

Scotland’s historic environment strategy, Our Place in Time: Summary report pre-consultation engagement activity

Introduction

Our Place in Time (OPiT) is Scotland's strategy for the historic environment. Published in 2014, it was developed by the Scottish Government in close collaboration with stakeholders. It sets out a vision of how the historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for, and enjoyed.

In 2022, the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine commissioned Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to lead a review of OPiT to ensure that it remains fit for purpose in a post-COVID-19 world.

Between June and September 2022, HES, the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), and consultants from True North Innovation (TNI) commissioned by HES facilitated a series of engagement workshops online and in person across Scotland to inform the review.

Overview

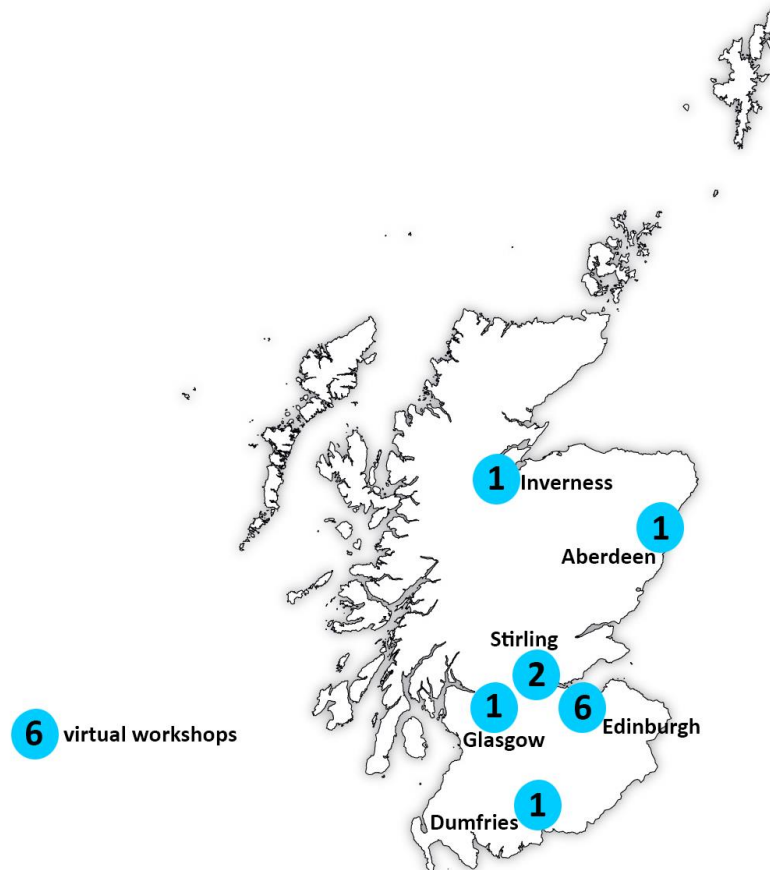
In total, **18 workshops and events** were delivered, **attended by 191 organisations** and **649 participants**. The table below lists all the workshops and events held. The list of participating organisations is provided at Appendix A.

Table 1: Number of participants per workshop

Workshops: Location – Audience – Host	# Participants
Edinburgh – Scotland’s Historic Environment Forum – HES, SG	114
Virtual – Local and Planning Authorities – BEFS	22
Edinburgh – Agencies and Large Organisations – BEFS	15
Virtual – 2014 Our Place in Time Working Groups – BEFS	18
Edinburgh – Small Organisations and Charities – BEFS	22
Edinburgh – 2014 Our Place in Time Working Groups – BEFS	10
Edinburgh – Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) – BEFS	20
Edinburgh – HES Senior Leaders Forum – HES	48
Edinburgh – Victims and survivors of gender-based violence – HES	14
Glasgow – Kurdish women refugees – HES	21
Virtual – Young people and youth organisations – HES	55
Virtual – HES Internal Joint Equality Networks – HES	33
Stirling – Innovation, public, private and academia – HES	66
Aberdeen – North East Charities, Third Sector, Communities – HES, TNI	23
Dumfries – South of Scotland Charities, Third Sector, Communities – HES, TNI	21
Virtual – Islands and West Coast Charities, Third Sector, Communities – HES, TNI	32
Inverness – Highlands Charities, Third Sector, Communities – HES, TNI	24
Stirling – Traveller communities, LGBT+, women groups – HES	30
Virtual – Sector organisations and other sector partners – HES, TNI	61

Workshops were held in person in Aberdeen, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Inverness and Stirling and online.

