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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

DRAFT RESPONSIBLE TOURISM FRAMEWORK

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

Responsible Tourism Framework Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

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1. Introduction

What is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

When public bodies are preparing plans, programmes and strategies, an assessment of their effect on the environment is undertaken. The public bodies preparing plans, programmes or strategies are the 'Responsible Authorities' for those documents.

The purpose of SEA is to ensure that information on the environmental effects of a plan, programme or policy are gathered and made available to plan-makers and decision takers as it is prepared and implemented. The overarching aim of SEA is to provide a high level of protection for the environment, to reduce environmental impact and to enhance environmental outcomes. It also ensures that policies and proposals are informed by relevant environmental information and provides further opportunities for people to get involved in the process.

In doing so, SEA aims to:

- integrate environmental factors into plan preparation and decision-making
- improve plans and enhance environmental protection
- increase public participation in decision making
- facilitate openness and transparency

The key stages of SEA for the HES Responsible Tourism Framework involve:

Stage	Activity
Screening	Determining if the HES Responsible Tourism Framework is likely to have significant environmental effects and whether an SEA is required.
Scoping	Deciding on the scope and level of detail for the assessment and the consultation period. This is done in liaison with NatureScot (NS) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).
Assessment, mitigation & enhancement	Testing the contents of the HES Responsible Tourism Framework as it is developed, identifying mitigation measures and looking at ways to enhance positive effects.
Environmental Report	Publishing an Environmental Report on the findings of the assessment and consulting on that report and the HES Responsible Tourism Framework.
Adoption & monitoring	Providing information on the adopted the HES Responsible Tourism Framework, how consultation comments have been taken into account and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects arising from its implementation.

What is the purpose of this report?

The purpose of this report is to document the findings of our environmental assessment of the draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework. In doing so, it highlights the types of environmental issues that we have considered, at a strategic level, as being relevant for the actions that are likely to be brought forward. Where possible we have sought to identify the most significant effects (both positive and negative) and where relevant, suggest mitigation measures or opportunities for enhancement.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005. This legislation sets out the process of undertaking SEA, from screening (where relevant) and scoping at the outset, to assessment, the preparation of an Environmental Report, and public consultation.

Background to the HES Responsible Tourism Framework

The HES Responsible Tourism Framework has been developed to define the organisation's understanding of, and role in, responsible tourism. It outlines the principles guiding Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) decision-making and sets out how tourism in the historic environment can contribute to better quality of life and meaningful experiences for all.

Globally, there is growing recognition of the importance of transforming tourism to a force for good by mainstreaming environmental, social, and economic sustainability in all tourism related activity. Responsible tourism addresses existing and future negative impacts of tourism on resources, the environment, communities, and economies. It creates new opportunities for HES to pro-actively manage the balance between deriving benefits from cultural heritage while sustaining it for future generations.

Our Place in Time (OPiT), Scotland's strategy for the historic environment, has identified the historic environment as key to Scottish tourism, and as Scotland's lead public body for the historic environment and the largest operator of paid-for visitor attractions, HES has a responsibility to show leadership in the just transition to a low carbon economy, in which responsible tourism will play a significant role in.

Responsible tourism is cross-cutting, guided by and forming part of various national policies and legislation, such as the global climate emergency, the shift to a circular economy, the transformation to a wellbeing economy, the just transition to net zero and the place principles. Adopting responsible tourism principles also supports the national tourism strategy, Scotland Outlook 2030: Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future, developed by the Scottish Tourism Alliance.

As Scotland's lead public body for the historic environment and the largest operator of paid-for visitor attractions, HES has a responsibility to show leadership in the just transition to a low carbon economy. HES's commitment to responsible tourism is rooted in the HES Corporate Plan – Heritage for All. Responsible tourism is also a key part of the HES Climate Action Plan 2020-2025, which sets out, across seven themes, how the organisation will place the environmental impact of its activities at the heart of decision-making. As well as highlighting the approach to properties in

care (PICs), the Framework will also cover HES's work with partners and other stakeholders on responsible tourism related activities, and has the potential to serve as inspiration for the wider historic environment and tourism sector.

What was the process for developing the draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework?

Development of the draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework started in September 2021, with the creation of HES resource in form of the Responsible Tourism Coordinator. The current draft has been shaped by internal staff engagement and informed by external engagement with the heritage tourism sector, with the direction of travel based on national strategies, including Scotland Outlook 2030, and guided by international principles outlined in the Cape Town Declaration adapted to reflect where HES can make the biggest impact.

Following an initial scoping phase, covering both internal existing activity around responsible tourism and external policy developments in this field, a proposed outline for a Responsible Tourism Strategy and roadmap for its development has been presented to the HES Senior Management Team (SMT) on 22 February 2022. A draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework has been developed based on feedback from SMT and following several staff engagement sessions. A workshop was held during the annual Green Champions Conference 2021, to identify the organisations understanding of responsible tourism and a baseline of responsible tourism activity.

On 22 March 2022, a workshop was held at the Senior Leadership Forum to identify priority areas for effective action, as well as brainstorm, through visioning exercises, a series of aspirations covering the breadth of the organisation. During subsequent follow-up 1:1s and smaller group meetings, these aspirations were refined and grouped in nine outcomes within the priority areas.

A second draft based on feedback and input collected throughout the staff engagement has been presented to HES SMT in July 2022 for review and approval, before being then tabled at the HES Board meeting in August 2022.

The draft now circulated alongside the public consultation has been signed off by both HES SMT and Board.

Workshops to define KPIs for the Framework are planned for end of September 2022.

Consultation

The Environmental Report accompanies the draft Framework for a 9-week public consultation between 28 September and 30 November 2022. Any comments that you would like to make on either document are welcomed. A number of questions are listed in the Response Form which you are encouraged to use to help structure your response to the draft plan and this Environmental Report.

With regards to the Environmental Report, and its detailed findings and predictions for likely significant effects set out in Annex A and summarised in Section 5, the main questions to consider are:

Has our environmental assessment identified the likely environmental effects of the options?

Do you think there are any additional mitigation, enhancement, or monitoring measures that should be considered?

Do you have any other comments on the environmental assessment?

2. Environmental Context

What environmental information has been used to inform the assessment?

One of the early stages of the SEA process is to consider the relationship of the HES Responsible Tourism Framework to other relevant policies, plans, strategies (PPS) and their environmental objectives. This allows key environmental objectives to be identified for consideration during the framework preparation process. It is also important to identify both the plans, programmes and strategies that will influence the Framework and those that will be influenced by the Framework itself. An understanding of the context and the hierarchy that the Framework sits within is also useful for giving early thought to mitigation measures and where they may be best implemented.

Annex D contains a detailed review of the list of key plans, programmes and strategies and current legislation considered to be most directly relevant to the HES Responsible Tourism Framework and includes details of how their environmental objectives have been considered as part of the scoping exercise.

What existing environmental objectives have been taken into account?

The key environmental protection objectives identified from our review of legislation, policies, plans and strategies therefore are:

- To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats
- To protect and enhance species, habitats and ecosystems
- To protect, enhance and – where appropriate – restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
- To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment
- To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment
- To promote and encourage opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy access to wildlife and the countryside
- To promote sustainable development
- To reduce the exposure of sensitive receptors to poor air quality

- To protect and enhance the water environment (with a requirement to ensure that the status of all waters are protected from deterioration)
- To protect soil resources from erosion and pollution
- To reduce our contribution to climate change and be positioned to respond to the predicted effects of climate change
- To improve health and wellbeing through access (including equality of access) to good quality natural, historic and built environments.
- To recognise the need to shape places which are nurturing of positive health, wellbeing and resilience.
- To make plans for local areas which meet the needs and ambitions of local people, and which give weight to the voice and views of local communities.
- To ensure that Scotland's built heritage remains one of the main motivators for visits to Scotland.
- To promote sustainable development.
- To maximise use of existing assets to meet future need, with a focus on climate change adaptation
- To support planning outcomes that focus on key themes emerging from the 4th National Planning Framework: net-zero emissions, a wellbeing economy, resilient economy and better, greener places, 20-minute neighbourhoods.
- To revitalise our town centres, particularly in light of COVID-19 which has changed the way we all live, work and shop.

