

SHEA  
scotland's historic  
environment audit

# SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AUDIT 2012

## KEY FACTS and SUMMARY

*Know the past  
Build the future*



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
ALBA AOSMHOIR

# Key Facts

Scotland's historic environment, which includes thousands of historic buildings and monuments, attracts millions of visitors each year and generates income and jobs across the country. Key facts about the historic environment are provided below.

<b>Designations in Scotland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 World Heritage Sites</li> <li>• 47,672 listed buildings</li> <li>• 8,205 scheduled monuments</li> <li>• 645 conservation areas</li> <li>• 390 gardens and designed landscapes</li> <li>• 28 historic battlefields on the Inventory</li> <li>• 8 protected wrecks and 7 scheduled wrecks</li> <li>• 2 National Parks</li> <li>• 40 National Scenic Areas</li> </ul>
<b>Records of known sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 295,784 unique records of known sites held in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) databases.</li> </ul>
<b>Condition and management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8.2% of Scotland's A-listed buildings are at risk in 2011, compared to 8.7% in 2009, representing an improving performance <a href="http://www.scotlandperforms.com">www.scotlandperforms.com</a></li> <li>• The percentage of monuments in a satisfactory condition has increased over the last 13 years, and is currently around 87%.</li> <li>• Older buildings are more likely to have disrepair than newer ones. Around three quarters of buildings built pre-1919 have critical disrepair to some elements, compared to a quarter of buildings built after 1982.</li> <li>• Performance in dealing with planning consents is improving and in 2011/12 local authorities decided half of listed building and conservation area consents within two months.</li> <li>• Those involved in caring for the historic environment are seeking creative ways of working together to respond to increasing constraints on budgets.</li> <li>• The Historic Environment (Amendment) Scotland Act 2011 was enacted.</li> </ul>
<b>Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The historic environment provides 2.5% of Scotland's total employment. It directly supports 41,000 full time equivalent (FTE) employees and 60,000 FTE employees (including indirect and induced effects).</li> </ul>
<b>Economy and leverage from grants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment in the historic environment has economic benefits for local business and the wider economy. The historic environment contributes in excess of £2.3 billion (2.6%) to Scotland's Gross Value Added (GVA).</li> <li>• Between 2002 and 2012 Historic Scotland awarded grants of £123 million that assisted repairs of over £563 million.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	<p>Funding for the historic environment comes from a wide variety of sources across the public, private and voluntary sectors. The main sources are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2011/12, the Scottish Government through Historic Scotland spent £77.9m, including £31.5m in income from properties in care. In real terms Historic Scotland's expenditure has decreased since 2010/11 (£82.0m) and income from properties in care has increased from 2010/11 (£28.5m).</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded £29.6m in grants to 107 different heritage projects in Scotland in 2011/12, an increase in both the amount of finance awarded and the number of projects on 2010/11. Around 43% of all HLF funding in Scotland is to historic environment projects.</li> <li>• CiPFA figures show that in 2011/12 local authorities' net expenditure on heritage (including the historic environment) was £7.6m, compared to £7.4m in 2010/11 in real terms.</li> <li>• The National Trust for Scotland's total expenditure was £42.1m in 2011/12, compared to £51.2m in 2010/11 in real terms.</li> <li>• Private investment is the largest source of funding for the historic environment.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism, reputation and attitudes</b>	<p>The historic environment is a key driver of tourism and Scotland's reputation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VisitScotland estimate that 16 million tourists visited historic environment attractions in 2011, representing more than one in three of recorded visits to all Scottish attractions.</li> <li>• The Nation Brands Index (2012) shows that Scotland retains a strong reputation for tourism and heritage. Out of 50 nations, Scotland is ranked 13 for tourism and 12 for being rich in historic buildings and monuments.</li> <li>• The Scottish Household Survey shows that one in five (21%) adults had visited a historic or archaeological site in the 12 months prior to 2011.</li> <li>• Attitudes to heritage are extremely positive with more than 9 out of 10 saying that historic features are an important part of the identity of our villages, towns and cities.</li> </ul>
<b>Membership, participation and volunteering opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of the National Trust for Scotland (312,000 members) and Historic Scotland (122,000) are at a high level and on the increase.</li> <li>• Participation levels in European Heritage Days, Doors Open Days and Scottish Archaeology Month are high and continue to attract healthy numbers of visitors and volunteers.</li> <li>• Each year more than 18,500 volunteers contribute to the historic environment in Scotland, with an economic value estimated at over £28 million per annum, based on survey estimates.</li> </ul>
<b>Education and training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 in 5 of all school visits are to historic sites (129,587 school children), based on Visit Scotland's 2011 data.</li> <li>• Increasing numbers of candidates are entering for history highers and intermediate exams and increasing numbers of students are studying historic environment related courses in higher education, between 2007/8 and 2010/11.</li> <li>• The sector plays an important role in promoting vocational training and in improving the skills of the construction workforce. For example, the HLF funds paid training opportunities in the heritage sector and Historic Scotland develops traditional skills through employment and apprenticeships.</li> </ul>
<b>Climate change and sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The historic environment and its ongoing upkeep is inherently sustainable as it reuses existing buildings and minimises the use of new resources.</li> <li>• One fifth of the housing stock is now more than 90 years old (traditionally built), so the sensitive re-use of historic buildings is crucial if Scotland is to meet the 80% target for reducing carbon emissions by 2050. These buildings comprise the bulk of the vernacular architecture which gives Scotland its unique character.</li> </ul>

