

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY FOR SCOTLAND



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ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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INTRODUCTION

The historic environment is our surroundings as they have been shaped, used and valued by people in the past, and continue to be today. It is central to our everyday lives and our sense of place, identity and wellbeing.

It is wide-ranging – including natural and built features – and it can be valued for both its tangible and intangible aspects.

The principles and policies that make up the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) help us to care collectively for this precious resource as we work towards a shared vision:



Scotland's historic environment is understood and valued, cared for and protected, enjoyed and enhanced. It is at the heart of a flourishing and sustainable Scotland and will be passed on with pride to benefit future generations"

OUR PLACE IN TIME

WORDS AND PHRASES USED IN THIS POLICY

These are definitions of terms and phrases as they are used in this policy, to ensure that we are all using them in the same way. Some of the following definitions have been adopted from other sources (named in brackets).

asset

An asset (or 'historic asset' or 'heritage asset') is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance.

community

A community is a group of people connected by location or by a common interest.

community of place

A community of place, or place-based community, is a group of people connected because of where they live, work, visit or otherwise spend a large amount of time. It can also refer to a group of people connected to a particular geographic location.

communities of practice and interest

Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for a place or something they do. A community of interest is a group of people who identify with or share a similar interest or experience.

cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation. It can include customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values, aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual aspects. (ICOMOS 2002)

cultural significance

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. (Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013)

decision-maker

A decision-maker for the historic environment is anyone who has a role or interest in making decisions that might affect it. In this context the term often refers to planning authorities, but it could also mean individuals, public- or private-sector organisations, Ministers, communities or developers. The decisions might be about land use, funding, alterations to a building, site or place, or long-term strategies.

historic environment

The historic environment is ‘the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand’. (*Our Place in Time, the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland*)

impact

The effect of changes on the historic environment is often referred to as the impact. This can be neutral, positive or negative. There can be impact on the physical elements of a place or on its setting, if its surroundings are changed so that our understanding, appreciation or experience is altered. Changes in the historic environment can also affect people’s associations with a place or its setting, and their responses to it.

mitigation

Mitigation refers to ways in which we can minimise the impact on the historic environment, avoid it, or make it less damaging. Sometimes it is possible to offset the impact, compensating for it through positive actions.

place

Place can refer to the environment in which we live, the people that inhabit these spaces and the quality of life that comes from the interaction of people and their surroundings. Architecture, public space and landscape are central to this. (*Creating Places: A Policy Statement on Architecture and Place for Scotland*)

planning system

The planning system is the process by which local and national government bodies make decisions about how and where development should take place. Change to some designated sites and places is also managed through separate consent regimes.

sustainable development

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (*World Commission on Environment and Development*)

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF HEPS?

HEPS is a policy statement directing decision-making that affects the historic environment. It is non-statutory, which means that it is not required to be followed as a matter of law or statute. It is relevant to a wide range of decision-making at national and local levels. It is supported by detailed policy and guidance.

HEPS should be taken into account whenever a decision will affect the historic environment. This includes in plans and policies that deal with funding decisions or estate management, or other specific topics such as agriculture or energy. It is also a material consideration for planning proposals that might affect the

historic environment, and in relation to listed building consent and scheduled monument consent ('material consideration' means that decision-makers should take it into account when coming to a decision). Decisions on scheduled monument consent are made in line with Historic Environment Scotland's policy for determining consents at scheduled monuments (see 'Sources of further information and guidance').

The Scottish Government produces national policies for addressing land use matters and decisions. HEPS sits alongside these policies, and should be used with them.



WHAT IS HEPS FOR?

HEPS is designed to support and enable good decision-making about changes to the historic environment. Good decision-making takes into account all aspects of the historic environment and the different ways people value it. Good decision-making is transparent and open to challenge, and recognises that a wide range of factors can affect the historic environment in different ways. Changes might support its long-term survival, impact on its current management or even give us new information to improve our understanding of it.

HEPS sets out a series of principles and policies for the recognition, care and sustainable

management of the historic environment. It promotes a way of understanding the value of the historic environment which is inclusive and recognises different views. It encourages consistent, integrated management and decision-making to support positive outcomes for the people of Scotland. It also supports everyone's participation in decisions that affect the historic environment.