What environmental baseline information has been gathered?

In order to establish the environmental effects of our HES Responsible Tourism Framework, it is necessary to understand the environmental baseline of the area that is likely to be affected. Schedule 3 of the Act lists the environmental topics that should be considered in SEA. To focus the SEA, baseline information has been gathered on the environmental issues that are likely to be affected by the Framework. Given that it covers our estate across Scotland, a national baseline has been reviewed. Annex B provides a detailed baseline, information about the environmental issues relevant to the Framework, and baseline sources.

3. Approach to the Assessment

What aspects of the environment could the HES Responsible Tourism Framework affect?

A key part of the scoping process in SEA is to identify whether the environmental receptors set out in Schedule 3 of the Act are likely to be affected by the Framework. This can lead to some environmental receptors being “scoped out” of the assessment. The scoping process helps to focus the SEA on the key significant issues.

Based on the environmental protection objectives identified above and in Annex D, an assessment was undertaken to identify the environmental topics that are likely to be affected by the Framework. The Consultation Authorities were broadly supportive of this approach, with some specific recommendations which are detailed at Annex C.

Table 2 below sets out the scoping of SEA environmental receptors:

Table 2: Scoping in/out of environmental topics

Environmental topic	Scoped in/out	Potential issues arising from the HES Responsible Tourism Framework and justification for scoping in/out
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	In	We consider that the strategic priorities and targets in the HES Responsible Tourism Framework may affect biodiversity, flora and fauna, but are unsure whether this is likely to be significant. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic into the assessment as a precautionary measure and help identify potential enhancements in relation to this topic.
Landscape (including seascapes and urban and suburban landscapes)	In	The linkages between cultural and natural landscapes are recognised and the potential for significant effects on the baseline condition of Scotland's natural landscape character and scenic value will be explored. In light of this landscape has been scoped into the assessment.
Cultural Heritage	In	The key focus of the Framework will be on cultural heritage, and will address tourism at some of Scotland's most significant historic environment sites.
Population and Human Health	In	The HES Responsible Tourism Framework is likely to have significant effects for population and human health through outcomes and targets which will lead to continued access to cultural sites in the care of Scottish Ministers and activities relating to further interpretation and understanding of Scotland's historic environment and the role it can play in creating better communities and places. There may also be effects on communities in terms of employment, volunteering and the local economy.
Soil	Out	Although there may be some effects for soil as a result of Historic Environment Scotland's priorities set out in the HES Responsible Tourism Framework (for instance, a reduction in erosion of paths), we consider these will be on a small scale at a local level, rather than strategically significant. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic out of the assessment.
Water	Out	Although there may be some effects for water (e.g. water quality, flow, flooding or pollution) as a result of Historic Environment Scotland's priorities set out in the HES Responsible Tourism Framework, we consider these would be positive in nature, but on a small scale at a local level, rather than strategically significant. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic out of the assessment.
Air	In	We consider that the strategic priorities and targets in the HES Responsible Tourism Framework may affect air quality, but are unsure whether this is

		likely to be significant. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic into the assessment as a precautionary measure.
Climatic Factors	In	It is considered that the HES Responsible Tourism Framework could make a significant contribution to reducing the causes of climate change by setting targets for reduced emissions/efficiency. The predicted effects of climate change are also likely to have implications for the historic environment at a strategic level particularly through coastal erosion and increased incidence of extreme weather. The Framework may also therefore have a role in contributing to effective adaptation particularly in terms of traditional buildings.
Material Assets	In	The strategic priorities and targets in the HES Responsible Tourism Framework will affect some of Scotland's most significant tourism assets. There may also be effects from the Framework on local places and infrastructure.

How has the Responsible Tourism Framework been assessed?

SEA objectives were developed for each of the environmental receptors scoped into the assessment. These are supported by more detailed assessment criteria. The SEA objectives and criteria are set out in Table 3.

Table 3: SEA Objectives and Assessment Criteria

Environmental Topic	SEA Objective	How will the HES Responsible Tourism Framework affect...
Cultural Heritage	Safeguard and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	<p>...designated tangible features of the historic environment?</p> <p>...undesignated / unknown tangible features of the historic environment?</p> <p>...intangible features of the historic environment?</p> <p>...elements of the historic environment which have been identified as at risk?</p> <p>...the consequences of climate change for the historic environment?</p>
Landscape (including seascapes, urban and suburban landscapes)	To safeguard and enhance the distinct identity, the diverse character and the special qualities of Scotland's landscapes as a whole.	...landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value?

Biodiversity, flora and fauna	To safeguard and enhance biodiversity	<p>...species and habitats?</p> <p>...green / blue networks?</p> <p>...woodland (including ancient and semi-natural)?</p> <p>...opportunities for increased biodiversity?</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Promote celebration, understanding, enjoyment and access to the natural and cultural heritage</p> <p>Support healthy living and working environments</p> <p>To reduce inequalities</p>	<p>...access to the historic environment?</p> <p>...understanding of the value of the historic environment?</p> <p>...community involvement in decisions affecting their places and spaces?</p> <p>...the condition of the historic environment as a place to work and live?</p> <p>...the reduction of inequalities?</p>
Air Quality	Improve air quality	<p>...tourism related travel emissions?</p> <p>...other tourism related emissions?</p>
Material Assets	<p>Protect and promote tourism assets</p> <p>Support local infrastructure</p> <p>To support high quality place making</p> <p>Support circular economy and zero waste principles</p>	<p>...HES tourism assets?</p> <p>...local tourism assets?</p> <p>...management of infrastructure?</p> <p>...creation of high-quality places and spaces?</p> <p>...the reduction of waste?</p>
Climatic Factors	<p>Reduce the causes of climate change</p> <p>Contribute to effective adaptation to the predicted effects of climate change</p>	<p>...CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions?</p> <p>...Effective adaptation to the effects of climate change?</p>

How were alternatives identified and assessed?

The outcomes and aspirations set out in the draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework highlight how it will strengthen the ambitions of the HES Climate Action Plan 2020-2025, introducing positive environmental actions into operations across HES whilst reducing carbon emissions, increasing resilience against climate change impacts, and enhancing sustainability, social, economic, cultural, as well as environmental.

The inclusion and exclusion of aspirations in the Framework presented for consultation has been discussed through internal workshopping and discussions. Final inclusion, exclusion or any amendments to the aspirations will be informed by the consultation results.

All alternative options were assessed to the same level of detail. The assessments considered whether effects would be positive or negative and short, medium, or long term. Once each option had been assessed, the findings were brought together to identify whether elements of the Framework are likely to generate cumulative effects on any of the environmental receptors scoped into the assessment.

How has the SEA helped to avoid or minimise negative environmental impacts and enhance positive effects?

Environmental considerations have informed the development of the draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework from the start. The findings of this SEA will be used to inform the final iteration of the Framework prior to adoption, followed by the detailed design and development process for related activity. It will be ensured that key mitigation / enhancement measures are incorporated into the design, development and operation of any Framework activity going forward.

4. Assessment findings

Summary of Assessment Findings

Assessment matrices setting out the detailed findings in relation to each outcome, and underpinning aspirations, are provided in Annex A. We have provided a narrative summary of those findings below.

Our Responsibility for the Environment

Outcome 01 – We will integrate circular economy practices into our operational model.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects for landscape, cultural heritage, climatic factors, material assets and air.

Outcome 02 – We will protect and maintain the natural capital and biodiversity in our historic environment

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across all the SEA topics. Enhancement measures could increase the positive effects on biodiversity by ensuring that aspirations developed for this outcome can deliver a proactive approach in line with the national policy direction, giving consideration to the current biodiversity crisis.

