

HISTORIC SCOTLAND CORPORATE PLAN 2012 -15

Annex A: Environmental Report
October 2011



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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Historic Scotland is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government. All functions performed by the Agency are carried out on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Historic Scotland [Framework Document 2008](#) sets out the aims of the Agency in contributing to the Government's purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth. The Framework Document also outlines the functions of the Agency and arrangements for its governance. This includes the commitment to prepare a Corporate Plan for the Agency to be approved by Scottish Ministers. Historic Scotland's existing plan covers the period 2008–2011. A new plan is being prepared to cover the period 2012–2015.

The preparation of a Corporate Plan for the Agency has been informed by [The Scottish Government Economic Strategy](#) and its National Performance Framework. The Economic Strategy sets out the strategic priorities which support the delivery of the Government's Purpose of creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth.

The Government's National Performance Framework [Scotland Performs](#) provides a means to measure the Government's success in achieving its priorities. It comprises five Strategic Objectives that underpin the Government's Purpose and describe the kind of Scotland we want to live in – a Scotland that is Wealthier and Fairer, Smarter, Healthier, Safer and Stronger, and Greener – and fifteen National Outcomes which provide a performance framework for measuring success against the Government's strategic priorities.

The purpose of our Corporate Plan is to set out Historic Scotland's vision for the historic environment and strategic priorities over the next three years in line with Scottish Government's Purpose, Strategic Priorities and National Outcomes.

Consultation

This Environmental Report accompanies the draft plan for a six week public consultation between 5th October 2011 and 16th November 2011. Any comments that you would like to make on either document are welcomed. A number of questions are listed in the Response Form which you are encouraged to use to help structure your response to the draft plan and this Environmental Report.

With regards to the Environmental Report the main question to consider is:

Do you agree with the results of the environmental assessment and have the key issues associated with the environmental implications of the draft Plan been identified?

1.2 Content of the draft Plan

The Corporate Plan is being prepared to set out Historic Scotland's vision for the historic environment and strategic priorities for the coming three years. It is much shorter than previous versions, simply setting out the Agency's priority outcomes. This gives flexibility in terms of both process and content in uncertain times, as well as making the document far more accessible. The shortened format plan, which forms the top tier of the Historic Scotland performance management framework, will be underpinned by an annual Agency Business Plan and individual Directorate Plans which will articulate operational details of delivery.

1.3 Key inputs

The key inputs to the plan have included the Scottish Government's Spending Review 2011; the Scottish Government's manifesto commitments; the Programme for Government; Scottish Government's revised Economic Strategy; the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs' statement of priorities for her portfolio; the Historic Scotland Senior Management Team's review of opportunities and priorities; and stakeholder feedback from the Heritage Convention held in November 2010. We are also taking into account the recently published Scottish Government's Spending Review 2011, the Programme for Government and the revised Economic Strategy.

Stakeholder input has been gathered through extensive pre-consultation events, including with Scottish Government colleagues to ensure the Agency's strategic priorities integrate with related workstreams to deliver joined up outcomes. We also held an environmental assessment workshop with our Senior Management Team and other officials to ensure that cross-cutting environmental objectives were considered during the drafting of our priorities. We will also be holding consultation events with the Confederation of British Industry and Young Scot. Internal and external consultation will continue throughout October and November 2011.

1.4 The SEA process

The purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is to ensure that information on the environmental effects of a plan, programme or strategy is gathered and made available to plan-makers and decision takers as it is prepared and implemented. The overarching aim of SEA is to promote sustainable development. It is a systematic method for considering the likely environmental effects of certain plans, programmes and strategies. In doing so, SEA aims to:

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

The key stages of SEA involve:

Stage	Activity
Screening	Determining whether the plan 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 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).
Assessment, mitigation & enhancement	Testing the contents of the plan 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 plan.
Adoption & monitoring	Providing information on the adopted plan, how consultation comments have been taken into account and methods for monitoring the significant environmental effects arising from its implementation.

1.5 Screening & scoping of our plan

Under [The Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#), plans, programmes and strategies with the potential to have significant environmental effects are to be subject to environmental assessment prior to adoption. As we considered that our Corporate Plan 2012–2015 has the potential to result in significant environmental effects we submitted a joint Screening and Scoping Report to the Scottish Government’s SEA Gateway on 22 November 2010 to seek the views of the Consultation Authorities (SNH and SEPA). Helpful comments were received from both organisations who were generally supportive of our approach.

SNH agreed that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna, soil, air and water, but they questioned our scoping out landscape stating that “the historic environment is much wider than the scheduled sites, and often a key component of our landscapes” and as such they believe that our plan has the potential to impact on the wider landscape in a positive manner. SEPA agreed with the scope of the assessment, but recommended scoping in material assets because our plan may lead to significant effects for waste and material resources. [Annex B](#) summarises the comments provided by SNH and SEPA and shows how these have been taken into account in progressing the SEA.

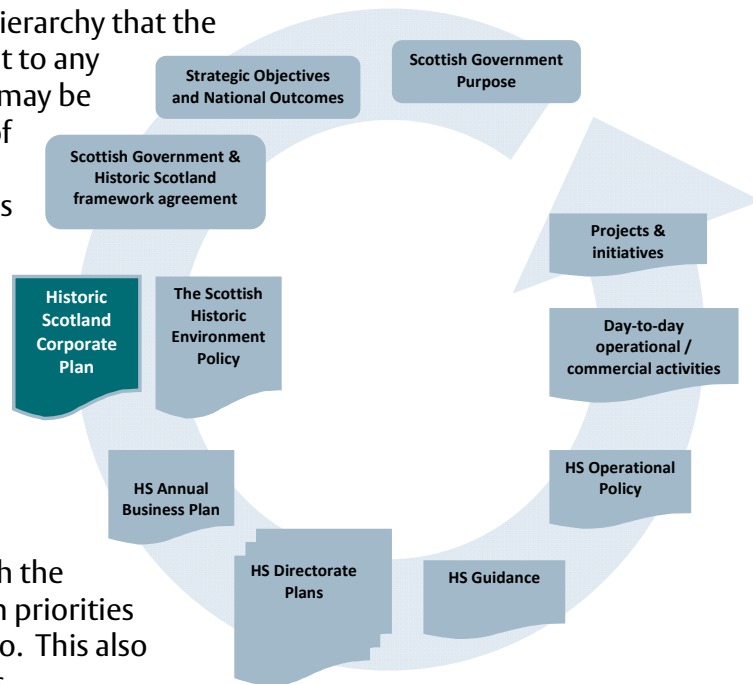
As a result of the screening/scoping consultation Historic Scotland determined that an SEA would be undertaken. The determination notice was published on 30 September 2011 and can be viewed on our webpage: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/sea

Following on from the scoping stage, an environmental assessment was carried out during the preparation of the plan. This Environmental Report presents the results of that assessment, sets out the measures proposed to mitigate the potentially adverse effects, enhance positive effects and suggests monitoring indicators.

