



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
ALBA AOSMHOR

Shaping  
our Future

Working together for Scotland's historic environment

# SUMMARY SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AUDIT 2014

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) draws on current data and research to highlight key trends in the sector

*SHEA  
Scotland's historic  
environment audit*

**SHEA 2014** is the fourth audit of Scotland's historic environment. It has been prepared by Historic Scotland (HS).

### Key Messages

1. Scotland's historic environment includes thousands of historic buildings and monuments, as well as many landscapes, gardens, wrecks and battlefields. It attracts millions of visitors each year and generates income and jobs. It makes a valuable contribution to our quality of life, cultural identity, education and economy.
2. It is difficult to assess the current and changing state of the historic environment as a whole. Data indicates the condition of A-listed buildings is stable; the condition of scheduled monuments is generally stable; and older buildings (pre-1919) are more likely than newer properties to need basic and extensive repair. Work is on-going to develop a measure of the condition of Historic Scotland's Properties in Care in a format suitable for national reporting. Little is known about the condition of undesignated historic assets.
3. Attitudes to heritage continue to be extremely positive; and the historic environment continues to provide opportunities for participation and volunteering; and to make a strong contribution to education and training programmes.
4. The economic downturn over the last few years has affected employment in archaeology and conservation, resulting in the sector being smaller in 2013 than it was in 2007/8. Landward Research notes the number of archaeologists in Scotland fell between 2008 and 2013, particularly in local authorities, universities and commercial organisations. IHBC Research notes that three LAs were without any dedicated specialist conservation resource in 2013 and that the system is under pressure but is not in crisis. Further research is needed to understand the impact and effect this has on outcomes.
5. There is evidence to suggest that taking part in heritage is good for your health and wellbeing. Those who visited a historic or archaeological place were over 50% more likely to report a high life satisfaction than those who did not visit.
6. Every year we spend around £1 billion on the historic environment in Scotland. Most historic buildings and sites are privately owned; and the private sector accounts for around three-fifths of all money spent on the historic environment. Spending is at a four-year low in 2013/14, having declined since 2010/11, mirroring the trend for the construction industry repair and maintenance sector as a whole.
7. Scottish Ministers are committed to the sustainable use and management of the historic environment as it is unique and irreplaceable and we should protect it for future generations. Historic Scotland's grants budget will be maintained at current levels (around £14.5 million) in cash terms for 2015/16.
8. The main pressures on the historic environment are development, lack of maintenance and investment, competing land use, climate change and visitors. There is evidence to show that these are often being managed positively.
9. There has been an increase in the number of recorded and designated historic assets and in the number of items in RCAHMS and HS collections between 2008 and 2014.
10. The first historic environment strategy for Scotland: Our Place in Time was published in 2014. It provides a definition of our historic environment, priorities for understanding, protecting and valuing it, and a framework for organisations to work together.

## Key Findings

### Investigate and Record

The sector is continually investigating the historic environment and acquiring and recording new knowledge.

<b>Record of known sites</b>	<p><b>There was an overall net increase in the number of recorded assets between 2008 and 2014:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Increase</b> in the number of known historic environment sites recorded in <b><u>RCAHMS databases</u></b> (308,000 records at 2014,  14% on 2008).</li><li>• <b>Increase</b> in the proportion of Scotland mapped using Historic Landscape Assessment (87% at 2014,  23 percentage points on 2008).</li><li>• <b>Increase</b> in the number of items recorded in local authority Historic Environment Records (288,000 records at 2014,  34% on 2008).</li><li>• <b>Increase</b> in the number of catalogue records in the <b><u>RCAHMS collection</u></b> (1.26 million records at 2014,  29% on 2008).</li><li>• <b>Increase</b> in the number of objects documented from Historic Scotland's Properties in Care (HS collection and inward loans). 32,221 records at 2014,  27% on 2008). <b><u>HS Collections Website</u></b></li></ul>
<b>Scottish Historic Environment Data Strategy</b>	The first ever <b>Scottish Historic Environment Data Strategy <u>SHED</u></b> , which is a sector-wide initiative to improve access to information about Scotland's historic environment was published in 2014.