Alternative adopted:

We will protect and improve the natural capital and biodiversity in our historic environment.

Outcome 03 – We will enable and promote low carbon visitor experiences.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across all the SEA topics.

Our Responsibility for People

Outcome 01 – We will co-create experiences enhancing the wellbeing of communities and visitors.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across landscape, cultural heritage and population and human health, however, their extent is dependent on detail of delivery.

Outcome 02 – We will improve accessibility, both physical and cultural, to heritage tourism experiences for all.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have significantly positive effects on population and human health, and positive effects on material assets, however, their extent is dependent on detail of delivery. Potential negative effects can occur on cultural heritage, their extent depending on detail of delivery. Mitigation measures will ensure that alignment with HEPS will be embedded into the planning and delivery process during the implementation of the Framework.

Outcome 03 – We will increase the seasonal and geographic spread of our outstanding experiences for more communities to benefit from tourism.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on landscape, cultural heritage, population and human health, climatic factors, and material assets. The extent of effects, however, depends on detail of delivery.

Our Responsibility for Capacity Building

Outcome 01 – We will improve and support the generation of local economic benefits from tourism.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on cultural heritage and material assets, with the extend of positive effects on

landscape depending on detail of delivery. Significant positive effects on population and human health are expected.

Outcome 02 – We will strengthen the provision of skills development and quality career pathways in the heritage sector.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, and material assets.

Outcome 03 – We will support heritage and tourism organisations and businesses in their efforts to achieving net zero.

The aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, climatic factors, and material assets.

Cumulative effects

The assessment methodology incorporates a cumulative assessment of aspirations, which has contributed to the findings for the overarching outcomes. This is outlined in the summary above, and in the detailed assessment matrices.

We also considered whether delivery of the outcomes in combination would have cumulative effects and have concluded that this will not result in any significant additional effects.

Mitigation, recommendations, and monitoring

Mitigation and enhancement measures are set out in detail in the detailed assessment matrices, and will be embedded into the decision-making processes for the implementation of the Framework.

It will be important to understand how the Framework is affecting the environment once it is implemented. This will help to identify any effects arising which were not predicted through the assessment and allow appropriate mitigation to be sought.

Monitoring of the Framework will likely rely on Key Performance Indicators, which are currently under development. We will ensure that environmental indicators and the issues identified in this assessment are factored into this process. Our approach

5. Next Steps

The public consultation period on our draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework ends on 30 November 2022. A final version of our Framework will be prepared following the consultation period to take into account comments made. All changes will be screened to consider if they raise significant environmental issues that have not already been taken into consideration in the environmental assessment. If the potential for significant environmental effects is identified, an assessment will be undertaken of their impact, and reported in the SEA Post Adoption Statement. This will be published along with the finalised plan. The SEA Post Adoption Statement, which will be published along with the final version of our plan, will show how the ER (and all the comments expressed on it) has been taken into account in the adopted HES Responsible Tourism Framework.

Milestones	Date
Public consultation on the Environmental Report and draft HES Responsible Tourism Framework	September - November 2022
Finalise HES Responsible Tourism Framework on the basis of consultation responses	December 2022
Publish finalised Framework and Post-Adoption SEA Statement	March 2023

Annex A - detailed assessment matrices

Legend:

++	Significantly positive effects.
+	Positive effects.
0	Minor or neutral effect.
?	Uncertain effects.
-	Adverse effects.
--	Significantly adverse effects.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT								
01: We will integrate circular economy practices into our operational model.								
How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
Establish a supporting policy framework.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> The forthcoming HES Circular Economy plan will form the framework for any effects related to this aspiration, and inclusion in the RTF will not have additional effects.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This aspiration could have enhanced positive effects on climatic factors (through support of net zero based practices such as keeping materials in use) and material assets (through reduction of waste and improved infrastructure management) by committing to a prompt update of the forthcoming HES Circular Economy plan once the new Circular Economy Strategy has been adopted.</p>								
Embed resource efficiency and prioritise reused and remanufactures goods over new.	Score	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports Circular Economy and Zero Waste principles by embedding resource efficiency, with consequent positive effects for material assets and by extension climatic factors. Minimal effects on the other topics are likely.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Empower and invest in initiatives that help us eliminate waste and pollution, and keep materials in use, both in the natural and built environments.	Score	+	0	0	+	+	+	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports Circular Economy and Zero Waste principles by embedding resource efficiency, with consequent positive effects for landscape (through reduced litter), material assets and by extension climatic factors and air (through reduced emissions and pollution). Minimal effects on the other topics are likely.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Build strong and fair partnerships with our suppliers, and mainstream sustainable procurement.	Score	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports Sustainable Procurement principles. Whilst the HES Sustainable Procurement Strategy remains the key driver of effects, the emphasis on mainstreaming the principles this aspiration provides is likely to support its effects for climatic factors (through reduction of production, consumption and transport related emissions) and cultural heritage (through increasing emphasis on products reflecting the local heritage and sense of place).</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Benefits for climatic factors and cultural heritage can be enhanced by ensuring strong and fair partnerships are predominantly built with local, Scottish suppliers.</p>								
01: We will integrate circular economy practices into our operational model.	Score	+	+	0	+	+	+	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects for landscape, cultural heritage, climatic factors, material assets and air.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for increased positive effects for climatic factors and cultural heritage by highlighting commitment to partnerships with local, Scottish partners.</p>								

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

02: We will protect and maintain the natural capital and biodiversity in our historic environment

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Work in partnership with natural heritage organisations to deliver the objectives set out in the HES's Biodiversity Delivery Statement for the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> The HES Biodiversity Delivery Statement forms the framework for any effects related to this aspiration, and inclusion in the RTF will not have additional effects.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This aspiration could have enhanced positive effects on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage by committing to a prompt update of the Delivery Statement once the new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy has been adopted.</p>							
Holistically consider future resources required, when planning new products and experiences, to ensure long-term sustainability.	Score	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports Circular Economy and Zero Waste principles by considering the long-term sustainability of future resources, with consequent positive effects for material assets and by extension climatic factors. Minimal effects on the other topics are likely.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified</p>							
Promote and implement best practices avoiding or minimising negative impacts of our tourism activities on the environment	Score	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on all topics, but the extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery, including the scope of the best practice guidance.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of best practice guidance. In order to support the aspiration's implementation, a SEA checklist will be integrated into a framework assessment toolkit currently under development.</p>							
Increase engagement with communities and visitors on litter prevention and complete actions outlined in the HES Litter Prevention Action Plan.	Score	+	0	+	0	0	0	+
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> Whilst the HES Litter Prevention Action Plan remains the key driver of effects, the emphasis on increased engagement which this aspiration provides is likely to increase positive effects for landscape (through reducing visual effects of litter), population and human health (through improving the condition of the historic environment as a place to work and live, increasing enjoyment of the historic environment, and increasing community involvement with the historic environment); and biodiversity (through reducing litter which can affect the heath and habitats of flora and fauna).</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Benefits for biodiversity and landscape could be enhanced by ensuring that engagement highlights the importance of litter prevention for those topics, as well as the benefits to the historic environment.</p>							
02: We will protect and maintain the natural capital and biodiversity in our historic environment	Score	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	+ / ?	+
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across all the SEA topics.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more significant positive effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna by amending the wording to include a commitment to the active enhancement of biodiversity and ensuring that aspirations developed for this outcome can deliver a proactive approach in line with the national policy direction, giving consideration to the current biodiversity crisis.</p>							
Reasonable alternative (following consideration of mitigation/ enhancement)								
02: We will protect and improve the natural capital and biodiversity in our historic environment.	Score	+	+ / ?	+	+	+	+	++
	<p><i>Commentary:</i> This outcome is likely to have some positive effects across all the SEA topics, and significant positive effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna, through reflecting a reaction to the current biodiversity crisis by including commitment to active enhancement of the biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>							

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

03: We will enable and promote low carbon visitor experiences.

