

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

**The Historic Environment
Strategy for Scotland**

Ro-innleach Àrainneachd
Eachdraidheil do dh'Alba

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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

Table 1: The key SEA Stages for The Historic Environment Strategy

| Stage | Activity |
|--|---|
| Screening | Determining if The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 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 and enhancement | Testing the contents of The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 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 Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland. |
| Adoption & Monitoring | Providing information on the adopted The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, 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 Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland. 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 Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland

“Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, 2014 – 2024” (known by its acronym of OPiT) was published in 2014 and set out the vision of how Scotland’s historic environment can be understood, valued, cared for and enjoyed.

The existing strategic priorities in OPiT are:

- Ensuring the cultural, social, environmental, and economic value of our heritage continue to contribute to Scotland’s wellbeing.
- Investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, and how best to conserve, sustain and protect it.
- Caring for and protecting the historic environment in order to both enjoy and benefit from it, and to conserve and enhance it for future generations.
- Sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment.

In February 2022, the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, and Minister with Special Responsibilities for Ukrainian Refugees, Neil Gray MSP, commissioned Historic Environment Scotland to conduct a review of OPiT.

The commission noted that the strategic context had changed considerably since OPiT was first published, highlighting the increased focus on tackling inequality, on community empowerment, on digital, and on prioritising work to combat the effects of the climate emergency. The review provides an opportunity to redefine the context and set the direction of this important strategy.

The objectives of the review were to:

- Ensure that OPiT is fit for purpose in a post-COVID world and sets the right direction for the sector for the next 5-10years.
- Involve stakeholders, partners, and communities in the review and development of the new strategy, by adopting an inclusive and participatory approach to engagement.
- Ensure that the new strategy aligns to and supports the achievement of Scotland’s National Performance Framework and other Scottish Government

strategies and priorities, including National Planning Framework 4 and the national strategies for culture and Scotland's museums.

- Prioritises Scotland's recovery and renewal post COVID-19, and the creation of a more resilient and sustainable sector.
- Articulates the contribution the historic environment makes to Scotland's wellbeing economy and net zero commitments.

What was the process for developing the draft Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland?

The review was carried out by a project team composed of staff from Scottish Government, Historic Environment Scotland, Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), and National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). The Our Place in Time CEO's Forum, who formed as part of the delivery mechanism for OPiT, oversaw the review project and the drafting of the strategy for consultation. The OPiT CEO's Forum is chaired by the CEO of HES and members represent BEFS, COSLA, Historic Houses Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, NLHF Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, Society of Antiquaries Scotland, Scottish Churches Trust (Heritage Trust Network), Scottish Government (Culture and Historic Environment Division), Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (Heritage Trust Network), Volunteer Scotland.

The review was launched at a stakeholder event held in Edinburgh in June 2022. This event, opened by the Minister, Neil Gray MSP, was the start of a national conversation, attended by both sector and wider sector stakeholders, to share ideas on the future focus and priorities for the reviewed strategy.

During June to September 2022, the Project Team and engagement consultants carried out a series of online and in-person engagement workshops for sector stakeholders and beyond.

In total, 18 workshops and events were delivered, attended by 191 organisations and 649 participants. This pre-formal consultation engagement helped to identify key priority themes, outcomes, and actions for the draft strategy, following the objectives of the review commission.

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.

The nine identified priority areas were (in alphabetical order):

- Climate change and net zero
- Community/localism
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Innovation, digital and technology
- Policy and advocacy
- Resilience/Sustainability

- Skills and education

Top priorities to come out from the workshop included 'Climate change and net zero', 'Resilience/Sustainability', 'Policy and Advocacy' and 'Skills and education'. However, commentary from those present was that all nine priorities should be included in the strategy in some form.

Following the Prioritisation Workshop, the Drafting Team, with input from the Project Team, began to shape the draft strategy for formal consultation. The first draft was discussed by the OPIT CEO's Forum in October 2022, and a second draft presented to them for approval in November 2022. The draft version for consultation was then signed off by the Minister, Neil Gray MSP, in November 2022.

A mission and three priorities identified during the pre-consultation engagement and defined following review by the Steering Group, have been put forward for consultation. These are:

Mission

Our mission is to harness the power of the historic environment for the benefit of our society.

Priorities

- Enabling the transition to net zero
- Empowering vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities and places
- Building a wellbeing economy

What comments are being sought?

The Environmental Report accompanies the draft strategy for a 12-week public consultation between Monday 28 November 2022 and Monday 20 February 2023.

Any comments you would like to make on either document are welcomed.

With regards to the Environmental Report, we would welcome views on any aspect of it, but in particular, the detailed findings and predictions for likely significant effects set out within Section 4, 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 Historic Environmental Strategy for Scotland to other relevant policies, plans, strategies (PPS) and their environmental objectives. This allows key environmental objectives to be identified for consideration during the strategy preparation process. It is also important to identify both the plans, programmes and strategies that will influence the Strategy and those that will be influenced by the Strategy itself. An understanding of the context and the hierarchy that the Strategy sits within is also useful for giving early thought to mitigation measures and where they may be best implemented.

Annex B contains a detailed review of the list of key plans, programmes and strategies and current legislation considered to be most directly relevant to The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland and includes details of how their environment 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 make the most of our existing assets and resources and to encourage the adoption of circular economy principles

What environmental baseline information has been gathered?

To establish the environmental effects of The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland, 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 have been 'scoped in' and identified as likely to be affected by the strategy.

Annex D provides a detailed baseline, information about the environmental issues relevant to the strategy, and baseline sources.

3. Approach to the Assessment

What aspects of the environment could The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 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 Strategy. 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 B, an assessment was undertaken to identify the environmental topics that are likely to be affected by the Strategy. 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 of SEA environmental receptors

| SEA receptor | Scoped in / out | Potential issues arising from the new strategy and justification for scoping in or out. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Climatic factors | In | The predicted effects of climate change are likely to have implications for the historic environment at a strategic level particularly through coastal erosion, increased incidence of extreme weather and the resultant impacts on our historic environment resource. The strategy may therefore have a role in the sector’s contribution to effective climate change adaptation and the opportunities and challenges for the historic environment in relation to contributing towards net zero targets. |
| Air | Out | We do not envisage any significant issues in relation to air quality in Scotland (i.e. ambient air quality, polluting processes, odour) |
| Biodiversity, flora and fauna | In | Current historic environment policy, and public bodies exercising functions across the sector, must have regard to the promotion of biodiversity, as per the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. We anticipate that these requirements, along with other objectives for furthering biodiversity through historic environment objectives, will remain as part of any revised framework. While this topic was screened out of the original environmental assessment, we consider that, given the declaration of a biodiversity crisis and emerging work to update Scotland’s Biodiversity |

| SEA receptor | Scoped in / out | Potential issues arising from the new strategy and justification for scoping in or out. |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | | Strategy, we consider that it will be important to be mindful of linkages between the updated strategic priorities and biodiversity. However, we are unsure whether any relationship or causal impact is likely to be significant but will keep this topic under review as the assessment progresses. Consequently, we propose to scope this topic into the assessment as a precautionary measure to help to identify potential enhancements in relation to this topic |
| Water | Out | It is unlikely that the strategy will give rise to any activities relating to discharges to groundwater, discharges to surface water, abstractions, removal of sediments and water management works (e.g., replacement of weirs). Flooding is and will continue to be a significant issue for the historic environment, however we have considered this under our assessment of climatic factors (e.g., the ability to manage and adapt to increased flood risk). |
| Soil | Out | Beyond soil's potential to preserve aspects of the historic environment, it is unlikely that the strategy will exacerbate or address any environmental issues that relate to this topic (e.g., soil sealing, soil as a raw material, biomass/food resources). While it is widely acknowledged that there is a need for functions and activities within the historic environment sector to consider impacts upon soil (particularly archaeology), we do not envisage significant effects arising in relation to this topic at this strategic level. |
| Landscape | 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 historic environment is the main subject matter of the policy and is therefore it is anticipated that significant effects on this resource are likely. The strategy will serve as a key document for the sector and will set the vision, outcomes, and objectives for the strategy period. |

| SEA receptor | Scoped in / out | Potential issues arising from the new strategy and justification for scoping in or out. |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Population and human health | In | Scotland's historic environment has a key role to play in strengthening communities and creating better places. It provides the context for our everyday lives and the environments in which we live, work and play are part of an important connection between people and place. How these environments and assets are used, maintained and protected can have profound effects on the wellbeing and health of all that interact with them. |
| Material assets | In | There are strong links between the historic environment and material assets. These links range from the materials that are required to support the historic environment (and their availability) to the role the historic environment plays in providing our existing infrastructure. We therefore are of the view that significant effects on this topic are likely. |

How has The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland 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 and show what was considered during the assessment.

Only actions intended for national actors were included in the assessment. Actions in the consultation draft of the strategy are split into 'Nationally we will' and 'Locally you can,' with national actors being considered public sector and local government stakeholders (i.e., in planning departments), and heritage organisations and charities with a national footprint. Local actions are suggested actions local and voluntary groups, communities, and individuals may wish to undertake, and for this reason, they were scoped out of the strategic environmental assessment

Actions under each priority have been developed to be at a high level and with a degree of flexibility, reflective of the strategy's role as a sector strategy and the extent of delivery not yet known. Sector feedback during engagement was for the strategy to act as a manifesto, and the consultation will be seeking commitment from organisations in the sector and beyond to help deliver these actions. Many actions are focused on policy and advocacy, which featured as a sector priority during engagement, however, as a result, the sector is not the decision-maker in these actions, and so their extent of success and delivery is limited by factor's outside of the strategy's control.

Not all actions and KPIs have been assessed. This is because they do not all have strategic environmental impact. For completeness, these actions and objectives

have been included in the matrix but have been ‘greyed out’ to show they have not been assessed.

During assessment, recommendations have been made to improve the environmental effects under the SEA objective criteria. High-level recommendations have been included in the Summary of Assessment Findings (Section 4) and further recommendations can be found in the Detailed Assessment in Annex A.

The cumulative effects of the actions have been considered under each priority and for the mission itself. These can be found in the Summary of Assessment Findings (Section 4). Cross-cutting effects, which are a result of interrelationships between topic areas, such as climate change and cultural heritage, or landscape and cultural heritage, have been considered in the assessment.

Table 3: The SEA objectives and assessment criteria

| Environmental receptor | SEA objective | How will the strategy affect... |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Biodiversity, flora & fauna | To safeguard and enhance biodiversity | Habitats and green / blue networks |
| Climatic factors | Reduce the causes of climate change Contribute to effective adaptation to the predicted effects of climate change | CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions Effective adaptation to the effects of climate change |
| Cultural heritage | Safeguard and, where appropriate, enhance the historic environment. | The safeguarding of designated tangible features of the historic environment The safeguarding of undesignated / unknown tangible features of the historic environment The safeguarding of intangible features of the historic environment Elements of the historic environment which have been identified as at risk |

| Environmental receptor | SEA objective | How will the strategy affect... |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Address the consequences of climate change for the historic environment |
| Landscape | To safeguard and enhance the distinct identity, the diverse character and the special qualities of Scotland's landscapes as a whole | The protection of landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value |
| Material assets | <p>Sustainable use of existing 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>Sustainable use or reuse of existing infrastructure, materials or assets</p> <p>Creation of high quality places and spaces</p> <p>Reduce waste and promote uptake of sustainable. traditional materials</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>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, live and play</p> |

How were alternatives identified and assessed?