By doing these things, HEPS helps to deliver the vision and aims of *Our Place in Time*. It takes into account principles that the UK and Scottish governments have agreed to in international charters and conventions on cultural heritage and landscape.

HOW HAS HEPS BEEN DEVELOPED?

HEPS is for everyone who cares about decisions that affect the historic environment. This includes the people who make the decisions, as well as the people affected by or interested in them.

The policy has been developed using current research as well as established views about how to care for the historic environment. It also draws upon previous policy documents and related policy areas that affect or are affected by the historic environment.

HEPS has also been informed by work undertaken by HES to understand what the historic environment means to the people of Scotland. HES did this by listening to people's views on how to look after and manage the historic environment. These conversations have shaped this policy document.

POLICIES FOR MANAGING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

HEP1

Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance.

HEP2

Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.

HEP3

Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment.

If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.

HEP4

Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate.

If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.

HEP5

Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places.

HEP6

Decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the potential consequences for people and communities. Decision-making processes should be collaborative, open, transparent and easy to understand.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT?

There are a number of challenges and opportunities that affect how we understand, manage and care for the historic environment.

Decision-making has to be sufficiently flexible and adaptable to deal with wide-ranging and ongoing changes in society and the environment.

Good decisions will aim to achieve the best possible outcome for the historic environment and maximise its benefits.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Land management affects much of the historic environment. Changes to agricultural and land use policies and practice can have a significant impact.

CREATING AND MAINTAINING PLACES

The changing places where we live, work and play, and the ways we understand and relate to them, are among the wide range of factors that affect our wellbeing. The historic environment plays a key part in making good places.

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND ACCESS

Established ways of recognising and managing the historic environment haven't always reflected our whole society. It is important to talk about the past in a way that recognises its diversity. The historic environment should be accessible and inclusive, providing a source of inspiration, enjoyment and learning for all.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Taking care of the historic environment is a shared responsibility. Sometimes the interests of different groups and individuals overlap, and this can cause confusion and tension about roles and responsibilities.

FUNDING

Some historic places and sites will rely on external funding. There are difficult choices to be made about where to spend available money, and opportunities to think creatively about approaches to funding.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism brings huge benefits to the wider economy and can provide financial resources for looking after historic sites and buildings. High visitor numbers can also affect the sites themselves, sometimes creating management challenges.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and the effort required to mitigate and adapt to its effects have a significant impact on the historic environment. We are still working as a society to understand this impact.

SOCIETAL CHANGE

Our communities and lifestyles are changing; our population is ageing and shifting. This can have an impact on the historic environment, changing how we interact with it and value it.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Established ways of managing the historic environment are often based around physical structures such as buildings and monuments – but the historic environment is made up of both intangible and tangible cultural elements.

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENT

All of our landscapes – rural and urban – are part of the historic environment. Established ways of managing them don't always recognise that natural and cultural benefits and outcomes are often interdependent.

ECONOMIC CHANGE

Changes to the economy, whether positive or negative, have an impact on the historic environment and how it is looked after and managed. The historic environment contributes to our economy and can be a source of sustainable growth.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Decisions about the historic environment have an impact on people and communities. Empowering communities and broadening participation improves outcomes for people and for the historic environment.

REGULATORY CHANGE

Changes to a wide range of laws and regulations can affect the management of the historic environment. It can be hard to predict and fully understand the impact of these changes.

SKILLS AND CAPACITY

Good management relies on decision-makers having access to the right skills, expertise and capacity to look after the historic environment and make informed decisions.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

The following policies and core principles set out HES's understanding of how the historic environment should be managed and how to apply these principles.

The principles in this document are the fundamental ideas that underpin desirable and positive outcomes for the historic environment. These principles are the basis for the policies outlined here. The policies describe how the principles should be implemented.

UNDERSTANDING AND RECOGNITION: POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

Policy on understanding and recognition

HEP1

Decisions affecting any part of the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance.

