



# A new lead public body for the historic environment

Historic  
Environment  
Scotland

Shaping our Future

Working together for Scotland's historic environment  
Ag obair còmhla son àrainneachd eachdraidheil na h-Alba

# Welcome to Historic Environment Scotland

## Fàilte gu Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil na h-Alba

### Historic Environment Scotland is the new lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.

Created by the Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014, the new body incorporates and will build on the strengths and expertise of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) who have been managing and recording the historic environment for over a century.

Historic Environment Scotland takes up its full statutory role from 1st October 2015 and this very brief summary provides an introduction to our role and activities, to what is immediately different and to what lies in the future.

### What We Do Dè Tha Sinn a' Dèanamh

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Historic Environment Scotland will lead and enable delivery of Our Place in Time, Scotland's first ever strategy for the historic environment, which sets out how our historic environment will be carefully managed to deliver real and increasing benefits to Scotland's people. The success of this strategy will ensure our diverse historic environment is cared for and protected, understood, valued, enjoyed and enhanced now and for future generations.

We are responsible for the management of over 300 properties of national importance, or "properties in care", under a formal Scheme of Delegation from Scottish Ministers. Under the title of Historic Scotland

we are one of the largest operators of paid-for visitor attractions in Scotland and a major contributor to Scotland's economy. Buildings and monuments of national significance include Edinburgh Castle – Scotland's number one visitor attraction – Neolithic Orkney, Fort George, Melrose Abbey and numerous small local sites, attracting more than 3 million visitors a year.

We are also responsible for the internationally significant collections transferred from RCAHMS including over five million drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts and over 20 million aerial images of locations around the world. Improved accessibility to these world class resources for reference, study and research ensure that our historic environment is more widely appreciated, understood and celebrated.

We retain a significant role as a grant provider, and will continue to invest grants of approximately £14 million a year to national and local organisations, supporting building repairs, ancient monuments, archaeological excavations and surveys, the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme, and the voluntary sector.

Our conservation specialists will continue to provide guidance and technical research into the built environment, along with programmes for training and skills development. We will continue to survey and record Scotland's historic environment, while our extensive outreach programme will provide educational activities and resources for learners of all ages to discover and explore our historic environment, and for communities and individuals to be actively engaged with their heritage. We will continue to contribute to the Scottish Government's strategy to tackle climate change and reduce Scotland's carbon footprint.



## What's Different Dè Tha Diofraichte

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Historic Environment Scotland is established as a Non Departmental Public Body with a Board of Trustees, appointed by Ministers. Staff are employed by HES and are no longer (as was the case for Historic Scotland) civil servants. This provides some operating independence, combined with transparency and public facing accountability, as well as formal accountability to Ministers. HES has also been awarded charitable status, and all of this brings it into line with other national cultural institutions such as the National Galleries of Scotland, National Library of Scotland, National Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

There are some significant changes in the area of regulation. We continue to have an important role as a regulator and as the statutory adviser to Scottish Ministers, but will now carry out decision making functions in our own name, rather than on behalf of Scottish Ministers. We have introduced greater transparency in the decision making process, as all decisions taken by us in relation to scheduling monuments, listing buildings, and handling scheduled monument consent will now be published through our new online planning portal. Meanwhile, there is a new right of appeal to challenge our decisions regarding scheduling, listing and scheduled monument consent, so new procedures are in place to allow appeals to Scottish Ministers.

The new Schemes of Delegation from Scottish Ministers outline how we will manage, conserve and monitor the properties in care and the associated collections. They provide improved transparency in our working practices. This will lead to new systems for inspection and recording, more formal technical

standards and specification frameworks, and external peer review, which will set new standards of best practice. Over time we will be looking at further improvements in terms of piloting new and innovative initiatives and approaches.

In practical terms, we take on our powers in the middle of a financial and planning year, and the first six months will be a transition period. But we are already developing our Corporate Plan 2016-19, demonstrating how the new organisation will meet the expectations of stakeholders. We will be launching the plan for public consultation in November.

## Looking Forward A' Coimhead air Adhart

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One of our key challenges is to develop, articulate and implement our role as the lead public body for the historic environment. We see this as an enabling and facilitating role and are committed to working in the spirit of genuine collaboration, with other heritage organisations, local authorities, community planning partnerships and businesses to support local priorities, communities and their aspirations. Building on the priorities of the Historic Environment Strategy, we will develop new nationwide relationships to promote and support recognition of the importance of the historic environment and to contribute to everyone's well-being, whether as a place to visit, to invest, to work or simply to live and enjoy.

