



PRESS PACK

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

WELCOME

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.

As well as being central to telling the story of our nation, Historic Environment Scotland directly supports more than 16,000 full-time equivalent jobs and generates more than £640 million for Scotland's economy, while also boosting the wellbeing of communities.

We lead and enable the delivery of Our Past Our Future: Scotland's refreshed strategy for the historic environment, which is carefully managed to deliver real and increasing benefits to Scotland's people.

We are responsible for the management of over 300 properties in care under a formal Scheme of Delegation from Scottish Ministers, ranging from Edinburgh Castle, to hidden gems of historical significance up and down the country, as well as over 5 million archive items and collections. We are the largest operator of paid-for visitor attractions in Scotland, with over 70 sites operated commercially, and we are a major contributor to the Scottish economy, with £5 billion contributed in 2022 by attracting tourism and through activity in the construction sector.

We set out our vision, mission, values and strategic objectives in our 2022 Corporate Plan, Heritage For All, which places a key emphasis on working in collaboration to help to enable and empower people to play a greater role in Scotland's historic environment.

The delivery of the Our Past Our Future strategy and our corporate plan will ensure our diverse historic environment is cared for and protected, understood, valued, enjoyed and enhanced now and for future generations.

ABOUT HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

Scotland's exceptional heritage is all around us and does much to shape us as individuals and as a nation. Its cultural, social, environmental and economic value makes a major contribution to our general well-being. Careful management will ensure that it continues to do so.

How we go about preserving the historic environment for future generations to enjoy is set out in Scotland's historic environment strategy. We are tasked with leading on Our Past Our Future and enabling property owners, land managers, communities and others to get involved. A joint effort is needed to ensure that our historic environment is cared for, valued and enhanced, now and in years to come.

Historic Environment Scotland is a non-departmental public body, governed by a board of trustees appointed by Scottish Ministers.

Historic Environment Scotland has charitable status, in keeping with other national cultural institutions such as National Galleries of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland, National Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

We play an important role as a regulator and as the statutory adviser to Scottish Ministers.

Details of decisions relating to listed buildings and scheduled monuments can be found at the online portal:

portal.historicenvironment.scot

Scotland's historic environment is world-renowned, and it is our intention that the public body which cares for, champions and promotes it is world class.





30 MILLION AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS FEATURING HISTORIC EVENTS AND PLACES AROUND THE WORLD



TO THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND WEBSITE



RELATING TO SCOTLAND'S ARCHAEOLOGY, BUILDINGS, INDUSTRIAL AND MARITIME HERITAGE

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS



OUR VISION

Our vision is:

“The historic environment is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride, by everyone.”

To achieve this vision, we aim for 5 outcomes in everything we do:

The historic environment makes a real difference to people’s lives.



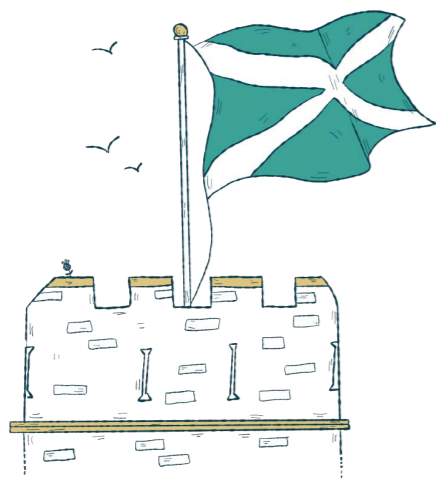
The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come.



The historic environment inspires a creative and vibrant Scotland.



The historic environment makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people.



The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation.



HOW WE DO IT

Historic Environment Scotland is responsible for more than 300 properties of national importance. Edinburgh Castle, Neolithic Orkney and Fort George are among the buildings and monuments in our care, along with numerous other sites. Together they draw millions of visitors each year.

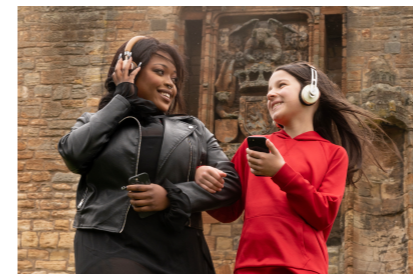


However, attracting such numbers through our doors, over our moats and into our naves is only part of the story. The breadth of work we do to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment goes far beyond looking after our own unique property portfolio.