Core principles on understanding and recognition

- **Recognising the cultural significance of sites and places supports good decision-making.**
- **A place must be understood in order for its cultural significance to be identified.**
- **A wide range of factors contribute to cultural significance.**
- **Knowledge and information about the historic environment is critical to our understanding of our past, present and future.**
- **The historic environment changes over time, and so does how it is understood and appreciated.**
- **Research, discussion and exchange of ideas can all contribute to our understanding of the historic environment.**
- **Understanding will improve when information is made widely available and everyone has the opportunity to contribute to knowledge of the historic environment.**

How these principles are applied

People have created the character, diversity and distinctiveness of the historic environment over time. It is fundamental to people's sense of belonging; it provides tangible links with the past, helps to define who we are, and shapes our lives today. The qualities an asset or place has and expresses may be rare, finite and vulnerable to change. Sometimes the value of a place becomes apparent only through the process of change.

Decisions affecting the historic environment should be based on careful consideration of cultural significance. This helps to ensure that the historic environment can be appreciated today and passed on with confidence for the future.

To understand a place's cultural significance, we have to understand the place itself. This involves thinking about its physical and material elements – how much of it has survived or how much of it has changed through time, as well as its wider context and setting. Elements of places which may not have a physical presence but which contribute to cultural significance need to be recognised. These intangible qualities include the knowledge and associations people have with a particular place; they might involve elements such as language and poetry, stories and song, and skills and traditions.

Different individuals and groups of people value places in different ways. Understanding this helps us to understand the cultural significance of places for past, present and future generations. Recognising why places are culturally significant helps to fulfil a range of social, environmental and economic needs.

Access to as much information and knowledge as possible is essential for understanding cultural significance. This knowledge should be shared. An inclusive approach takes account of different ways of looking at things and valuing them, and diverse interpretations of our past and heritage.

As a society, we recognise value in many different ways: in records in archives, pieces in museum collections or the legal protection given to some of our most valued historic places. Many other ways of recognising value are part of our everyday lives. We share local knowledge, cultural practices, the language we use and the stories we tell. The diversity of Scotland's rich cultural heritage should be celebrated in all its forms. People should have the opportunity to contribute to our understanding, and influence decision-making for the historic environment.

MANAGING CHANGE: POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

Policies on managing change

HEP2

Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.

HEP3

Plans, programmes, policies and strategies, and the allocation of resources, should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment.

If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.

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Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate.

If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.

Core principles on managing change

- **Some change is inevitable.**
- **Change can be necessary for places to thrive.**
- **Caring for the historic environment benefits everyone, now and in the future.**
- **Good decisions take a long-term view.**
- **Good decisions reflect an understanding of the wider environment.**
- **Good decisions are well-informed, transparent, robust, consistent and proportionate.**
- **Good decisions make sure that nothing is lost without considering its value first and exploring options for avoiding its loss.**
- **To manage the historic environment in a sustainable way, its cultural significance and the cultural significance of elements within it have to be understood.**

How these principles are applied

The historic environment enhances our quality of life and is a hugely valuable social, cultural, economic and environmental resource. It is finite and much of it can't be replaced. Good management maintains the quality of this resource and secures its benefits, making sure that nothing is lost without considering its value and exploring options for avoiding its loss.

Cultural significance should be considered in order to manage change through national and local policies as well as other land use management systems. If a place has cultural significance or has the potential for important new discoveries, decision-makers need to consider this when making decisions. In the planning system, this is called a 'material consideration'.

When decisions are made that affect places of cultural significance, the focus should be on avoiding or minimising adverse impact. Wherever possible, special characteristics and qualities should be protected, conserved or enhanced. Lots of actions can contribute to this, including:

- conservation
- effective maintenance
- restoration and conversion
- land management
- sensitive use of materials
- building techniques and high-quality new design
- creative and informed approaches to new development
- robust and proportionate regulation

These principles apply to the whole of the historic environment. In some cases, sites are given legal protection through formal designations, which can bring more formal obligations. In the case of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas, consent is required for many works.

Understanding the development of the environment through time helps to inform management decisions. It offers a longer-term perspective on issues affecting the historic environment – issues like the effect of past climate change and land management. The historic environment has to be managed in a sustainable way so that it can be understood and appreciated, and so that it can benefit present and future generations.

Before decisions are made, their impact should be understood. If there is no way of being confident about what the impact of an action will be, the only way to be certain that there will be no damage is to avoid the action. This is referred to as the precautionary principle.