The inclusion and exclusion of priorities and actions in the Strategy presented for consultation have been developed through pre-consultation engagement, and reviewed by the strategy's Steering Group, the Our Place In Time CEO's Forum.

As part of the strategy's drafting, priorities identified in the engagement phase were refined into aims and a mission statement. These aims were considered at high-level by the Steering Group, and were subsequently refocused and redefined into four, and then, three final priorities. The alternative aims included in previous drafts, and the fourth priority, have been assessed in the detailed assessment at Annex A as 'Alternatives Considered.' As they did not have KPIs and actions developed for them, the assessment has focused on the aim itself.

Alternatives identified during the process of developing the KPIs and actions have been included in the assessment matrix under the relevant KPI. These alternatives were assessed against the assessment criteria and compared to the environmental effects they would produce against those of the selected action.

Retaining the strategic priorities from OPiT has been assessed as 'Reasonable Alternatives'. See Annex A.

Final inclusion, exclusion, and amendments to the priorities, including the mission, the KPIs and their actions, will be informed by the consultation results and further planned engagement during the public consultation period.

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

Environmental considerations have informed development of the strategy from the onset. This is in line with the objectives of the review, and through ensuring the strategy aligns to existing and future legalisation and policy, including the forthcoming National Planning Framework 4 and Biodiversity Strategy (expected early 2023). The included diagram in the strategy draft (Figure 1, Page 26) shows the strategy's placing amongst Scottish Government policies and strategies, Scotland's National Performance Framework, and the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

The SEA has helped to provide an objective and extensive assessment of the emerging strategy and its options, helping to inform the most environmentally sustainable outcome. It has identified where enhancements can be made, and where care and mitigation is needed to ensure that the most positive impact, or at the very least minimal or neutral effect, can be achieved. No significant negative effects have been found in the SEA topics scoped in, but the process has identified actions where mitigation will be required, and where extra consideration should be taken during design and implementation and has made recommendations accordingly.

Elements of the SEA framework will be utilised to help develop and evaluate some project-level actions, emanating from the high-level actions in the strategy, and specifically where the SEA has flagged them as benefitting from this approach.

However, it is important to note that the SEA is not the only determinant for the final version of the strategy, and other impact assessments, and information and

recommendations provided during the public consultation period, will need to be considered alongside other matters in the final version.

Additions and amendments following consultation will be assessed and included in the Post Adoption statement.

How have we accounted for any gaps or assumptions?

The strategy is a high-level document for the historic environment sector in Scotland. The consultation draft has been developed collaboratively, with input from many stakeholders, and under a timeframe of Spring 2023 to publish the final version.

Consultation is an important stage for the strategy and the consultation draft has been prepared to encourage discussion on all parts of it.

The strategy's mission, KPIs, and actions are not spatial. They are broad and aspirational in nature. They have been developed as such to enable the variety of sector partners to deliver them, and in line with pre-consultation feedback from the sector to make it a manifesto for the sector. These considerations mean that the extent of delivery, and the delivery partners for them, are not yet known for many of the actions. This has been taken into account during the assessment.

Any gaps during the assessment have been highlighted as uncertain and included under mitigation and enhancement. Assumptions have been formed by consideration of the strategy's subject matter, the historic environment, and that all actions are intended to produce significant positive effects for it. These positive effects would be seen most acutely in the SEA receptors most directly connected to the historic environment; these are cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. Where assumptions have been made in the assessment, the strategy's principles have been accounted for as a guide to how the actions will be designed and implemented; most notably with reference to the principles to care for and protect heritage assets (tangible and intangible), and to act on the climate and biodiversity crises.

The strategy is now at public consultation phase. Consultation responses will be analysed, and the analysis will help inform any changes to the strategy, including its mission, KPIs and actions. Questions on delivery mechanism, including a specific one asking respondents if they can help deliver and how, have been included and should help inform further environmental assessment. For the SEA, changes following consultation will be picked up and assessed in the Post-Adoption Statement, where further details on the delivery mechanism may be known to help address gaps in the current assessment.

4. Assessment findings

Summary of Assessment Findings

The full detailed assessment, including recommendations, can be found as Annex A.

Mission: Our mission is to harness the power of the historic environment for the benefit of our society

The mission, taken to be the cumulation of all actions and activity under the strategy, has been assessed as being the overall environmental effects of the strategy. See Table 4 below.

It has been assessed as having significantly positive environmental effects across climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape, and population and human health.

The effects on material assets have been assessed to be significantly positive on many aspects of this receptor, including all those linked to manmade material assets, but an uncertain effect on natural material assets. The uncertain assessment is due to the full detail of all actions and activity not being known at this stage. The risk of adverse effects on material assets is, however, considered to be low, with greater likelihood of there being positive environment effects, given the mitigation in place, and the principles through which the strategy will be delivered.

The environmental effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna have been assessed to have an uncertain effect. This is due to the full detail of all actions and activity not being known at this stage. The risk of adverse effects on biodiversity, flora, and fauna is considered to be low, with greater likelihood of there being significantly positive effects overall, given the mitigations in place, and the principles through which the strategy will be delivered.

No significantly negative environmental effects have been identified.

Priority: Enabling the transition to Net Zero

This priority has been assessed as having significantly positive environmental effects for climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape, and population and human health.

The effects on material assets have been assessed to be significantly positive on many aspects of this receptor, including all those linked to manmade material assets, but an uncertain effect on natural material assets. The uncertain assessment is due to the full detail of all actions and activity not being known at this stage. The risk of adverse effects on material assets is, however, considered to be low, with greater likelihood of there being positive environment effects, given the mitigation in place, and the principles through which the strategy will be delivered.

The environment effects on biodiversity, flora, and fauna have been assessed to have an uncertain effect. This is due to the full detail of all actions and activity not being known at this stage. The risk of adverse effects on biodiversity, flora, and fauna is considered to be low, with greater likelihood of there being positive effects, given the mitigations in place, and the principles through which the strategy will be delivered.

Priority: Empowering vibrant, resilient communities and places

This priority has been assessed as having significantly positive effects for cultural heritage, landscape, population and human health.

The effects on material assets have been assessed to be significantly positive on many aspects of this topic, including all those linked to manmade material assets, but an uncertain effect on natural material assets. The uncertain assessment is due to the full detail of all actions and activity not being known at this stage. The risk of adverse effects on material assets is, however, considered to be low, with greater likelihood of there being positive environment effects, given the mitigation in place, and the principles through which the strategy will be delivered.

Climatic factors and biodiversity, flora, and fauna have been assessed as having minimal or neutral effects. Although the assessment notes that there could be significantly positive effects for climatic factors as a secondary outcome of this priority. It is **recommended** that enhancement be considered for these two SEA receptors as actions under this priority are designed, implemented and incorporated into the scope of delivery.

Priority: Building a Wellbeing Economy

This priority has been assessed as having significantly positive effects for cultural heritage, and population and human health.

Climatic factors has been assessed to have significantly positive effects on many aspects of this topic, but also the potential of an uncertain effect as some actions are limited by factors outside of the strategy's control, or too little detail of their delivery is known. It is **recommended** that mitigation is put in place for actions and activity under this priority, which could either have an adverse effect on this receptor, or an uncertain effect.

Landscape and material assets have both been assessed as having positive effects, with enhancements to be considered to build on these positive effects.

Biodiversity, flora, and fauna has been assessed as having an uncertain effect. This is because not all actions and activity, and the scope of them, are known at this stage. Whilst no spatial actions are outlined under this priority, some actions involve working with planning and development, and so the effects on biodiversity, flora, and fauna has been assessed as uncertain. It is **recommended** that mitigation is put in place for actions and activity under this priority, which could either have an adverse effect on this receptor, or an uncertain effect.

Table 4: Overall Assessment of Environmental Effects of the Strategy

Legend:

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

| SEA receptor | Assessment pre-mitigation / enhancement | Suggested mitigation / enhancement | Assessment post-mitigation / enhancement | Comment |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Biodiversity, flora, and fauna | ? | Mitigation will be through planning policies protecting the natural environment, the inclusion of enhancement and protection policies and outcomes for the natural environment in the other strategies and plans the strategy will align to and support, including Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. Actions will also be brought forward in alignment with emerging and updated guidance for biodiversity, flora and fauna such as Developing with Nature and Wildlife Management. | ++ | Through mitigation, there is potential to have significantly positive environmental effects for this receptor. |
| Climatic factors | ++ | None | ++ | Cumulation of all actions and activity will have significantly positive environmental effects without mitigation. |

| SEA receptor | Assessment pre-mitigation / enhancement | Suggested mitigation / enhancement | Assessment post-mitigation / enhancement | Comment |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Cultural heritage | ++ | None | ++ | Cumulation of all actions and activity will have significantly positive environmental effects without mitigation. |
| Landscape | ++ | None | ++ | Cumulation of all actions and activity will have significantly positive environmental effects without mitigation. |
| Material assets | ++/? | Mitigation for natural material assets, which has been identified as uncertain under this receptor, will be mitigated through planning policies protecting the natural environment, the inclusion of enhancement and protection policies and outcomes for the natural environment in the other strategies and plans the strategy will align to and support, including Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. Actions will also be brought forward in alignment with emerging and updated guidance for biodiversity, flora and fauna such as Developing with Nature and Wildlife Management. | ++ | This receptor has been already been assessed as having significantly positive effects for manmade material assets, and, through mitigation, all aspects under this receptor have the potential to have significantly positive environmental effects. |
| Population and human health | ++ | None | ++ | Cumulation of all actions and activity will have significantly positive environmental effects without mitigation. |

Cumulative effects

Cumulative effects have been considered to be the product of all actions under a priority. The overall cumulative effect of the priorities and actions has been assessed under the mission statement.

The cumulative effects are not expected to affect any of the SEA receptors scoped out during the screening stage.

Mitigation, recommendations, and monitoring

No significant negative effects have been identified during this assessment; however, monitoring and mitigation will remain important throughout the lifetime of the strategy to ensure any unintended or unidentified adverse environmental effects are avoided, or resolved, during its implementation.

Mitigation and enhancement measures are included in the detailed assessment matrices and will be factored in during the design and delivery of these actions and priorities, where they have been identified and recommended. Recommendations can be found in the detailed assessment under the KPIs of each priority.

Monitoring of the strategy will be through annual reporting and performance measurement against the strategy's KPIs. It will be important to understand how the strategy is affecting the environment once it is implemented, especially for those receptors assessed to be uncertain. Alongside annual reporting and performance measurement, a delivery mechanism is to be established, where monitoring of environment effects can be incorporated into remits. Monitoring via the delivery mechanism should help identify any unintended environmental effects, or those not predicted through the assessment, and allow for appropriate mitigation to be sought. Both monitoring and reporting should provide a way for additional enhancement measures to be considered.

5. Next Steps

The public consultation period is for 12 weeks and will end on Monday 20 February 2023. The consultation can be accessed via Historic Environment Scotland Citizen Space portal: <https://haveyoursay.historicenvironment.scot> and the strategy draft, the pre-consultation engagement report, and both the Islands Communities and Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment can be downloaded from the 'Publications' section of the Historic Environment Scotland website.

