

# PROPERTIES IN THE CARE OF SCOTTISH MINISTERS

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA





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Please note, this report does not detail activity/investment at our ancillary properties, unless this activity has a direct operational impact on the Properties in Care and/or collections.

Front Cover: Caerlaverock Castle © Robin Mair Photography.  
This page: HES gardeners planting at Blackness Castle.

# OGL

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## I. INTRODUCTION

**Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body caring for Scotland's historic environment. This report provides an overview of our activities at, and on, the 'Properties in Care' (PiCs) and their Associated Collections, for which we have been given delegated authority from Scottish Ministers under The Scheme of Delegation (made under Section 3 of the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014). This report relates to the 2019-20 financial year.**

2019-20 saw the implementation of HES's new Corporate Plan, 'Heritage For All'. A new approach that identifies five key areas on which we will focus to maximise the outcomes of our work, and the positive impacts on and for Scotland: society, the environment, the economy, creativity, and us; the latter focused on our aim to be an outstanding, high-performing and world-leading organisation.

This report provides a high-level overview of some of our achievements in these areas, where these were realised specifically in conjunction with the PiCs and Collections.

Achievements are set against our five Corporate Plan outcomes; for the purpose of this report, achievements are aligned to the outcome they deliver the strongest contribution to, however many aspects of the work we do are indeed cross-cutting.

Our achievements from 2019-20 include:

- Total investment of £37.3 million in the Properties in Care and Collections, with a direct spend of £8.3 million on conservation and maintenance work.
- A contribution of £620 million to the Scottish economy through tourism generated spend across the HES estate.
- Welcoming over 5.2 million visitors to HES properties.

It is increasingly clear that our changing climate is accelerating the decay of Scotland's built environment and the Properties in Care and Associated Collections are not immune from this - indeed some are particularly vulnerable.

The logistics and costs of care in this environment are becoming increasingly challenging. Every cultural heritage asset manager is faced with difficult decisions going forward and it is important that we are transparent in our strategic thinking, and work with others to develop and share our practice.

Whilst attaining many of our goals this year, the impacts of COVID-19 are clear. Despite hitting Scotland at the tail end of the financial year, the impacts of the pandemic were already evident in our visitor numbers and engagement activity.

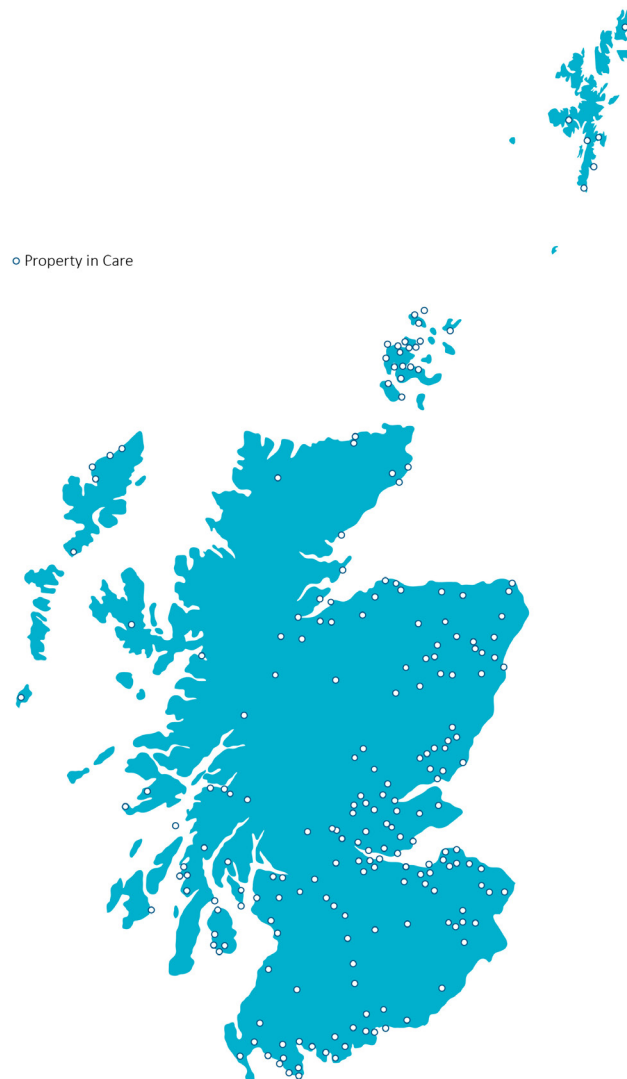
Due to earlier impacts of COVID-19 on our international visitors, we saw this decline in activity from January 2020.

Furthermore, the decision we took to close all our staffed sites from March 19th to ensure staff and visitor safety, resulted in a drop in the provision of access to our sites for this year.

We expect to see significant reduction in activity across the Estate in 2020-21 while we recover from the effects of COVID-19, and we can anticipate changes in how we manage our estate, and how we welcome visitors to our sites.

We are now in the process of resuming visitor facing activity across our estate, with over 200 of our PiCs open to visitors at the time of publication.

In addition, we endeavour to provide experiences and opportunities for our visitors through our digital channels, filling the gap at those sites that currently remain closed, so that the historic environment of Scotland can still be enjoyed and celebrated by all.



Locations of HES Properties in Care



Children running across a bridge at Tantallon Castle.

## 2. HERITAGE AND SOCIETY

The historic environment matters in different ways to different people, and we want the HES estate to deliver something for everyone. We provide both physical and digital access to our Estate and Collections to ensure that everyone, no matter who or where, can connect with our historic environment. The HES estate isn't just about its history, it provides an opportunity to get outdoors, be active, learn and feel happier; it's an important part of all our lives, right now.