How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Design experiences and increase marketing for domestic, low carbon visitors.	Score	0	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration aims to increase the number of low-carbon visitors to HES PICs through marketing and targeted experience design. It has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage (through ensuring experiences contribute to safeguarding and enhancing the historic environment), population and human health (through promoting the cultural value of the historic environment in experience design), climatic factors (as it supports the overall aim to reduce CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions), material assets (by supporting high quality place-making), and by extension air (through minimising tourism related travel emissions), but the extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the above-mentioned topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice. Constraints around what lies in direct control of the organisation and what doesn't should also be acknowledged.</p>							
Embed sustainable and active travel as a core consideration in the development of strategies, such as the HES Monument Investment Plans and Sustainable Management Plans.	Score	0	0	+	+	0	+
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports sustainable and active travel by prioritising ways of travel which help reduce travel related emission and support healthy living and wellbeing, with consequent positive effects for population and human health, climatic factors, and air, through improved air quality due to lower emissions. Effects on remaining SEA topics will be minimal.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance and maintain positive effects across the above-mentioned topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of influence of this framework on the development of internal plans and policies. In order to support the aspiration's implementation, a SEA checklist will be integrated into a framework assessment toolkit currently under development.</p>							
Adopt a shared destination approach with partners to develop low carbon travel routes between heritage attractions.	Score	0	0	+	+	0	+
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on population and human health (through support of active travel which brings with it health and wellbeing benefits), climatic factors (through reduction of travel related emissions), and air (through better air quality due to reduced emissions). Effects on remaining SEA topics will be minimal.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of partnership working.</p>							
Expand our capacity for digital interpretation of our heritage, enhancing our visitor welcome and experience.	Score	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on all topics, but the extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>							
Mainstream the historic connection between us and our environment, the impact of the climate emergency on our sites, and what we are doing about it in our interpretation, communication and publications.	Score	0	+	0	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health, by promoting understanding of the value of the historic environment and safeguarding both tangible and intangible features of the historic environment.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>							
03: We will enable and promote low carbon visitor experiences.	Score	+ / ?	+	+	+	+ / ?	+
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across all the SEA topics.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more significant positive effects for all SEA topics by amending the wording to include recognition of what is within and without direct control of the organisation.</p>							

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE

01: We will co-create experiences enhancing the wellbeing of communities and visitors.

How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Lead pro-active dialogues with communities, travel trade, Destination Management Organisations (DMOs), and tour operators to explore opportunities within social carrying capacity thresholds.	Score	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on landscape, cultural heritage and population and human health, by considering social carrying capacity when developing new experiences. The extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration will need to be given in the implementation to the terms and conditions on which we work with travel trade and tour operator to ensure they in turn fulfil SEA objectives in their own way of operating. Further, consideration will need to be given in the implementation to the individual social carrying capacity of a place; there will be no one size fits all. In order to support the aspiration's implementation, a SEA checklist will be integrated into a framework assessment toolkit currently under development.</p>							
Develop long-term relationships supporting groups who would otherwise struggle to engage actively with heritage and the historic environment.	Score	0	+ / ?	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health, by focusing on long-term support of marginalised and underrepresented groups and inviting them to be involved in decision making affecting their places and spaces.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of partnership working.</p>							
Develop a baseline to understand and recognise differing levels of community engagement.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>							
Evaluate feedback from communities, visitors, staff, and other stakeholders, on our co-creation and engagement with them.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>							
Develop colleagues to fully enable inclusive and meaningful community engagement around the development of our PICs.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>							
Encourage shared ownership of our heritage by providing authentic visitor experiences and volunteering opportunities that link to community priorities.	Score	0	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health, by encouraging shared ownership of our heritage which can lead to increased safeguarding and enhancement of the historic environment, as well as increased understanding of its value. The extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>							
01: We will co-create experiences enhancing the wellbeing of communities and visitors.	Score	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects across landscape, cultural heritage and population and human health, however, their extent is dependent on detail of delivery.</p>							
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more positive effects on landscape, cultural heritage and population and health by amending the wording to highlight the need for place-based, individual approaches for both the development of new experiences and community engagement.</p>							

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE

02: We will improve accessibility, both physical and cultural, to heritage tourism experiences for all.

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Identify barriers relating to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion through collaborative research with visitors and partners, to ensure everything from planning and booking to experiencing Scotland's heritage is as accessible as possible.	Score	0	0	+ / ?	0	+ / ?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on population and human health and material assets, as it examines existing infrastructure with a view to make it more accessible and involves communities in decision making affecting their places and spaces. The extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration will need to be given in the implementation to inherent constraints to physical accessibility of some historic sites. Alternative access should be highlighted and a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>								
Build capacity to analyse and interpret all collected data, and develop experiences based on our improved understanding of our visitors gained from this data.	Score	0	0	+ / ?	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on population and human health by focusing on feedback from communities, including visitors, when developing new accessible experiences in the historic environment. The extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects on population and human health should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>								
Design inclusive experiences which attract, encourage and enable new audiences from all backgrounds and abilities to enjoy our heritage.	Score	0	- / ?	++	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for significant positive effects on population and human health by focusing on creating access to the historic environment for audiences from all backgrounds and abilities. However, adverse effects on cultural heritage are possible, through potential physical interventions to, or near to, historic environment assets.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration will need to be given in the implementation to ensure that alignment with HEPS is embedded into the planning and delivery process.</p>								
Increase authentic engagement between staff and visitors to enhance accessibility.	Score	0	0	+ / ?	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on population and human health by focusing on enhancing accessibility. The extent of this will depend on the detail of delivery.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects on population and human health should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>								
02: We will improve accessibility, both physical and cultural, to heritage tourism experiences for all.	Score	0	- / ?	++	0	+ / ?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have significantly positive effects on population and human health, and positive effects on material assets, however, their extent is dependent on detail of delivery. Potential negative effects can occur on cultural heritage, their extent depending on detail of delivery.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more significant positive effects for population and human health by amending the wording to reflect inherent constraints to physical accessibility of HES PICs. It is imperative to ensure alignment with HEPS into planning and delivery of any activity which may entail physical interventions to, or near, historic environment assets.</p>								

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE

03: We will increase seasonal and geographic spread of our outstanding experiences for more communities to benefit from tourism.

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Enhance our Membership offer to influence visitors to spend more time in one place, visit off-peak, and spread their visit across the country, and reduce pressure at high volume sites.	Score	+/?	0	+/?	0	+/?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on landscape (through safeguarding and enhancing local distinctiveness and scenic value by supporting the avoidance of overcrowding and related challenges), population and human health (through recognising the value of the historic environment and promoting responsible enjoyment and access to cultural heritage), and material assets (through protecting HES tourism assets from increasing decay caused by human impact), but their extent will depend on detail of delivery.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration will need to be given in the implementation to individual site carrying capacities and a holistic approach thereof to include the wider environ of our PICs, to avoid simply moving the pressure from one site to the next. Positive effects on climatic factors (through reducing travel related emissions) could be enhanced by focusing Membership on the domestic market.</p>								
Adequately invest in pro-active visitor management, operations, staffing, and interpretation, to ensure quality experiences.	Score	0	+/?	+/?	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health, by promoting understanding of the value of the historic environment and safeguarding both tangible and intangible features of the historic environment through interpretation and quality experiences. Their extent will depend on detail of delivery.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects on cultural heritage and population and human health should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice. To help prioritising investment for interpretation and quality experiences, a SEA checklist will be integrated into a framework assessment toolkit currently under development.</p>								
Develop a visitor offer which is adaptable to external influences.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
03: We will increase the seasonal and geographic spread of our outstanding experiences for more communities to benefit from tourism.	Score	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	+/?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on landscape, cultural heritage, population and human health, climatic factors, and material assets. The extent of effects, however, depends on detail of delivery.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more significant positive effects for landscape and cultural heritage by amending the wording to include a commitment to take a holistic, place-based approach to social carrying capacity.</p>								

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

01: We will improve and support the generation of local economic benefits from tourism.