# Summary

**Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) 2012** draws on current data and research to highlight key trends in the sector. SHEA 2012 is the third publication in the series. Reports are available from [www.heritageaudit.org.uk](http://www.heritageaudit.org.uk).

Scottish Ministers are committed to the sustainable use and management of the historic environment as it is a unique and irreplaceable asset, attracting millions of visitors each year and generating income and jobs across Scotland.

The historic environment is not static. Below we report key trends against the strategic priorities in *Historic Scotland's Corporate Plan 2012-15*. Future editions of SHEA will map trends against the vision and objectives being developed as part of the historic environment policy review.

## **Championing Scotland's Historic Environment**

- The historic environment continues to provide strong opportunities for participation, engagement and volunteering and levels are healthy.
- The historic environment continues to make a strong contribution to education and training programmes.
- Scotland retains a strong reputation for heritage culture, tourism and beautiful scenery.
- The historic environment remains a strong pull for tourists and attracts millions of visitors each year.

## **Contribution to sustainable economic growth**

- The historic environment makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy and is a major employer.
- Heritage-led regeneration benefits both communities and the general economy by generating work in the construction industry across Scotland.
- Heritage grants are a major stimulus to the Scottish economy. However, the value of grant funding awarded is decreasing and is set to reduce further in response to wider economic conditions.

## **Managing Scotland's historic environment creatively**

- There is an overall net increase in the number of recorded and protected assets.
- The condition of those historic assets measured (A-listed buildings and scheduled monuments) is stable and is improving. However, there is not a national picture of the current or changing condition of all of our historic sites, buildings and landscapes.
- Funding for the historic environment comes from a wide variety of sources across the private, public and voluntary sectors.
- Individuals and organisations are seeking creative ways of working together to respond to reduced budgets.
- The majority of historic sites are privately owned and private investment is the largest source of funding for the historic environment.

## **Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy**

- The historic environment and its ongoing upkeep is inherently sustainable as it reuses existing buildings and minimises the use of new resources. There is increasing emphasis on balancing the needs of climate change and sustainability with the needs of traditionally constructed buildings and heritage.

## **Championing Scotland's historic environment**

There is a range of evidence to show that we are effectively championing the historic environment so that the people of Scotland and visitors to the country value, understand and enjoy the historic environment.

### **The historic environment continues to provide strong opportunities for participation and volunteering and levels are healthy and on the increase**

- Membership of the three largest historic environment membership organisations in Scotland has increased steadily over the period 2008 to 2012. As at 2012 the National Trust for Scotland has 312,000 members, Historic Scotland has 122,000 members and the Historic Houses Association has 34,704 members.
- Participation in Doors Open Days and Scottish Archaeology Month is high, with both events attracting a healthy number of visitors and volunteers.
- Volunteers play a vital role in conserving the historic environment. Each year more than 18,500 volunteers contribute to the historic environment in Scotland, The economic value of volunteering in the historic environment is estimated at over £28 million per annum. Based on *Volunteering and the Historic Environment*, 2008 [www.heacs.org.uk](http://www.heacs.org.uk).
- The number of searches on heritage online databases continues to be high. For example, during 2011/12 RCAHMS recorded more than 91,000 searches on Pastmap and almost 1 million searches on Canmore and Canmap.