This section provides an overview of what we have done to offer these benefits to our visitors, and indeed to improve this offer so more people can learn more about our historic environment.

### 2.1 IMPROVING ACCESS

Over 5.2 million visitors accessed our sites in 2019-20. This is a small reduction compared with last year and is the result of estate-wide closures associated with COVID-19 safety measures.

We provided over 105,000 days of access to our sites. This equates to 97% of our advertised opening time. This has reduced relative to last year as a result of estate-wide closures associated with COVID-19 safety measures. Closures associated with stability of building fabric accounted for 22% of our closures days.

Following on from its success in 2018-19, we continued to provide access to many of our sites for just £1, for Young Scot Card-holders. This included iconic sites such as Edinburgh Castle and Stirling Castle.

### 2.2 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

We improved our offer to visitors by:

- delivering 111 British Sign Language (BSL) tours at 4 different PiCs
- providing foreign language offers at 40 sites, an increase of 9 on last year
- improving directional/behavioural signage at 98 PiCs
- hosting temporary exhibitions at 10 PiCs.

Additionally, in November and December 2019 we hosted the 'Castle of Light' event at Edinburgh Castle, a spectacular visitor experience during which the Castle comes to life as it is illuminated with tales of Scotland's past using stunning visuals and impressive lighting installations within the Castle's walls. This event, the biggest light experience in Edinburgh, attracted 33,987 visitors.



2019-20 visitor numbers at the six most visited sites.

## 2.3 IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING

We have increased our understanding of our sites by undertaking archaeological research, this includes:

- archaeological evaluations at Holyrood Park, Doune Castle and Arbroath Abbey
- engaging with two Community Archaeological Excavations at Dundonald Castle
- commissioning dendrochronological assessments at Stirling Castle and Caerlaverock Castle
- undertaking Erosion Surveys at Calanais Standing Stones and Clava Cairns in response to visitor footfall erosion
- carrying out six Geophysical Surveys
- creating 20 Standing Building Surveys including a substantial suite of surveys at Stirling Castle, Melrose Abbey and Argyll's Lodging
- delivering 20 Archaeological Watching Briefs at sites including Holyrood Park, Threave Castle, Jarlshof, Doune Castle and Stirling Castle.



An archaeologist excavates in a trench at a Property in Care.



## 3. HERITAGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

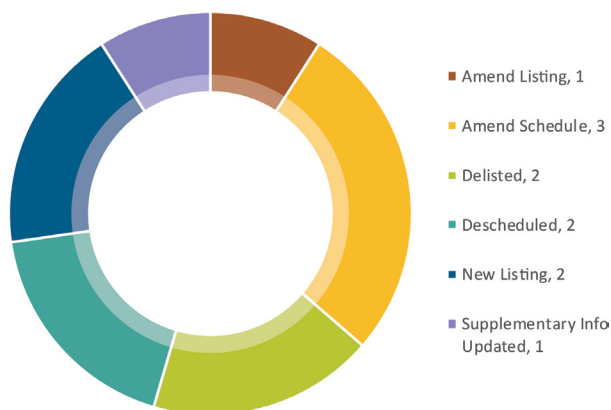
Our historic environment increasingly faces challenges associated with the changing climate and tourism, as larger numbers benefit from what it has to offer. Our Properties and Collections are constantly changing as they battle with natural decay and erosion, and anthropogenic ‘wear and tear’. We are committed to looking after the assets in our care to ensure their long-term future, so they are there for future generations to enjoy them as we do today.

This section gives an overview of what we have done to expand our understanding of our assets, and how and where we have carried out essential checks to ensure their protection.

### 3.1 THE PROPERTIES IN CARE

336 Properties in Care (PiCs) make up the HES estate, these range from standing stones and Neolithic cairns to Royal residences and military forts. Each of these unique, offering different experiences to our visitors, and each with its own bespoke set of conservation and maintenance requirements. This section provides an overview of changes to, and activity at the PiCs. The work we have done that specifically relates to our climate change duties, is reported in our *Annual Sustainability Report*.

There have been no acquisitions or disposals of PiCs this year. There have been a number of changes to designations. Details of these can be accessed via our Heritage Portal.



Changes to the Properties in Care during the 2019-20 financial year.

We have completed the registration of the PiCs owned by Scottish Ministers with 83% registered and 17% with Registers of Scotland to register. We are now making progress on the registration

of HES-owned sites and ancillary buildings with 89% either registered, or with the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland for registering, and the remaining 11% of cases in progress.

There have been a number of cases of fire, theft and unusual activity at the PiCs. There were:

- 16 instances of fire - these are typically small scale fires associated with anti-social behavior, half of which occurred in Holyrood Park
- 16 cases of theft/burglary
- 96 instances of vandalism, property and/or criminal damage.

We have visitor safety risk assessments issued for 53 sites; we issued 18 of these this past year. There are a further 21 risk assessments currently in preparation.

We continue to prioritise our work on climate change, working to understand its impacts and how we can make our estate more resilient to it.

In April 2019 we supported a major international workshop on Orkney that brought together leading climate scientists and heritage professionals to set a benchmark for understanding the impact of climate change on UNESCO World Heritage sites.

In February 2020 we launched our *Climate Action Plan*, which sets out how we plan to transform the way we operate in response to the growing climate emergency. It builds on progress we've already made, but with a step-change increase in ambition, urgency and commitment.