2. Environmental objectives and key drivers

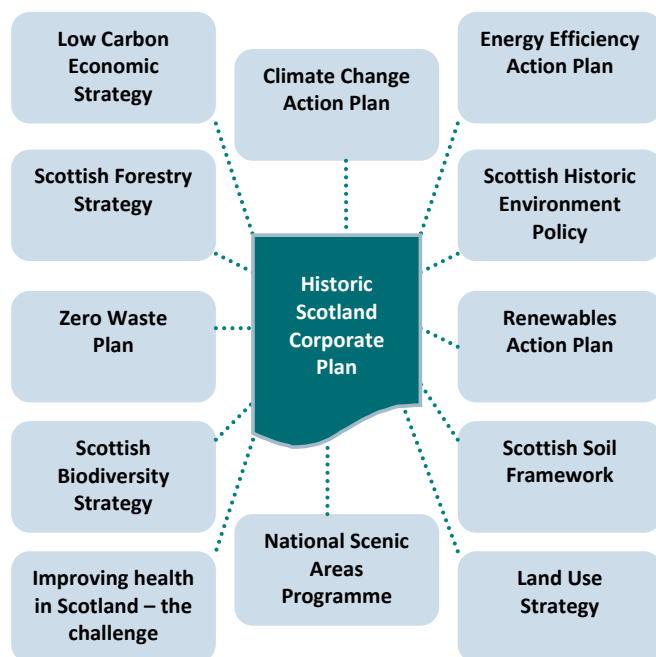
2.1 Other plans, programmes and environmental objectives

A clear understanding of the context and the hierarchy that the plan sits within is useful for giving early thought to any required mitigation measures and where they may be best implemented. As shown in this diagram of Historic Scotland’s plan making context the Corporate Plan sits above a series of other plans which will be used to identify more specific operational delivery activities.



The next stage of the SEA process is to consider the relationship of the plan to other relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives. This allows key environmental protection objectives to be identified for consideration during the plan preparation process. This helps to identify both the plans and strategies that will influence our own priorities and those that will be influenced by what we do. This also helps to focus the assessment on the key issues.

Some of the environmental plans and strategies influencing our corporate plan are shown below:



Annex 1 sets out the review of the current legislation, policies, plans and strategies that are considered to be most directly relevant to the Corporate Plan. It has been assumed that the key environmental objectives for each of the environmental parameters identified in Schedule 3 of the Act are translated into national policy and strategy. The environmental protection framework provided by European legislation has not been reviewed in detail. Instead, our focus has been to review the key areas of legislation relevant to the Corporate Plan and its assessment.

To summarise, the key environmental objectives identified from our review of legislation, policies, plans and strategies are:

- ◆ To protect and where appropriate enhance the historic environment
- ◆ To halt the loss of biodiversity and continue to reverse previous losses through targeted action for species and habitats (and to protect and enhance species and habitats)
- ◆ To increase awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment
- ◆ To protect and enhance the water environment (with a requirement to ensure that the status of all waters are protected from deterioration)
- ◆ To promote and encourage opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy access to wildlife and the countryside
- ◆ To manage access appropriately to avoid damage to archaeological sites or habitats, and disturbance to wildlife, especially breeding birds, by heavy public use of sensitive areas
- ◆ To protect, enhance and, where appropriate, restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value
- ◆ To protect soil resources and promote soil function
- ◆ To reduce the exposure of sensitive receptors to poor air quality
- ◆ To promote sustainable development
- ◆ To reduce waste and help deliver the targets outlined in the Zero Waste Plan (70 per cent target recycle and maximum five per cent sent to landfill, both by 2025)
- ◆ To tackle flooding issues (including properties within our own estate)
- ◆ To reduce our contribution to climate change and be positioned to respond to the predicted effects of climate change

2.2 Scoping the environmental topics to be included in the assessment

A key part of the SEA process is identifying the environmental topics (from Schedule 3 of the Act) that are likely to be affected by the plan. This can lead to some environmental topics being “scoped out” of the assessment and helps to focus the SEA on the key environmental issues. A Scoping Report was prepared in November 2010 which set out the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment and comments were sought from SNH and SEPA. Based on the environmental protection objectives above, the scoping report identified the environmental parameters that we considered to be affected by the Corporate Plan.

In their response to our scoping consultation SEPA suggested that we should consider whether Material Assets could be included in the assessment in order to look at the effects of the plan on waste and material resources. As the assessment progressed it became clear that a number of priorities had the potential for significant effects in this area. We therefore came to the decision to scope this topic in, albeit more focused on those priorities through which significant effects were likely. Subsequently an objective relating to Material Assets was added and an assessment of the potential effects of priorities under “Building a Low Carbon Economy” and “Managing Scotland’s Built Heritage Creatively”. SNH also suggested that we amend the scope of the assessment to include landscape. While we agree with their comments that cultural heritage often goes beyond designated assets to include wider landscapes we remain of the view that this would be adequately dealt with by considering the effects on cultural landscapes within the historic environment topic. Annex 2 summarises the comments SNH and SEPA provided on the scope of the assessment and how we have taken these into account.

Table 1 below sets out the scope of the assessment with reference to the environmental topics included in Schedule 3 of the Act. Justification is provided for those environmental topics that are scoped out of the assessment.

Table 1: Scoping in/out

Topic	Scoped in/out	Potential issues arising from the management plan and justification for scoping in/out
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for biodiversity, flora and fauna as a result of Historic Scotland's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan we did not consider these would be strategically significant. The plan itself focuses on the Agency's role in safeguarding and celebrating the historic environment. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan do not relate to the natural environment. Operational and project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower level group plans. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment.
Landscape	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for landscape character and scenic value as a result of Historic Scotland's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan we did not consider these would be strategically significant. The Corporate Plan itself focuses on the Agency's role in safeguarding and celebrating the historic environment. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan do not relate to natural landscape issues. Operation and project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower level group plans. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment. The SEA considers the effects of the plan on cultural landscapes and the cultural components of landscapes under the cultural heritage topic.
Cultural Heritage	In	Historic Scotland's core function is to safeguard and celebrate the historic environment in Scotland. For this reason it was considered that the Corporate Plan is likely have significantly positive effects for all aspects of the historic environment.
Population and Human Health	In	The Corporate Plan was considered likely to have significant positive effects for population and human health through outcomes and targets which will lead to continued access to cultural sites in the care of Scottish Ministers and activities relating to further interpretation and understanding of Scotland's historic environment and the role it can play in creating better communities and places.
Soil	Out	Although there may be some indirect effects for soil as a result of Historic Scotland's priorities set out in the Corporate Plan we did not consider these would be strategically significant. The plan itself focuses on the Agency's role in safeguarding and celebrating the historic environment. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan do not relate to soil function or capacity. Operational and project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower level group plans. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment
Water	Out	We did not consider that the strategic priorities and targets in the Corporate Plan would significantly affect water quality, flow, flooding or pollution. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment.
Air	Out	We did not consider that the strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan would significantly improve air quality or lead to higher levels of pollution. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment.
Climatic Factors	In	We considered that the Corporate Plan could make a significant contribution to reducing the causes of climate change by setting targets for reduced emissions/improved efficiency. The predicted effects of climate change are also likely to have implications for the historic environment at a strategic level particularly through coastal erosion and increased incidence of extreme weather. The Corporate Plan may also therefore have a role in contributing to effective adaptation, particularly with regard to traditional buildings.
Material Assets	In	Through the ongoing process of this assessment we have kept the inclusion of material assets under review. As a result of this we have concluded that the Corporate Plan does have the potential for significant environmental effects on this topic and have subsequently added an objective relating to this within the assessment. It was decided that the consideration of material assets be focused on the strategic priorities most likely to give rise to significant effects. We considered these to be the priorities under "Supporting the transition to a Low Carbon Economy" and "Managing Scotland's Built Heritage Creatively".