### **The historic environment continues to make a strong contribution to education and training programmes**

- Around one in five (21%) of all school visits are to historic sites.
- More candidates are entering for Higher and Intermediate history exams and more students are studying historic environment related courses at higher education institutions in 2010/11 than in 2007/8.
- The sector plays a vital role in promoting vocational training and in up-skilling the workforce. For example, the HLF funds paid training opportunities in the heritage sector and Historic Scotland develops traditional skills through employment and apprenticeships.
- The number of accredited members in the two largest historic environment professional associations, based in Scotland, has increased by around a third between 2008 and 2012. At 2012 the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) has 308 accredited members and 135 student and affiliate members and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) has 176 members.

### **Scotland retains a strong reputation for heritage culture, tourism and beautiful scenery.**

- The Nation Brands Index report for 2012 provides evidence that Scotland has a strong reputation for tourism and in particular Scotland is celebrated for its welcoming people, rich cultural heritage and beautiful scenery. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/12/4188/downloads>
- Scotland is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in 2012, compared to 12<sup>th</sup> in 2010 (out of 50) for tourism. The change is due to Greece joining the sample in 2012 and being ranked in the Tourism's Top 10.
- Scotland is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> (out of 50) for being rich in historic buildings and monuments in 2012, compared to 11<sup>th</sup> in 2010.
- Scotland retains a strong reputation for its natural beauty. In both 2010 and 2012, Scotland is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> (out of 50) for its natural beauty.
- The relative perception of Scotland's culture has improved by one position between 2010 and 2012, and it is now ranked 17<sup>th</sup> (out of 50).

- When asked to describe what Scotland has to offer as a tourist destination the words panellists most commonly used were fascinating (29%), exciting (25%), educational (22%), relaxing (22%) and romantic (18%).

### **The historic environment remains a strong pull for tourists and attracts millions of visitors each year**

- Visit Scotland estimate that 16 million tourists visited historic environment attractions in 2011/12, which accounts for more than one in three of all recorded visits to Scottish attractions. These are similar to levels reported in 2008 and 2010. [www.visitscotland.org.uk](http://www.visitscotland.org.uk)
- Historic Scotland has reported increasing visitor numbers and increasing income raised from its properties over the period 2008 to 2012. In 2011/12 3.4 million visitors visited Historic Scotland sites, an increase of 7% on 2010/11.
- In Scotland, the most visited paid (Edinburgh Castle) and free (National Museum of Scotland) sites are heritage attractions.
- The Scottish Household Survey shows that 21% of adults had visited a historic or archaeological site in the 12 months prior to 2011. [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002)
- Attitudes to heritage are extremely positive with more than 9 out of 10 saying that historic features are an important part of the identity of our villages, towns and cities.

### **Contribution to sustainable economic growth**

There is a variety of evidence to show that the historic environment plays a vital role in increasing Scotland's economic potential.

#### **The historic environment makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy and is a major employer.**

- The historic environment contributes in excess of £2.3 billion (2.6%) to Scotland's national gross value added (GVA). The historic environment directly supports more than 41,000 full time equivalent employees in Scotland. Including indirect and induced effects, the historic environment supports in excess of 60,000 full-time equivalent employees in Scotland (accounting for 2.5% of Scotland's total employment).
- Historic Scotland raised an income of £31.5 million from Properties in Care in 2011/12, compared to £28.5 million in 2010/11 in real terms and £28.4m in 2009/10 in real terms. This represents an increase in real terms.