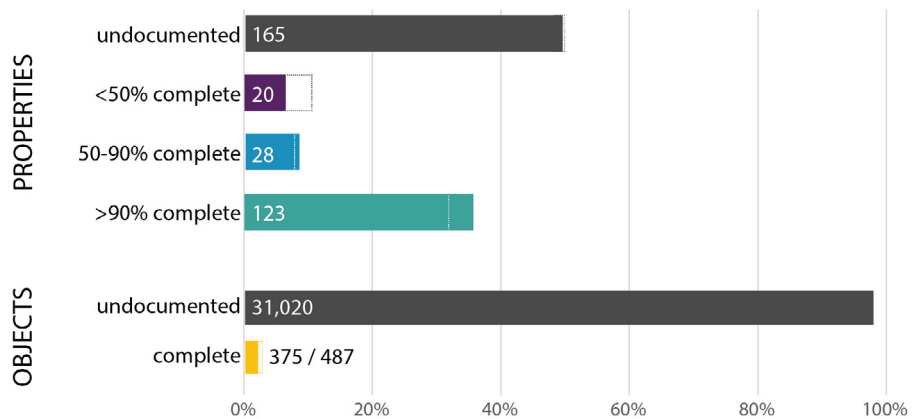
We have a rolling programme of revision for the *Statements of Significance* for the PiCs. This is a condition of the *Scheme of Delegation* and demonstrates that management is based on a

robust and current understanding of the property. This year we completed 27 Statements.

### 3.1.1 Digital documentation

We have continued to digitally document the PiCs and associated collections through our Rae Project. We have focused on the progression of sites already underway, increasing the proportion of fully documented sites to 123, an increase of 15 relative to last year.

We now have 36% of PiCs fully documented. We documented a further 67 collections objects this year; bringing the total to 375 out of the 487 objects identified as a priority for documentation.



Progress of the Rae Project.

NOTE: total undocumented objects figure was incorrectly reported last year. This has been corrected to reflect Scottish Ministers collections only.



One of the Elgin Cathedral stones; a vault boss carved with a shield of arms. The shield is carved against an ornamental roundel with a ring of flower decorations carved around the outer edge and in a ring behind the shield. The shield is carved with three stars and a damaged crozier set behind.

### 3.1.2 Condition Monitoring

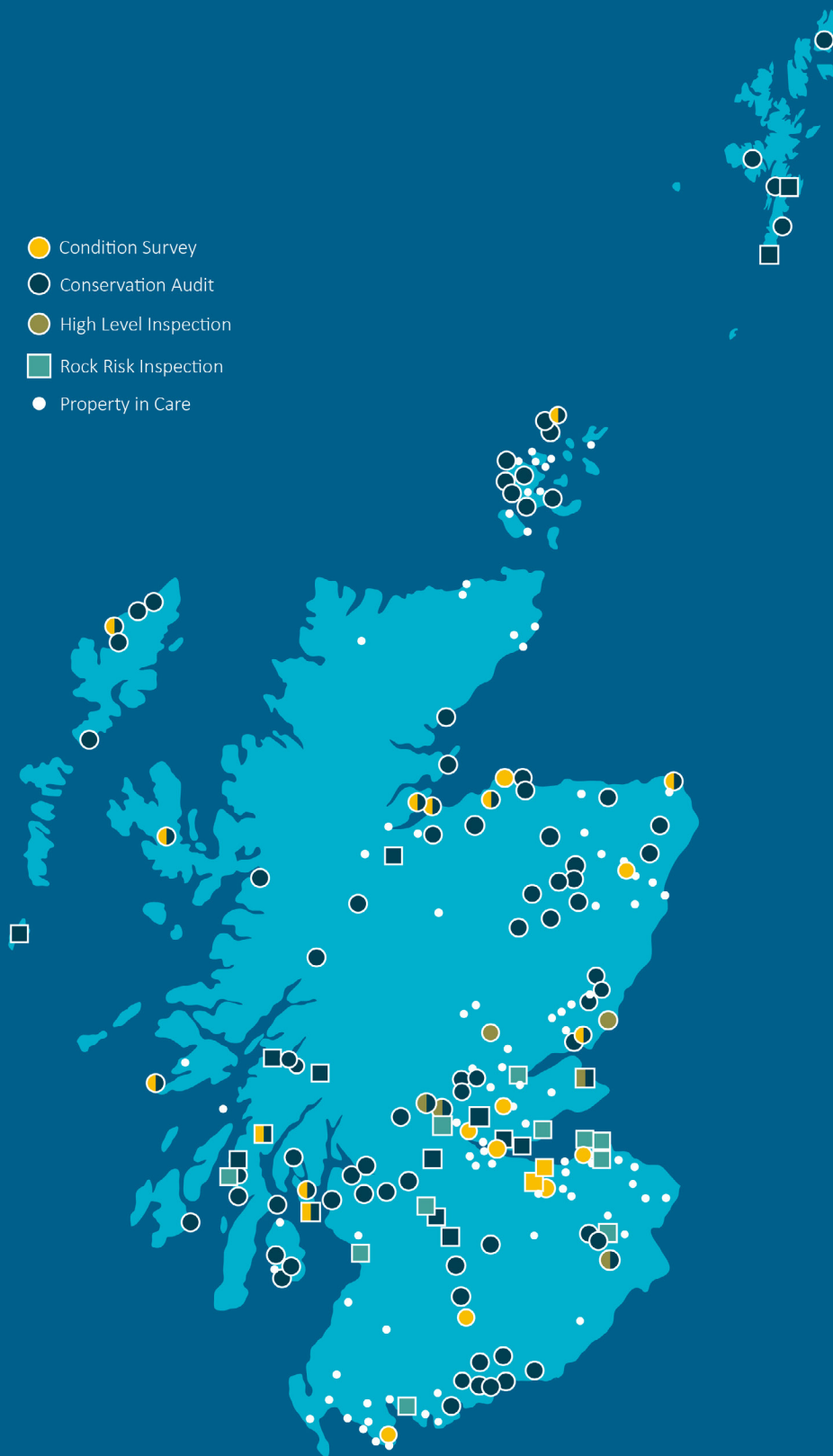
Scotland's changing climate is accelerating the decay of our historic environment, and our estate is not immune from this. We continue to amass an increasing maintenance burden like many other heritage asset owners. Major physical interventions by our predecessors in the 1930's to the PiCs are now deteriorating and an increased focus on public safety has been required to ensure our visitors and staff remain safe. In response, we have expanded our Estates Compliance team, with staff whose purpose is to focus on our statutory compliance and proactive mitigation of risk as well as improving our understanding of the condition of our monuments.

