



MANAGING CHANGE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: UNDERWATER HERITAGE

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT

PRE-SCREENING REPORT

19 DECEMBER 2023



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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SEA Gateway

The Scottish Government

Area 2-H South Victoria Quay Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

A SEA Pre-Screening Report is attached for the plan, programme or strategy (PPS) entitled: Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Underwater Heritage

Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005: We consider the above guidance qualifies under section 5(4) of the above legislation.

The Responsible Authority is: Historic Environment Scotland

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Title of guidance	Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Underwater Heritage
Purpose of the guidance	<p>Managing change in the historic environment: guidance notes provide non-statutory advice on how to apply the policies contained in the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS), and national planning policy. This proposed guidance note is relevant to decisions on development proposals and changes to individual historic assets, such as listed buildings.</p> <p>This guidance is about conserving underwater heritage around the coasts of Scotland and in freshwater environments such as lochs and rivers.</p> <p>These guidance notes are not spatially specific. They instead offer advice and policy interpretation with reference to case studies and good practice. The advice they offer is sometimes used in the support and preparation of local planning policies and supplementary guidance. They are also used in support of development management decisions.</p>
What prompted the guidance?	<p>A series of Managing change in the historic environment: guidance notes were first produced in October 2010, covering a range of topics. These guidance notes set out procedural advice and guidance relating to works affecting various aspect of the historic environment.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the HEPS in 2019, Historic Environment Scotland committed to an ongoing policy review which will produce a range of new and revised detailed policy and guidance to complement HEPS. This Managing Change Guidance Note is new guidance, reflecting increased need for guidance in this area that is specific to Scottish development management regimes. The guidance will also be relevant National Marine Plan 2, which is currently in development.</p>
Subject	The historic environment
Period covered & frequency of updates	Once published the guidance will remain in place indefinitely and will be updated as required.
Area covered by the guidance	Scotland wide
Summary of the guidance	<p>As with other guidance notes within the series, this new guidance note will set out the policy context and highlight the key principles involved in managing a specific aspect of the historic environment.</p> <p>This is a practical guide on how to assess and manage the impacts of change while respecting the cultural significance of underwater heritage sites. It looks at: understanding underwater heritage; how underwater heritage is protected; impacts on underwater heritage; considerations for undertaking activities that are directed at underwater heritage</p>

Historic Environment Scotland's determination: The key policy commitments which these guidance notes relate to within HEPS and national planning policy (both terrestrial and marine) will remain unchanged. In light of this, and given their procedural and advisory nature, with regard to the criteria specified in [Schedule 2](#) of the [Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#) we consider they will have no or minimal effects on the environment. Accordingly, it is the view of Historic Environment Scotland that, under [Section 7](#) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, a strategic environmental assessment is not required prior to their adoption.



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