#### **Heritage-led regeneration benefits both communities and the general economy by generating work in the construction industry across Scotland.**

- Grants are a major stimulus to conserving the nation's built heritage. For example, between 2002 and 2012 Historic Scotland awarded grants of more than £123 million that assisted repairs of over £563 million. For every £1 Historic Scotland awards in grant funding, an additional £6 is generated for the Scottish economy. However, the value of grant funding awarded is decreasing and is set to reduce further in response to wider economic conditions.
- At the Ministerial Summit on *Stimulating Demand for Traditional Skills* (November 2012) it was announced that Historic Scotland will pilot a Traditional Building Healthcheck scheme and take a partnership approach to encourage people to take a more active role in the maintenance of their properties. The scheme is designed to help owners identify problems and suggest how they can best be tackled. Stimulating the traditional skills market could also encourage employment and sustainable housing, tackle climate change and assist economic recovery.



## **Managing Scotland's historic environment creatively**

We contribute to the management of the historic environment through protection, improving its condition and by supporting regeneration through efficient and proportionate planning and regulation.

### **There is an overall net increase in the number of recorded and protected assets**

Designation aims to identify the most important parts of the historic environment so that their significance is recognised. Details of these assets are available online at [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk). As at 2012 **designated assets** in Scotland include:

- 5 World Heritage Sites (no change since 2008)
- 47,672 listed building entries (increase of 507 sites since 2008)
- 8,205 scheduled monuments (increase of 184 sites since 2008)
- 390 gardens and designed landscapes on the Inventory (increase of 5 sites since 2008)
- 15 wreck sites (no change from 2008)
- 28 historic battlefields (Inventory established in 2011)
- 645 Conservation Areas (increase of 9 sites from 2008)
- 2 National Parks covering 8% of Scotland (area of Cairngorms National Park increased from 2008)
- 40 National Scenic Areas covering 13% of Scotland (no change from 2008)

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and local authority records hold information on both the designated and the undesignated historic environment [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk).

### **The scale of the historic environment, including undesignated assets is indicated by the fact that, as at 2012, there are:**

- 295,784 records held by RCAHMS (increase of 5,219 on 2010)
- 283,238 records held by Local authority Sites and Monuments Records (increase of 17,884 on 2010)
- 80% of Scotland is now covered by Historic Land-use Assessment (HLA) (up from 68% in 2008).
- 455,000 Scottish dwellings were built pre-1919 (traditionally constructed). Which means that one fifth (19%) of our housing stock is now over 90 years old. These properties comprise the bulk of the vernacular architecture which gives Scotland its unique character.

**The condition of those historic assets measured (A-listed buildings and scheduled monuments) is stable and is improving.** However, there is not a national picture of the current or changing condition of all of Scotland's historic sites, buildings and landscapes. Although there is limited nationally-collated information on the condition of the historic environment, the presence of management plans and regular inspection regimes for many designated historic environment assets means that a considerable amount is known locally.

### **Buildings at Risk Register**

- 8.2% of A-listed buildings were found to be at risk in 2011, compared to 8.7% in 2009, based on estimates from the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR). This represents an improvement in performance. The third data point will be published in 2013 at [www.scotlandperforms.com](http://www.scotlandperforms.com).
- A-listed buildings in rural areas are more likely to be at risk than those in urban areas. Four out of five A-listed BARR entries are vacant. The BARR can be consulted at [www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk](http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk).

### **Scottish House Condition Survey**

- Based on an analysis of the Scottish House Condition Survey data, at 2010, older dwellings are more likely to have some form of disrepair and have higher levels of extensive disrepair to some elements than newer dwellings.
- 80% of all Scottish dwellings have some disrepair. This figure increases to 90% for pre-1919 dwellings and is 51% for buildings built after 1982.
- Around three quarters of pre-1919 dwellings have critical disrepair to some elements, compared to around a quarter of those built after 1982.
- 26% of all Scottish dwellings have extensive disrepair to some elements. 31% of those dwellings built pre-1919 have some extensive disrepair compared with 9% of those built after 1982.

### **Condition of scheduled monuments**

- The percentage of monuments in a satisfactory condition has increased over the last 13 years, and is currently around 87%.
- There is a direct relationship between condition and risk, with monuments in a satisfactory condition likely to be associated with low risks of future deterioration.

**Management** - A wide variety of individuals and organisations are involved in caring for the historic environment across the private, public and voluntary sectors. With reduced budgets and more interest than ever before in the historic environment it is vital that individuals and organisations find creative ways of working together to manage our heritage.