Resource allocation continues to be assessed and prioritised per our *Asset Management Plan* to ensure the resources we do have are allocated to areas of most need, and we are actively considering what this means for the Estate going forward.

In 2019-20 we delivered Condition Surveys at 27 PiCs, Conservation Audits at 153 PiCs, High Level Inspections at 7 PiCs and Rock Slope Risk Assessments at 33 PiCs across the Estate.

This year we have focused on the development of new policy and procedure for the delivery of High Level Inspections. In 2019-20 we expanded our Estates Compliance Team to include resource dedicated to the delivery of these inspections. Six of our sites saw closures associated with stability of building fabric in 2019-20; two of these, Cadzow Castle and Glenbuchat Castle were full year closures due to large-scale issues associated with stability of fabric. Whilst statutory compliance and minimising risks to staff and visitors will always be our priority, we remain very alive to the impacts that site closures have on local communities.

The number of rock slope inspections increased considerably as we commissioned specialist geotechnical engineers to conduct a baseline assessment of all our natural rock slopes to help with our understanding of their maintenance requirements.



Map showing the location of different types of surveys and inspections at the PiCs.

### 3.2 COLLECTIONS

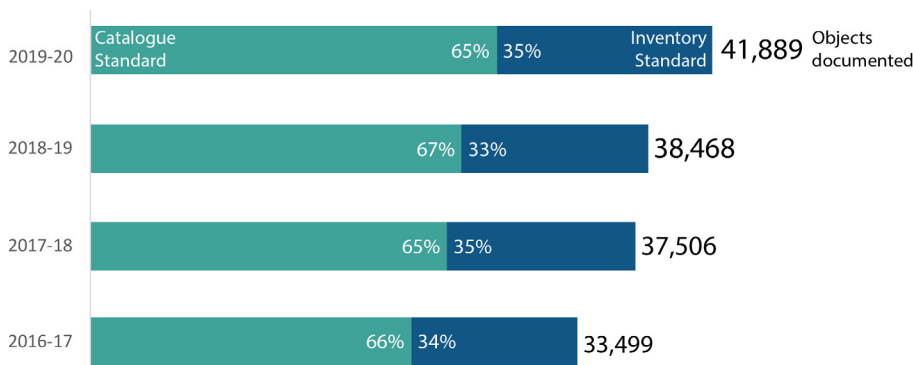
This section relates to Collections objects under our care. Some of these, the ‘Associated Collections’, are owned by Scottish Ministers and fall under the *Scheme of Delegation (for the Associated Collections)*, others are objects owned by us. The information below relates to our care of both the Associated Collections, and HES Collections. Where it is possible to report on the Associated Collections alone, this is indicated.

We have a total of 41,889 objects recorded in our Vernon Collections Management System; 75% of these (31,395) are owned by Scottish Ministers.

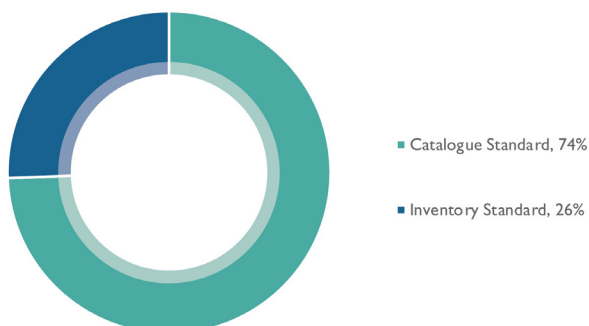
26,963 updates were made to object records; 19,172 of these were made to records for objects that form part of the Scottish Ministers’ collections.

911 new records were added onto the Vernon database this year; 714 of these new records created were for objects that form part of the Scottish Ministers’ collections.

27,028 of records across all collections on the Vernon database are at Catalogue Standard; 23,374 of these records at Catalogue Standard are for objects in the Scottish Ministers’ collections.



Progress in documentation of the HES collections.



Documentation standard of Scottish Ministers’ collections objects, indicating proportion at inventory standard and full catalogue standard.

In 2019 we had outward loans totalling some 331 objects to 11 lenders. Through our outward loan programme we make the collections from our PiCs accessible to a wider audience. Our long-term lenders include National Museums Scotland, the V&A Dundee and The Whithorn Trust.

This year we had 80 loans with 6,490 objects from 54 lenders at 26 of our PiCs. We renewed our large and significant long-term loan from the Royal Armouries which includes many of the cannons that line the ramparts at Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, Dumbarton Castle and Fort George.

There were some exciting new loans including 'A Seascape, Shipping by Moonlight' by French Impressionist Claude Monet on loan from National Galleries Scotland as part of the Masterpiece series at Duff House. And the Engine Shed welcomed the Murdoch Model Engine on loan from the Stirling Smith Museum for the 'James Watt: Power to the World' exhibition to celebrate the 250th anniversary of his invention of the condenser engine in 2019.

We have continued to carry out condition checking of objects, a duty assigned to us through the *Scheme of Delegation*.