Following close of the consultation, and subsequent analysis of responses, the final version of the strategy will be prepared.

All changes to the mission, priorities, KPIs and actions 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 will show how the Environmental Report (and all the comments expressed on it) has been taken into account in the adopted Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland.

Annex A: Detailed Assessment Findings

Legend:

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

| OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| THE MISSION | | | | | | | |
| | How will the strategy affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
| THE MISSION: OUR MISSION IS TO HARNESS THE POWER OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR SOCIETY | Score | ? | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++/? | ++ |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> The mission statement is the cumulation of all the actions under the priorities and sets the direction for the strategy. The anticipated cumulative results are for significant positive effects on climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape, and population and human health. This reflects the strategy's remit on the historic environment, the positive link between heritage engagement and wellbeing, and the role of the historic environment in net-zero transition. As several actions under the strategy involve the increasing the use of traditional building materials (e.g. – stone, wood, slate, lime mortar), and foreground the repair and reuse of existing traditional buildings, the effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna are uncertain. For the same reason, the overall assessment of material assets has been carried out to consider the uncertainty on natural material assets. For manmade material assets, such as existing infrastructure and other built assets, including those of both traditional and more modern construction, the anticipated effects are expected to be significantly positive.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> The risk to biodiversity, flora and fauna, whilst assessed as uncertain, is likely to be minimal, with a positive effect ultimately achieved. This is due to mitigation through planning policies protecting the natural environment, the inclusion of enhancement and protection policies and outcomes for the natural environment in the other strategies and plans the strategy will align to and support, including Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. Actions will also be brought forward in alignment with emerging and updated guidance for biodiversity, flora and fauna such as Developing with Nature and Wildlife Management. Consideration should be made throughout the lifetime of the strategy to actively enhance, and at the very minimum be neutral, for biodiversity, flora and fauna, and also the natural materials assets, where there is a similar level of uncertainty.</p> | | | | | | |
| CUMULATIVE EFFECTS | | | | | | | |
| THE PRIORITIES | | | | | | | |
| | How will the priorities affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
| PRIORITY: ENABLING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO | Score | ? | ++ | ++ | ++ | ++/? | ++ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> Assessment of this priority is the cumulative effect of the KPIs and their corresponding actions under the priority. Overall, this priority is assessed as having significant positive effects on climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape, and population and human health. The cumulative outputs of these actions should make the historic environment more prepared to support and enable Scotland's transition to net zero and meet government targets, this in turn will increase its long-term protection. As many of the actions under this priority focus on the use of traditional materials and the repair and reuse of traditional buildings, the overall effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna is uncertain. For the same reason, the cumulative effects on material assets are considered likely to be significantly positive, reflecting the manmade components that make up this topic, such as existing infrastructure, but also consider natural material assets, in particular forestry, and so a potential uncertain assessment has been included.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Delivery of the priority and methods to make the historic environment net-zero are still not fully known and could potentially lead to detrimental effects on the historic environment. Equally, not taking action the support net zero transition is also likely to be detrimental. In both cases, however, mitigation through national planning policies in place for the historic environment, Historic Environment Scotland's statutory role in the planning system, and with the policy detail for making decisions concerning the historic environment in the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland, should provide sufficient mitigation to ensure that change is properly managed and any unavoidable detrimental impact on the historic environment is minimised.</p> <p>The risk to biodiversity, flora and fauna, whilst assessed as uncertain, is likely to be minimal, with a positive effect ultimately achieved. This is due to mitigation through planning policies protecting the natural environment, the inclusion of enhancement and protection policies and outcomes for the natural environment in the other strategies and plans the strategy will align to and support, including Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. Actions will also be brought forward in alignment with emerging and updated guidance for biodiversity, flora and fauna such as Developing with Nature and Wildlife Management. Consideration should be made throughout the lifetime of the strategy to actively enhance, and at the very minimum be neutral, for biodiversity, flora and fauna, and also the natural materials assets, where a similar uncertain is a potential. For both biodiversity, flora and fauna and material assets, mitigation is further put in place under this priority, by its focus on sustainable procurement and circular economy principles, which prioritises the reuse of materials.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>PRIORITY: EMPOWERING VIBRANT, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND PLACES</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++/?</p> | <p>++</p> |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> Assessment of this priority is the cumulative effects of the KPIs and their corresponding actions under the priority. Overall, this priority is assessed as having significant positive effects on cultural heritage and landscape, population and human health, and also likely on material assets. When considering manmade material assets, the anticipated effect is for significant positive effects, however, the uncertain assessment is to take into account the unknown impact on natural material assets affected under this priority. This detail will come out at project level and can be mitigated and enhanced accordingly to ensure, on balance, significantly positive effects for material assets. Although at this stage, the potential for uncertain effects should be recognised and this has been recognised with the '++' assessment preceding the '?'. Due to the focus on place and people, the cumulative actions under this priority are assessed as having minimal or neutral effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna, and climatic factors.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> It is recommended that consideration should be made throughout the lifetime of the strategy to actively enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna, and also the natural materials assets, where a similar uncertain is a potential.</p> <p>It is recommended that consideration should also be given to improving climatic factors under this priority. However, it is anticipated that climatic factors may be positively affected as a secondary outcome. This is through the actions under this priority focusing on capacity and resilience building, as well as approaches to engagement, protecting, and managing the historic environment. Therefore, when viewed as an approach, it is likely many of the project-level actions under this priority will be focused on measurements which reduce carbon and adapt the historic environment to a changing climate, in order to ensure resilience.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>PRIORITY: BUILDING A WELLBEING ECONOMY</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>++/?</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>+</p> | <p>+</p> | <p>++</p> |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> Assessment of this priority is the cumulative effects of the KPIs and their corresponding actions under the priority. Overall, this priority is assessed as having significant positive effects on cultural heritage, and population and human health. It is assessed as having positive effects on landscape and material assets to reflect that some of the actions under this priority their impact on these two SEA topics is either uncertain or minimal/neutral, but on balance, through the cumulative effect of all actions under this priority, should be a positive effect on the environment.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p>Climatic factors has been assessed as having significant positive effects, as many of the actions actively strive to make improvements under this topics, but also uncertain as some of the steps needed to make them happen are either limited, or unknown how they could be put into practice. Biodiversity, flora and fauna has been assessed as uncertain, this is due to the detail and practicalities of a number or action. On balance, this can not be assessed as having likely significant positive environmental effects, as has been done for climatic factors, as the nature of some actions, such as those connected to investment and development, may have an adverse impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> | | | | | | |

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| | <p>In all instances, mitigation can be put in place to ensure that cumulatively this priority has positive effects on these SEA topics.</p> |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> The risk to biodiversity, flora and fauna being adversely affected, whilst assessed as uncertain, is still low. This is due to mitigation through planning policies protecting the natural environment, the inclusion of enhancement and protection policies and outcomes for the natural environment in the other strategies and plans the strategy will align to and support, including Scottish Government's National Performance Outcomes and the forthcoming Biodiversity Strategy, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. It is recommended that mitigation is put in place for actions and activity under this priority which could either have an adverse effect on this receptor, or an uncertain effect. Consideration should be made throughout the lifetime of the strategy to actively enhance, and at the very minimum be neutral, for biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Enhancement of both landscape and material assets should be considered in detail as these actions are implemented and worked out in the scope of delivery.</p> <p>It is recommended that mitigation is put in place for actions and activity which could either have an adverse effect on climatic factors, or an uncertain effect. This can be detailed during implementation and would be in line with the principles of the strategy which recognises the need to act upon the climate emergency.</p> |

| REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
| REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE: RETAIN THE SAME PRIORITIES AS IN OUR PLACE IN TIME 2014-2024 Cross-cutting strategic priorities – ensuring that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of our heritage continues to contribute to Scotland's well-being | Score | N/A | + | ++ | + | 0 | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> The new strategy has taken a more mission orientated approach than its predecessor. This reflects the changing context from when Our Place in Time was launched in 2014, and the importance in achieving government and global targets and priorities, some which have been set following OPiT's original release. This strategic priority has not been retained, in favour of more tangible/focused priorities towards these goals, but its intention and approach can be found through the new strategy, in its mission, its principles, and its priorities. In particular, it can be seen in actions relating to the mainstreaming of the historic environment, such as working with local government, other public bodies, and Scottish Government to embed heritage across development plans, regional spatial strategies, national strategies and plans, and investment programmes. These can be found under "KPI 2: Prepared the historic environment to be more climate resilient", "KPI 5: Communities have a stronger voice in decisions about their historic environment", and "KPI 7: Delivered a responsible economic contribution".</p> <p>Assessment values have been taken from the original strategy Environmental Report (May 2013).</p> <p>Recommendation: Consideration may want to be given to reviewing Our Place in Time 2014-2024 to ensure all identified points of mainstreaming the historic environment across government, local government and the public sector have been carried over into the new strategy.</p> | | | | | | |
| REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE: RETAIN THE SAME PRIORITIES AS IN OUR PLACE IN TIME 2014-2024 UNDERSTAND – investigating and recording our historic environment to continually develop our knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the past, and how best to conserve, sustain and protect it | Score | N/A | 0 | ++ | ++ | 0 | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> The new strategy has taken a more mission orientated approach than its predecessor. This reflects the changing context from when Our Place in Time was launched in 2014, and the importance in achieving government and global targets and priorities, some which have been set following OPiT's original publication. This strategic priority has not been retained in favour of more tangible/focused priorities towards these goals. However, its intention and application has been retained through the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS), which was not in existence when Our Place in Time was launched in 2014; HEPS itself is an output from the 2014-2024 strategy.</p> <p>Assessment values have been taken from the original strategy Environmental Report (May 2013).</p> | | | | | | |

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|--|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <p>REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE: RETAIN THE SAME PRIORITIES AS IN OUR PLACE IN TIME 2014-2024</p> <p>Protect – caring for and protecting the historic environment in order to both enjoy and benefit from it, and to conserve and enhance it for future generations</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>+</p> | <p>+</p> | <p>+</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> The new strategy has taken a more mission orientated approach than its predecessor. This reflects the changing context from when Our Place in Time was launched in 2014, and the importance in achieving government and global targets and priorities, some of which have been set following OPiT's original release. This strategic priority has been retained as a principle in the new strategy.</p> <p>Assessment values have been taken from the original strategy Environmental Report (May 2013).</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE: RETAIN THE SAME PRIORITIES AS IN OUR PLACE IN TIME 2014-2024</p> <p>Value – sharing and celebrating the richness and significance of our historic environment</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> The new strategy has taken a more mission orientated approach than its predecessor. This reflects the changing context from when Our Place in Time was launched in 2014, and the importance in achieving government and global targets and priorities, some of which have been set following OPiT's original release. This strategic priority has not been retained, in favour of more tangible/focused priorities towards these goals, but its intention and approach can be found through the new strategy, in its mission, its principles, and its priorities.</p> <p>Assessment values have been taken from the original strategy Environmental Report (May 2013).</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE: PRIORITY: A SKILLED POPULATION</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This objective was initially included as a separate priority, but as skills are required for achieving all the priorities it is a cross-cutting theme; therefore, the decision was made to merge its actions and objectives into the selected three priorities.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: IMPROVE THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC BUILDING STOCK</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This was a previously considered aim for the strategy. Following review, this was expanded to become the 'Enabling Net Zero' priority and to encompass a broader range of the historic environment. The change has increased the potential to have positive environmental effects across the previously identified neutral or minimal effect SEA topics and meet more SEA objectives under the assessment criteria.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO ENGAGE WITH AND ENJOY SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>0</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This was a previously considered aim for the strategy. assessed as having no environmental effect. Following review, this objective was incorporated into both the 'Building a Wellbeing Economy' and 'Empowering vibrant, resilient, and inclusive communities and places'.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: IMPROVE THE RESILIENCE OF OUR HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>++</p> | <p>+</p> | <p>++</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This was a previously considered aim for the strategy. Following review, elements of this objective were placed into the actions of the three remaining priorities.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Recommendation: This priority, or one similar, may want to be reinstated or be addressed under outcomes (KPIs) as it would provide tangible output to the principle in the strategy of caring for heritage and would ensure the condition of cultural heritage is monitored under the strategy.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: GROW THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF HERITAGE</p> | <p>Score</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>?</p> | <p>?</p> |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This was a previously considered aim for the strategy. Following review, this objective became "KPI17: Delivered a responsible economic contribution". In doing so, it has created a more structured objective, which could be assessed as part of the SEA, and increased its potential to have more significant positive environmental effects, whilst being more in line with the principles of the strategy.</p> | | | | | | | |