Figure 1: Location of engagement workshops



The engagement methodology and workshop materials were developed with support from TNI consultants. Workshops were designed to capture outputs in relation to the current context and their organisation’s priorities (and how these have changed over the last few years), the challenges they and the sector are facing, and on future opportunities. While the same framework was applied across the workshops, some tailoring was necessary for some audiences.

Throughout the engagement process, participants were asked for case studies to demonstrate the themes that had been raised (see Appendix B).

Key findings

“Things that have become more important include community ownership, social impact, environmental sustainability, net zero, skills shortages, community and place.”

- A strong emphasis on community and people as a core asset of the historic environment. Participants noted that this focus on outcomes was a marked shift from traditional emphasis on (built) heritage assets. The pandemic has offered new opportunities to engage people and provided space for reflection on who is interacting with the historic environment and how they do so. Many highlighted issues of inequality, lack of diversity and exclusion, singling out specific audiences to focus on but also

referencing some good examples of projects and initiatives to build on widen access, involvement and participation.

“Poverty is almost entirely absent from any discussions around heritage and inclusion and barriers to heritage. Agendas are almost entirely driven by the middle classes; I'd like to see that change.”

“[There is an opportunity to] collaborate with partners to create a platform for and empower young people to have a say in governance and strategic decision making from an informed perspective.”

- Climate change was a strong theme throughout the engagement workshops with many participants seeking to protect and manage assets and ensure the sector can respond to the opportunities of Scotland's Net Zero targets. This was widely recognised as critical to the future of the historic environment. Despite this many smaller organisations were still unsure what net zero and climate resilience would mean in practical terms for their organisation. The importance of biodiversity was also highlighted in context of climate change.
- Advocating for the value of heritage emerged strongly across the engagement workshops, and participants wanted the new strategy document to act as a manifesto to sell the sector and its contribution to national life as well as acting as a means of prioritisation. The need to mainstream the historic environment across policy areas was frequently raised in workshops, along with the need to articulate the message in clear and accessible ways that would resonate beyond the immediate sector. It was recognised that only by doing this will we be able to tap into resources or funding streams in future.
- Organisations were acutely aware of the need for resilience, adaptability and financial sustainability and in the context of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as an energy and cost of living crisis. Resilience and financial sustainability, often combine with concerns over resourcing and funding, appeared to be at the top of the list of many individuals' and organisations' list of issues and priorities to address moving forward.
- There was widespread acknowledgement of increased focus on wellbeing with many highlighting the importance of the historic environment to wellbeing, often in connection also with natural heritage.

“[There is a] growing awareness of wellbeing: planetary, species, place, human, interlinked”