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Facilitate community wealth building through regional economic planning and investment mechanisms reducing economic leakage.	Score	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports the reduction of inequalities through community wealth building, with subsequent positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Increase HES's awareness of regional tourism strategies to identify areas for effective support and collaboration.	Score	0	+	+	0	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, and material assets by fostering a joint up, coordinated approach to the protection of historic environment, increasing the understanding of its value through wider regional engagement, and supporting local infrastructure, covering both HES and other local tourism assets.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Support and invest in communities to develop local approaches to tourism planning and management.	Score	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on landscape, cultural heritage and population and human health but the extent will depend on detail of delivery. Potential positive effects on material assets through a focus on supporting on local approaches in the protection and promotion of tourism assets and infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Benefits for climatic factors could be created by ensuring consideration for prioritisation of infrastructure supporting the reduction of CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>								
Ensure marginalised communities and individuals are involved in decision-making processes, to support and encourage inclusive employment and entrepreneurship.	Score	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for significant positive effects on population and human health as it actively seeks involvement of marginalised communities and individuals in decision-making effecting their places and spaces and increases the understanding of the value of the historic environment.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
01: We will improve and support the generation of local economic benefits from tourism.	Score	+ / ?	+	++	0	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on cultural heritage and material assets, with the extend of positive effects on landscape depending on detail of delivery. Significant positive effects on population and human health are expected.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> This outcome has the potential for more significant positive effects for climatic factors by amending the wording to include a commitment to prioritise infrastructure which supports the reduction of CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions.</p>								

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

02: We will strengthen the provision of skills development and quality career pathways in the heritage tourism sector.

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Identify skills and knowledge gaps across the heritage tourism sector to develop tailored training resources.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Strengthen partnerships with institutions training our future staff, to address knowledge and skills gaps, remain up-to-date with research, and embed HES knowledge in their learning programmes.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Identify our skills and knowledge gaps, and develop training in response.	Score	0	+ / ?	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage as training material will support safeguarding and where appropriate enhancing the historic environment including all its features. Their extent will depend on detail of delivery.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across cultural heritage should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of training material.</p>								
Develop a knowledge base and best practice catalogue, including examples of community co-creation, to ensure consistency across the organisation.	Score	0	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	+ / ?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, and material assets by promoting safeguarding the historic environment, providing opportunities for community involvement, as well as protecting tourism assets. Their extent will depend on detail of delivery.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across cultural heritage, population and human health, and material assets should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of the best practice catalogue.</p>								
Integrate pro-active workforce planning to ensure provision of training and progression opportunities.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
02: We will strengthen the provision of skills development and quality career pathways in the heritage sector.	Score	0	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	+ / ?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have some positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, and material assets.</p>								
<p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								

OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

03: We will support heritage and tourism organisations and businesses in their efforts to achieving net zero.

	How will the outcome / aspiration affect...	Landscape	Cultural Heritage	Population and human health	Climatic factors	Material assets	Air	Biodiversity, flora and fauna
Expand relationships with community and volunteering groups, and local businesses, support them on climate action, and developing products and activities aligning with a responsible tourism approach.	Score	0	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	+ / ?	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports raising awareness for responsible tourism principles and their application in the development of products and activities through expanding relationships, with consequent potential positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, climatic factors, and material assets by supporting safeguarding the historic environment. Their extend will depend on detail of delivery.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Collaborate with DMOs to support and influence destination aims.	Score	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Inclusion of this aspiration will have no effect on the SEA topics.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Share tailored guidance and insight on practical action towards net zero.	Score	0	+	0	+	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports the application of mitigation principles by sharing insight on practical action towards net zero, with consequent positive effects on cultural heritage, material assets, and climatic factors.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the above-mentioned topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice, and the scope of guidance and insight provided.</p>								
Provide funding for a broad range of heritage assets owners, to further their activity towards net zero.	Score	0	+	0	+	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports the just transition to net zero by providing funding, with subsequent positive effects on cultural heritage and material assets, through promoting and safeguarding the historic environment, and by extension climatic factors.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								
Positively influence behaviour and inspire others within the heritage tourism sector, towards taking responsibility for net zero activities.	Score	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on population and human health and climatic factors, by promoting responsible behaviour through improving understanding the value of the historic environment and contributing to the reduction of CO2 and greenhouse gases.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the above-mentioned topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p>								
03: We will support heritage and tourism organisations and businesses in their efforts to achieving net zero.	Score	0	+	+	+	+	0	0
<p><i>Commentary:</i> Cumulatively, the aspirations underpinning this outcome are likely to have positive effects on cultural heritage, population and human health, climatic factors, and material assets.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p>								

Annex B – Environmental Baseline

Environmental baseline

In order to establish the environmental effects of the RTF it is necessary to understand the environmental baseline of the area that is likely to be affected. Schedule 3 of the Act lists the environmental topics that should be considered in SEA. To focus the SEA, baseline information has been gathered on the environmental issues that are likely to be affected by the RTF. Given that the RTF covers Historic Environment Scotland’s activities across Scotland, a national baseline has been reviewed. A summary of the key baseline information for each relevant environmental topic is set out below.

Cultural Heritage

Baseline Data	Sources
Buildings at Risk	Historic Environment Scotland GIS Downloader
Investment in the Historic Environment	National Monuments Record of Scotland (includes equivalent data to the Sites and Monuments Records)
Designated Sites, Buildings, Landscapes and Battlefields	Scotland's Historic Environment Audit 2016 Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (BARR)
Properties in Care	Scotland's Environment Web
Non-designated historic environment features	
Marine Heritage	
Local Character and Townscapes	

The historic environment is a legacy of our long history, from the ‘eco homes’ at Skara Brae, to the post-war homes and churches built by Scotland’s leading architects, and with a great deal in between. Scotland’s historic environment is a unique asset, attracting millions of visitors each year and generating income and jobs across Scotland. As such, the historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government’s strategic objectives and the purpose, values and national outcomes stated in the National Performance Framework.

Scotland has six World Heritage Sites, over 47,000 listed buildings and more than 600 conservation areas. Nearly 400 sites are currently identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and 40 sites are on the Inventory of Battlefields. The actual extent of archaeological remains in Scotland is unknown with just over 8,000 Scheduled Monuments representing only a small proportion of the archaeological sites for which HES holds records. There are many more unrecorded sites, features and unknown resources throughout the country. Landscapes are a

key part of our cultural heritage; they have huge economic potential and are a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being.

The key information relating to the context for the RTF, and what we have based our assessment upon, can be found in the 2016 Heritage Audit and in the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, *Our Place in Time*.

Population and Human Health

Baseline Data	Sources
Access to historic environment sites, records and collections	Historic Environment Scotland
Tourism revenue and visitor numbers	Visit Scotland
Health and Place data	NHS Scotland
Socio-economic data	Scottish Government
	SEPA Guidance on consideration of health factors in SEA

The environment provides a variety of services that are beneficial to human health including opportunities for education and recreation. Access to historic environment sites, forests, woodlands and nature conservation sites as well as the wider environment can help to promote healthier lifestyles, having positive effects on both physical and mental health. The quality of the environment and places and buildings in which we live can also impact on our quality of life. High quality urban environments, including natural landscapes, can create a sense of place and improve well-being. Poorly maintained housing and neglected community spaces can have a negative impact on physical and mental well-being.

The historic environment needs to be managed in a sustainable way to ensure that the positive and distinctive contribution it can make to our well-being, landscape, and sense of history, identity and place can be realised.

Community Planning is an increasingly important area in which the connection between people and place and the associated impacts (for example; health, wellbeing and social inclusion) can be seen as a driver towards better outcomes in these areas.