ADVICE AND SUPPORT



Statutory functions within the planning system are part of our wide range of responsibilities for the historic environment. Managing change through scheduling, listing and other designations helps to maintain and enhance Scotland's distinctive historic places.



Our conservation specialists conduct technical research into the built environment, provide guidance and support training and skills development. Owners and occupiers of traditional buildings as well as professionals can come to us for advice on how to maintain and repair such properties, make changes to them, and save energy. As part of our role as leading experts in conservation, we operate the Engine Shed, Scotland's dedicated building conservation centre.

We also contribute advice to the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle climate change and reduce Scotland's carbon footprint, as well as carrying out research into climate change and its impacts on the historic environment.





LEARNING

Free education visits to our properties let schools, colleges, universities and other qualifying groups of all ages unlock Scotland's heritage and experience history where it actually happened. We also help to connect schools with subsidies towards the cost of transport for such visits.

A jam-packed Schools Activity Programme at our learning hub sites offers additional experiences for visiting learners aged 3

to 18. The expert-led activities support the Curriculum for Excellence and offer hands-on opportunities to explore social studies or to inspire creativity.

Our properties are also places of learning for communities, adults and families. Scotland's historic environment fires imaginations and provides exciting avenues for study. In 2022-23 more than 55,000 learners participated in activities supported by Historic Environment Scotland access schemes, community projects and inclusive learning programmes.

We're also doing our bit to keep traditional building skills alive and accessible, through bursaries, apprenticeships, continuing professional development, our Building Conservation Week and our [Skills Investment Plan \(SIP\) for Scotland's Historic Environment](#). The Engine Shed, Scotland's first building conservation hub, gives the next generation the teaching, tools and facilities to learn how to look after their heritage.



GRANTS AND FUNDING

Caring for Scotland's heritage is a collective endeavour, and we provide a significant role as a grant provider by investing more than £12million each year in national and local organisations, to support building repairs, ancient monuments, archaeological work, and the voluntary sector.



**LARGEST SKILLS
TRAINER IN
SCOTLAND**



MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Journalists from the international, national and local media and specialist press can hear the next big news about Scotland's heritage from Historic Environment Scotland. Our External Communications team can:

- answer questions from journalists on all areas of our work
- provide official statements on topical issues relevant to our work
- set up interviews with our experts for print/broadcast/online
- offer professional digital images to illustrate features
- arrange press access
- arrange promotional filming and photography access

For any enquiries, including out of office hours, contact our External Communications team on:

T: 0772 195 9962

E: communications@hes.scot



OVER 132,000 NEW
ITEMS ADDED TO OUR
COLLECTION EACH YEAR

ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH

We're also responsible for internationally significant collections including more than 5 million drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts, along with 30 million aerial images of worldwide locations.

We add to this wealth of information and knowledge all the time, by continuing to survey and record Scotland's historic environment. Teams across Historic Environment Scotland investigate diverse topics - from marine and coastal environments to conservation science.



OUR SOCIAL CHANNELS

FACEBOOK

@HistoricEnvScotland

for all Historic Environment Scotland news

@visithistoricscotland

for visitor and event information and general news from Historic Environment Scotland

@HESEngineShed

for news from the Engine Shed (Scotland's first building conservation hub)

@visitedinburghcastle

for visitor info and news about Edinburgh Castle

@viststirlingcastle

for visitor info and news about Stirling Castle

@scranylfe

for highlights from our image archive

INSTAGRAM

@histenvscot

for images from the archives and stories about the work Historic Environment Scotland does

@historicscotland

for images of Historic Environment Scotland properties

@edinburghcastle

for images of the day to day goings on at Edinburgh Castle

LINKEDIN

historic-environment-scotland

for industry updates and employment opportunities with Historic Environment Scotland

@HlstEnvScot

for all Historic Environment Scotland news

@welovehistory

for visitor and event information and general news from Historic Environment Scotland

@HESEngineShed

for news from the Engine Shed (Scotland's first building conservation hub)

@edinburghcastle

for visitor info and news about Edinburgh Castle

@stirlingcastle

for visitor info and news about Stirling Castle

@scranylfe

for highlights from our image archive



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

historicenvironment.scot