3. Environmental baseline, problems and evolution

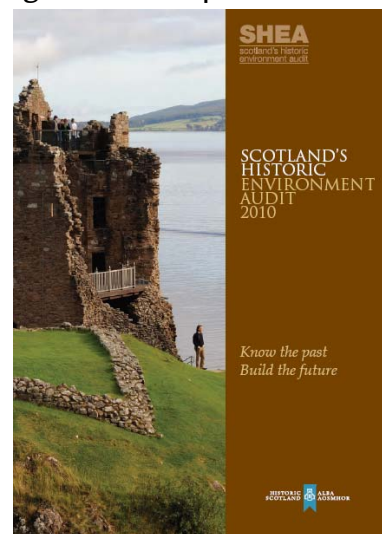
3.1 Environmental baseline

In order to establish the environmental effects of the Corporate Plan it is necessary to understand the environmental baseline of the area that is likely to be affected. Schedule 3 of the Act lists the environmental topics that should be considered in SEA. To focus the SEA, baseline information has been gathered on the environmental issues that are likely to be affected by the plan. Given that the Corporate Plan covers Historic Scotland's priorities for both our own estate and Scotland as a whole, a national baseline has been reviewed. A summary of the key baseline information for each relevant environmental topic is set out below.

3.1.1 Cultural Heritage

The historic environment is a legacy of our long history, from the 'eco homes' at Skara Brae, to the post-war homes and churches built by Scotland's leading architects, and with a great deal in between. Scotland's historic environment is a unique asset, attracting millions of visitors each year and generating income and jobs across Scotland. As such, the historic environment makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives and to the National Performance Framework. In terms of specific sites and buildings - Scotland has five World Heritage Sites, over 47,000 listed buildings and more than 600 conservation areas. 386 sites are currently identified in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The actual extent of archaeological remains in Scotland is unknown with 8,151 Scheduled Monuments representing only a small proportion of the archaeological sites for which the [Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland](#) holds records and the many more unrecorded sites and unknown resources throughout the country. Landscapes are a key part of our cultural heritage having huge economic potential and are a vital part of our sense of place and general well-being.

The key information relating to the context for our Corporate Plan, and what we have based our assessment upon, can be found in the 2010 [Heritage Audit](#) and the [Scottish Historic Environment Policy](#).



3.1.2 Population and Human Health

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

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

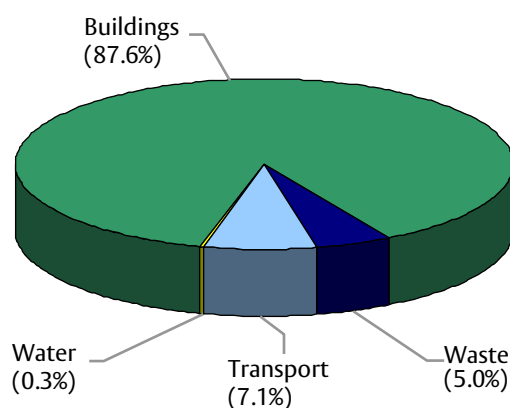
3.1.3 Climatic Factors

Our archaeology and coastal landscapes are vulnerable to coastal erosion, rises in sea level, flooding and storminess. Some of Scotland's unique and special sites such as Skara Brae in Orkney are most at risk. Built heritage can also suffer adverse effects from storms, subsidence and increased wetting and weathering.

More rainfall will mean that traditional buildings will be wetter for longer periods of time resulting in increased weathering of stone, algal and fungal growth, corrosion of metals and timber decay. The spread of pests and disease as a result of a warmer climate and milder wetter winters can also have effects upon various materials and furnishings. Measures to improve energy efficiency in traditional buildings should 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 should also be given to the renewable energy projects (such as micro renewables) which may have a detrimental effect on the character or setting of historic environment features, landscapes and townscapes.

In terms of Historic Scotland's estate (Properties in Care, office buildings and vehicles), we have estimated that our baseline CO₂ emissions for the Financial Year 2008/9 as being 7648 tonnes. The baseline diagram shows that buildings contribute by far the largest proportion, comprising almost 90% of our carbon emissions.



3.1.4 Material Assets

There is limited information available about the use (and potential waste) of materials within the heritage sector and so we have had some difficulties in gathering data in this area. It is established good conservation practice to re-use as much historic material and fabric as possible and when replacing building elements to obtain original sources of materials such as stone and slate (for authenticity and integrity purposes). There is almost no extraction of stone and slate in Scotland and most is being imported from England and overseas. The lack of suitable material that matches the physical characteristics of the original has led to widespread product substitution that has caused physical damage to the fabric of the historic built environment. Historic Scotland therefore has long supported research into procuring appropriate materials for conservation work and building repair. Such practices can support sustainable development through properly maintaining the built heritage and by stimulating economic growth including jobs, skills and lower carbon sourcing through extraction and processing of indigenous materials.

One way we are seeking to address this is to improve the way in which we gather data in relation to original materials used in Historic Scotland's own estate and in properties we grant-aid or support; and any waste generated through our commercial and conservation activities related to them. While we have helpful financial information about the disposal of waste and hiring of skips, it is not clear what is being disposed and what potential there is to develop other ways of managing this process. We will be examining our procurement processes to help understand the amount of and type of waste going to recycling centres or land fill. We are also hoping to work with colleagues in The Scottish Government and The Scottish Environment Protection Agency to explore this area further.

3.2 Environmental Issues

In summary, the environmental issues emerging from our review of the baseline data include:

- ◆ The impacts of climate change on the historic environment and the role of the historic environment in contributing to adaptation and mitigation
- ◆ The condition of the historic environment
- ◆ Understanding of the value of the historic environment to communities and the place-making agenda
- ◆ Access to the historic environment for everyone
- ◆ Potential lack of reuse/recycling of materials. It would be useful to have a clearer understanding of the efficient use of materials within HS's estate. Further analysis and discussion with SG & SEPA to address data gaps should be pursued.