5,637 objects across all collections were condition checked between April 2019 and March 2020; 4,841 of these were from the Scottish Ministers collections.

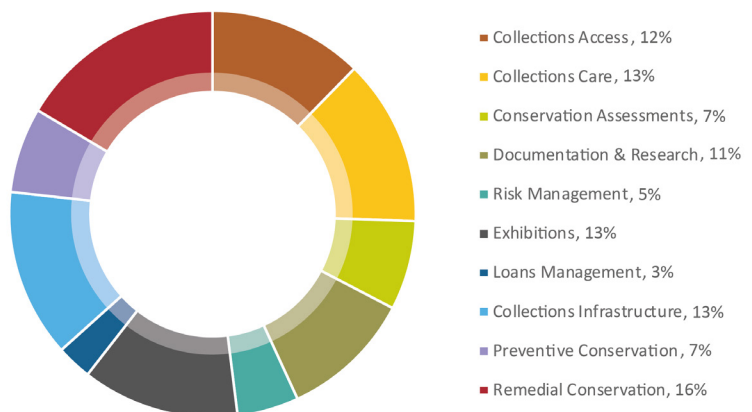
Since HES was created in October 2015, 23,630 objects across all collections have been condition checked; this represents 56% of all our collections. 66% of the Scottish Ministers collection (20,773 objects) have now been checked in line with our condition checking methodologies and standards.

We completed 17 new salvage plans and have reviewed, updated and/or expanded a further nine.

44% of our collections (18,594 objects) are on public display; 42% of Scottish Ministers collections (13,098 objects) are on public display.

We added 108 objects to our collections website this year. Significant investment was made to improve the design, functionality and existing content on the website.

We invested £385,000 in the conservation, care and management of our collections.



Investment in the HES collections in 2019-20.

## 4. HERITAGE AND THE ECONOMY

Our historic assets play a significant role in the economy of Scotland. In caring for them and providing public access to them, and through our use of local contractors and suppliers, we support jobs across the country. Additional to this is the indirect, or 'knock-on', support to local economies and communities around our sites through spending by our visitors while they visit the area. We understand the value of what we do to local economies, and we focus our efforts on maximising our contribution to Scotland.

This section provides an overview of our investment at the PiCs and the impact this has on the economy of Scotland. We acknowledge the contribution that our support to traditional skills make in this area.

### 4.1 INVESTMENT

We invested £8.3 million directly on the conservation and maintenance of the PiCs this year. This figure includes investment at associated visitor centres and depots which support the operation of the Properties.

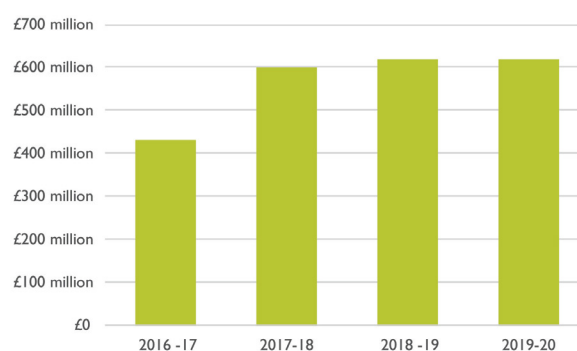
Including support costs such as staffing and centralised functions, we invested a total of £37.3 million on conservation, maintenance and management of the Properties; this includes visitor facing activity such as site presentation, signage, performers, display installation and educational activities, as well as monument conservation and visitor facing staffing.

This direct tourism spend supported an estimated 16,100 FTE jobs across Scotland, increasing to over 28,000 when supply chain effects are included.

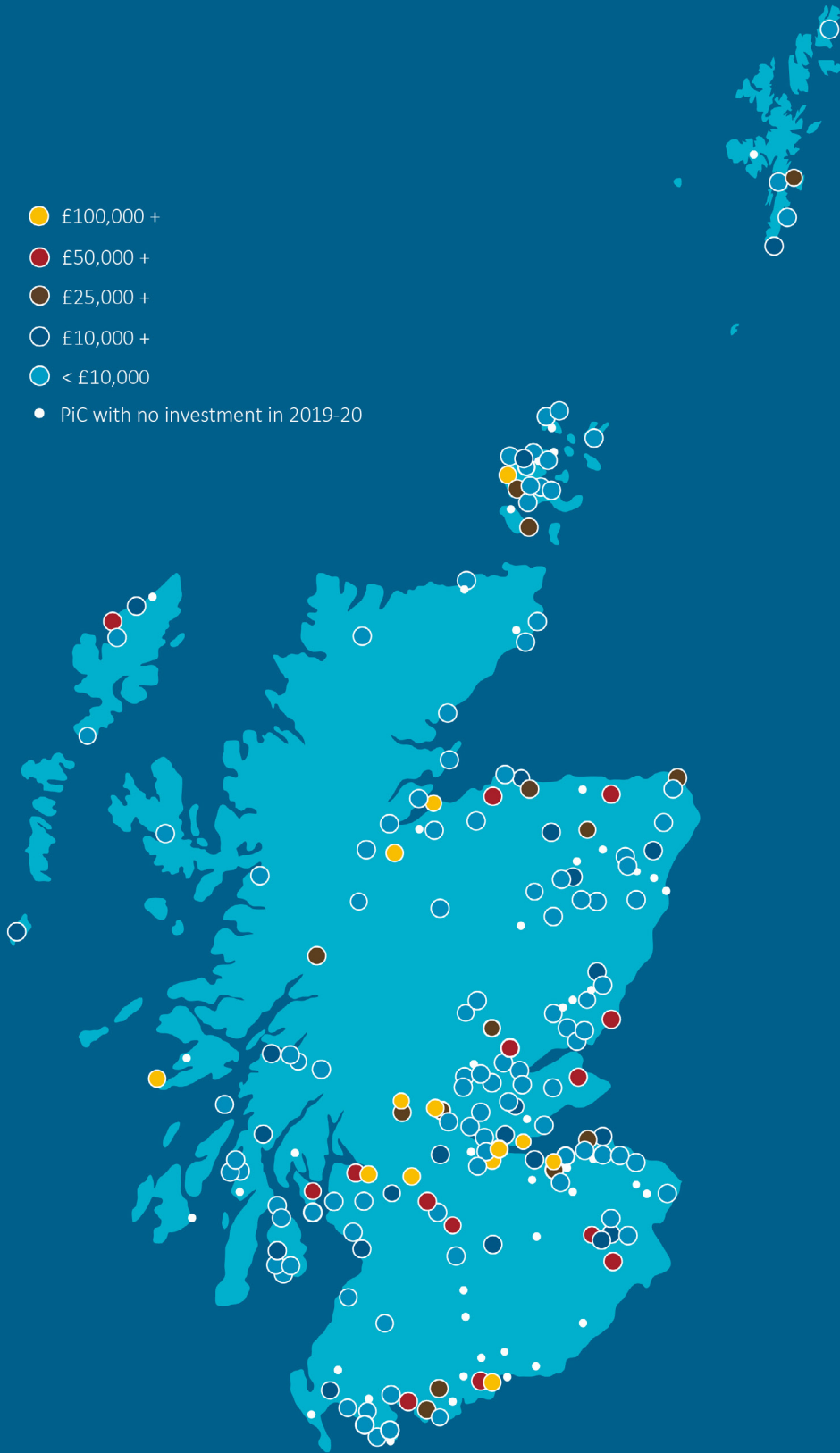
18 PiCs had short-term closures that required critical conservation works to be completed so they could be re-opened. This included popular sites like Doune Castle, Craigmillar Castle and Fort George. The total tourism impact safeguarded by the critical works that allowed these sites to reopen was an estimated £14.5 million.