## Care and Protect

A wide range of organisations and individuals are involved in caring for the historic environment across the private, public and voluntary sectors. They are seeking creative ways of working together to respond to reducing budgets.

<p><b>Designated sites, buildings and landscapes</b></p>	<p>There was an <b>overall net increase in the number of designated assets between 2008 and 2014.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 <u>world heritage sites</u> (↔ no change on 2008).</li> <li>• 47,547 <u>listed buildings</u> (▲ 1% on 2008).</li> <li>• 8,197 <u>scheduled monuments</u> (▲ 2% on 2008).</li> <li>• 391 <u>designed gardens and landscapes</u>; (▲ 1% on 2008).</li> <li>• 658 <u>conservation areas</u>; (▲ 3% on 2008).</li> <li>• 15 <u>protected wrecks</u> (7 <u>scheduled wrecks</u> and 7 <u>historic marine protected areas</u> covering 8 wreck sites) (↔ no change on 2008).</li> <li>• 39 <u>nationally important battlefields</u>. (▲ 39% on 2008).</li> <li>• 2 <u>national parks</u> and 40 <u>National Scenic Areas</u> which contain many important features of the historic environment. (↔ no change on 2008).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Condition and management</b></p>	<p>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 historic sites means that a considerable amount is known locally. Current data show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The condition of A-listed buildings is stable.</b> In 2013, 8.0% of Scotland's A-listed buildings are <u>Buildings at Risk</u>, compared to 8.2% in 2011 and 8.7% in 2009.</li> <li>• <b>The condition of scheduled monuments is generally stable.</b> 85% of scheduled monuments visited in 2013 are in an optimal or satisfactory condition (78% of monuments visited in 2013 are stable or improving compared to their condition at last visit).</li> <li>• <b>Older buildings (built pre-1919) are more likely than newer properties to have a need for basic and extensive repair.</b> Nine out of ten (89%) pre-1919 dwellings have basic repair needs and one in ten (10%) have extensive disrepair, according to the <u>Scottish House Condition Survey 2013</u></li> <li>• The average time to decide listed building consent and conservation area consent has improved from 12.8 weeks in 2012/13 to 12.5 weeks in 2013/14.</li> <li>• All of the five World Heritage Sites have a final management plan.</li> <li>• 92% of scheduled monuments have a record of their condition (around half of these are current (within the last 5 years))</li> <li>• 99% of NTS properties have a final management plan</li> <li>• All historic sites on the National Forest Estate have a current management plan</li> <li>• All HS Properties in Care have a condition assessment in place. These are updated on a needs basis.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Economy and employment</b></p>	<p><b>The historic environment makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy</b>, contributing in excess of £2.3 billion (2.6%) to Scotland's Gross Value Added (GVA) <b><u>Economic Impact 2008</u></b>.</p> <p><b>The historic environment is a major employer, providing 2.5% of Scotland's total employment and supporting around 60,000 jobs</b> (including part-time and seasonal employment).</p> <p>The economic downturn over the last few years has affected employment in archaeology, resulting in the sector being smaller in 2013 than it was in 2008, according to <b><u>Profiling the Profession 2012/13</u></b>. The research does not consider the impact of reducing resources on archaeological services.