Climatic Factors

Baseline Data	Sources
CO2 Emissions	SNIFFER
Carbon Footprint	SEPA Guidance on consideration of climatic factors in Strategic Environmental Assessment
SNIFFER 2014 Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland	UKCIP
United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) Climate Modelling	Historic Scotland Conservation Group
Dynamic Coast – National Coastal Change Assessment	Dynamic Coast

Our archaeology and coastal landscapes are vulnerable to coastal erosion, rises in sea level, flooding and storminess. Some of Scotland's unique and special sites such as Skara Brae in Orkney are most at risk. Built heritage can also suffer adverse effects from storms, subsidence and increased wetting and weathering. More rainfall will mean that traditional buildings will be wetter for longer periods of time resulting in increased weathering of stone, algal and fungal growth, corrosion of metals and timber decay. The spread of pests and disease as a result of a warmer climate and milder wetter winters can also have effects upon various materials and furnishings. Measures to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings need to be considered carefully with thought given to the carbon footprint, embodied energy, longevity and sustainability of existing and replacement materials.

For example, reducing air leakage in traditional buildings to prevent heat loss might result in condensation and mould growth, with damaging effects on the building fabric and the health of those living there. Careful consideration also needs to be given to the renewable energy projects (such as micro renewables) which may have a detrimental effect on the character or setting of historic environment features, landscapes and townscapes.

We also need to be mindful of the relationship between resource use and work in the area of waste reduction and their link with climatic factors.

Landscape (including seascapes and urban and suburban landscapes)

Baseline Data	Sources
Wild land	Historic Land use Assessment
National, Regional and Country Parks	NatureScot
National Scenic Areas	Coastal Character Assessment
Local Landscape Areas	Landscape Character Assessment and associated guidance
Historic Land Use	National Scenic Areas and their Special Qualities
	Wild land

Scotland's diverse and distinctive landscapes are a significant part of the country's natural and cultural heritage, making an important and positive contribution to the economic, cultural and social wellbeing of the nation.

The European Landscape Convention aims are to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes, not just protected areas. Landscape is a component of a number of environmental designations and there is an intricate relationship between landscape, conservation, other environmental objectives, community identity and wellbeing and economic development. It is a key part of our cultural heritage which has huge economic potential and is a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being. This relationship between the perception of natural and historic landscape means that the sustainable management of the historic environment can impact on landscape as a whole.

Scottish Natural Heritage have, in partnership with others, produced a series of 30 regional Landscape Character Assessment studies that identify and map the landscape character of all of Scotland. These are currently being reviewed with the aim of producing a single national dataset. The Landscape Character Assessments are used heavily in policy making, development planning and management and form an important tool in the appropriate consideration of landscape-scale change.

Work in the area of Coastal Character Assessment is also being brought forward by Scottish Natural Heritage with a Guidance Note on the topic published in 2017. Coastal Character Assessment identifies, describes and maps Scotland's coasts and these will underpin marine plans, development plans and specific development proposals. Coastal Character Types have been identified at a national level and a Coastal Character Assessment for Orkney and Caithness in 2016.

Material assets

Baseline Data	Sources
Agricultural and forestry land use data	Scottish Government
Housing supply data	Transport Scotland
Transport data	Forestry Commission Scotland
Tourism revenue and visitor numbers	SEPA Guidance on consideration of material assets in Strategic Environmental Assessment
Waste data	Visit Scotland

Agricultural and forestry policies promote sustainable land use, environmental protection and stewardship, and emphasise the importance of delivering public goods out with market mechanisms. The Scottish Government's Draft Climate Change Plan, published in January 2017, sets specific targets for future woodland expansion to cover 21% of Scotland by 2032. To deliver this, the draft plan proposes that the rate of new afforestation rises to 15,000 hectares per year by 2024. Scotland's forests are the most productive in the UK. Our woodlands and forests offer many benefits: economic (including timber, non-timber and tourism), health and wellbeing, carbon storage and ecosystems services. The National Forest Estate covers nearly 9% of Scotland, extending to over 650,000 hectares. There are 323 Scheduled Monuments and 31 listed buildings on the Forestry Commission Scotland Designated Historic Assets Register. There are also around 12,000 individual historic environment features on the Forester GIS (Geographic Information System) Heritage Module. Around 80% of Scotland's land mass is used for agriculture, and agricultural practices, both historic and current, have helped shape our landscape and historic environment.

Construction accounts for about 50% of all waste in Scotland and is a major influence on efficient use of resources. The Scottish Government has published a strategy – Safeguarding Scotland's resources – that focuses on waste prevention and the circular economy. It includes a target to reduce the amount of waste generated in Scotland by 15% by 2025. The historic environment and its ongoing 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 some new carbon by reducing the need for new buildings. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the upkeep of old buildings, while maintaining their cultural significance, is a challenge. All measures to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings need to be considered carefully with thought given to the carbon footprint, lifespan and the sustainability of existing and replacement materials. In improving energy efficiency, it is important to avoid damaging effects on traditional buildings. For example, reducing air leakage in

buildings to prevent heat loss may result in condensation and fungus growth, with damaging effects on the fabric of the building and the health of people using it.

Traditionally constructed buildings including housing make a major contribution to Scotland’s existing built environment. The Scottish House Condition Survey (SCHS) 2015 estimates that around 20% of Scottish dwellings were built before 1919 (488,000 dwellings). 68% of pre-1919 buildings had a degree of critical element disrepair in 2015, compared to 72% in 2014 and 73% in 2013. The Scottish average was 52% in 2015, 53% in 2014 and 57% in 2013. Around 9% of households live in conservation areas, which cover about 0.3% of Scotland’s land area. The Scottish Government’s Strategy for Housing states a need for new housing supply, and also that bringing empty homes back into active use would represent an important contribution to effective new supply.

Scotland’s transport infrastructure is also a key asset in connecting our urban and more remote rural areas, and supporting future growth. Many elements of the road, rail and canal networks across the country are of traditional construction.

Tourism is a key economic driver and the historic environment is one of the main motivators for tourism activity in Scotland. Heritage-based tourism created an estimated £780 million for the Scottish economy in 2015, supporting 23,100 FTE jobs across the sector.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Baseline Data	Sources
Special Protection Areas Special Areas of Conservation National Nature Reserves Sites of Special Scientific Interest Local Nature Reserves Woodland (including ancient and semi-natural)	NatureScot SiteLink

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, or certain regularly occurring migratory species. Scotland is internationally important for many species of wild birds due to our location in north-west Europe, and our varied range of wild and semi-natural habitats.

Scotland has 162 classified SPAs, from the north of Shetland to the cross border Solway Firth SPA, as well as within inshore and offshore waters. This also includes a suite of [12 marine SPAs](#) which were classified in December 2020. Together they

cover an area of around 2.75 million hectares (27,500 square kilometres) of Scotland's land and sea. Find out more about [marine European sites](#).

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects one or more special habitats and/or species – terrestrial or [marine](#) – listed in the [Habitats Directive](#). Scotland has 243 designated SACs, including three that straddle the border with England and two which straddle the 12nm inshore/offshore territorial boundary. There are also eight designated SACs entirely in Scotland's offshore waters. Together they cover more than 3.84 million hectares (38,400 square kilometres) of Scotland's land, inshore and offshore waters.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are areas of land set aside for nature. As in other countries, the accolade is given to Scotland's best wildlife sites, to promote their conservation and enjoyment. Most reserves contain nationally or internationally important habitats and species, so the wildlife is managed very carefully. Visitor facilities are designed and managed to ensure that people can enjoy NNRs without harming or disturbing the wildlife that lives there.

