CONTENTS

Who we are  3
What we do  3
Designations at a glance  4
Our work and priorities  5
Supporting outcomes and policies  6
Our plan for 2020 onwards  7
Find out more  8
WHO WE ARE

Historic Environment Scotland is a charity and public body leading the way in protecting, understanding and sharing Scotland’s historic environment, for today and for the future.

We care for more than 300 sites of national importance all across the country and are the largest operator of paid visitor attractions in Scotland.

We look after internationally significant archives and artefacts. We are at the forefront of investigating and researching the historic environment and addressing the impacts of climate change on its future.

We protect our historic places through designations and consents, promote their sustainable development, and provide millions of pounds each year to local communities to repair and revitalise their historic environment. We provide advice and guidance about the historic environment, and offer a wide range of training and learning opportunities. In every aspect of our work we strive to follow our five organisational values – we are collaborative, professional, innovative, open and respectful.

WHAT WE DO

Designation is the legal recognition of some our most important historic sites and places. It ensures that these places are recognised by law through the planning system and other regulatory processes.

The Designations Team is responsible for designating sites and places at the national level. These are:

- Scheduled monuments
- Listed buildings
- Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes
- Inventory of historic battlefields

We also make recommendations to the Scottish Government about historic marine protected areas and the Scottish Ministers decide whether to designate.

We have around 22 staff who manage the designation records for over 55,000 designations across Scotland. From our remotest islands to our busiest cities and even underwater, our designated sites and places tell us about Scotland’s history and highlight our distinctiveness. They make Scotland a great place to live, work and visit. The historic character of our environment is important to our quality of life and it helps us to understand who we are. Our staff have a wide range of knowledge and experience and they include archaeologists, art and architectural historians as well as specialist support staff.
## DESIGNATIONS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are they?</th>
<th>Scheduled monuments</th>
<th>Listed buildings</th>
<th>Gardens and designed landscapes</th>
<th>Historic battlefields</th>
<th>Historic marine protected areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>1882</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structures (such as bridges, churches, houses, schools) mostly from after 1500 up until the early 1990s</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grounds consciously laid out for artistic effect (such as country estate landscapes, botanic garden collections, urban parks and cemeteries)</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscapes on which major battles took place and soldiers fought and died (such as Culloden and Bannockburn)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine historic assets such as particularly significant shipwrecks</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When did it start?</th>
<th>1882</th>
<th>1957</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many are there?</td>
<td>Around 8,000</td>
<td>Around 47,000</td>
<td>Around 360</td>
<td>Around 40</td>
<td>Around 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What level are they designated at?</td>
<td>All are of national importance</td>
<td>Three categories: A, B and C</td>
<td>All are of national importance</td>
<td>All are of national importance</td>
<td>All are of national importance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who decides?</td>
<td>Historic Environment Scotland</td>
<td>Historic Environment Scotland</td>
<td>Historic Environment Scotland</td>
<td>Historic Environment Scotland</td>
<td>Scottish Ministers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OUR WORK AND PRIORITIES

We carry out designation work by:
• adding, reviewing, amending and removing designations
• making minor changes to existing designation records that don’t alter what is legally designated

Our priority for designation is to provide an up-to-date understanding of sites or places to aid decision-making about potential change. We do this by:
• responding to external designation requests
• improving the quality of our designation records and spatial data
• undertaking designation projects which address gaps in our understanding of sites or places
• developing partnerships by planning and undertaking our projects with the participation of stakeholders

Any person or organisation can request:
• the designation of a site or place
• the review of an existing designated site or place
• the removal of an existing designation
• minor changes to designation records
• a Certificate of Intention Not to List (COINTL)

The application form for these requests is available on our website.
SUPPORTING OUTCOMES AND POLICIES

This plan is informed by and supports wider outcomes and policies including:
National Outcomes in the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework

• We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment

These strategic priorities from Our Place in Time, Scotland’s strategy for the historic environment:

• understand – investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, and how best to conserve, sustain and protect it
• protect – caring for and protecting the historic environment in order to both enjoy and benefit from it, and to conserve and enhance it for future generations
• value – sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment

These outcomes from Heritage for All, Historic Environment Scotland’s corporate plan for 2019 onwards:

• The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come
• The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation

It aligns with the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland and the Designation Policy and Selection Guidance.
### OUR PLAN FOR 2020 ONWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Corporate plan priority</th>
<th>What success will look like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improved understanding of what designation means</td>
<td>The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come</td>
<td>• What designation means reaches a wider audience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved awareness of the services we provide</td>
<td>The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come</td>
<td>• Improved engagement with stakeholders and the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued dialogue with the people of Scotland about designations</td>
<td>The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for the generations to come</td>
<td>• Continue our What’s Your Heritage? approach to a dialogue with the people of Scotland about designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued improvements to our service</td>
<td>The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation</td>
<td>• Improved access to data and improved ability to make representations about designations decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the HES Climate Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint of our work</td>
<td>The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation</td>
<td>• Continue to innovate ways in which to reduce the carbon footprint of our work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIND OUT MORE

LEGISLATION

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

STRATEGY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework
Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014)
Heritage for All, Historic Environment Scotland’s corporate plan (2019)
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019)
Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019)

REPORTS

Planning Performance Report 2018-19
Designations 3 year plan 2016-19 report
What’s Your Heritage? 2017

GUIDANCE

Scotland’s Listed Buildings
Scotland’s Scheduled Monuments
Scotland’s Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
Scotland’s Inventory of Historic Battlefields
Scotland’s Historic Marine Protected Areas

ONLINE RESOURCES

Designation application form
Historic Environment Scotland website
Designation records and designation decisions

CONTACT US

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