### **Most listed building consents, conservation area consents and scheduled monument consents are approved and performance is improving in dealing these consents.**

- Around 9% (3,593) of planning applications also involve listed building consent (LBC) or conservation area consent (CAC). Local authorities decided 49.9% of LBC/CAC cases within two months in 2011/12, an increase of 7.7 percentage points on 2010/11.
- In 2011/12 Historic Scotland reached a view on 99.7% of listed building and conservation area consents within the target time (28 days), compared to 98.6% in 2010/11.
- Historic Scotland reached a view (within the target time of 5 weeks) on 96.1% of Scheduled Monument Consent cases in 2011/12, compared to 94.0% in 2010/11.

### **Funding for the historic environment continues to come from a wide variety of sources across the private, public and voluntary sectors. There is increasing pressure on the funding available for the historic environment.**

- The majority of designated and undesignated historic sites remain in private ownership and private investment is the largest source of funding for the historic environment. This is likely to continue to be the case, emphasising the importance of private owners retaining the ability to invest sufficiently in the maintenance of historic buildings and places.
- There is not a comprehensive picture of the current or changing patterns of spend by private individuals on their historic assets.
- In 2011/12 the Scottish Government, through Historic Scotland, spent £77.9 million, including £31.5 million in income from properties in care. In real terms Historic Scotland's overall expenditure has decreased since 2010/11 (£82.0 million) and the income raised by properties in care has increased in real terms since 2010/11 (£28.5 million).



- In 2011/12 the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a total of £29.6 million in grants to 107 different heritage projects in Scotland, which reflects an increase on 2010/11 in both the total finance awarded and the number of projects. Around 43% of HLF funding in Scotland is to historic environment projects, the remainder is for other heritage projects such as museums and galleries, libraries archives and natural heritage.
- CIPFA figures show that in 2011/12 local authorities' net expenditure on heritage was £7.6 million, an increase in real terms on spend in 2010/11 (£7.4m). Spend on heritage was around 1.3% of the overall net expenditure on culture in 2011/12, an increase of 0.3 percentage points on 2007/8. The CIPFA Cultural Statistics in Scotland are available from [www.cipfastats.net](http://www.cipfastats.net). Heritage includes museums and heritage centres and culture includes sport and leisure.

**The voluntary sector continues to play a vital role in caring for the historic environment and each year spends substantial sums of money from grants and charitable donations.**

- The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) is the largest single voluntary organisation managing historic properties and landscapes in Scotland. The NTS' total expenditure in 2011/12 was £42.1 million, compared to £51.2 million in 2010/11 (in real terms).
- Voluntary sector spend on the historic environment has not been collated for national reporting as yet, and measuring investment from the voluntary sector is complex as double-counting is possible where for example, the spending of a voluntary body is part-funded by grants from a public agency.

## **Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy**

We know that the historic environment and its ongoing upkeep is inherently sustainable as it reuses existing buildings and minimises the use of new resources.

- There is an increasing emphasis on balancing the needs of climate change and sustainability with the needs of the historic environment and traditionally constructed buildings.
- One fifth of the housing stock is now more than 90 years old (traditionally built). It is estimated that 80% of buildings currently in place will still be in place in 2050. Approaches for maintaining traditional buildings play an increasingly important role in the Scottish Government's sustainable housing strategy.
- Research is being used to directly inform the advice offered to historic home owners so that they can become more energy efficient without affecting the character of the building.
- The historic environment supports, develops and promotes Scotland's traditional building skills and the use of traditional buildings. Historic Scotland published a *Traditional Building Skills Strategy* (2011) and organised a Ministerial Summit on *Stimulating Demand for Traditional Skills* (2012).

## Further information

- Key reference documents are the Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2011, Historic Scotland's Corporate Plan 2012-15 and Historic Scotland's Annual Report 2011-12. These are available from [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk).
- Our historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and to the National Performance Framework, which can be consulted at [www.scotlandperforms.com](http://www.scotlandperforms.com).
- The full SHEA 2012 report and previous reports are available from [www.heritageaudit.org.uk](http://www.heritageaudit.org.uk).
- We welcome feedback from users on the usefulness of this publication. Comments should be sent to [heritage.audit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:heritage.audit@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).