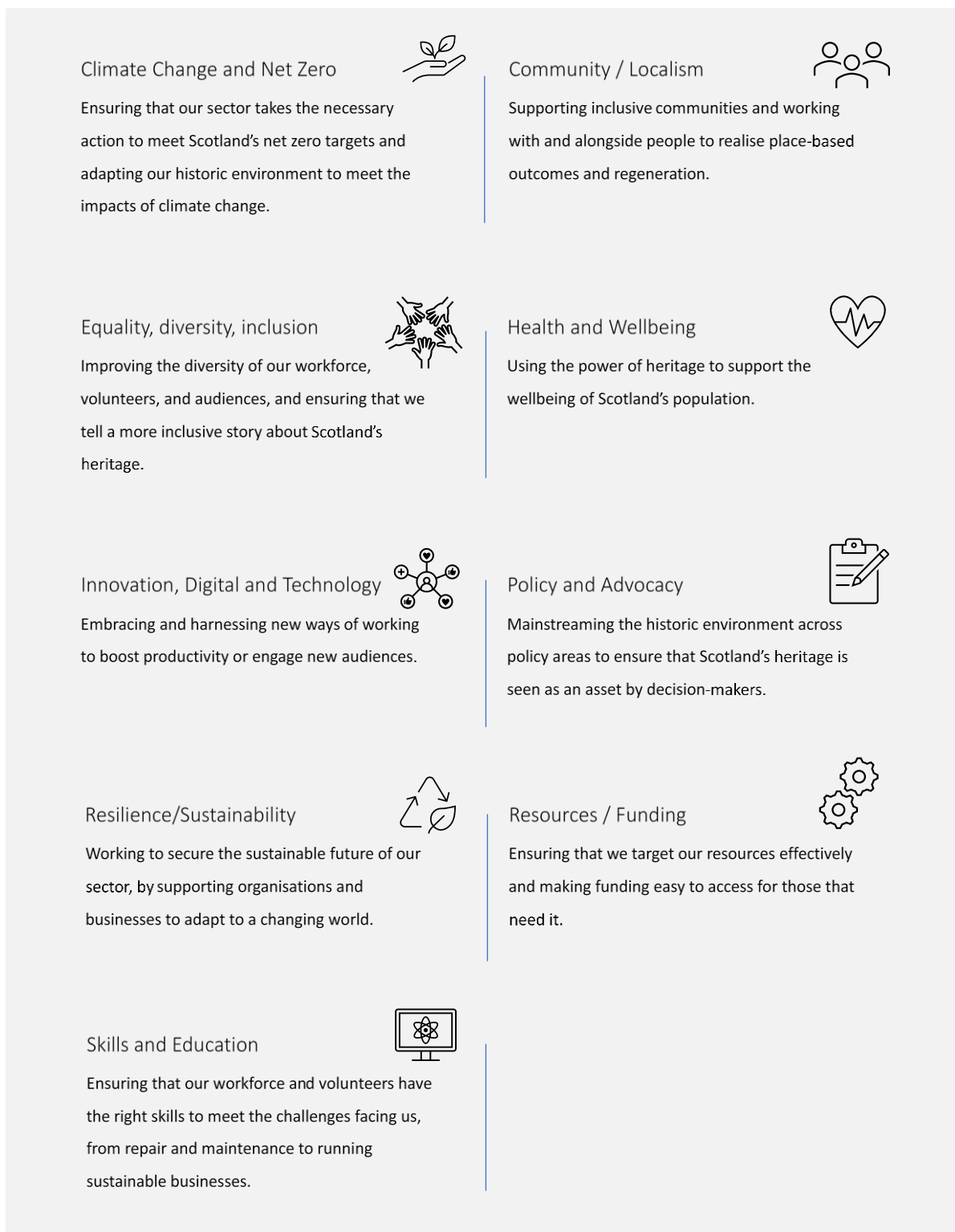
- Participants were broadly aware of the positive work ongoing under the current strategy on skills development, provision and pathways into the sector. However, there is widespread concern over skills shortages and skills gaps. It was recognised that both traditional and emerging skills (e.g., digital) are vital to preserving built assets, cultural heritage, and overall sustainability of the historic environment.

“[Issues with] availability of skills, lack of investment in traditional skills, lack of recognition of traditional skills through accreditation both for those starting out and for those already in professions and trades.” Workshop participant

Priority areas

Analysis of workshop outputs identified nine priority areas that present challenges and opportunities for the historic environment. These priority themes were explored in a Prioritisation Workshop with the sector in September 2022 where outcomes and actions were discussed.

Figure 2: Priority areas



Content Recommendations

- People and communities should be at the centre of the strategy with specific emphasis on opportunities to increase access and diversity, promote wellbeing, focus on local place-making, and support community wealth building.
- The climate crisis and response, including drive to achieve net zero should be prioritised for both the challenges and opportunities it presents for the historic environment. Practical guidance and signposting should be given on how heritage organisations can meet climate challenges, rise to the net zero challenge, and support nation's wider net zero ambitions.
- The strategy should support a focus on collective advocacy and lobbying where there are conflicting policies to challenge, regulatory or other barriers to overcome, or opportunities to demonstrate the importance and value of historic environment's contribution to national and local priorities. It should act as a means of championing heritage in Scotland and engaging other sectors and policy areas.
- The strategy should support efforts to maintain and increase resilience and financial sustainability in the sector by e.g., enabling collaboration, skills development, and resource sharing.
- The strategy should advocate for continued flexibility in the funding environment as well as encourage a more coherent and joined-up approach to improve access to funding and improve overall sustainability in sector.
- The strategy should continue to emphasise the importance of skills to, and pathways into, the sector, including traditional, business and future skills that are needed for the historic environment to thrive.