[Scotland has 43 NNRs](#); these are special places, showcasing the very best of Scotland's nature, and cover just under 2% of Scotland's land area. Included in the series are mountain tops, ancient woodlands, remote islands with huge colonies of breeding seabirds, and lowland lochs that are vitally important staging posts for migrating birds.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are those areas of land and water that are considered to best represent our natural heritage in terms of their:

- flora – i.e. plants
- fauna – i.e. animals
- geology – i.e. rocks
- geomorphology – i.e. landforms
- a mixture of these natural features

Scotland has 1,422 SSSIs, covering around 1,011,000 hectares or 12.6% of Scotland's land area (above mean low water springs). Sites range in size from the very small, like Bo'mains Meadow SSSI, at just under a hectare, to the vast Cairngorms SSSI, which extends to more than 29,000 hectares. Many SSSIs are also designated as [European sites](#) – whether as [Special Areas of Conservation](#) or [Special Protection Areas](#).

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are areas of natural heritage that are at least locally important. There are 75 LNRs in Scotland, usually close to towns and cities. Local authorities select and designate LNRs under Section 21 of the [National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949](#) (as amended).

Native tree and shrub species provide much of our native wildlife with its natural habitats, so are a valuable part of Britain's nature and landscapes. Woodland's importance for biodiversity is closely related to its age. In Scotland, ancient woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded since at

least 1750. The wildlife communities, soils and structure of ancient woodlands have had the longest time to develop. So these aspects are generally, but not always, richer than in more recent woods.

Not all of Scotland’s woodlands are in as good condition as they might be, because of problems and poor management. Overgrazing and undergrazing, invasive species and pathogens, fragmentation, neglect and climate change all threaten the condition of our woodlands.

Many properties in the care of Historic Environment Scotland are within, or near to, land which has been designated for its natural environment value, and many will also be close to, or contain, woodland of biodiversity value, including ancient and semi natural woodland.

Air

Baseline Data	Sources
Air Quality Management Areas	Home page Scottish Air Quality
Low Emission Zones	Low Emission Zones Scotland Transport Scotland

Air pollution results from the introduction of a range of substances into the atmosphere from a wide variety of sources. It can cause both short term and long term effects on health, but also on the wider environment. The air quality in Scotland is generally better now than it has been at any time since before the Industrial Revolution. These improvements have been achieved through the introduction of legislation enforcing tighter controls on emissions of pollutants from key sources, notably industry, domestic combustion and transport. However, despite the improvements made, air pollution is still recognised as a risk to health, and many people are concerned about pollution in the air that they breathe.

Air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to health in the UK, with between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths a year being attributed to long-term exposure (UK Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants). In 2018, Health Protection Scotland estimated that approximately 1700 attributable (premature) deaths in Scotland annually can be attributed to air pollution. Key sources of air pollution in Scotland include road traffic and heating systems.

Local authorities across Scotland are required to review and assess the air quality within their geographical areas. The process is designed to identify any exceedances

of the UK Air Quality Strategy Objectives and to enable any local authority that identifies such an area to develop and implement a plan with stakeholder to improve air quality within the area.

Under section 83(1) of the Environment Act 1995, Local Authorities have a duty to designate any [relevant areas](#) where the air quality objectives are not (or are unlikely to be) being met as [Air Quality Management Areas \(AQMAs\)](#).

In September 2017, the Scottish Government in their Programme for Government, committed to the introduction of Low Emission Zones (LEZs) into Scotland's four biggest cities (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee) by 2020 and into all other Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) by 2023 where National Low Emissions Framework appraisals advocate such mitigation.

Low Emission Zones set an environmental limit on certain city roads, restricting access for the most polluting vehicles to improve air quality. This helps protect public health within our cities, making them more attractive places in which to live, work and to visit. Vehicles that do not meet the emission standards set for a Low Emission Zone will not be able to drive within the zone. A penalty charge will be payable by the vehicle's registered keeper when a non-compliant vehicle enters the LEZ.

Many properties in the care of Historic Environment Scotland are within, near to, or are accessed by passing through AQMAs and/ or prospective LEZs.

Annex C – Scoping comments from Consultation Authorities

SEPA comments	Our response
<p>The scoping report recognises the implications for the historic environment of coastal erosion, you may therefore want to consider adding Dynamic Coast – National Coastal Change Assessment to either the climatic factors or water section of table 2. This study gives an overview of the extent and location of eroding and potential erodible coastline in Scotland.</p>	<p>Added to the baseline data sources</p>
<p>The most up to date River Basin Management Plans should be included in table 2, River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021-2027 and River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed River Basin District: 2021 Update.</p>	<p>Added</p>
<p>It is noted that it is considered that the Responsible Tourism Framework could make a significant contribution to reducing the causes of climate change by setting targets for reduced emissions/efficiency. SEPA's SEA topic guidance note for material assets lists useful sources of data on topics such as energy generation and waste which may be of interest to you when preparing the environmental baseline for this issue. We also have topic guidance notes for air, soil, water, climatic factors and human health which you may find useful.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>We note that the environmental effects of alternatives that are considered during the plan preparation process will be considered. Any reasonable alternatives identified during the preparation of the plan should be assessed as part of the SEA process and the findings of the assessment should inform the choice of the preferred option. This should be documented in the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It is noted that the environmental topics soil and water are to be scoped out of the assessment as it is considered that</p>	<p>Scoping table updated. We consider that any effects on these topics would</p>

any effects will not be strategically significant. It would be useful for further justification to be given on why some of the effects for these environmental topics such as flood risk, erosion of pathways aren't considered strategically significant.	be likely to be positive but minor and at a small scale at a local level.
We support the use of SEA objectives as assessment tools as they allow a systematic, rigorous and consistent framework with which to assess environmental effects. As it is recognised the framework could set targets for reduced emissions you might want to consider whether an objective about promoting sustainable use of existing infrastructure should be included. See our SEA topics guidance note on material assets for example wording.	Added to material asset objectives as recommended
We are content with the proposed assessment matrix and welcome the consideration of mitigation/enhancement measures in the assessment framework.	Noted
We are satisfied with the proposal for a 6 week minimum consultation period for the Environmental Report	Noted
NatureScot comments	Our response
SEA Topic Population & Human Health. You could consider referring, in the Plan, Programme or Strategy" column, to access legislation. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone rights of responsible access to most land in Scotland. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code sets out the responsibilities.	Added
SEA Topic Landscape. The Summary of environmental objectives notes that landscape policies aim to recognise landscapes beyond those designated. Accordingly, we suggest reference should be made to Landscape Character Assessments and associated guidance, not just the National Scenic Areas (NSA) programme (we are not aware of the NSA programme 2009 that is mentioned). Reference to NSAs could	Added The Town and Country Planning (National Scenic Areas) (Scotland) Designation Directions 2010 to list of relevant PPS. LSAs and NSA Special Qualities included under the Landscape baseline data and sources

include noting the reports on their Special Qualities.	
We also suggest including reference in the “Plan, Programme or Strategy” column to People, Place and Landscape, the joint SNH and HES landscape position statement.	Added
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna. A new Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is expected to be published this year, and we suggest reference to the SG Statement of Intent and draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy is relevant	Added draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to relevant PPS
Material Assets. There are a number of sectoral tourism strategies that may be relevant, dependent on the range of the Framework. These include Giant Strides 2020-25 (marine tourism), Outdoors Tourism Strategy (publication imminent), and Visitor management strategic framework for Scotland	Added to relevant PPS
Landscape. We strongly recommend including Landscape Character Assessment in the “Baseline Data” and the sources columns. This is because the European Landscape Convention and this Scoping Report acknowledge that all landscapes, not just designated or other valued areas as currently included, are important. We recommend referring to the NatureScot website as the SEWeb site does not include access to the full dataset. Coastal character assessment should also be mentioned in this table, also available from the NatureScot website.	Amended accordingly
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: ‘woodland’ could be clarified, e.g. if ancient and semi natural is meant too?	Yes- amended accordingly
Landscape. You could consider simplifying the wording in the “How will the Framework affect...” column to “landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value” or “The safeguarding and enhancement” instead of “protection”. That would reflect the wording in the middle column	Amended accordingly

and also the text in SPP (paragraph 194).	
Biodiversity. Recognition of species (alongside habitats) should be included	Included

Annex D - Other plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objectives

Table 4 below summarises the findings of the review of the current legislation, policies, plans and strategies that are considered to be most directly relevant to the HES Responsible Tourism Framework. It has been assumed that the key environmental protection objectives for each of the environmental topics identified in Schedule 3 of the Act are translated into national policy and strategy. The environmental protection framework provided by European legislation has not been reviewed in detail. Instead, the focus has been to review the key areas of legislation relevant to the HES Responsible Tourism Framework and its assessment.

