



SHEA

scotland's historic
environment audit

SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AUDIT 2010

SUMMARY

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Build the future*

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SCOTLAND



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Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) 2010 draws on current data and research to highlight key trends in the sector. The data provided by SHEA 2010 can be analysed by all groups with an interest in the historic environment. The full report is available from www.heritageaudit.org.uk.

Scotland's historic environment is a unique asset, attracting millions of visitors each year and generating income and jobs across Scotland. Our historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and to the National Performance Framework (www.scotlandperforms.com). The following sets out some key facts about the historic environment in Scotland.

Benefits of the historic environment

- **The historic environment makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy**, contributing in excess of £2.3 billion (2.6%) to Scotland's national gross value added (GVA).
- **Historic Scotland raised an income of £27 million from Properties in Care in 2009/10**, an increase of 8.4% on 2007/8.
- **The historic environment is a major employer**, directly supporting more than 41,000 full time equivalent employees in Scotland. Including

indirect and induced effects, the historic environment sector supports in excess of 60,000 full-time equivalent employees in Scotland (accounting for 2.5% of Scotland's total employment).

- **Grants are a major stimulus to conserving the nation's built heritage, benefiting both communities and the general economy by generating work in the construction industry and supporting tourism.** For example, between 1999 and 2010 Historic Scotland awarded grants of more than £133 million that assisted repairs of over £650 million.
- **Tourism is one of the most important industries in Scotland, and the historic environment is a major contributor to that industry.** More than half (53%) of adults had visited a historic or archaeological site in the 12 months prior to 2008. Historic Scotland recorded a 7% increase in visitors to sites between 2009/10 and 2008/9. *Visit Scotland* data for 2008 show that more than 15 million tourists visited historic environment attractions, which accounts for more than one in three of all recorded visits to all Scottish attractions. These figures are similar to those reported in 2007. The historic environment is a strong driver for tourism and inward investment.

- **The historic environment provides strong opportunities for participation and volunteering and levels are healthy and on the increase.** Each year more than 18,500 volunteers contribute to the historic environment in Scotland. The economic value of volunteering in the historic environment is estimated at over £28 million per annum. Membership of the National Trust for Scotland (310,000 members) and Historic Scotland (104,000 members) have increased steadily since 2008. Participation in *Doors Open Days* and *Scottish Archaeology Month* are good, with both events attracting a healthy number of visitors and volunteers.
- **Scotland's seas generate around £22 billion worth of industry and provide thousands of jobs.** Tourism associated with Scotland's rich and diverse coastal and marine cultural heritage makes a positive contribution to this figure. **Scotland holds a quarter of Europe's total tidal offshore wind resource and 10% of its potential wave power.** *The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010* introduces a new framework to help deliver sustainable economic growth from our seas, balancing the protection of our outstanding marine natural and historic environments and the needs of industry and tourism.
- **The historic environment is an important contributor to education and training programmes.** More school children are visiting historic sites, more candidates are entering for history highers and intermediate exams; and more students are studying historic environment related courses at higher education institutions in 2008/9 than in 2007/8. The sector plays an important role in promoting vocational training and in up-skilling the construction workforce.
- **The historic environment can play a vital role in tackling climate change and contributes to the broader sustainability agenda.** The sensitive re-use of historic buildings is crucial if Scotland is to meet the target of cutting

80% of all carbon emissions by 2050. The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) provides a list of historic buildings which are unoccupied or derelict, or whose future may be in some doubt and which might be suitable for restoration. Historic Scotland and other organisations provide technical advice on energy conservation in traditional buildings.

Identification and designation

- **Designated historic environment assets in Scotland include:** five world heritage sites; 47,540 listed buildings; 8,151 scheduled monuments; 641 conservation areas; 386 designed gardens and landscapes; eight protected wrecks; and seven scheduled wrecks. There are two national parks and 40 National Scenic Areas, covering around one-fifth of the total land area of Scotland. An inventory of nationally important battlefields will be created in 2011/12. Designation aims to identify the most important elements of the historic environment so that their significance is recognised. Details of these designated sites are all available online at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk.
- **The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and local authority Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs)** also hold information on historic environment assets, which are not necessarily nationally important or statutorily protected but which nonetheless contribute to Scotland's overall historic environment. While the majority of these sites are not formally designated assets, they do provide important contextual information, which also helps us better understand those sites that are considered nationally important and protected. Some may, in addition, come to be recognised as nationally important. There are currently 290,565 RCAHMS records and 265,354 SMR records. RCAHMS records are available online at www.rcahms.gov.uk

Condition and management

- Although there is limited nationally-collated information on the condition of the historic environment, the presence of management plans and regular inspection regimes for many historic environment assets means that a considerable amount is known locally.
- **8.7% of Scotland's A-listed buildings are at risk**, based on estimates from the Buildings at Risk Register (BARR). A-listed entries in rural areas are more likely to be at risk than those in urban areas. Four out of every five A-listed BARR entries are vacant. Once on the BARR, for each A-listed building demolished, 11 are saved. The BARR can be consulted online at www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk.
- **85% of scheduled monuments are perceived to be in an optimal or generally satisfactory condition**, according to Historic Scotland's Monument Warden Records.
- **Local authorities decided 39,536 planning applications (excluding major applications) in 2009/10, 13% fewer than in 2008/9.** Around 8% (3,250) of planning consents also involve listed building consent or conservation area consent. Numbers of consents have been relatively constant since 2000/01 and each year around 90% are granted.

Funding for the Historic Environment

Funding for the historic environment comes from a wide variety of sources. The main sources of funding are described below.

- In 2009/10 the Scottish Government, through **Historic Scotland**, spent £75.9 million, which is a 1.2% increase, in real terms, on the previous year.
- In 2009/10 the **Heritage Lottery Fund** awarded a total of £7.2 million in grants to 85 different heritage projects in Scotland, which reflects a reduction in funding since 2008/9 and 2007/8.
- CIPFA figures show that in 2008/9 **local authorities'** net expenditure on heritage was £5.3 million, a decrease of 13% on 2007/8. Spend on heritage was around 1% of the overall net expenditure on Culture in 2007/8 and 2008/9 and around 2% of the spend on Culture in 2004/5, 2005/6 and 2006/7.
- In 2009/10 the **National Trust for Scotland's** total expenditure was £36.1 million, a decrease, in real terms, of 10.2% on the previous year.
- **Private investment is currently the largest source of funding for the historic environment.** As most assets are privately owned, the ability of private owners to invest sufficiently in the maintenance of historic buildings and places is crucial to the long-term management of the historic environment. Historic Scotland disseminates advice to building owners and professionals to ensure best practice in maintenance and repair. For example, there were over 11,000 downloads of the INFORM Guides for traditional building owners in 2009.