### 4.2 ECONOMIC IMPACT

The PiCs generated £620 million of net direct tourism expenditure in 2019-20, static compared to the previous financial year as a result of losses associated with COVID-19 in the last quarter. This figure includes spend by tourists on-site and in the local area which would not otherwise have occurred without the PiC being there. The total tourism impact increases to £1.07 billion when including supply chain effects, as local businesses increase their spend to meet this demand.



Tourism impact (net direct tourism expenditure) of the Properties in Care.



2019-20 investment at the Properties in Care. Sites marked as having 'no investment' still undergo regular routine maintenance and compliance checks.



## 4.3 SOCIAL IMPACT

Thirty-nine per cent of our direct (site specific) investment associated with conservation and maintenance, and visitor facing activity in 2019-20 was on Properties located in areas of average or above average deprivation (SIMD  $\leq$  5th decile). This marks an increase of 2% on the previous year.

60% of this same investment was in rural areas, i.e. areas with a Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification of 5+ on the 8-fold classification.

- 13 Cultural Venues Modern Apprentices  
Stirling Castle welcomed three new apprentices to the team. The first apprentice at Fort George and six of the nine making up the second tranche at Edinburgh Castle have all completed the programme and will graduate in 2020.
- 3 externally hosted HES Traditional Skills Craft Fellows
- 11 paid Conservation Trainees hosted by teams across our Conservation Directorate.

## 4.4 SKILLS

The apprentices, trainees and fellows that we support will go on to have a positive impact on the wider historic environment, contributing to the Scottish economy through their future work. This year we supported:

- 43 traditional skills apprentices; this includes 26 private sector stonemasonry apprentices



11 Conservation Traineeships (formerly Internships)



3 Traditional Skills Craft Fellows



39 Apprentice Stonemasons  
13 HES & 26 Private Sector



3 Apprentice Gardeners



1 Apprentice Painter



13 Cultural Venues Modern Apprentices

Supporting skills development in the sector. Numbers for HES employed and HES trained (private sector) apprentices, craft fellows and trainees in 2019-20.



A HES Digital Innovation trainee sets up a 360° camera for digital capture on a conservation project.

## 5. HERITAGE AND CREATIVITY

The historic environment tells the story of Scotland and we want to bring this story to everyone. We use our Properties and Collections to enrich education and learning, sharing our heritage with the world in the hope that it inspires creativity and builds partnerships.

This section provides an overview of the learning and engagement opportunities we have offered at our Properties this past year, and some of the partnerships that centre around our sites.

### 5.1 ENGAGEMENT

Our engagement activity includes a mix of formal and informal learning opportunities for a diverse audience, from families, to schools groups, with participants of all ages. Our engagement activity supports social inclusion programmes, targets schools in areas of urban and rural deprivation and covers wide ranging areas of the curriculum.

Our engagement figures for 2019-20 are very encouraging. Although lower than the previous year, at the end of quarter 3, we were on track to exceed previous year's figures across many areas. The impacts of COVID-19 were apparent from the beginning of the fourth quarter when international bookings began to drop.