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| ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: ENABLE HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS TO BE MORE RESILIENT, INNOVATIVE, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL | Score | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> This was a previously considered aim for the strategy. Following review, this objective has been incorporated into "KPI4: Supported organisations that care for the historic environment to be more resilient". In doing so, it has increased its potential to have positive environmental effects and achieve some SEA objectives. | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 1: ENABLING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

KPI 1: Enabled emissions reduction -

| How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Establish a carbon emissions baseline for Scotland's historic building stock | 0 | + | + | 0 | + | 0 |
| <i>Commentary:</i> This high-level action will have positive effects on cultural heritage and man-made material assets as it aspires to better calculate carbon emissions so their reduction can be tracked and documented. This in turn should support better decision making in relation to both cultural heritage and material assets, particularly existing infrastructure. Carbon reduction will also have positive effects on climate factors. Effects on the remaining SEA topics are likely to be neutral. | | | | | | |
| <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance the positive effects of this action across the above-mentioned topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice. | | | | | | |
| Recommendation: It would be helpful to integrate this carbon emissions baseline activity with ongoing work to better understand whole life carbon measurement within asset management strategies , which stems from commitments within the Infrastructure Investment Plan . This could include working in partnership with Scottish Futures Trust and others taking forward work to assess and measure embodied and operational carbon emissions of assets to inform investment decisions. | | | | | | |
| <i>Reasonable alternative:</i> "Develop an existing building's database and carbon assessment methodology to inform decisions for achieving emission reduction targets in historic buildings" The two parts of this action were considered but replaced after agreeing that efforts should be targeted at the creation of a baseline, which would make best use of resource, and would be more effective in preparing Scotland's historic building stock for net-zero transition and meeting government targets. | | | | | | |
| Drive a fabric-first approach to energy efficiency measures in historic buildings | 0/- | ++ | ++ | 0/- | ++/- | + |
| <i>Commentary:</i> This high-level action prioritises low-carbon and sustainable interventions to improve energy efficiency in historic buildings, which in turn should reduce energy demand in them. A 'fabric first' approach involves maximising the performance of the building's fabric by focusing on conserving heat through improvement work to its materials and components, rather than looking at sources of heat generation. This action will have significant positive effects on cultural heritage and man-made materials assets as it reduces carbon demand and improves the condition of the built assets. Carbon reduction, as a result of this action, will have significantly positive effects on climatic factors if this action is implemented at scale. Human health is also improved as more energy efficient historic buildings should be healthier buildings for people to live, work and socialise in with factors affecting human health, such as damp, cold and air circulation, being remedied. | | | | | | |
| Effects on the remaining SEA topics, landscape and biodiversity, flora and fauna, are likely to be neutral, but have the potential to have adverse effects, as an increased focus on the use of fabric and sustainable materials could result in greater demand for natural resources, such as wood, stone and slate, leading to their extraction and processing, and so potential reduction in natural capital stocks and animal habitats. Demand for such material also means that along with the positive effects for man-made material assets, there is a potential adverse effect for natural materials assets. In addition, improvements to historic buildings at a national scale may result in an adverse effect on habitat and nesting for animals and insects which utilise building fabric. | | | | | | |
| <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Any significant changes to landscape, biodiversity, flora and fauna, and natural material assets would go through the planning consent procedure where mitigation and objections could be made. This action, and actions flowing from it, will adhere to all relevant Acts relating to the protection and enhancement of nature and wildlife and will support the forthcoming Scottish Biodiversity Strategy . Actions flowing from this high-level action can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with mitigation put in place to enhance, or at a minimum not negatively affect, the natural environment. | | | | | | |

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| | Consideration on how to enhance the positive effects of this action for cultural heritage and man-made material assets should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice. | | | | | | |
| Work to enhance the way that public procurement supports the use of traditional materials, and the skills needed to work with them | Score | ? | + | + | ? | +/? | ?/+ |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This high-level action will have positive effects on climatic factors as it encourages use of low carbon materials for heritage assets. Low-carbon materials cover a wide range of products, differing in nature, some are natural, some from recycled content, and other can be man-made construction materials but manufactured in a low carbon way. In the context of heritage, the most significant use of low-carbon materials will be the use of natural materials, which are referred to as “traditional materials” within the sector (e.g. – stone, wood, lime-mortar), and reflect the materials originally used in construction. These materials would have been sourced locally and not man-made. The use of traditional materials in interventions is likely to improve the condition of the historic environment and so have positive effects on both cultural heritage and man-made material assets.</p> <p>This high-level aspiration focuses on public procurement across public bodies in Scotland, which limits its scope, this is further constrained as the extent of delivery is unknown by factors outside control of the strategy. The sector can only encourage other public bodies to utilise traditional materials and traditional skills across their estates and in their operations. The wording of the action acknowledges this. Considering these limitations, the outputs of this action are unknown, and the environmental effects for natural material assets, landscape and biodiversity, flora and fauna using the SEA objective criteria has been assessed as uncertain accordingly. Given the focus of the strategy, and this action’s aim to use low carbon alternatives, cultural heritage and climatic factors can be assessed to be positive. Population and human health has the potential to be positive, especially when considering the assets managed by public bodies and local government, such as social housing, but as extent of delivery is unknown and out of the strategy’s control, it has been assessed as uncertain but with positive potential.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Mitigation towards the topics marked as uncertain is through the strategy’s direct control not extending across all public procurement and so its impact is constrained. There is further mitigation through the planning system, with planning policies protecting the natural environment and landscape, and through the principles of the strategy which acknowledges the climate and biodiversity crises and commits the sector to acting upon them. This mitigation makes the risk of adverse effects to biodiversity, flora, and fauna, natural material assets and landscape very low. Consideration on how to enhance positive effects of this action across all of the SEA topics should be a key element when developing further detail on how this action will be implemented.</p> | | | | | | |
| Develop a sector route map for net zero, supported by Scotland’s historic environment policies | Score | ? | ++ | ++/- | 0/- | ++/- | 0 |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This high-level action will provide the basis for the historic environment to transition to net zero and so its implementation has significantly positive effects on climatic factors. The environmental effects for both cultural heritage and material assets considered part of the historic environment (e.g. – existing infrastructure) are anticipated to be significantly positive, as it will ensure the historic environment is best prepared for a net-zero transition. However, as not all net-zero interventions are known, there is a risk that these interventions could be detrimental to the condition of cultural heritage and relevant material assets (e.g. increased damp caused by inappropriate insulation techniques), but will be required by government. Decision making will be required to be carried out in line with the Historic Environment Policy Statement (HEPS) to ensure any detrimental effects to the historic environment to transition to net-zero, and meet the Scottish Government target of 2045, are minimised. In addition, both existing and emerging building regulations provide some exceptions where changes (e.g. to traditional buildings) are not technically or legally feasible, or cost effective, which will also help to minimise negative effects potentially arising from the adaptation of traditional buildings. Due to the connected nature of landscape and the historic environment, any interventions required to make the historic environment net-zero should be assessed in the same way. As a result, the potential for adverse effects on the landscape has been acknowledged in this assessment.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Mitigation will need to be considered to ensure that this aspiration has positive effects on all aspects of cultural heritage, material assets and landscape. Mitigation will in part be achieved by working under Scotland’s historic environment policies, including those in the forthcoming National Planning Framework 4 and in the Historic Environment Policy Statement (HEPS) which provides policy for making decisions on changes to the historic environment, and through some exceptions in existing and emerging building regulations. It will also be important for the delivery of the strategy and this action to keep pace with and influence ongoing reforms to building standards and other activities in support of the Heat in Buildings Strategy and related work areas. Consideration on how to enhance the positive effects of this work should be a key element of developing the route map and discussions should be had using the SEA framework to see how positive effects can be achieved and expanded across all SEA topic areas. It presents an opportunity to be ambitious, for example looking at how the route map can improve areas such as biodiversity, flora and fauna through its actions to become net zero, i.e. – through a carbon offset scheme, but plans are required to be carried out in a holistic manner, guided by HEPS.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Reasonable alternatives:</i> “Review (and revise if necessary) historic environment policy to ensure fit for purpose”. This action was considered but was replaced in favour of a route-map as this provides more control for the sector as not all historic environment policy is developed by the sector. Producing a route map also allows for all considerations on decision making on adapting the historic environment for net-zero to be incorporated.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Recommendation:</i> It would be helpful for the delivery programme for the strategy to identify the importance of linking this net zero route map for the heritage sector with related and emerging route maps (e.g. the forthcoming Zero Waste Routemap) and ongoing work in support of the Energy Efficiency Programme, Heat in Buildings Strategy and Heat Network Delivery Plan and related activities, particularly the guidance that will support the delivery of new and pending building standards.</p> | | | | | | |