Table 4: Environmental Policy Context for the HES Responsible Tourism Framework

SEA topic	Summary of environmental objectives	Plan, Programme or Strategy
Climatic factors	<p>Policies focus on the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. National targets are net zero by 2045, making a contribution to climate change abatement targets set at the UK, EU and international levels.</p> <p>Energy policy highlights the importance of energy efficiency, and the need to achieve a shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. There is also a need for adequate, planned adaptation to future climates in order to increase the resilience of communities, and natural and economic systems.</p> <p>The HES Climate Action Plan details our climate action ambitions for the historic environment for 2020–2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Climate Change Act 2008 • Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 • Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019 • Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009) • Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2009) • UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009) • Climate Change Plan update • Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) • Conserve and Save: Consultation on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2010) • HES Climate Action Plan (2020-2025) • Climate Ready HES
Population and Human Health	<p>Policies outlines the need to seek to improve health and quality of life.</p> <p>There is now a growing recognition of an additional need to shape places which are nurturing of positive health, wellbeing and resilience.</p> <p>Community Planning Partnerships, which involve a number of public bodies, including HES, have a duty to make plans for local areas which meet the needs and ambitions of local people. Community planning priorities stress the important role played by</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Health in Scotland – the Challenge (2003) • Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 • The Islands (Scotland) Bill (emerging legislation) • Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland • Homes fit for the 21st century – the Scottish Government’s Strategy for Housing 2011-2020

	<p>communities in shaping and making local decisions.</p> <p>The Islands Bill is emerging legislation (currently before Parliament) with provision to 'island-proof' decision-making across the public sector will ensure the interests of islanders are reflected in future legislation and policy from the very outset.</p> <p>The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gives everyone rights of responsible access to most land in Scotland. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code sets out the responsibilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Places Better Health (2008) • Equally Well: Implementation Plan (2008) and 2010 Review Recommendations • Scotland's Economic Strategy • The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003
<p>Landscape</p>	<p>Landscape policies aim to not only safeguard protected areas, but to recognise and conserve wider landscapes. These may not be formally designated but make an important contribution to the quality of environment.</p> <p>The Strategic Historic Environment Forum's vision is for the historic dimension of landscape to be fully acknowledged and valued. It is at the core of a shared and unifying approach to managing change in our landscape in ways which maximise public benefit for present and future generations.</p> <p>Natural Heritage Futures policies aim to guide the sustainable management and use of Scotland's nature and landscapes.</p> <p>Our landscapes are changing and will continue to change. People, Place and Landscape sets out our approach, working towards a shared vision where all of our landscapes are vibrant, resilient, inspiring and beneficial.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention (2000) • Naturescot Natural Heritage Futures • Scotland's Landscape Charter • Landscape and the Historic Environment – A Common Statement (Strategic Historic Environment Forum) • Scottish Natural Heritage's Landscape Policy Framework: Policy Statement No. 05/01 • The Town and Country Planning (National Scenic Areas) (Scotland) Designation Directions 2010 • People, Place and Landscape: A position statement from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Historic environment policies aim to identify and protect historic buildings and sites from inappropriate development and damage. Policies extend beyond specific designated sites to reflect the value of undesignated / unknown sites, wider townscapes, the setting of monuments and historic buildings, and wider cultural landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 • Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019) • Historic Environment Scotland Corporate Plan • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014)

	<p>The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) sets out principles and policies to direct decision-making which affects the historic environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG Culture Strategy (Emerging) • PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology • Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes • Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014) • Other Historic Environment Scotland guidance documents • Monument Investment Plans
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>Biodiversity policies from international to local levels aim in particular to conserve habitats, species and ecosystems. Halting the decline of key species is important, and where possible remedial action and enhancement should be implemented in degraded areas. Policies also note the importance of an ecosystem approach – a holistic, landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that goes beyond the traditional emphasis on protecting individual sites.</p> <p>The draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy sets out Scottish Government’s likely direction of travel going forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC • The Habitats Directive 1992/43/EEC • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 • Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007 • Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2007 • UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework • Scotland’s Biodiversity – It’s In Your Hands (2004) • 2020 Challenge for Scotland’s Biodiversity (2013) • draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy
Soil	<p>Policies on soil seek to protect resources from a range of impacts, including soil sealing by development, increased susceptibility to erosion and soil pollution.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Soil Framework (2009) • National Peatland Plan
Water	<p>Water related policies aim to protect water resources, and achieve an improvement in their ecological condition where appropriate. River Basin Management Plans, which were prepared under the Water Framework Directive and WEWS Act set specific objectives for the protection and improvement of water resources within each river basin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC • Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC • Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) Act • Water Environment (River Basin Management Planning: Further Provision) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 • Cross-Border River Basin Districts (Scotland) Directions 2014 • River Basin Management Plan for Scotland 2021-2027

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Basin Management Plan for the Solway Tweed River Basin District: 2021
Air	<p>Air quality targets have been set at the European and UK levels. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others. Good progress is being made towards meeting them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008/50/EC Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe • The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007) • The Air Quality Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2010 • The Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 • The Air Quality (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016 • Cleaner air for Scotland: the road to a healthier future
Material Assets	<p>Agricultural and forestry policies promote sustainable land use, environmental protection, and stewardship, and emphasise the importance of delivering public goods out with market mechanisms. Policy sets a target of increasing forest cover to 25% of land cover.</p> <p>The planning system highlights the need to allow the development of high quality, well designed, energy efficient housing. Efficient design will contribute to climate change abatement targets, as will transport emission reductions. Redevelopment of urban and rural brownfield sites is preferred to development on greenfield sites</p> <p>Place is an agent of change. Good buildings and places can enrich our lives as individuals and as a society in many different ways.</p> <p>The Town Centre First Principle asks that government, local authorities, the wider public sector, businesses and communities put the health of town centres at the heart of proportionate and best-value decision making.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing states a need for new housing supply, and also that bringing empty homes back into active use would represent an important contribution to effective new supply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Forestry Strategy • National Transport Strategy • The Strategic Transport Review Project (STPR) (2008) • Local Housing Strategies • Scottish Planning Policy • National Planning Framework 3 • Draft National Planning Framework 4 • A Vision for Scottish Agriculture • Town Centre First Principle • Creating Places - A policy statement on architecture and place for Scotland • Homes fit for the 21st century – the Scottish Government's Strategy for Housing 2011-2020 • The Future for Scottish Agriculture (2015) • The Future for Scottish Agriculture and Summary of the National Discussion (2016) • Scotland Outlook 2030 • People make Heritage 2020 • Giant Strides 2020-25 • Forthcoming Outdoors Tourism Strategy • Visitor management strategic framework for Scotland • Waste (Scotland) Regulations • proposed Circular Economy Bill and Route Map

	<p>Tourism is a key economic driver, and the historic environment is one of the main motivators for tourism activity in Scotland.</p> <p>To cut emissions significantly and meet ambitious waste and recycling targets, action across society must accelerate to reduce the demand for raw material in products and encourage reuse and repairs through responsible production and consumption, and recycle waste and energy to maximise the value of any waste that is generated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• emerging National Litter and Flytipping Strategy• Scotland's Zero Waste Plan
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We want to make sure Scotland's heritage is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride by everyone.

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