3.3 Evolution of the environment without the plan

The SEA process also asks us to consider what would happen to the environment if we did not prepare the plan. We believe that if a Corporate Plan were not to be developed for Historic Scotland when the current plan expires in 2011 there would be no clear outline of the priorities which will guide the work and activities of the Agency. This could result in inefficiencies in terms of strategic and operational planning which may reduce the positive effects of the Agency's work for the historic environment. It is unlikely that there would be significantly negative effects for other environmental topics but the Agency would be less equipped to deliver to Scottish Government strategic priorities and outcomes.

4. Assessment approach and methods

4.1 Scoping the level of detail of the assessment

At the scoping stage we suggested that our environmental assessment would be undertaken at a level of detail that is appropriate to the Corporate Plan. We noted that in reaching a view on the level of detail it is necessary to understand that the Corporate Plan forms the top tier of the Agency's performance management framework. In setting out Historic Scotland's vision for the historic environment and strategic priorities, it will play a key role in directing Agency business for the next three years. Its content will influence the focus of projects and activities identified in lower level group plans and will go on to map out how the Agency operates on a day to day basis. The strategic nature of the document, however, means that it does not contain a great amount of detail and our assessment has reflected this by adopting an equally high level approach.

The environmental assessment has considered all aspects of the plan that are likely to result in significant environmental effects. Given the proposed structure of the plan this has focused on the proposed outcomes or strategic priorities. The key performance measures have not been assessed. This is because they are essentially indicators, which give us important information about whether these strategic priorities are being delivered.

4.2 How was the draft Corporate Plan assessed?

At scoping stage an assessment framework was developed to provide a consistent way of assessing the plan. Environmental objectives were developed for each of the environmental topics scoped in to the assessment. These are supported by more detailed assessment criteria. The environmental objectives and criteria are set out in Table 3. They are based on an initial analysis of the environmental topics relevant to the plan. The objectives and criteria have been further refined into five questions which have formed the foundations for carrying out the assessment. They are:

- ◆ **Historic Environment:** Will the priority help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?
- ◆ **Population and Human Health:** Will the priority promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?
- ◆ **Climatic Factors:** Will the priority help to reduce the causes of climate change?
- ◆ **Climatic Factors:** Will the priority help to deliver adaptation to the effects of climate change?
- ◆ **Material Assets:** Will the priority help to reduce waste, encourage reuse and promote sustainable practice?

Using these questions we have examined the plan thematically under each of the SEA environmental topic areas. The findings of the assessment are reported below in a narrative format with a discussion of the likely effects arising from the plan's mission, vision and strategic priorities.

Table 3: Assessment structure

SEA Topic	Environmental Objective	How will the Corporate Plan affect... ?
Historic Environment	Safeguard and where appropriate enhance the historic environment	... the safeguarding of designated and undesignated features of the historic environment ...elements of the historic environment which have been identified as at risk
Population and Human Health	Promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment	... access to the historic environment ... understanding of the value of the historic environment ... celebration of the historic environment
Climatic Factors	Reduce the causes of climate change help to deliver adaptation to the effects of climate change	... CO ₂ and greenhouse gas emissions ...effective adaptation to the effects of climate change
Material Assets	Reduce waste, encourage reuse and promote sustainable practice	... energy consumption and promote efficiency? ... efforts to reduce waste and encourage reuse and recycling?

4.3 Alternatives

The commitment to prepare a Corporate Plan is established in Historic Scotland’s Framework Document which sets out governance arrangements with the Scottish Government. Strategic alternatives to the preparation of the Corporate Plan are therefore relatively constrained and the ‘do nothing’ approach is not considered to be reasonable in this case. Alternatives considered during the preparation of the plan have included carrying forward the Agency’s existing Corporate Plan, preparing a plan to cover a longer/shorter time period or different approaches to the structure and level of detail.

However, the primary focus of our assessment has been upon the alternative strategic priorities that have been considered during the plan preparation process. For example, alternative priorities and where choices are being made about where we focus our resources. That is the level at which significant effects are most likely to arise.

The strategic priorities included in the draft plan are organised under five headings:

- ◆ Championing Scotland’s historic environment;
- ◆ Contributing to sustainable economic growth;
- ◆ Managing Scotland’s historic environment creatively;
- ◆ Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy; and
- ◆ Delivering our business.

Not all of the strategic priorities identified will lead to significant environment effects on the ground. This is because some relate to the way in which we do business and the values that our staff uphold. Other effects may arise, not as specific tangible impacts, but as a result of the influence our plan is likely to have across the heritage sector. For completeness, all of the strategic priorities have been assessed against the four assessment questions and where there is no strong link or limited interaction this has been noted.

5. Assessment findings

5.1 Effects of our strategic priorities

The specific priorities can be found in the consultative draft plan on pages 9 to 11. The detailed findings of how these affect the environment are contained within [Annex 3](#) and can be summarised as follows:

We asked if each priority would...

- ... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?
- ... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?
- ... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?
- ... help to reduce waste and promote sustainability?

Championing Scotland's Historic Environment

We found that many of these priorities would have **positive** effects due to their potential to aid both decision making for the betterment of the historic environment and exploration of alternative approaches to the management of sensitive sites. The priorities also score strongly against the environmental objectives in that they are focused on promoting access and in particular widening that access to a greater spectrum of Scottish society.

While unlikely to be significant at this level, potential carbon savings could be made through the innovative ways of interpreting sites. We are currently looking at ways to address this issue through our carbon management plan which is reviewing and challenging the way in which our estate is managed.

Contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth

The majority of these priorities will make a **positive** contribution towards the promotion of and access to the historic environment both at a local level by getting more people to visit sites as well as at a national level by capitalising upon the desirability of Scotland as a place to live and work by attracting business and investment. There are many environmental benefits from this, including regeneration which could in turn help to improve the condition of heritage assets (e.g. renovation and re-use of historic buildings) and create better places to live and work.

However, our assessment also highlighted the potential for some priorities to have **negative effects** due to increased pressure on sensitive and finite heritage assets. This highlights the importance of developing a sustainable tourism policy and a robust approach to heritage management. It is also important to note however that these priorities will also bring opportunities to improve the condition of the historic environment and this is particularly true where we can attract investment and create employment in traditional skills (e.g. thatching, stonemasonry) as this will help to safeguard and improve the condition of our historic environment in the long term (i.e. through our [Traditional Skills Strategy](#)).

We need to bear in mind however that encouraging more visitors to our Properties in Care and heritage assets more generally can place pressures on their management and will have implications for CO₂ emissions due to increased travel (to often remote areas). We should ensure that we promote sustainable travel and work with partners in delivering not just cost effective, but carbon friendly ways of facilitating access.