- 81,033 learners benefitted from free education visits to our PiCs (-11% on the previous year)
- 24,794 pupils from 641 Scottish Schools benefitted from Heritage Travel Subsidies (-13% on the previous year). A further 1,240 pupils from 37 Scottish schools had visits cancelled following COVID-19 school closures
- we engaged with 114,066 learners (-12% on the previous year) through our Learning and Inclusion and Ranger programmes; 83% were aged under 24. 33,000 of those learners participated in facilitated activity, which included delivery of 65 partnership projects across Scotland

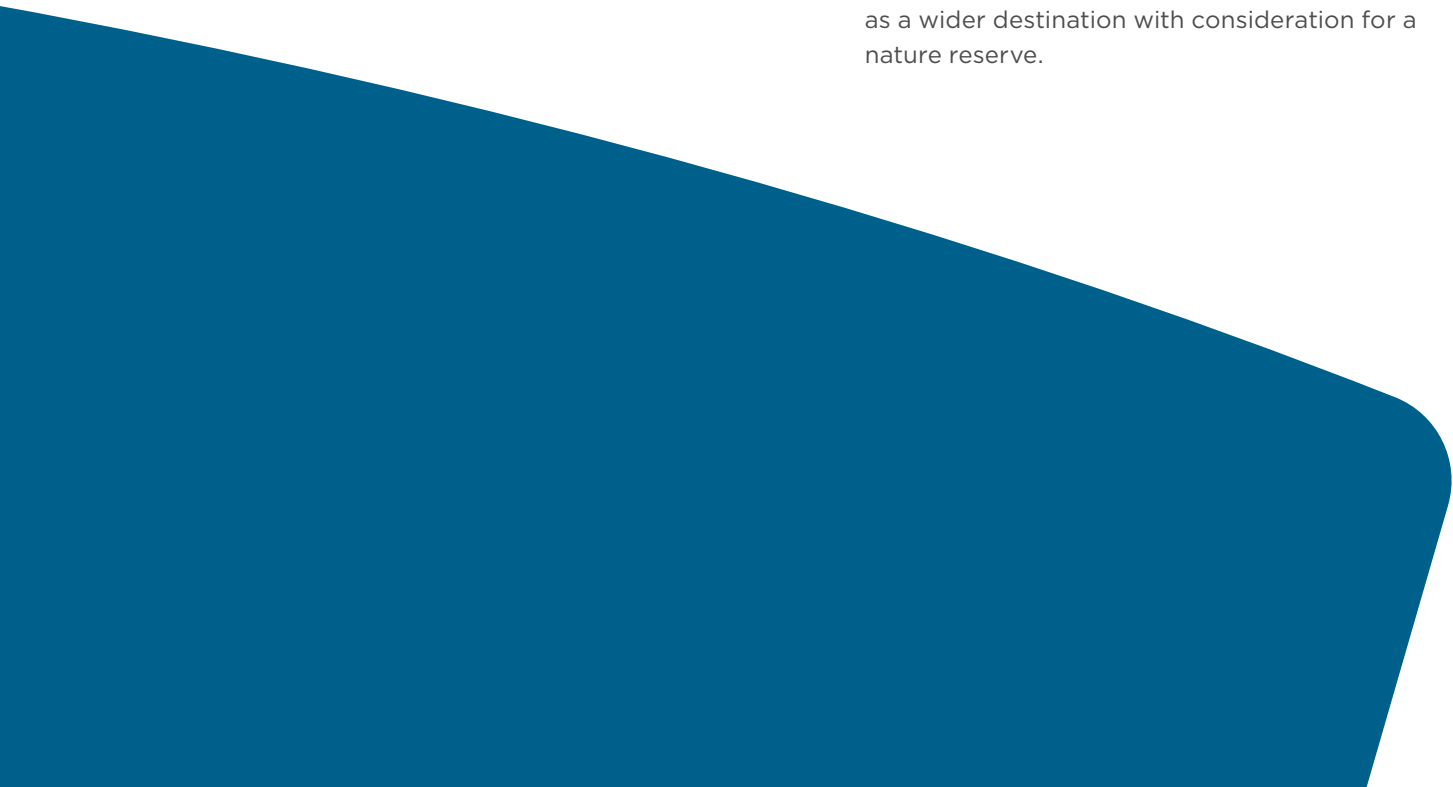
and included supporting social inclusion programmes and targeting schools in areas of rural and urban deprivation

- Heritage Remixed, our targeted youth engagement programme, worked with 24 youthwork and creative partners from Orkney to Dumfries to support 208 young people with no previous experience
- this year we welcomed over 350 individuals who volunteered across 23 of our PiCs. These passionate individuals dedicated over 6,000 hours to volunteering with HES. This includes, 75 volunteers engaged with community archaeology projects at Dundonald Castle, contributing over 1,000 volunteer hours to this project. In addition to these volunteers, a further 652 individuals from schools, youth groups and further education groups dedicated over 1,000 hours.

### 5.2 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

We delivered partnership projects at several PiCs this year, this work includes:

- working with Urras Nan Tursachan and engaging with the local community to explore how the Calanais Standing Stones and the locally-run visitor centre can become a single visitor experience

- 
- engaging the community to a secure long-term solution to site management of the Links of Noltland, using site maintenance to build skills around climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - re-examining approaches to community-led activity in the Kinneil Estate by working with Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust and local stakeholders including Friends of Kinneil
  - working in partnership with The Friends of Dundonald Castle. We supported the Friends in their successful asset transfer request of the visitor centre and land from South Ayrshire Council and are providing ongoing support to identify short and long-term priorities in light of COVID-19
  - supporting development of Dumbarton Visitor Gateway, commissioned in partnership by West Dunbartonshire Council to enhance the visitor offer in Dumbarton more broadly. This involves engagement with local stakeholders including Dumbarton Castle Society and businesses, exploring key areas for partnership work and coordinating advice on engagement activity such as the website, collections and volunteering
  - securing voluntary asset transfer of Abbey House at Melrose Abbey to The Trimontium Trust, a local trust focusing on Roman heritage. This work has opened up potential opportunities for collaboration around learning and visitor offers, which we are currently developing
  - building on the success of the Men's Shed who took up home in the North Range at Stanley Mills, we secured in principle the voluntary asset transfer of ground next to carpark for a community orchard to be managed by the Men's Shed
  - working with the community of Drumnadrochit to develop a collaborative approach to sustainable economic development in and around Urquhart Castle, including transport, access and visitor spend beyond the castle
  - multi-phase joint working with stakeholders, community council and the local authority with the aim of improvements in the area round Inverlochy Castle, specifically to improve active travel routes from Fort William to Caol with a focus on walkers and cyclists, and to consider improvements to drainage, surfacing and lighting. Further work aims to look at the area as a wider destination with consideration for a nature reserve.
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## 6. HERITAGE AND US

As the lead public body for the historic environment in Scotland, we have a duty to be an open, collaborative and effective organisation and we aspire to be the best at what we do.