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| <p>Work with training providers to ensure contractors have the skills and knowledge needed to improve the condition and energy efficiency of traditional buildings</p> <p>Develop training to help energy saving professionals deliver better advice on cutting energy use in historic buildings</p> <p>Provide advice, support, and guidance to owners looking to reduce the emissions of their historic buildings</p> | Score | 0 | ++ | ++ | 0 | ++ | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> These actions have been combined due to their similarity. Significantly positive effects on cultural heritage, material assets, climatic factors and population and human health have been identified due to the nature of this training (improving energy efficiency in traditional buildings) and the nature of the advice, support and guidance given by national heritage bodies. Through the nature of this action, focused on training and advice, the risk to natural manmade assets is considered low and the receptors assessed as ‘++’ accordingly. Effects on remaining SEA topics will be minimal.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> No mitigation required. These actions could be enhanced so that the training includes teaching and skills which have positive effects on the remaining SEA topics of landscape and biodiversity, flora and fauna, such as nature restoration and wildlife protection.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Advocate to government for a VAT rebate on repair and maintenance</p> | Score | 0 | ?/+ | + | 0 | ?/+ | ?/+ |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> The action of advocating will have no significant environmental effects across any of the SEA topics. However, if under the Strategy this advocacy is successful, and a VAT rebate on repair and maintenance for existing buildings is implemented, there would be anticipated positive effects on cultural heritage as costs will be reduced to repair and maintain them. There may also be indirect benefits for material assets, through the contribution that any stimulation effect caused by increased care and maintenance of traditional buildings could have for the circular economy and Scotland's Zero Waste Plan. As this action has no significant environmental effect in of itself, the subsequent effects, outside of that for cultural heritage, are uncertain, although expected to be positive. This includes positive effects on climatic factors and population & human health, with fewer people living in buildings in need of repair, and more improvements made to historic buildings to make them energy efficient, resulting in less emission being produced. Effects on remaining SEA topics will be minimal.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Due to nature of action being an input rather than result, mitigation and enhancement have not been considered.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Work to reduce emissions from heritage tourism visits</p> | Score | 0 | ++ | ? | ? | 0 | 0 |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This high-level aspiration will be implemented through a series of actions leading to this result. As these actions are not yet developed the significant environmental effects on landscape and cultural heritage are uncertain. As the aspiration is to reduce emissions through tourism the significant environmental effect for climatic factors should be positive. Effects on remaining SEA topics will be minimal.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across the topics, and mitigate uncertain ones to produce a positive effect, should be a key element in developing the actions which will make up this high-level action.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Drive circular economy principles, reducing waste and promoting the historic environment's role in the circular economy</p> | Score | 0 | + | + | 0 | + | 0 |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration supports Circular Economy and Zero Waste principles, and SEA environmental objectives, by considering the long-term sustainability of future resources, with consequent positive effects for material assets and cultural heritage, by extension climatic factors. Minimal effects on the other SEA topics are likely.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified.</p> <p><i>Reasonable alternative:</i> “Drive Scotland's transition to a circular economy by championing the use of local, sustainable materials and the reuse and adaptation of historic buildings” This action was considered and amended to reflect the sector's role in tourism and the importance of reducing waste across both tourism and construction. Through this amendment this action now has more positive effects across the SEA objectives.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Lead by example in the way that Scotland's public sector mitigates and adapts the historic environment assets they care for</p> | Score | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This action has Scottish public bodies for heritage committing to uphold best practice, holistic and ecosystems approaches, and integrated management in the interest of mitigating against and adapting to climate change. Through acting in accordance with these principles, there is the potential for all SEA topics to have a positive environmental effect.</p> | | | | | | |

Mitigation / Enhancement: This action is reliant on the Scottish public bodies for heritage adhering to best practice, adopting holistic approaches and integrated management into practice and decision making. Through the preparation of the strategy, and the role of the Steering Group, the relevant heritage bodies are already committed. The sector's significant stake in the built environment and tourism has the potential to lead the way for Scotland's public sector as they manage their built assets, estates, and tourism offering.

| PRIORITY 1: ENABLING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| KPI 2: Prepared the historic environment to be more climate resilient | | | | | | | |
| How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health | |
| Work with Scottish Government, local governments and planning authorities on their Adaptation Plans Embed the historic environment in sector and region-wide climate adaptation plans | Score | 0 | + | ++ | ++ | ++ | + |
| <i>Commentary:</i> These two actions have been combined due to their similarity. These actions have the potential for significantly positive effects on cultural heritage, landscape, material assets, and population and human health, as these topics will be covered under Adaptation Plans, providing actions and programmes to make them more climate resilience. Improvements to the condition and resilience of built heritage as a result of adaptation should have positive improvements on population and human health. Minimal effects on the other SEA topics are likely. <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration can be given when working with Scottish Government, local government, planning authorities, and when working on the sector's own adaptation plans to enhance the positive benefits relating to the SEA topics identified as having minimal effect: biodiversity, flora and fauna. By their nature, adaptation measures are expected to have a positive effect on Climatic Factors. | | | | | | | |
| Produce advice and guidance to businesses, charities, and homeowners to support adaptation planning and activity | Score | ?/- | 0 | + | + | + | + |
| <i>Commentary:</i> As an input this high-level action does not directly result in adaptation work being carried out, however, it is intended that the advice and guidance will be utilised by businesses and homeowners undertaking adaptation interventions, with their impacts attributable to this action. Due to the focus of the guidance and advice, positive effects would be felt for cultural heritage, manmade material assets, and landscape as they are made more resilient to a changing climate. It is also anticipated that adaptation measures carried out on cultural heritage assets would have positive effects for population and human health, through engagement and condition improvement to built heritage, meaning better environments for them to live, work, study, and socialise in. As these adaptations are not yet known, the effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna is uncertain, with potential to be negative, as work on the historic environment at this scale may affect their environment and habitats. <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> As this high-level action relates to the production of advice and guidance by national heritage bodies, it can be ensured that mitigation measures to enhance, or at minimum not effect, biodiversity, flora and fauna, can be incorporated into the advice and guidance. Items under this action will be written and delivered under the principles of the Strategy which includes recognition of the climate and biodiversity emergency. As the produced advice and guidance will be best practice, the positive benefits for cultural heritage, landscape, material assets and population and human health, will already be enhanced. | | | | | | | |
| Ensure heritage grant programmes can fund adaptation measures | Score | ? | 0 | + | + | + | + |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> As it currently stands, some heritage funding programmes do not cover adaptation work, as it is considered a new addition, i.e. – adapting assets is not ‘like for like’ repair and replacement which current funds support. This action recognises the climate emergency and calls for the expansion of the criteria for grant programmes. Increased funding for adaptation through these grants would directly support positive environmental effects on cultural heritage, landscape, material assets and population and human health, making them more resilient to a changing climate. We are likely to see a positive effect on population and human health, as with this action enabling more adaptation work to be carried out on the historic environment, there would be improved health from people being in better built environment conditions, as well as increases in wellbeing reporting. Engagement with heritage has proven links to increased wellbeing reporting and having a more resilient historic environment provides creates more opportunities for positive engagement. As not all adaptation measures and interventions are currently known, and some may have adverse effects on the biodiversity, flora, and fauna in the vicinity of the grant projects, the effect on the biodiversity, flora and fauna is uncertain.</p> <p><i>Mitigation:</i> Conditions to enhance, and at minimum cause no adverse effect, for biodiversity, flora and fauna could be written into all grant conditions. Grant conditions also provide an opportunity for all work to be carried out to best practice and so can be used to enhance the positive effects of the identified SEA topics. By its nature, adaptation is expected to positive effects on climatic factors.</p> | | | | | | |
| Review, revise and roll out the Traditional Buildings Health Check scheme across Scotland to support building owners to make informed choices about repair and maintenance | Score | 0 | 0 | ++ | 0 | + | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> This action relates specifically to traditional buildings and the existing health check scheme that has been in operation for several years, although not on a nationwide basis. As a result, expanding the reach of this scheme should have a significantly positive effect on cultural heritage and material assets via built heritage, with more owners taking steps to repair and maintain traditional buildings. As a consequence of this action, we should then see a positive effect on population and human health as more people are residing in healthier environments. This has the potential to be significantly positive once the scale of roll out is known. Due to the focused nature of this action, minimal effects on the other SEA topics are likely.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None identified due to specifically targeted nature of action for built heritage.</p> | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Use heritage to engage with the public to increase their understanding of climate change and its impact | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> The nature of this action and its focus on understanding of climate change and its impacts means that its implementation will have positive effects for aspects of the environment most immediately connected to the historic environment, this is cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. This action will be carried out following the principles of the strategy and so will do more to resolve the climate and biodiversity crises.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> As this action is using heritage as a tool to increase understanding of climate change and its impact, there is potential to enhance activity under it to cover the remaining SEA topics currently assessed as having neutral or minimal effect. Consideration on how to enhance the positive effects of this action should be a key element of developing this action.</p> | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Work with Scottish Government to embed the historic environment in Scotland’s natural capital accounts, and to share learning and good practice on how heritage can promote biodiversity | Score | ++ | 0 | ++ | ++ | ++ | + |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> Due to the nature of this action, and with its focus on promoting diversity, it is anticipated that it will have significantly positive effects on all tangible aspects of the cultural and natural environment. Achievement of this action would in historic environment assets being included in the Scottish Government’s Natural Capital Asset Index. Due to positive links between heritage engagement and wellbeing, and noting NatureScot cited research from the Mental Health Foundation quoting links to being in nature as a favoured way to cope with the stress of the pandemic, it is anticipated the results of this affect will have positive effects on population and human health.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> None required.</p> | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 1: ENABLING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

KPI 3: Created new pathways for key green skills to deliver the historic environment's net zero transition

| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| <p>Revise and expand the sector Skills Investment Plan to identify the opportunities and actions needed to create a sustainable skills ecosystem, and to provide the green skills needed to support the historic environment's net zero transition</p> <p>Improve pathways in key areas such as responsible tourism, traditional building skills, and energy efficiency</p> <p>Using a hub and spoke approach, build the capacity of training providers to deliver training to meet local needs in key heritage skills areas</p> <p>Re-evaluate the provision and delivery of heritage skills training and academic education to improve provision</p> | Score | 0 | + | + | + | + | 0 |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> These actions have been grouped together due to their similarity. All these actions focus on the provision and sustaining viability of skills required for the historic environment sector. The sector is broad in nature and requires a broad range of skills. In relation to environmental impact, skills linked to tourism, planning, and construction are likely to have the biggest impact. Construction jobs in the historic environment sector are considered to be 'good, green jobs' as they focus on principles associated with good environmental stewardship, including use of sustainable and natural materials, and prioritising repair and maintenance, over demolition and building new. Jobs associated with tourism can be seen as adverse to the environment due to the carbon footprint of travel, in particular international travel. However, as the major heritage tourism provider in Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland has already committed to a Responsible Tourism Framework and other national stakeholders, including National Trust for Scotland, prioritise responsible and sustainable tourism, over mass tourism.</p> <p>As a result, focused attention on improving skills provision and delivery to support the care and maintenance of the historic environment should see positive effects on the aspects most immediately connected to the historic environment, this is cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets once there is a skilled and trained operational workforce. Minimal effects on the other SEA topics are likely.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Due to nature of this action on skills provision and delivery, none identified as required.</p> | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Due to nature of this action on skills provision and delivery, none identified as required.</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Develop baseline data for Scotland's heritage skills needs to inform planning and decision making</p> <p>Review qualifications and standards for heritage skills to align with future needs.</p> | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <p><i>Commentary:</i> Nature of actions means they will not have a significant effect on the environment through their implementation.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i></p> | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 2: EMPOWERING VIBRANT, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