Sometimes the best actions for the historic environment will not be the best actions for other interests. There will be occasions where decision-makers need to manage conflicting needs. Potential conflicts should be identified and reduced as much as possible.

When decision-makers are considering potential changes, whether as a result of a development proposal or arising from environmental processes, they should use this general approach:

Understand the historic environment

- Understand and analyse the historic environment, context, asset or place.
- Understand the cultural significance of any affected assets or places.

Understand the background for the change

- Identify and understand the nature of and reasons for the change.

Understand the likely impact of proposed actions or decisions

- Assess and predict the likely level of the impact of proposals on the historic environment, context, asset or place.
- Make the level of impact clear so that it can inform decision-making.

Making decisions about impact

- Avoid negative impact where possible.
- Minimise any impact that cannot be avoided.
- Keep intervention to a minimum.
- Ensure changes to a site or place are proportionate to its cultural significance.
- Consider less detrimental alternatives if they can deliver the same objectives.
- Identify opportunities for mitigation throughout, and as early as possible.
- Identify opportunities for furthering our knowledge and understanding where possible.

Monitoring

- Put monitoring measures in place to make sure that any mitigation has been implemented.
- Make sure measures are in place to identify any unforeseen or unintended consequences.
- Monitor the outcome and impact of the decision to provide a sound knowledge base for future policy and decision-making.

WORKING TOGETHER: POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES

Policies on working together

HEP5

Decisions affecting the historic environment should contribute to the sustainable development of communities and places.

HEP6

Decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an inclusive understanding of the potential consequences for people and communities. Decision-making processes should be collaborative, open, transparent and easy to understand.

Core principles on working together

- **Everyone has a stake in the historic environment and how it is looked after.**
- **Effective management is a collective effort.**
- **Effective management takes wider interests into account.**
- **Good management empowers and involves communities.**
- **Early dialogue and close collaboration lead to better outcomes.**

How these principles are applied

Changes to our society, climate and economy create significant challenges for the historic environment. Resources need to be managed sustainably to balance competing demands. The different ways communities and individuals place value on the historic environment should be recognised.

Effective management of the historic environment is a shared endeavour involving individuals and organisations who own, use, manage or care about heritage. People should be empowered to use their heritage to develop their communities and places in a sustainable way. We all need to work collaboratively to respond to the challenges and opportunities we are facing, to make sure the outcome is as fair as possible.

When making decisions about the historic environment, different interests need to be taken into account. Decision-makers need to consider the consequences of decisions for a range of people. In doing this, tensions and conflicts can arise. Interrelationships and areas of common ground should be identified to encourage dialogue and collaboration, rather than focusing on competing views.

DELIVERY AND MONITORING

Good decision-making balances current circumstances with long-term aspirations. This is central to the sustainable management of the historic environment. It is a collective responsibility to ensure that we are all striking that balance.

Decision-makers should understand and monitor decisions affecting the historic environment to learn from experience and to improve future decisions. Historic Environment Scotland will monitor this policy in collaboration with other interested parties over a ten-year period until 2029.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Strategy, policy and procedure

Our Place in Time:
The Historic Environment
Strategy for Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland:
Designation Policy and
Selection Guidance
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>

Designations application from
historicenvironment.scot/designation-application

Historic Environment Scotland:
Scheduled Monument
Consents Policy
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/smc-policy>

Historic Environment Circular 1:
Process and Procedures
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/circular>

Scotland's Archaeology Strategy
<http://archaeologystategy.scot>

Guidance

Managing Change in the Historic
Environment guidance series

Managing Change Demolition of
Listed Buildings
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/demolition>

Managing Change Use and
Adaptation of Listed Buildings
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/use-and-adaptation>

HES case studies
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/adaptation-case-studies>

HES Technical advice notes
(TANs), Short Guides, Inform
Guides, and Practitioners Guides
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications>

Scottish Government Planning
Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011:
Planning and Archaeology
www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology

Scottish Government Planning
Advice Note (PAN) 71:
Conservation Area Management
www.gov.scot/publications/conservation-management-planning-advice

Online resources

Historic Environment
Scotland website -
www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support