Appendix A – List of organisations that participated in workshops

Architecture & Design Scotland	Cairngorms.co.uk	Crown Estate Scotland
Aberdeen City Heritage Trust	Capital Theatres	Culture Counts
Aberdeenshire Council	Cawdor Castle Limited	Developing the Young Workforce
ALGAO:UK	CENSIS	Development Trusts Association Scotland
Archaeology Scotland	Centre for cultural value	DigVentures
Architectural Heritage Fund	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists	Dumfries and Galloway Arts Festival
Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland	Church of Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Argyll and Bute Council	Cities & Local Growth Unit Scotland	Dumfries Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)
Arts and Business Scotland	Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights	Dumfries Historic Building Trust
Ask Mona	Cockburn Association	East Lothian Council
Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK	CODEAH	East Renfrewshire Council
Barholm Castle	Coigach Community	Edinburgh College of Art
Baseline Research	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	Edinburgh Council
Bethan Gray	Community Enterprise Scotland	Edinburgh Napier University
Broke Not Broken (Kinross)	Comunn Eachdraidh na Pàirce	Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre
Built Environment Forum Scotland	Conservation Officers Group (COG)	Edinburgh World Heritage
Building Research Solutions Ltd	Creative Carbon Scotland	Elgin Museum
Built Environment Smarter Transformation Scotland	Creative Scotland	Fa'side Women and Girls Group (East Lothian)
Cables Wynd House (Edinburgh)	Crichton Trust	Falkirk Council
Cabrach Trust	Cromarty Arts Trust	Fife Council
Fife Historic Buildings Trust	Highland Council	Moat Brae

Forth Valley College	Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Moder Dy
Fuel Change	Historic Churches Scotland / Heritage Trust Network	MSDS Marine and MSDS Heritage
Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership	Historic Environment Scotland	Museums and Heritage Highlands
Generations Working Together	Historic Houses Scotland	Museums Association
Glasgow Building Preservation Trust	IDN	Museums Galleries Scotland
Glasgow Caledonian University	Inclusion Scotland	Napier University
Glasgow City Council	Institute of Historic Building Conservation	National Galleries Scotland
Glasgow City Heritage Trust	Inverness Business Improvement District	National Library of Scotland
Glasgow Life	Inverness City Heritage Trust	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Glasgow School for Business & Society	John Gilbert Architects	National Museums Scotland
Glenurquhart Rural Community Association	John Rae Society	National Records of Scotland
Govanhill Baths	Keep Scotland Beautiful	National Trust for Scotland
Grand Bequest	Kingsway Community Connections	NatureScot
Gray, Marshall & Associates	Landscape Institute Scotland	Northmavine Community Development Company
Heritage Alliance	Live Borders UK	Orkney Islands Council
Heritage Trust Network	Make Your Mark	Perth and Kinross Council
Herriot Watt University	Maryhill Burgh Halls	Planning Aid Scotland
Hient UK	Max Fordham	PVOTAL Consultancy Ltd.
High Life Highland	Media Education	Renfrewshire Council
Robert Burns Ellisland Trust	South Islay Development	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust
Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland	South Lanarkshire Council	UHI Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology
Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors	South of Scotland Enterprise	UK2070 Commission
Royal Society of Arts – Media, Creative Industries, Culture and Heritage Network	Stirling City Heritage Trust	Ullapool Museum

Royal Town Planning Institute	Stirling Council	Under One Roof
Scotland's Churches Trust	Stora Enso	University of Aberdeen
Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage	SURF	University of Edinburgh
Scottish Borders College	Sustrans	University of Glasgow
Scottish Borders Council	The Abbotsford Trust	University of St Andrews
Scottish Civic Trust	The Architectural Heritage Fund	University of Strathclyde
Scottish Council on Archives	The Cockburn Association	University of the Highlands and Islands
Scottish Futures Trust	The Crichton Foundation	Urras an Taighe Mhòir
Scottish Government	The Glasgow School of Art	Visit Scotland
Scottish Land & Estates	The Institute of Conservation	Volunteer Scotland
Scottish Property Federation	The Knowledge Connection for Business	Walsall Council
Scottish Women's Budget Group	The Mass Timber Academy	War Memorials Trust
Scran	The No-Peds (Inverkeithing)	We are Bright
Seymourpowell	The Outdoor Partnership	West Dunbartonshire Council
Shakti Women's Aid	The Scottish Council for Development and Industry	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
Shetland Council	The Stove Network	Western Isles Archaeological Service
Skills Development Scotland	Theatres Trust	Wild Women (Inverkeithing)
SLR Consulting	Tiree Community Development Trust	Wilderness Insights
Society of Antiquaries of Scotland	TM Event Solutions	York Archaeology