KPI 4: Supported organisations that care for the historic environment to be more resilient

| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Develop the research and development infrastructure for heritage in Scotland by creating new national centres for skills and innovation | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> With research and development focused on the historic environment, implementation of this action will have positive effects for aspects of the environment most immediately connected to the historic environment, this is cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. This action will be carried out following the principles of the strategy and so will do more to resolve the climate and biodiversity crises. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Through its historic environment focus, and by following the principles of the strategy, outputs from the research and development should strive to produce the most positive environmental outcome for the historic environment. As such, no further enhancement has been identified for the SEA topics identified as positive benefactors. Consideration of how to enhance the SEA topics currently unlikely to be affected by the high-level action should be considered when developing project-level actions and programmes underneath this action to improve them from neutral or minor effects to positive. | | | | | | |
| Build on, and develop further, regional and national knowledge sharing networks to foster collaboration and support innovation Share expertise and learning with other organisations, and learn in turn from what others have tried | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> These two actions have been combined due to their similarity. As a strategy for the heritage sector, this aspiration will immediately affect heritage organisations, and potentially involve those organisations/bodies with a large stake in heritage, for example planning, tourism, and construction. Positive effects from the outputs of these networks and knowledge sharing are likely to be seen in the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. Minimal or neutral effects on the other SEA topics are likely. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> The broad nature of heritage means that discussions and outputs in these networks and knowledge sharing spaces can be enhanced to cover the SEA topics which are identified as having minimal or neutral effect. Consideration to this can be given as the scope of this action is developed. | | | | | | |
| Ensure grant programmes offer support to improve organisational skills and resilience Scale up existing programmes to promote business skills, strategic and succession planning, and digital literacy across Scotland’s heritage sector Work to improve our knowledge of the organisations that make up the historic environment, and their support needs Work to promote a diversity of voices across the heritage workforce and volunteer base | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> Nature of actions means they will not have a significant effect on the environment through their implementation. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 2: EMPOWERING VIBRANT, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

KPI 5: Communities have a stronger voice in decisions about their historic environment

| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Ensure grant programmes and funding have positive, community-focused outcomes and objectives | Score | ? | ? | + | + | + | + |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> As these grant programmes and funding go to heritage causes, their implementation should have positive environment effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. Due to the positive relationship between wellbeing and heritage engagement, there is likely to be a positive effect to population and human health. As the outputs of the funded projects and programmes are not known at this stage, and with applications and funding rounds happening through the lifetime of the strategy, there is no way to know the nature and outputs of all projects and programmes which will be funded under this high-level action. As a result, the environmental effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna and on climatic factors are unknown and uncertain. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Mitigation in relation to the two identified SEA topics with uncertain effects can be ensured by ensuring provision for their enhancement, or at a minimum not negatively affecting, in the conditions of grant or funding approval and through their monitoring. To support objectives for both biodiversity restoration and gain, consideration could be given towards adding 'nature positive' in addition to community-focused as part of any changes to grant programmes. | | | | | | |
| | Recommendation: Consider amending/expanding this activity to include support for biodiversity restoration and gain and related nature positive outcomes. | | | | | | |
| Provide funding and capacity building programmes for community groups looking to engage with and care for the historic environment | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | + |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> Due to the focus on engagement and care of the historic environment for this high-level action, there is the potential for this action's implementation to have positive effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected with the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape and material assets. Due to the positive relationship between wellbeing and heritage engagement, there is likely to be a positive effect to population and human health. Minimal or neutral effects on the other SEA topics are likely. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Provision for the remaining SEA topics, identified as having minor or neutral effect, can be made in the conditions of funding and through the capacity building programmes, this will increase the likelihood of a positive environmental effect. These funds and capacity building programmes will be carried out under the principles of the strategy which works towards resolving the climate and biodiversity crises. | | | | | | |
| Work collaboratively to ensure that heritage is embedded in local place planning and destination management | Score | 0 | 0 | ++ | ++ | ++ | +/? |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> As this high-level action is focused on the inclusion of heritage in local place planning and destination management, there is anticipated significant positive environmental effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets, which meets the SEA environmental objectives for these topics. Due to the historic environment's statutory role in the planning system, at both local government and national level, and the stake the sector has in tourism to Scotland, this action has been assessed as likely to be successful and so produce environmental effects. There are also likely positive effects on population and human health through the established positive link with wellbeing and heritage engagement and through improvements being made to heritage assets, notably built heritage assets where people dwell, live, and socialise. However, for each local authority and community group, both their heritage needs and their heritage provision are variable, therefore, there cannot be a determined positive benefit on population and human health at this stage. As this action is about embedding heritage, it is mindful that heritage is one of competing considerations for local place planning and destination management decision and plan makers. As a result, minimal or neutral effects on the other SEA topics are likely. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> The emphasis on this high-level national action is a commitment by the national heritage bodies and organisations to work together with the hoped outcome that heritage is included in plans by plan makers. This means the extent to this success is indeterminable at this moment due to decision-making laying outside of the direct control of the strategy. However, sector partners delivering this action will be working under the principles of the strategy, which acknowledge the climate and biodiversity crises, commit to protecting heritage, and helping people, meaning there is potential for activity under this action to positively affect all SEA topics and commit to their enhancement. | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Work to promote shared understanding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) across public bodies, and to align support for communities working with ICH | Score | 0 | 0 | + | ? | + | 0 |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> This action is about national level actors working together on shared objectives and delivering the same approach. As intangible cultural (ICH) heritage is very broad, including crafts and traditional building techniques, along with practices, stories, traditions, rituals, objects, artefacts, and cultural spaces, this action through its support to communities has potential to touch upon many SEA topics, although its impact is likely to be either uncertain or neutral, with anticipated positive effects to cultural heritage and materials assets. Landscape has been assessed as uncertain as community's working on ICH projects may be seeking to make landscape change, in line with traditional craft and ways of living, and returning to how the landscape had previously been shaped by human activity. Principles of ICH are based on sustainable and traditional use of land and material, so the risk of adverse effects is likely to be low, however, as this action could support communities working with ICH across the lifetime of the strategy, detail of their activity is unknown. | | | | | | |
| | <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 embedded at project level. | | | | | | |
| Provide advice, guidance, and inspiration to enable more communities to take on and run heritage assets | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | + | 0 |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> With the output of this high-level action concerning heritage assets, the potential positive environmental effects are most likely to be seen in SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. Minimal or neutral effects on the other SEA topics are likely. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> The outputs of this action could be so varied that no enhancement has been assessed. Mitigation is provided through ensuring that the advice and guidance given covers all environmental considerations and promotes positive effects across all of the SEA objectives for the strategy. | | | | | | |
| Promote and share good practice in inclusive heritage engagement methods and techniques, from interpretation to co-production Ensure a diversity of voices when decisions about the historic environment are made, through targeted community engagement and capacity building | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> Nature of these actions will not have a significant effect on the environment through its implementation. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 2: EMPOWERING VIBRANT, RESILIENT, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES AND PLACES

KPI 6: Increase participation of children and young people in heritage

| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
|--|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Seek external involvement of children and young people in decision-making | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Listen and act on the ideas and feedback from children and young people, prioritising under-represented voices | <i>Commentary: Nature of KPI, and its related actions, means they will not have a significant effect on the environment through their implementation.</i> | | | | | | |
| Collaborate with children and young people on co-designed projects | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> | | | | | | |
| Employ staff in roles dedicated to supporting children and youth engagement | | | | | | | |
| Provide more paid opportunities for young people, especially and specifically for under-represented groups | | | | | | | |
| Make recruitment processes for jobs and volunteer opportunities more attractive and easily accessible for young people | | | | | | | |
| Develop online career open days to showcase career pathways into heritage for children and young people, and promote all heritage sector jobs during events such as Discover Creative Careers Week | | | | | | | |
| Utilise social media platforms for youth engagement, marketing and education | | | | | | | |
| Work with education authorities and providers to embed heritage across the Scottish curriculum, with a focus on creative learning and play | | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 3: BUILDING A WELLBEING ECONOMY

