacement of the Scottish Historic Environment Policy</li> <li>• Monitor our online services and seek customer feedback</li> <li>• Add photographs to new and revised designation records where appropriate</li> <li>• Monitor how the 2015 legislation changes are working</li> </ul>
Provide a responsive and timely service	Perform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop service standards for designation requests and monitor their introduction</li> <li>• Focus our input to where it will add value</li> <li>• Continue to seek out efficiencies</li> <li>• In 2019 publish how we delivered this 3 year plan</li> </ul>



## Our 3 year plan

Our aim	Corporate plan strategic theme	What we will do in 2016-19
Continue to build relationships and develop collaborative partnerships with stakeholders	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work in partnership with stakeholders</li> <li>• Encourage the value of our involvement at the earliest stage of development proposals</li> </ul>
Celebrate Scotland's designated heritage	Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with social and traditional media</li> <li>• Revise our booklets about designations</li> <li>• Continue to produce free publications</li> <li>• Continue to produce retail publications</li> <li>• Contribute to the centenary of WWI</li> </ul>

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