Managing Scotland's historic environment creatively

All of these priorities make a **positive** contribution towards the safeguarding and improvement of the historic environment – for example, our work with Scottish Government, fellow key agencies and other partners will help to enable quicker, more informed and creative outcomes through the development planning and management processes. Getting more communities involved in the management of the historic environment can improve the condition of certain elements which otherwise may not be cared for or proactively managed. Getting more people involved in the management of the historic environment can also open up the benefits it can bring to a far wider audience, helping to increase awareness and understanding. In particular, the priority to retain and reinvest earned income and commercialise certain activities will enable us to plan ahead and be more creative in the way we safeguard and promote the historic environment.

The priorities that have been identified as having **positive** effects highlight the opportunities to better integrate national priorities for tackling climate change and waste reduction (e.g. delivery of the Zero Waste plan) at various levels – from our review of national policy through to work being taken forward on the buildings at risk project.

Finally, our review of our grants for major projects and procurement activities not only provide an opportunity to help deliver our vision for the heritage sector but also provide a great opportunity to help deliver other national priorities. For example, the review should take into account the potential for our grants to help meet our climate change obligations, commitments under the zero waste plan and other environmental priorities. For example, can we prioritise our grant giving criteria to reflect these and other cross cutting ambitions?

Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy

These priorities make a **positive** contribution to the safeguarding and improvement of the historic environment through informed decision making and developing carbon friendly ways of managing heritage assets – from advice on the thermal properties of windows through to the sensitive re-use of industrial buildings. The priority relating to indigenous material combined with our research will aid in improving the integrity and authenticity of works carried out across the heritage sector. In terms of research, it is important that information about sustainable heritage management is disseminated widely - particularly to those involved in both day-to-day and strategic decision making.

Overall, each priority under this theme is likely to make a **positive** contribution towards tackling and adapting to climate change. However, we need to bear in mind that while there would be a reduction in emissions associated with importing conservation building material it is important that the **potential negative effects** associated with the methods employed in obtaining indigenous materials (e.g. slate and sandstone mining) are fully considered and mitigated.

The priority to encourage sustainable tourism and develop practical solutions will play an important role in **mitigating** the predicted effects of increasing tourism to our Properties in Care and beyond.

5.2 Effects of our strategic priorities – summary

Overall this shows that generally the priorities will have **positive** effects for the historic environment and population but do not necessarily deliver significant benefits for tackling the causes of climate change – indeed some priorities could lead to increases in emissions. We envisage however that the ongoing work in this area, linked with our recently adopted carbon management plan, will **mitigate** negative effects and help to maximise opportunities. We also expect that many of these issues will be addressed in more detail within the group business plans forming the next tier of our structure.

5.3 Cumulative effects

The cumulative effects of the priorities within the plan are likely to be **significantly positive**. This is mainly due to the significant benefits which have been identified for the historic environment (cultural heritage) as well as the potential minor positive effects for population and human health. Some **negative effects** have been identified through the assessment which could accumulate however these are expected to be mitigated by other strategic priorities within the plan. We do not expect other environmental topics (those scoped out of the assessment) to be affected because the plan does not affect or interact with these in any significant way.

6. Mitigation and monitoring

6.1 Recommendations

Through the strategic environmental assessment, mitigation can be achieved in a number of different ways. It can involve making changes to the plan itself e.g. amending our priorities, adding environmental priorities to the plan to strengthen the inclusion of environmental issues or proposing more detailed measures that should be considered as the plan is implemented.

No significant negative effects were predicted during the course of the assessment which would require specific mitigation measures to be identified. Although there were areas where our priorities could result in a conflict/tension between two environmental interests in some areas it is possible to offset these through the contributions made by another (mitigating) priority. The assessment has therefore been helpful in illustrating these issues and refining the priorities developed so far.

It was also possible to make a number of changes to further improve the clarity and coverage of the draft plan and to enhance the positive effects identified. Other recommendations to be considered as we finalise the plan are summarised below:

- ◆ Can the review of our grant giving criteria reflect not only our vision for the historic environment but other cross cutting national ambitions?
- ◆ Develop a clearer understanding of the efficient use of materials within HS's estate through further analysis and discussion with SG & SEPA on measuring address data gaps
- ◆ Examine sustainable ways of promoting our sites and work in partnership with transport providers to reduce emissions and increase efficiency

We would welcome your views on any other environmental matter which you think we should consider in finalising the plan.

6.2 Monitoring

While no specific significantly negative effects have been predicted through the assessment it will still be important to understand how the plan is affecting the environment once it is being implemented. This will help to identify any effects arising which were not predicted through the assessment and allow appropriate mitigation to be sought. Monitoring of the plan will likely rely on the Key Performance Indicators (already established) and a series of indicators developed to measure performance towards the delivery of our vision. In April 2012 we will publish a long-term analytical strategy which will show, among other things, how we intend to measure progress over the plan period and beyond in achieving the Vision and we will ensure that environmental indicators and the issues identified in this assessment are factored into this process.

7. Next steps

The public consultation period on the draft Corporate Plan and accompanying Environmental Report ends on **16th November 2011**. A final version of the plan will be prepared following the consultation period to take into account comments made. All changes will be screened to consider if they raise significant environmental issues that have not already been considered in the environmental assessment. If the potential for significant environmental effects is identified, an assessment will be undertaken of their impact, and reported in the SEA Post Adoption Statement. This will be published along with the finalised plan.

The SEA Post Adoption Statement, which will be published along with the final version of the plan, will demonstrate how the ER (and all the comments expressed on it) have been taken into account in the adopted Corporate Plan 2012 – 2015. The SEA Post Adoption Statement will also include a final version of any monitoring indicators to take into account comments made on this report.

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Annex 1: Policy Context for the Corporate Plan 2012–2015