KPI 7: Delivered a responsible economic contribution

| How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|
| Work with regional economic partnerships to embed heritage in local regeneration and enterprise | Score | 0/? | 0/+ | ++/0 | ++/0 | ++/0 | 0/+ |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> As this high-level action is focused on the embedding of heritage in local regeneration and enterprise, there is anticipated significant positive environmental effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. This is considered where the input from the sector will be most effective. However, this action is constrained as heritage is only one consideration of many for regional economic partnerships and each partnership has multiple stakeholders with competing interests. For this reason, there is also a potential for no environmental effects to be felt across all of the identified SEA topics, although this is more weighted in favour of positive environmental effects for those most closely associated with heritage, hence the assessment of '+' before '0'. There are also potential positive effects on population and human health, through the established positive link with wellbeing and heritage engagement, and through improvements to heritage assets, notably built heritage assets. There is potential for positive environmental effects for climatic factors, as heritage-led regeneration focuses on reuse and adaptation of existing building and the use of sustainable, traditional materials. However, the positive effects of these topics are sometimes an outcome of heritage improvement, and not always an objective, and this action is constrained by the priority setting of regional economic partnerships. It is therefore anticipated that the potential here is less for a positive effect, and more likely minor or neutral effects, hence the '0' assessment precedes the '+'. For the same reasons, and not knowing the extension to which this action may achieve heritage-led regeneration and enterprise, the environment effects on biodiversity, flora and fauna cannot be assessed and so are considered likely minor or neutral, but potential to be uncertain.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Due to the constraints around this action determining result, this action is a commitment of intention and has been assessed as such. As a high-level aspiration, mitigation has not been considered as this will vary case by case at project level. Consideration of mitigation should be given at project level. This action will be enhanced by ensuring that heritage contribution is targeted to those partnerships where the benefits of the sector's involvement would be greatest and most effective in achieving the mission of the strategy. Consideration of how to enhance the positive effects of this action across all SEA topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p> | | | | | | | |
| Work to embed heritage and the historic environment in future Scottish Government strategies | Score | ? | ? | ++/? | ++/? | ++/? | ? |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> As this high-level action is focused on the embedding of heritage and the historic environment in future Scottish Government strategies during the lifetime of this strategy, there is anticipated significant positive environmental effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. This is considered where the input from the sector will be most effective. We would also note that failure to embed heritage and the historic environment in future national strategies may lead to unintended consequences and negative effects. Due to the historic environment sector having to compete against other sectors, policy areas and other government priorities, the extent of success of this action is outside of the strategy's control. This is acknowledged in the wording of the action. As a result, the potential effects of on the remaining SEA topics cannot be assessed and, for that reason, remain uncertain. National strategies are also driven and potentially constrained by a range of factors, including legislative change and so a level of uncertainty has been identified due to the difficulty ensuring this activity can be successfully achieved.</p> <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> As this action is based on advocacy and influence and is so constrained in producing outcomes, this action has been assessed as a commitment of intention. Mitigation has not been considered as this will vary case by case and should be taken at project level. Consideration of how to enhance the positive effects of this action across all SEA topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this will work in practice.</p> <p><i>Recommendation:</i> To assist with embedding heritage and related environmental objectives more broadly at a national level, consider amending this activity to reference legislation and/or plans, policies and strategies. Alternatively, clarify that as part of its delivery that strategies is taken to mean both laws and policy – and potentially a range of both public and private sector instruments.</p> | | | | | | | |
| Develop and share approaches to responsible tourism, ensuring tourism contributes to the economy without being detrimental to communities and the environment | Score | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on all SEA topics against the objective criteria, but the extent of this will depend on the project-level actions underneath it. Actions are not yet developed for this aspiration, and so the environmental benefits to all SEA topics are currently uncertain. However, as the focus on is on responsible tourism, which minimises the negative economic, environmental, and social impacts of tourism activity, all project level actions will be centred on reducing these negative effects. The national heritage organisations in Scotland have already expressed a willingness to progress responsible, heritage-led tourism.. Historic Environment Scotland, as the lead public body for the historic environment in Scotland, has already committed to a Responsible Tourism Framework for its operations and aims to lead by best practice for other heritage tourism providers in Scotland, and National Trust for Scotland prioritise responsible and sustainable tourism, over mass tourism, across their estate.</p> | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration of how to enhance, and ensure, positive environmental effects across the SEA topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this action will work in practice. Principles of SEA and consideration of SEA topics against the objectives criteria will be integrated into project development plans for project level actions coming from this high-level action. | | | | | | |
| Work with the UK and Scottish governments to ensure targeted investment in heritage through major infrastructure investment funding (e.g., Growth Deals) | Score | 0/? | 0/? | +/0 | +/0 | +/0 | 0/? |
| | <i>Commentary</i> There is anticipated positive environmental effects on the SEA topics most immediately connected to the historic environment, this includes cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets. However, this action is constrained as the historic environment sector will be competing against other sectors and interests who are seeking similar investment, meaning that heritage is one consideration amongst many. For this reason, there is also a potential for no environmental effects to be felt across all of the identified SEA topics. However, in these instances, this assessment is weighted more in favour of there being positive environmental effects for those most closely associated with heritage, where more of the sector's efforts will be placed, hence the placing of '+' before '0'. Through success in this action, investment into the historic environment will lead to potential positive effects for population and human health, climatic factors and biodiversity, flora and fauna; however, as the projects this action would seek investment for is not known at this stage, the effects on these three topics are either minimal or neutral, or uncertain. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Due to the constraints around this action determining result, this action is a commitment of intention and has been assessed as such. Mitigation has not been considered. This action will be enhanced for the identified potentially positive SEA topics by ensuring that the sector's effects are targeted. Consideration of how to enhance the positive effects of this action across all SEA topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this action will work in practice. | | | | | | |
| Ensure procurement supports the use of local employment, sustainable supply chains and the use of local traditional materials | Score | ? | + | + | ? | +/? | + |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> This high-level action is for the sector to deliver. It will have positive effects on climatic factors as it encourages use of traditional materials (i.e. stone, wood, lime mortar) and promotes the use of sustainable supply chains by the sector and for all heritage assets. The use of traditional materials is likely to improve the condition of the historic environment and so have positive effects on both cultural heritage and man-made material assets. Improvements to heritage assets, notably housing, also has a positive effect on population and human health, as it ensures people are not living in dwellings of disrepair. The effect on biodiversity, flora and fauna is anticipated to be positive as this action is about better environmental stewardship and consideration, however, if the action is successful, and there is greater uptake of traditional materials, there is the potential for biodiversity, flora and fauna to be adversely affected through greater extraction and processing of natural materials. For the same reason, the effect on landscape (as it is now) is uncertain, however, any changes are not likely to affect public perception of landscape, especially as the growing, harvesting and extraction of traditional materials requires heritage techniques, methods and skills, which have long been in use and would have shaped the landscape's character previously. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Any significant changes to landscape, biodiversity, flora and fauna, and natural material assets would go through the planning consent procedure where objections could be made and mitigation put in place. This action, and actions flowing from it, will adhere to all relevant Acts relating to the protection and enhancement of nature and wildlife and will support the forthcoming Scottish Biodiversity Strategy. Actions flowing from this high-level action can be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with mitigation put in place to enhance, or at a minimum not negatively affect, the natural environment. | | | | | | |
| Spread the benefits of tourism across Scotland, so all places can benefit from responsible, heritage-led tourism | Score | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? | +/? |
| | <i>Commentary:</i> This aspiration has the potential for positive effects on all SEA topics, against the objective criteria, but the extent of this will depend on the project-level actions underneath it. Actions are not yet developed for this aspiration, and so the environmental benefits to all SEA topics are currently uncertain. However, the resultant actions will be focused on communities and place-making, in line with the KPI it sits under, and will follow the principles of the strategy, which prioritise protection and good stewardship of the environment. There is a commitment from across the national bodies in the Scotland to progress responsible, heritage-led tourism and there is recognition that there is a lot to be done to improve tourism benefits across Scotland. Historic Environment Scotland, as the lead public body for the historic environment in Scotland, has already committed to a Responsible Tourism Framework for its operations and aims to lead by best practice in this area for other heritage tourism providers in Scotland, and National Trust for Scotland prioritise responsible and sustainable tourism, over mass tourism, across their estate. | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Mitigation will be through this aspiration being carried out through the principles of the Strategy, which commits to acting upon the climate and biodiversity crises, put people at the heart of delivery, and protect and care for the historic environment. Consideration of how to enhance positive effects across all of SEA topics should be a key element of developing further detail on how this action will work in practice. In order to support the aspiration's implementation, principles of SEA and consideration of SEA topics will be integrated into project development plans for project level actions coming from this high-level action. | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <p>Drive the adoption of fair work and the living wage across heritage businesses</p> <p>Work with local authorities, enterprise agencies and social enterprises to develop place based employability opportunities</p> | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Commentary: Nature of actions means they will not have a significant effect on the environment through their implementation.</i> | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> | | | | | | |

| PRIORITY 3: BUILDING A WELLBEING ECONOMY | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| KPI 8: Increased the proportion of jobs created in the historic environment that meet fair work practice | | | | | | | |
| | How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health |
| <p>Drive the adoption of fair work and the living wage across heritage businesses</p> <p>Work in partnership to support community and social enterprises delivering heritage services or skills development</p> <p>Work with partners to develop and deliver employability programmes based on fair work practice</p> <p>Work with sector Skills Investment Plan delivery groups and the Young Person's Guarantee to increase fair work opportunities</p> | Score | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | <i>Commentary: Nature of KPI, and its related actions, means they will not have a significant effect on the environment through their implementation.</i> | | | | | | |
| | <i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> | | | | | | |

PRIORITY 3: BUILDING A WELLBEING ECONOMY

KPI 9: Helped to improve wellbeing and quality of life through engagement with heritage

| How will the action affect... | Biodiversity, flora and fauna | Climatic factors | Cultural heritage | Landscape | Material assets | Population and human health | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----|
| <p>Work with the culture and health sectors to promote good practice and encourage uptake of heritage engagement into treatments, such as social prescribing</p> <p>Develop a programme of free entry to heritage sites across Scotland for children and young people, and people living in poverty or experiencing social isolation</p> | Score | 0 | 0 | + | + | 0 | ++ |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> The positive link between heritage engagement and wellbeing reporting has been established in Scotland (The Links between Scotland's Historic Environment and Wellbeing) and these findings support similar research into the field. As such, actions to promote the good practice of heritage engagement, and get more people engaging with heritage, will have significant positive effects on population and human health. It is anticipated that through increased engagement there would be positive effects for both cultural heritage and landscape as more people learn to value their cultural environment. There are no expected effects on the remaining SEA topics.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Consideration on how to enhance the currently neutral SEA topics will be taken when developing further detail on how these actions would work in practice. This could be through combined learning on climate change mitigation or joint wellbeing programmes between natural and cultural environment partners. Through this action, there is potential to assess if increased engagement leads to improvements in cultural heritage condition.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Recommendation:</i> Through the implementation of these actions, there could be potential to explore whether through increased creation of benefits for people, there are created benefits for cultural heritage through condition improvement.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p>Target funding and activity to deliver the best returns for wellbeing from heritage engagement</p> <p>Build on the Make Your Mark volunteering participation campaign to grow the number, diversity, and skillset of heritage volunteers</p> | Score | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ++ |
| <p><i>Commentary:</i> Given the focus on both of these actions on heritage engagement, there is anticipated positive effects on population and human health. There are no expected effects on the remaining SEA topics.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Mitigation / Enhancement:</i> Enhancement should be considered to ensure that these actions have positive environmental benefits for cultural heritage. One way to do this is to assess if increased engagement with heritage leads to improvements in cultural heritage condition. Consideration on how to enhance the currently neutral SEA topics will be taken when developing further detail on how these actions would work in practice.</p> | | | | | | | |
| <p><i>Recommendation:</i> Through the implementation of these actions, there could be potential to explore whether through increased creation of benefits for people, there are created benefits for cultural through condition improvement.</p> | | | | | | | |

Annex B – Environmental Policy Context for the review of The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland

| SEA topic | Summary of environmental objectives | Plan, Programme or Strategy |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Climatic factors</p> | <p>Policies focus on the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. National targets are for an 80% reduction by 2050 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 to increase the resilience of communities, and natural and economic systems.</p> <p>The Scottish Government’s A Fairer Greener Scotland response is the long-term vision for just transition. It sets out how we can get to a net zero and climate resilient economy, in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.</p> <p>While an organisational document Historic Environment Scotland’s Climate Action Plan 2020-25 details that organisations climate action ambitions for the historic environment for 2020–2025 and aims to support other bodies/organisations in this area.</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 • Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero: Climate Change Plan 2018–2032 - Update • Climate Ready Scotland: Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 (2019) • Green Recovery Statement for the Historic Environment (2022) • Just Transition Commission: A National Mission for a fairer, greener Scotland (2019) • Just Transition - A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Scottish Government response (2021) • HES Climate Action Plan (2020-2025) |
| <p>Population and Human Health</p> | <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 many 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"> • National Performance Framework • A Healthier Future – Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan • A More Active Scotland: Scotland's Physical Activity Delivery Plan (2018) • A Connected Scotland: our strategy for tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger social connections |

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| | <p>communities in shaping and making local decisions.</p> <p>The Islands (Scotland) Act aims 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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015 • The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 • Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation (2022) • Let's get Scotland Walking – The National Walking Strategy |
| Landscape | <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>Landscape 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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland's Third Land Use Strategy 2021 to 2026 • The European Landscape Convention (2000) • NatureScot Landscape Policy Framework • NatureScot Landscape Policy – Wild Land • Scottish Geodiversity Charter 2018-2023 • People, Place and Landscape – A position statement from NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland • NatureScot – Natural Heritage Futures |
| Cultural Heritage | <p>The key document for considering the historic environment in strategy preparation is the Historic Environment Scotland for Scotland (HEPS). This document sets out the principles and policies to direct decision-making which affects the historic environment. HEP3 states that "plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment".</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 Policy for Scotland (2019) • Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2014) • National Planning Framework 4 (emerging) • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) • A Culture Strategy for Scotland (2020) • Archaeology Strategy • Green Recovery Statement for the Historic Environment • Historic Environment Scotland: Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes • Creating Places: A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place (2013) • Designing Streets: A Policy Statement for Scotland (2010) |