Appendix B – Case Studies

Table 2: Case studies for each priority area

Priority	Case studies
Climate Change and Net Zero	<p>Cateran Ecomuseum Community-led, this ecomuseum empowers local people to take an active role in preserving the objects, sites and cultural practices they value. Providing over 20 pre-designed cycling and walking routes that reveal the hidden heritage of this little-known part of Scotland, the museum’s website also offers visitors to design their own routes around its 130 sites of interest.</p> <p>Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) – Resilience Fund MGS distributes funding from the Scottish Government to support development in Scottish museums. The Resilience Fund provides grants of between £1,500 and £50,000 to accredited museums for projects that will directly increase their resilience by enabling them to. Consequently, due to the potential to reduce costs in the long term and to achieve positive impact in response to the climate emergency, applications to implement energy efficiency measures will be prioritised.</p> <p>Experience tourism used in the Faroe Islands Including volunteer tourism which can highlight heritage and heritage opportunities.</p>
Community / Localism	<p>Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust Established in 2012, Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust is a community-led regeneration project based in the North East of Scotland. The Trust was created to drive economic regeneration in the area and has a wide remit covering maintenance and improvement of the community’s physical, economic, social and cultural infrastructure. The Trust provides community spaces, affordable housing, and enriches the visitor experience by extending their current season to include sports activities aimed at a younger demographic. The Trust’s long-term plan is to market their area as the outdoor hub of Moray, with activities including a cycling festival, a motorcycle gathering and development of the existing walking and whisky festivals.</p> <p>Adopt-A-School Programme Engaging communities continuing to build a sense of ownership of heritage among communities and local people. some nice examples include Adopt A School and Adopt the Train Station programmes.</p> <p>Moat Brae Example of historic asset engaging the community prior to community-led fundraising and redevelopment. Enabling access to dilapidated site built a connection between locals and the memories / heritage associated with the building and ensured increased participation and ownership of the subsequent campaign.</p>
Equality, Diversity, Inclusion	<p>Creative Spaces Creative Spaces is a youth-led programme at The Stove in Dumfries and Galloway specifically for under 30s to develop experience of</p>

Priority	Case studies
	creative practice and to provide vital opportunities through paid and voluntary work, professional development training, events, and networking. It uses a peer-to-peer approach to learning and working with young creatives to diversify experiences of the Cultural and Creative Industries and runs a regular programme of events and activities.
Innovation, Digital and Technology	<p>Higher Education and Heritage Sector Multiple examples of HE researchers (UWS, Borders College, St Andrews) using digital technologies to enable exploration, documenting and conservation of historic environment assets. These used a range of technologies including drone footage in unsafe or abandoned properties, 3D printing and scanning to capture existing or recreate assets e.g., masonry and used of augmented reality to recreate and explore historic sites.</p>
Resilience / Sustainability	<p>Museums and Heritage Highlands As a membership organisation Museums and Heritage Highlands has helped build resilience and sustainability in the Museums and Visitor Attractions sector through actively partnering organisations and enabling / brokering skills sharing. This has given individual organisations access to expertise and insights they previously lacked and served to grow confidence and collaboration in the sector as a whole.</p>
Resources / Funding	<p>Hoy & Walls Wartime Heritage Project 2013–14 In October 2013, the Island of Hoy Development Trust (IoHDT) gained funding from ScotGrad Graduate Placement Scheme, Orkney Islands Council’s Community Development Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Sharing Heritage Grant Scheme to undertake a 12-month study of the Island of Hoy’s World War Two (WWII) archaeological heritage. Evaluation revealed that engagement with the project increased the participants’ interest in WWII-related heritage, increased the perceived value of Hoy’s wartime assets and enabled learning for islanders and visitors alike.</p>
Skills and Education	<p>Highland Hospitality Campaign Skills development Scotland have showcased what success can look like with the highland hospitality campaign, which promoted hospitality pathways and augmented the attractiveness of the sector through outreach and marketing.</p> <p>Traditional Building Health Check Scheme This is a proactive maintenance scheme to assist owners in Stirling to maintain their traditional buildings. It was initially run as a pilot from 2014–18 by Stirling City Heritage Trust with support from HES and CITB but will be continuing from 2018. This scheme has had a profound impact on improving skills and knowledge in the local heritage and construction sectors through investment of £52,000 in the pilot phase alone. The scheme has also addressed wider climate change impacts through improved maintenance of historic buildings.</p>