This section provides an overview of the training our monument-focused staff have undertaken this year, and provides an update on the peer review processes we have in place to ensure we are delivering to our own high standards in caring for our Properties and Collections.

### 6.1 INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

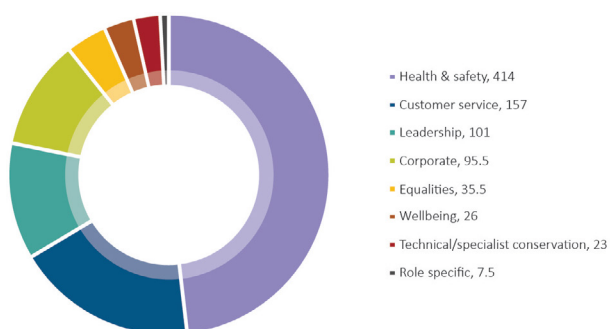
This year our monument-focused staff undertook 859.5 days of training across a range of areas including disability awareness, exceeding visitor expectations, health and safety and information governance.

Overall, this represents a decrease in the of 26% relative to last year. This is because we have paused delivery of our Advanced Diploma Course while we revise our training offer. With the exclusion of this course from the figures, this year sees a 0.4% increase in staff training days.

### 6.2 DRIVING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

The development of our Properties in Care Asset Management System (PICAMS) continues. This year we have been improving and expanding the core system so PICAMS can be populated with more information, becoming the single source of truth for up-to-date information about our estate.

We have also been developing a bespoke application to support PiC inspection activities, which will soon be deployed for use by staff in our Monument Conservation Unit. The app is intended to capture information on site, manage tasks and provide useful data for audit and analysis, which will allow us to provide a greater level of transparency in relation to our operations. The first module within this app will focus on our Routine Maintenance inspections, and will later expand this to cover a wider range of inspection types.



2019-20 training provision for monument- focused staff.

## 6.3 PEER REVIEW

As part of our on-going commitment to upholding our principles, policies and standards, and as a requirement of the *Schemes of Delegation*, we have peer review processes in place, this takes the form of an independent Peer Review Panel for our conservation practice on the PiCs, and through the Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) Museum Accreditation Scheme for our collections.

Our Estates Peer Review Panel is a group of independent professionals from relevant fields who review our projects and processes with the purpose of:

- providing assurance to Scottish Ministers
- ensuring benefits from the wider experience, knowledge and contacts of expert colleagues
- improving HES practice and performance
- improving quality and upholding standards
- encouraging consistency in approach and methods.

This year, 10 panel members from a range of organisations including National Trust for Scotland, University of Stirling, Scottish Futures Trust, Scottish Canals, and English Heritage participated in our Peer Review process. The panel is chaired by Dr. Paul Stollard, HES Board Member.

This year, six projects and two processes were put before our Peer Review Panel for consideration; three projects and two processes were selected for review. We use the feedback from the Panel to refine our processes and procedures and learn lessons that we can apply to future projects. Throughout the year's reviews a number of key themes emerged regarding issues and challenges faced by HES in conserving and maintaining the PiCs.

The panel were impressed with our approach to maintenance, commenting specifically on the attention to detail and level of activity of our Monument Conservation staff at Kilmartin Glen. The panel also commended our 'opportunistic' approach to delivering works and using active projects as a vehicle for delivering training.

SITE	PROJECT/PROCESS	DATE OF REVIEW
n/a	Investment Plan Prioritisation [process]	14 June 2019
Beaulieu Priory	Tracey Masonry Repairs to Monks Choir [project]	1 October 2019
Kilmartin Glen sites	Access Improvements [project]	1 October 2019
Stirling Castle	Great Hall Conservation Works [project]	27 September 2019
n/a	Monument Investment Plans [process]	9 January 2020 (workshop) following site visits to: Doune Castle (19 Nov 2019) Melrose Abbey (27 Nov 2019)

Estates peer review activity: projects and processes reviewed by the Peer Review Panel in 2019-20.

The Panel made some recommendations in relation to understanding cultural significance at sites, and the role of cultural significance in conservation decision-making. The panel also highlighted some areas of conservation strategy, including project prioritisation that could benefit from further attention. However, it was recognised that even within the year there were solutions being developed to address the issues identified in the early stages of review. The panel also reviewed two internal processes - the prioritisation of spend against available resources, and the delivery of projects and site based investment.

### 6.3.1 PiC Collections accreditation

The MSG Museum Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries. Several factors relating to the museum are considered in the accreditation process:

- how it is governed and managed
- how it cares for and manages its collections
- the information and services it offers to museum users

Four PiCs were awarded full museum accreditation status this year: Smailholm Tower; St Andrews Cathedral; Elgin Cathedral; and Arbroath Abbey. Thirteen PiCs now have full accreditation status.

A further five sites were confirmed as being eligible to work towards museum accreditation: Fort George; Edinburgh Castle; Trinity House; Linlithgow Palace; Dumbarton Castle.



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