SEA Topic	Summary of Environmental Objectives	Plan, Programme or Strategy
Climatic factors	Policies focus on the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions and undertake planned adoption programmes. The forthcoming Scottish Government Renewable Energy Roadmap will introduce a number of significant changes to the established policy including the proposed 100% renewable electricity generation target which will form the cornerstone of all energy policy in the coming years. Energy policy highlights the importance of energy efficiency, and the need to achieve a shift from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. In addition the importance of adequate, planned adaptation to future climates is noted in order to increase the resilience of communities, and natural and economic systems.	UK Climate Change Act 2008 Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Climate Change Delivery Plan (2009) Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2009) Conserve and Save: Consultation on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (2009) A Low Carbon Economic Strategy for Scotland (2010) Public Bodies Climate Changes Duties (2011)
Population and Human Health	Policy outlines the need to seek to improve health and quality of life. We also need to help create employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups, build confidence and skills of our young people, reduce financial exclusion, improve health and improve access to services.	Improving Health in Scotland – the Challenge Closing the opportunity gaps (2004) Scottish Executive
Landscape	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.	Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention (2000) SNH Natural Heritage Futures Section 263A of the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 [legislative framework for the National Scenic Areas Programme] Landscape Character Assessment reports for Scotland National Park Plans (Cairngorm & Loch Lomond & the Trossachs) National Planning Framework 2 [strategic landscape objectives / Central Green Network]
Cultural heritage	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 wider townscapes, the setting of monuments and historic buildings, and wider cultural landscapes. Policies highlight the important contribution the historic environment can make to building, supporting and regenerating communities as well as provide tourism and educational benefits.	Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2009 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes (consultation drafts)
Biodiversity, Flora and fauna	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 – an holistic, landscape approach to biodiversity conservation that goes beyond the traditional emphasis on protecting individual sites.	Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds Council 92/43/EEC the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Conservation (Natural habitats &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2007 Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2007 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Scotland's Biodiversity – It's In Your Hands. Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011
Soil	Policies on soil seek to protect resources from a range of impacts, including soil sealing by development, increased susceptibility to erosion, soil pollution and compaction.	Scottish Soil Framework (2009) The State of Scotland's Soil [a report prompted by the Scottish Soil Framework 2009]
Water	Water related policies aim to protect water resources, and achieve an improvement in their ecological condition where appropriate. River Basin Management Plans, which were prepared under the Water Framework Directive and WEWS Act set specific objectives for the protection and improvement of water resources within each river basin.	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 (WEWS) Act Scotland River Basin Management Plan (2009) Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
Air	Air quality targets have been set at the European and UK levels. The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland sets objectives for Particulate Matter (PM), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) amongst others. Good progress is being made towards meeting them.	2008/50/EC Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (2007)
Material assets	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. 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. Scotland's Zero Waste Plan (2010) sets out key actions, including new targets, to tackle the near 20 million tonnes of waste produced by Scotland every year. The two new targets that will apply to all waste are 70 per cent target recycle and maximum five per cent sent to landfill, both by 2025. Action 10 of the Plan recognises that energy from waste has an important role to play in the delivery of the Low Carbon Strategy and states that the Scottish Government will "support the utilisation of renewable energy generated from resource management facilities thereby contributing to Scotland's renewable energy targets". Energy from waste could contribute up to 31% of Scotland's renewable heat target and up to 4.3% of Scotland's renewable electricity target.	Scottish Forestry Strategy Strategic Transport Review Project National Transport Plan Local Housing Strategy Scottish Planning Policy A Vision for Scottish Agriculture Zero Waste Plan (2010)

Annex 2 - Scoping Comments

Scottish Natural Heritage Comment	Historic Scotland Response
<p>Landscape (table 2) Perhaps replace the phrase “SNH National Scenic Areas Programme” with “Section 263A of the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997” [this give the legislative framework for NSAs]</p>	Noted and amended.
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (table 2) Note that the word “fauna” is missing in the title. Perhaps add to the [forthcoming] Wildlife and Natural Environment Act</p>	Noted and amended
<p>Key environmental protection objectives This appears a succinct list of the relevant objectives.</p>	Notes and appreciated.
<p>Scoping in/out SEA topics We agree to the scoping-out of biodiversity, fauna and flora as the Corporate Plan is unlikely to impact on these at a strategic level, and also to the scoping-out of soil, water and air. Historic Scotland policies may affect ‘material assets’ to some extent, particularly where historic environment interests are of particular interest across a large area. However, we agree that this will not be significant enough to be scoped-in at this strategic level.</p> <p>We do, though, have reservations about the scoping-out of ‘landscape’ as a topic despite the recognition of ‘cultural landscapes’ under the cultural heritage section.</p> <p>Most Scottish landscapes reflect both natural and cultural aspects, with few areas devoid of any cultural interest. The special qualities identified for the 40 National Scenic Areas, for example, contain many historic features and associations. The Orkney, St Kilda and Antonine Wall World Heritage Sites cover significant areas, with both natural and cultural heritage interest. Likewise, the historic environment is a key topic in the National Park plans. The Historic Land Use Assessment maps show the extent of landscapes derived from different periods of history, and we are sure this is a tool you would like to promote in land use and development planning.</p> <p>Because the historic environment is much wider than the scheduled sites, and often a key component of our landscapes, we believe that Historic Scotland’s policies and plans may well impact on the wider landscape – in a positive manner – and recommend that ‘landscape’ is scoped-in.</p> <p>Regarding ‘climatic factors’, an additional issue might be the impact of the historic environment on the siting of renewable energy infrastructure, which could be important at a strategic level.</p>	<p>While we agree that there may be some indirect effects for landscape character and scenic value as a result of Historic Scotland’s priorities set out in the Corporate Plan we do not consider these will be strategically significant. The Corporate Plan itself focuses on the Agency’s role in safeguarding and celebrating the historic environment. Strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan do not relate to natural landscape issues. Project level detail in support of strategic priorities and outcomes will be set out in lower level group plans. As such this topic is scoped out of the assessment. The SEA considers the effects of the plan on cultural landscapes and the cultural components of landscapes under the cultural heritage topic.</p>
<p>Review of plans, programmes, strategies and environmental objective Add to the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment reports for Scotland • National Park Plans • National Planning Framework 2 (which gives strategic landscape objectives) 	As per above, we do not consider strategically significant effects for landscapes are likely to a rise as a direct result of our corporate plan. Cultural landscapes are addressed as part of the cultural heritage topic.