</p> <p><b><u>IHBC Research 2013</u></b> shows that Scotland's conservation services play a critical and successful role in the management, care, protection and regeneration of the historic environment. It suggests critical local services are facing pressure, but are not in crisis. The research does not assess the impact of reducing staff on conservation services.</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p><b>Each year we spend around £1 billion pounds on the historic environment in Scotland</b> from a variety of sources across the private, public, and voluntary sectors.</p> <p><b>Total spend on the historic environment in Scotland was £986 million in 2013/14</b> (estimated using <b><u>ONS Construction Figures 2014</u></b> to update the <b><u>Economic Impact</u></b> study, 2008). This is a four-year low for spend, having declined since 2010/11. This mirrors the trend for the construction industry repair and maintenance sector as a whole.</p> <p><b>Most historic buildings are privately owned. The private sector accounts for the majority of total spend on the historic environment (61%) and a higher share (76%) of spend on historic housing.</b> The public sector accounts for the majority of non-housing spend (62%).</p> <p><b>In 2013/14 the main public and voluntary sector funders were:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Lottery Fund (£84.9 million)</li> <li>• Historic Scotland (£79.1 million)</li> <li>• Local Authorities (£47.0 million)</li> <li>• National Trust for Scotland (£46.6 million)</li> <li>• RCAHMS (£6.3 million)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Impact of Grants</b></p>	<p><b>Heritage grants are a major incentive for conserving built heritage, regenerating town centres, creating work in the construction industry and supporting tourism.</b> For example, between 2002 and 2013 Historic Scotland awarded grants of £133 million that assisted repairs of over £580 million. For every £1 HS invests in grant funding, an additional £3.36 is provided from other sources, further benefitting the Scottish economy.</p> <p>HS grants will be maintained at current levels (£14.5 million) in cash terms for 2014/15 and 2015/16.</p> <p>An independent assessment of the <b><u>Impact of Historic Environment Grant Investment</u></b>, Jura Consultants, 2013, showed that historic environment grants have a wide range of environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits.</p>
<p><b>Climate change and sustainability</b></p>	<p>Climate change is affecting Scotland’s historic environment, and a lot of effort is being made to raise awareness of the risks so that action can be taken to protect these irreplaceable and valuable assets.</p> <p>It is projected that Scotland will become warmer and wetter. More rainfall will mean that traditional buildings will be wetter for longer, resulting in increased weathering of stone, rotting timbers and corrosion of metals. It is important that buildings are well maintained and managed to ensure they can withstand increased rainfall and weathering.</p> <p>The built historic environment and its on-going upkeep is inherently sustainable as it reuses existing buildings and minimises the use of new resources. Traditional buildings have embedded energy (the energy required to extract, process, manufacture, transport and install building materials). Although traditional buildings usually have a lower thermal performance than new buildings, continuing to use them can avoid releasing further carbon emissions by reducing the need for new buildings and contributing to our sense of place.</p> <p>One fifth (19%) of our 2.4 million housing stock is now more than 95 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 helps give Scotland its unique character.</p>