I believe that this is an exciting new era for Scotland's historic environment and I look forward to your support as we explore the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Jane Ryder OBE  
Chair, Historic Environment Scotland  
September 2015

# What's Different Dè Tha Diofraichte

## Heritage Management Regulations

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**We are responsible for the designation of historic environment assets of national importance as well as consents relating to scheduled monuments.**

We also give advice on other consents within the Scottish planning system that impact on the historic environment. The establishment of Historic Environment Scotland as a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) will mean the following changes to Historic Scotland's current regulatory work.

All decisions taken from 1st October 2015 in relation to scheduling monuments, listing buildings, and handling scheduled monument consent will be published through a new HES planning portal, available through the Historic Scotland website. Historic Scotland's current advice is available to view via the portals of planning authorities in Scotland who already publish how they take decisions in the planning system.

A right of appeal has been introduced for people to challenge certain decisions taken by Historic Environment Scotland regarding scheduling, listing and scheduled monument consent. These processes open up our decisions to scrutiny and mirror those already well-established in the planning system.

Decisions Historic Scotland currently takes are on behalf of Scottish Ministers. Historic Environment Scotland will carry out decision making functions in its own name, just as other key organisations such as Scottish Natural Heritage do. We will continue to be a statutory consultee on applications for consents within the planning system affecting certain aspects of the historic environment.

Information on all of these changes is available on our website.

## Properties in Care

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**The Schemes of Delegation set out the functions which Scottish Ministers have delegated to Historic Environment Scotland in relation to the properties in care and associated collections, and the conditions and limits which apply to the delegation.**

Each scheme is supported by a series of documents which outline how we will manage, conserve and monitor the properties in our care. It provides a process for informing and updating Scottish Ministers about our work, and we have been working closely with colleagues within the Scottish Government to deliver this.

The schemes incorporate work undertaken through our Estate Management Programme which has developed the policies and procedures that we need to have in place for the new organisation on 1st October 2015. This has looked at a number of areas from developing new standards and systems for delivering survey, conservation and maintenance to how we are monitoring and reporting on planned works.



This has given us the opportunity to look at what we can be doing better in terms of piloting new and innovative initiatives and approaches that will help Historic Environment Scotland to deliver its aim of being a new lead public body for the historic environment.

The Schemes of Delegation provide improved transparency in our working practices and showcasing the value of what we do. This will also lead to new systems for inspection and recording, more formal technical standards and specification frameworks, and external peer review.

The Scheme of Delegation documents are available on our website with additional documents, including an Estate Asset Management Plan, to be published in 2016.

## Governance

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### **Historic Environment Scotland is a Non Departmental Public Body and a registered Scottish Charity (Scottish Charity No. SC045925).**

We are governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs in accordance with the Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Scotland.

The Board is accountable to Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament and is responsible for setting the organisation's vision and strategic direction and for monitoring progress to achieve these, while complying with their duties as charity trustees. The HES Board is also responsible for holding the Chief Executive to account and ensuring that the organisation is managed effectively and efficiently.

HES wholly owns a limited company, Historic Environment Scotland Enterprises Limited, which operates commercial services (eg hospitality and retail). The Historic Scotland Foundation Trust is an independent charitable trust and will remain so. Its future is determined by its Trustees and its relationship with HES will be the same as it is currently with Historic Scotland.

Profiles of Board members, a register of their interests and the minutes of Board meetings are available on the website.

## Historic Environment Scotland in numbers:

**300 +**

historic properties and sites

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**3.5 million+**

visitors (staffed sites 2014-15)

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**5 million +**

drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts relating to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage

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**Tens of millions**

of images in the National Collection of Aerial Photography featuring historic events and places around the world

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**Over 1 million**

visits and 5 million searches on Canmore, the catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage

### Photography References

*Cover (left to right)*

- 1. Mons Meg at Edinburgh Castle being inspected after conservation work.*
- 2. Habchester Fort in the Scottish Borders.*
- 3. Central Station in Glasgow around 1920.*
- 4. Still from Sightlines documentary.  
(© Genevieve Bicknell)*
- 5. Celebration of the Centuries event at Fort George.*
- 6. The Forth Rail Bridge.*