Scottish Natural Heritage Comment	Historic Scotland Response
<p>Baseline data and sources (table 4) If 'landscape' were included, then Baseline Data would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessments [source: SNH website] • National Scenic Area special qualities [source: SNH website] • National Park Plans • Local Landscape Designation citations [source: relevant local authority] • Historic Land Use Assessment • Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes <p>Regarding 'climatic factors', SEPA's Flood Risk maps could be added as a source, particularly in relation to the impact of sea-level rise on the historic environment.</p>	<p>As per above, we do not consider strategically significant effects for landscapes are likely to a rise as a direct result of our corporate plan. Cultural landscapes are addressed as part of the cultural heritage topic.</p>
<p>Assessment Method If 'Landscape' were to become a topic included in the SEA, then the SEA objective could be the same as that given as the objective on page 8, viz. "To protect, enhance and – where appropriate – restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value"</p>	<p>As per above, we do not consider strategically significant effects for landscapes are likely to a rise as a direct result of our corporate plan. Cultural landscapes are addressed as part of the cultural heritage topic.</p>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Historic Scotland Response
<p>Generally, the scoping report provides clear information on the proposed scope and level of detail of the assessment and covers most of the aspects that we would wish to see addressed at this stage.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Introduction We found this section informative and helpful.</p>	<p>Noted and appreciated.</p>
<p>Environmental Protection Objectives and Scope of the Assessment In relation to the SEA topics within SEPA remit, we are content with the scoping out of Soil, Water and Air and we agree with the justification provided in Table 3. We would however recommend the scoping in of Material Assets as we are of the opinion that the Historic Scotland Corporate Plan has the potential to lead to significant positive environmental effects in relation to waste and resources management. We would therefore welcome the addition of a waste related objective to the list of environmental protection objectives and the reference to the Zero Waste Plan in the list of PPS in Table 2. Please find below the link to Zero Waste Scotland, with new policy and targets on waste management. (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Waste-1); you may also want to look at http://www.sepa.org.uk/waste.aspx.</p>	<p>Noted. Through the ongoing process of this assessment we have kept the inclusion of material assets under review. As a result of this we have concluded that the Corporate Plan does have the potential for significant environment effects on this parameter and have subsequently added an objective relating to this within the assessment. It was decided that the consideration of material assets be focused on the strategic priorities most likely to give rise to significant effects. These were concluded to be the priorities under "Building a Low Carbon Economy" and "Managing Scotland's Built Heritage Creatively".</p>
<p>We agree with the scoping in of Population and Human Health and of Climatic Factors. We would however recommend considering opportunities for dealing with possible flooding issues, usually considered as part of the SEA topic of Water, as part of climate change adaptation under Climatic Factors. We would therefore suggest including the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 in the Environmental Policy Context for the Historic Scotland Corporate Plan (Table 2).</p>	<p>Noted and reviewed.</p>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Historic Scotland Response
<p>In relation to flood risk then we would expect the plan preparation process to be informed and supported by a strategic overview of flood risk management issues, usually in the form of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Section 3 of SEPA’s Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders (available from www.sepa.org.uk/pdf/flooding/planning_flooding.pdf) provides guidance on how to do this with section 3.2 providing a range of relevant information sources for investigation including the Indicative River and Coastal Flood Map (Scotland) which is produced by us.</p>	<p>Noted. We have reviewed the information provided in SEPA’s technical note and found this very useful in thinking through the potential ways in which of our priorities could require a flood risk assessment. While we did not identify any specific issues or undertake a SFRA as part of this SEA, we are currently working with SEPA on the National Flood Risk Assessment which seeks to provide a high level overview and identify areas (at a subcatchment level) that are most vulnerable to impacts of flooding on cultural heritage. We have been liaising regarding the method to be used during this exercise and in some cases looking at the sensitivity of particular assets. The information emerging from this has been taken into account during the preparation of our Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>Baseline and Level of Detail of the Environmental Assessment We are content with the proposed baseline, the level of detail of the environmental assessment and the approach to the identification of alternatives.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Proposed Assessment Framework We are satisfied with the proposal of examining the Plan thematically under each of the SEA environmental topic areas and reporting the findings of the assessment in a narrative format. We welcome the intention to consider enhancement opportunities in addition to consider relevant mitigation for predicted negative effects.</p>	<p>Noted. Enhancement opportunities/potential for beneficial effects are detailed within the assessment tables. We would welcome any views on whether there are other opportunities that we may have overlooked.</p>
<p>Next steps We are content with the proposed consultation period of no less than 6 weeks for the Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Annex 3: Detailed assessment of strategic priorities

Assessment of Priorities – Championing Scotland’s Historic Environment

Will priority ...	... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?	... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?	... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?
A.1	Yes. The priority’s key purpose is to protect the historic environment at a specific and holistic level, seeking to balance any tensions and maximise opportunities (i.e. landscapes and the natural environment often play key contribution to what is culturally significant in the historic environment	Yes. The priority relates to the promotion of the historic environment and is therefore likely to make a significant contribution to this objective.	No strong link
A.2	Yes. Getting buildings out of risk relates directly to the objective of the protection of the historic environment resource.	Yes. Bringing buildings at risk back in to use could have wider benefits to the public through access to the historic environment.	Yes. Improving the condition of buildings at risk and the historic environment in general as an alternative to demolition has benefits for the objective through the sustainable reuse of existing built fabric and carbon savings.
A.3	Yes. The priority’s key purpose is to cultivate a greater understanding of the skills employed in working with the historic environment and to improve the skills capacity to carry out such works.	Yes. The priority in itself will promote the understanding of the historic environment. The dissemination of knowledge could lead to greater awareness of the historic environment.	Up-skilling, developing and passing on expertise about sensitive adaptations is likely to make a positive contribution towards this objective with regards to more reuse of existing building stock and more utilisation of locally sourced materials leading to potential carbon savings.
A.4	Yes. Increasing awareness of the important contribution of Scotland’s cultural identity is likely to encourage better conservation and stewardship.	Yes. The priority relates directly to the objective of the promotion of access to the historic environment.	No strong link
A.5	No strong link	Yes. The dissemination of knowledge could lead to greater awareness of the historic environment.	No strong link
A.6	No strong link	Yes. The priority relates directly to the objective of the promotion of access to the historic environment.	No strong link
A.7	No strong link	Yes. Raising awareness of Scotland’s historic environment with partners and customers will mean more people understand the historic environment, leading to better access intellectually and the encouragement of people to visit sites.	No strong link
A.8	Yes. Opportunities for offsite access through new media platforms to help safeguard condition of sensitive sites.	Yes. The priority relates directly to the objective of the promotion of access to the historic environment.	Priority could lead to reduction in travel emissions.
A.9	Yes. Opportunities for innovative access solutions have the potential to help safeguard condition of sensitive sites.	Yes. The priority relates directly to the objective of the promotion of access to the historic environment.	Priority could lead to reduction in travel emissions.
A.10	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.
A.11	Possibly. It is difficult to predict effects at this stage as it will depend upon the outcome of stakeholder engagement.	Possibly. It is difficult to predict effects at this stage as it will depend upon the outcome of stakeholder engagement.	No strong link
A.12	Yes. While dependant on the content of the plans and guidance the priority will help to safeguard or improve the condition of the marine and coastal environment through bespoke guidance and a coherent strategy for the protection of this resource.	Yes. While dependant on the content of the plans and guidance there is an opportunity for the promotion of access to the historic environment through both greater awareness of the resource and a more holistic approach to the marine resource in general.	Yes. While dependant on the content of the plans and guidance the priority has the potential to score positively on delivering adaptation to the effects of climate change through addressing issues such as coastal erosion and increased flooding instances.

Potentially positive contribution	Opportunity / positive contribution	Potentially negative contribution
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Assessment of Priorities – Contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth

Will priority ...	... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?	... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?	... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?
B.1	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.	The priority relates to data gathering so environmental effects unlikely.
B.2	Possibly, however this will be dependant on how this priority translates in practice.	Possibly, however this will be dependant on how this priority translates in practice.	Possibly, however this will be dependant on how this priority translates in practice.
B.3	No. Rising visitor numbers are unlikely to result in the improved condition of the historic environment or help to safeguard sites. There are some risks to sensitive historic environment sites from tourism.	Yes. Maximising visitor numbers should promote enjoyment of and access to the historic environment and will also improve public understanding.	No. The priority equates to maximising visitors to Scotland and has the potential to increase carbon emissions associated with travel.
B.4	Yes. This priority relates to stimulating demand for conservation expertise and is likely to have positive effects both in the short term (through specific projects) and long term (through building capacity and skills within Scotland's construction industry)	No strong link	No strong link
B.5	See B.7	See B.7	See B.7
B.6	No strong link	Local produce can have benefits for a cultural understanding of the historic environment - it can often be connected in some way to local/regional cultural history. However this is unlikely to be significant at a strategic level.	Yes. Supporting local business in procurement will lead to less carbon costs in travel/importation of goods and services.
B.7	Yes. There is a need for a greater focus on long term sustainability and maintenance – poor execution of repairs and instances of masonry falling from buildings for example is of concern. A survey (from 2003) indicated that only around 30% of tradespeople were qualified in conservation/traditional skills. Therefore, development of the specialised skills base is likely to lead to the improved condition of the historic environment in the long term.	Yes. The priority in itself will promote the understanding of the historic environment. Filling skills gaps and addressing college provision (which is often driven by new build techniques) will help to raise awareness of the historic environment more generally, especially with younger generations. Work is currently underway to deliver conservation skills taster sessions with primary school children.	Up-skilling, developing and passing on expertise about sensitive adaptations is likely to make a positive contribution towards this objective. Potential for training of the next generation of conservation tradespeople to specialise in adaptation measures which retain the authenticity and integrity of historic structures.
B.8	No strong link	Yes. The priority will promote access to the historic environment and foster an understanding in it.	No strong link

Assessment of Priorities – Managing Scotland’s Historic Environment Creatively

Will priority ...	... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?	... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?	... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?	...help to reduce waste and promote sustainability?
C.1	Possibly. It is difficult to predict effects at this stage as it will depend upon the outcome of the review. However, we anticipate that an evidence based review (with the aim of simplification and streamlining) should allow for quicker, more informed decision making. This in turn could have benefits for the condition of the historic environment through both the expediency of decisions to allow works to take place and a system better placed to facilitate the care of the historic environment.	No strong link	A fundamental review of policy can be seen as an opportunity for climate change and adaptation to the effects of it to inform this review at the strategic level.	A fundamental review of policy can be seen as an opportunity for reducing waste and promoting sustainability to inform this review at the strategic level.
C.2 & C6	Yes. This priority makes a strong contribution to the objective as it relates to the way in which we provide funding and other support to conservation works (e.g. archaeological excavation, renovation and regeneration works etc).	No strong link, although perhaps an opportunity for grant funding to recognise other benefits such as how regeneration contributes towards social inclusion.	In addition to delivering wider goals of community regeneration and social cohesion there is an opportunity here for our grant criteria to incorporate climate change reduction/adaptation priorities as well as other national environmental objectives such as those outlined in the Zero Waste Plan. It is also important to note that the SG Energy Efficiency Action plan charges HS with including energy efficiency measures in its grants.	No strong link
C.3, C.9 & C10	Yes. The effect of ownership can help to foster responsibility for the historic environment resource within communities and could lead to greater protection for the historic environment.	Yes. The effect of ownership can help to foster responsibility for the historic environment resource within communities and could lead to greater awareness of the historic environment and the benefits it can bring.	No strong link	No strong link
C.4	The priority is procedural in nature although the results of reinvesting increased revenue are expected to be positive for the historic environment. environmental effects are not likely.	The priority is procedural in nature although the results of reinvesting increased revenue are expected to be positive for the promotion of Scotland’s heritage.	No strong link	No strong link
C.5	Yes. Creative management and enhanced partnership working can help protect the historic environment through encouraging the use of the resource at the centre of regeneration and placemaking	Yes. Creative management and enhanced partnership working can help promote access to the historic environment through celebrating the resource in regeneration and placemaking.	No strong link	Creative management will help to tackle issues relating to more sustainable uses of existing resources
C.7	No strong link	Yes. The priority will promote access to the historic environment and foster an understanding in it.	No strong link	No strong link
C.8	In certain areas this digital technology can be used to monitor and gather trend information relating to the condition of the built environment. Likewise the provision of up-to-date digital information about heritage assets will help to raise awareness and inform decision making.	No strong link	In certain areas this digital technology can be used to monitor and gather trend information relating to the condition of the built environment. e.g. to monitor the condition of structures exposed to the elements or at risk from coastal erosion. Information from such trends will help to inform adaptation measures.	No strong link

Assessment of Priorities – In Supporting the Transition to a Low Carbon Economy

Will priority ...	... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?	... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?	... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?	...help to reduce waste and promote sustainability?
D.1	No strong link – while the implementation of this plan will increase resilience and help safeguard the historic environment, the action to implement it in itself will not have environmental effects.	No strong link	No strong link – while the implementation of this plan will increase resilience and help safeguard the historic environment, the action to implement it in itself will not have environmental effects.	No strong link – while the implementation of this plan will help to tackle issues relating to more sustainable uses of existing resources, the action to implement it in itself will not have environmental effects.
D.2	In the long-term we envisage that the information from this research programme can help to safeguard and improve the condition of the historic environment.	No strong link	Yes. Although at this stage we do not know what this research is going to uncover we anticipate that it will make a positive contribution towards both mitigating climate change and adapting to a changing environment. In particular the examination of built structures of varying shapes, sizes and periods will help to build up a knowledge base for future decision making.	No strong link
D.3	Yes. The priority should lead to informed decision making and the maximisation of opportunities for the protection of the historic environment whilst contributing to emissions reduction targets through energy efficiency.	The dissemination of knowledge could lead to greater awareness of the historic environment.	No strong link	No strong link
D.4	No strong link	There is potential for this objective to contribute towards the wider cultural significance of properties in our care. For example, through the promotion of traditional crafts and products that are connected to the local area.	No strong link	Yes. The priority relates directly to the objective.
D.5	No strong link	Yes. The promotion of sustainable tourism in general will make a positive contribution to the promotion of access to the historic environment.	Yes. The promotion of sustainable tourism in partnership with others will make an important contribution towards tackling carbon emissions associated with travelling.	No strong link
D.6	Yes. The use of indigenous materials will benefit the authenticity and integrity of the Scottish historic environment resource and in particular works to renovate/adapt historic buildings.	No strong link	<p>Yes. The move towards locally/regionally sourced materials will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions associated with importation.</p> <p>While there is some potential for a rise of carbon emissions as a result of extractive industries, stone and slate production involve relatively little industrial processing (compared with other materials)</p> <p>No. Extractive industries can have significant effects for landscapes, biodiversity, soil and water.</p>	We should ensure that the availability of new materials (e.g. arising from the re-opening of quarries) does not lead to a situation where this becomes more desirable than re-using/recycling existing materials. This is something we could take into account through our grants criteria.

Assessment of Priorities – Delivering our Business

Will priority ...	... help to safeguard or improve the condition of the historic environment?	... promote access to the historic environment for recreation, understanding or enjoyment?	... help to reduce the cause of, or deliver adaptation to, the effects of climate change?
E.1 & E.2	Considered to be procedural and therefore environmental effects are not likely.	Considered to be procedural and therefore environmental effects are not likely.	Considered to be procedural and therefore environmental effects are not likely.

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