## Share and Celebrate

Scotland's historic environment makes a valuable contribution to our quality of life, cultural identity, education and economy. Key evidence showing how we share and celebrate our heritage is described below.

<b>Tourism, reputation, attitudes and wellbeing</b>	<p><b>Tourism is one of the most important industries in Scotland, and the historic environment remains a major contributor to that industry by attracting millions of visitors each year.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 28% of adults had visited a historic or archaeological site in the 12 months prior to 2013, according to the Scottish Household Survey.</li><li>• Around 14 million tourists visited historic environment attractions in 2012, representing almost one in three (29%) of recorded visits to Scottish attractions, according to the <b><u>Moffat Centre for Tourism</u></b></li><li>• In Scotland, the most visited paid (Edinburgh Castle) and free (National Museum of Scotland) sites are heritage attractions.</li><li>• Historic Scotland reported increasing visitor numbers to its paid sites and increasing income raised from its properties over the period 2008 to 2014. In 2013/14, 3.5 million visitors visited Historic Scotland's Properties in Care.</li></ul> <p><b>Scotland retains a strong reputation for tourism and heritage.</b> The Nation Brands Index (2012) shows that out of 50 nations, Scotland is ranked 13 for tourism and 12 for being rich in historic buildings and monuments.</p> <p><b>Attitudes to heritage continue to be extremely positive.</b> A variety of research demonstrates that visitor satisfaction with heritage continues to be very high; rates of visitor loyalty/repeat visits to heritage attractions are high; perceived value for money is good. <b>Heritage, history and culture are regarded by many visitors as their main reason for visiting Scotland.</b> For example when asked why did you chose Scotland for this trip, 28% of all visitors said to learn more about history/culture of Scotland. This figure rises to 43% for those on a first time visit to Scotland. <b><u>The Scotland Visitor Survey 2011 and 2012, VisitScotland</u></b></p> <p><b>Those who visited a historic or archaeological place were over 50% more likely to report a high life satisfaction than those who did not visit,</b> according to <b><u>Healthy Attendance, Scottish Government, 2013</u></b></p> <p><b>Taking part in heritage is good for our health and wellbeing,</b> according to <b><u>Heritage Counts 2014.</u></b></p>
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<p><b>Membership, participation and volunteering opportunities</b></p>	<p><b>The historic environment continues to provide opportunities for participation and volunteering and levels are healthy.</b></p> <p><b>Membership of the two largest historic environment membership organisations in Scotland has increased steadily over the period 2008 to 2014.</b> As at 2014 the National Trust for Scotland has 320,116 members and Historic Scotland has 140,217 members.</p> <p><b>Participation in Doors Open Days and Scottish Archaeology Month are good, with both events continuing to attract a healthy number of visitors and volunteers.</b></p> <p><b>The number of Adopt-a-Monuments scheme projects has increased</b> from 12 in 2008 to 32 in 2014.</p> <p>There are a number of good examples of community engagement and capacity building across the sector, including <u><b>Scotland's Rural Past</b></u> and the forthcoming <u><b>Scotland's Urban Past</b></u>.</p> <p><b>Volunteers play a vital role in conserving the historic environment.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 <i>Volunteering and the Historic Environment</i>, 2008 <u><a href="http://www.heacs.org.uk">www.heacs.org.uk</a></u>.</li> <li>• Evidence from the 2014 Taking Part study in England shows that volunteering levels, in the heritage sector, have remained fairly constant since 2007/8. Estimates for 2013/14 suggest that 4.3% of people had volunteered in the heritage sector in 2012/13. <u><b>Volunteering and Charitable Giving</b></u></li> <li>• The National Trust for Scotland report an increase in both the number of volunteers (3,818 in 2014) and the number of hours carried out by these volunteers (197,415 in 2014) on 2008 levels.</li> </ul> <p><b>The historic environment contributes to the digital inclusion agenda.</b> The number of searches on heritage online databases continues to be high. For example, during 2013/14 RCAHMS recorded around 78,000 searches on PastMap; around 4 million page views on Canmore and Canmap; 8.3 million searches on SCRAN; and 4.1 million page views on Scotland's Places.</p> <p><b>The number of accredited members, based in Scotland, in the two largest historic environment professional associations has increased by around a third between 2008 and 2014.</b> At 2014 the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) has 316 members and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) has 180 members.</p>
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<p><b>Education and training</b></p>	<p><b>The historic environment continues to make a strong contribution to education and training programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Around 1 in 5 (19%) of all school visits to attractions are to historic sites, according to the <b><u>Moffat Centre for Tourism, 2012.</u></b></li> <li>• Increasing numbers of candidates are entering for history exams at secondary school between 2008 (35,770) and 2013 (38,027).</li> <li>• 11,275 higher education students studied courses related to the historic environment in 2012/13, compared to 12,055 in 2007/8.</li> <li>• 105,351 learners accessed Historic Scotland’s properties using the free educational visits scheme in 2013/14 (up from 66,000 in 2003/4). 1,028 schools and 36,346 learners benefitted from the SG travel subsidy for schools in 2013/14, supporting visits to HS Properties in Care, world heritage sites and battlefields.</li> <li>• The sector offers paid training and apprenticeships to improve the skills of the construction workforce.</li> <li>• The <b><u>Engine Shed</u></b> is Historic Scotland’s project to create Scotland’s first Building Conservation Centre. The £8.9 million project will open in 2016 and is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Scottish Government, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources. It will create a world leading centre for technical conservation in Scotland – bringing together the disciplines of technical education, training and outreach, digital documentation and conservation science. It will provide a skills platform to explore and promote the use of traditional crafts and materials.</li> </ul>
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## Further Information

The full SHEA 2014 report and previous reports are available from **Scotland's Historic Environment Audit**

Priorities for future data collection and further study will be identified through the stakeholder-led programme which is being developed to measure the success of the historic environment strategy for Scotland: **Our Place in Time**

Our historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government’s strategic objectives and to the **National Performance Framework.**