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| | The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) sets out principles and policies to direct decision-making which affects the historic environment. | |
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna | <p>Public bodies in exercising their functions, must have regard to the promotion of biodiversity, as per the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.</p> <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> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC • The Habitats Directive 1992/43/EEC • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 • Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 • Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 • Scotland's Biodiversity – It's In Your Hands (2004) • 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity (2013) • Scottish Biodiversity Strategy post-2020: statement of intent (new strategy emerging) |
| 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 Infrastructure Investment Plan recognises that we need to do more with our existing assets. A sustainable investment hierarchy is introduced that prioritises the maintenance, repair and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Energy Strategy: The Future of Energy in Scotland (2017) • Energy Efficient Scotland: Route Map (2018) • Hydrogen Policy Statement • Heat in Buildings Strategy – achieving net zero emissions in Scotland's buildings • Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 • National Transport Strategy 2 (2020) • The Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) (2008) • Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (emerging) • Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland (2016) • Land use – getting the best from our land: strategy 2021 to 2026 • Realising Scotland's full potential in a digital world: A Digital Strategy for Scotland (2017) |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>reuse of our existing assets over new build.</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> <p>Tourism is a key economic driver and the historic environment is one of the main motivators for tourism activity in Scotland.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland Outlook 2030 • Tourism Scotland 2020 • People Make Heritage (2016) • A National Mission with Local Impact: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 • Housing to 2040 • National Planning Framework 3 (2014) • Scottish Planning Policy (2014) • National Planning Framework 4 (emerging) • Sustainable and regenerative farming – next steps: Statement (2022) • Town Centre First Principle • Town Centre Action Plan 2 (2022) |
|--|--|---|

Annex C – Scoping comments from Consultation Authorities

| NatureScot comments | Our response |
|--|---|
| <p>We agree with the topics scoped-in. We particularly welcome inclusion this time of Biodiversity in recognition of the biodiversity crisis, noting it will be kept under review during consideration of potential interactions on this topic emerge.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>Table 4 baseline data: please add, in the landscape section, landscape character assessment (LCA) and coastal character assessment. As the Report says, it is not just designated or other valued areas that are relevant, and LCA provides complete national coverage of landscape information. The sources section should include the NatureScot website which hosts the national dataset.</p> | <p>Added</p> |
| SEPA comments | Our response |
| <p>We agree with the environmental topics scoped into the assessment and are satisfied with the proposed assessment methodology. It is noted that flooding will be considered under climatic factors. We also welcome the inclusion within this topic of considering the challenges and opportunities for the historic environment of reducing emissions to contribute towards net zero targets.</p> | <p>Priority within strategy to ‘Enable net-zero’ which focus on reducing emissions to contribute towards net zero targets</p> |
| <p>Additional baseline sources you may want to consider adding to table 4 under climatic factors are; Dynamic Coast, The National Overview (2021) report and Historic Environment Scotland’s Guide to Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings.</p> | <p>Added</p> |

Annex D – Environmental Assessment baseline

Cultural Heritage

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|--|--|
| Buildings at Risk | Historic Environment Scotland Portal |
| Investment in the Historic Environment | Scotland's Historic Environment Audit |
| Designated Sites, Buildings, Landscapes and Battlefields | Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (BARR) |
| Properties in Care | Scotland's Environment Web |
| Archaeology | Canmore (National Record for the Historic Environment) |
| Non-designated historic environment features | Historic Land Use map |
| Marine Heritage | Scottish House Condition survey |
| 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 over 18million visitors in 2019 and generating £4.4 billion for Scotland’s economy and supporting 68,000 full time equivalent jobs. 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, over 8,000 scheduled monuments, 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, and 8 nationally designated Historic Marine Protected Areas. The actual extent of archaeological remains in Scotland is vast, with nationally designated sites making up less than 10% of all known historic sites, and with local authorities maintaining their own Historic Environment Record.

Landscapes are a key part of cultural heritage. The European Landscape Convention defines ‘Landscape’ as an area, as perceived by people, whose visual features and character are the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. They are a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being

One in five of Scotland’s dwellings are more than 100 years old (built pre-1919). The Buildings at Risk Register provides information on properties of architectural or

historic merit in Scotland that are considered to be at risk. There are 2,203 buildings on the register considered to be at risk. The Scottish House Condition Survey 2019 notes that 71% of dwellings build pre-1919 have critical elements in disrepair (this refers to weather tightness and structural stability).

83% of scheduled monuments are perceived to be in an optimal of general satisfactory condition (Scotland’s Historic Environment Audit 2018).

Population and Human Health

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|---|--|
| Access to historic environment sites, records and collections | Historic Environment Scotland: Links between Scotland’s Historic Environment and Wellbeing |
| Health and Place data | SEPA Guidance on consideration of health factors in SEA |
| Socio-economic data | Public Health Scotland |
| | Scottish Government – Health and Social Care |
| | Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation |
| | Scottish House Condition survey |

The environment provides a variety of services that are beneficial to human health and wellbeing 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 and condition of buildings in which we live can impact health conditions and affect our quality of life. Poor housing conditions, including those which are damp and cold, are associated with poor health. Poorly maintained housing and neglected community spaces can have a negative impact on physical and mental well-being, whilst high quality environments can create a sense of place and improve wellbeing.

Research by Historic Environment in 2019 demonstrated that there is a positive link between heritage engagement and wellbeing reporting. However, 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.

Place-making and Community Planning are increasingly important areas in which the connection between people and place and the associated benefits (for example; health, wellbeing and social inclusion) can be seen as a driver towards improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Climatic Factors

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|--|--|
| CO2 Emissions | Climate Change Committee |
| Carbon Footprint | SNIFFER |
| Impacts of Climate Change on the Historic Environment | SEPA Guidance on consideration of climatic factors in Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| SNIFFER 2014 Online Handbook of Climate Trends across Scotland | UKCIP |
| Climate Change Committee Reports | Dynamic Coast – National Coastal Change Assessment: National Overview |
| Dynamic Coast – National Coastal Change Assessment | Historic Environment Scotland Guide to Climate Impacts |
| | Historic Environment Scotland Guide to Energy Retrofit of Traditional Buildings |
| | SEPA - Scotland's Environment Web – Climate Trends |

The Climate Change Committee reports that over the last 30 years, average temperature in Scotland has risen by 0.5°C, Scottish winters have become 5% wetter and sea level around the Scottish coast has increased by up to 3cm each decade.

These trends are expected to continue with Scotland experiencing more extreme weather events, higher maximum temperatures and longer heat spells, with fewer days of snow and frost, and more rain on the wettest days of the year.

The impacts of climate change on the historic environment are wide ranging and potentially devastating. 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 used in traditional buildings.

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 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 its link with climatic factors, looking to reduce waste and use/reuse sustainable materials.

Landscape (including seascapes and urban and suburban landscapes)

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Wild land | Historic Land use Assessment |
| National, Regional and Country Parks | NatureScot National Datasets |
| National Scenic Areas | Landscape Character Assessment and Coastal Character Assessment |
| Local Landscape Areas | Scotland's Environment Web |
| Historic Land Use | National Scenic Areas and their Special Qualities |
| World Heritage Sites | 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, 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.

Landscape Character Assessments describe landscape character in a systemic way. They are used heavily in policy making, development planning and management and form an important tool in the appropriate consideration of landscape-scale change. Coastal Character Assessment utilises a similar process for coasts. These assessments underpin marine development plans.

Material assets

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|---|---|
| Agricultural and forestry land use data | Scottish Government publications |
| Housing data | Scottish Government statistics |
| Transport data | Transport Scotland |
| Tourism revenue and visitor numbers | Forestry Commission Scotland |
| Waste data | SEPA Guidance on consideration of material assets in Strategic Environmental Assessment |
| Infrastructure Commission for Scotland | Zero Waste Scotland |
| | Visit Scotland |
| | Scotland's Historic Environment Audit |
| | Scottish House Condition survey |

Forestry policies promote sustainable land use, environmental protection and stewardship, and emphasise the importance of delivering public goods out with market mechanisms. Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029 sets specific targets for thousands of new hectares of forest and woodland to be created yearly, so by 2032 forest and woodland cover 21% of the total area of Scotland. The Strategy seeks to increase the use of Scottish wood products in construction to 3.0 million/m³ by 2031/2032 and to create and restore thousands of hectares of native woodland.

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, and around 12,000 individual historic environment features recorded on the Forester Geographic Information System (GIS) Heritage Module.

In 2018, 5,603,812 hectares of land were classified to be in agricultural use, with 579,847 hectares of common grazing. This is over 70% of Scotland's land. High

Nature Value farming, which are areas with a high proportion of seminatural vegetation and low-intensity agriculture, make up 40% of Scotland's agricultural Scottish Government are currently consulting on a new Agriculture Bill which will support farming and food production in Scotland to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises and achieve Net Zero targets by 2045.

Construction and demolition accounts for around half of all waste produced in Scotland. Scotland has met the European Union target of 70% recycling and reuse of construction and demolition waste by 2020 every year since 2011 and latest data suggests a recycling rate of 97% in 2018. The Scottish Government is currently developing a Circular Economy Bill and Routemap. There is work package within the Routemap to embed circular construction practices to reduce resource needs, reduce waste and carbon, and encourage refurbishment and reuse.

The historic environment, and its 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 and demolition; whilst through a fabric first approach and retrofit their energy efficiency can be improved.

The vast majority of buildings that will be in use by 2050, estimated to be over 80%, already exist. In Scotland, traditionally constructed buildings make up a large portion of building stock, with 19% of Scottish dwellings being built before 1919. Around 9% of households live in conservation areas, which cover about 0.3% of Scotland's land area. The Scottish House Condition Survey 2019 notes that 71% of pre-1919 dwellings have critical elements in disrepair (such as weather tightness and structural stability).

Much of Scotland's existing infrastructure constitutes the historic environment, including canals, communications equipment, railways, piers, bridges and civic buildings, from the World Heritage Site of the Forth Bridge to the Loch Katrine Water Works. Many elements of the road, rail and canal networks across the country are of traditional construction. The Infrastructure Commission report notes that 44% of the Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services estate dates from before 1960 with 86% of these assets being historic, listed and pre-1900. Much of our existing green and blue infrastructure is of cultural significance, such as parks and gardens, designed landscapes, battlefields, ports, hydro schemes or canals.

Biodiversity, flora, and fauna

| Baseline Data | Sources |
|--|---|
| Special Protection Areas | NatureScot National Datasets |
| Special Areas of Conservation | Protected Areas Register |
| National Nature Reserves | National Biodiversity Network |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest | Joint Nature Conservation Committee |
| Local Nature Reserves Woodland (including ancient and semi-natural) Ramsar Sites | Habitats Directive National Nature Reserves NatureScot: State of Nature Report 2019 |

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird 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; this 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.

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) protects one or more special habitats and/or species listed in the Habitats Directive. Scotland has 243 designated SACs, including three that border England and two across the 12nm inshore/offshore territorial boundary. Eight designated SACs are 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 containing nationally or internationally important habitats and species. Most reserves contain visitor facilities designed and managed to ensure that people can enjoy NNRs without harming or disturbing the wildlife that lives there. Scotland has 43 NNRs which cover just under 2% of Scotland's land area. These include ancient woodlands, remote islands, mountain tips and lowland lochs that are vitally important for migrating birds.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are 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 a hectare to more than 29,000 hectares in the Cairngorms SSSI. Many SSSIs are also designated as European Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are areas of natural heritage that are locally important. There are 75 LNRs in Scotland, usually close to towns and cities. Local authorities select and designate LNRs.

Native tree and shrub species are the natural habitats of many native species. Woodland's importance for biodiversity is closely related to its age with wildlife communities, soils and structure in ancient woodlands having had the longest time to develop. In Scotland, ancient woodland is defined as land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded since at least 1750, so are generally richer in biodiversity than more recent woods. Overgrazing and undergrazing, invasive species and pathogens, fragmentation, neglect, climate change, and poor management are all problems which can affect the condition of woodlands in Scotland.