Designation records
and decisions -
www.portal.historicenvironment.scot

Canmore: National Record
of the Historic Environment
www.canmore.org.uk



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Extensions



Key Issues

1. **Most historic buildings can be extended sensitively. Listed building consent is required for any works affecting the character of a listed building and planning permission may be required in a conservation area.**
2. **Extensions:**
 - **must protect the character and appearance of the building;**
 - **should be subordinate in scale and form;**
 - **should be located on a secondary elevation;**
 - **must be designed in a high-quality manner using appropriate materials.**
3. **Planning authorities give advice on the requirement for listed building consent, planning and other permissions.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is one of a series of guidance notes on managing change in the historic environment for use by planning authorities and other interested parties. The series explains how to apply the policies contained in the *Scottish Historic Environment Policy* (2009) ([SHEP](#), PDF 312K) and *The Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) ([SPP](#), PDF 299K).
- 1.2 This note sets out the principles that apply to extending historic buildings. It should inform planning policies and the determination of applications relating to the historic environment, and replaces the equivalent guidance in *The Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas* (1998).
- 1.3 Monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 require scheduled monument consent for any works. Where a structure is both scheduled and listed, the scheduling controls have precedence. Separate advice is available from Historic Scotland's website: [Scheduled Monuments: Guidance for Owners, Occupiers & Land Managers](#) (PDF 718K).



Esk Net Mills, Musselburgh in 1996 before refurbishment and extension.



The extension to Esk Net Mills, Musselburgh, East Lothian. The glass extension of 2006 makes a deferential contrast to the solid masonry of the surrounding courtyard buildings of the 19th-century net-making complex. The design draws on the symmetry and scale of the old buildings, whilst creating a distinctive new component in its form and materials.

2. ADDITIONS TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS

- 2.1 The history of use and ownership of a historic building is reflected in the cumulative changes made to it. They can themselves form an aspect of a building's special interest. New alterations or additions, which are of high design quality sympathetic to the character of the building, form part of this continuum. Most historic buildings can sustain some degree of sensitive alteration or extension to accommodate continuing or new uses.
- 2.2 Yet historic buildings vary in the extent to which they can accommodate change without loss to special interest. Some present the opportunity to promote design intervention that would not have been possible without the historic building as a creative spark. Others are sensitive even to slight alterations. This is especially so of buildings with important interiors - not just great houses, but also, for example, churches with historic pews or factories with surviving machinery. Then an extension rather than internal change may be a way to safeguard the special interest of the building.
- 2.3 Some buildings have interest as little-altered examples of a modest building type. These are harder to extend sympathetically than many more substantial pieces of architecture (see Small Buildings, below).
- 2.4 An extension to a historic building can have a wider impact on the historic environment. For example, archaeology and the



A complementary addition to a 19th-century country house in the Scottish Borders, in which brick takes its cue from walled gardens.



Restoration and replication: Ca D'Oro, Union Street, Glasgow. Designed by John Honeyman in 1872 in the style of a Venetian palazzo, this former furniture warehouse was extended by two replica bays (right-hand side of image) in 1989 and the roof was restored to its original profile.



Complementary: Stanley Mills, Perth and Kinross. A new lift tower was added to East Mill that echoes a semicircular stair tower on nearby Mid Mill. The location had been scarred by an earlier lift and rudimentary toilets. A glass strip separates the new-build from the historic masonry.



Complementary: Dundas Home Farm, South Queensferry, an 1881 steading converted and extended for residential use from 2001 to 2006. Here a new range takes its cue from the scale and rhythm of the original. © Simpson & Brown Architects.

layout of lang rigs, important features of the historic fabric of some older towns, should be respected in any new development.

- 2.5 Extensions have the potential to impact on the setting of adjacent historic buildings, which should be taken into account when considering a proposal.

3. CONTEXTUAL DESIGN

- 3.1 New work must acknowledge the old in every case, whether that work will be:

- a restoration
- a replication
- a complementary addition
- a deferential contrast
- an assertive contrast

- 3.2 New work should be based on a thorough understanding of the existing historic building. A design statement which describes the interest of the building and an explanation of the impact of the alterations is always useful when assessing proposals for change.

Restoration

- 3.3 A building may have lost its original form, and a well-documented reconstruction of a missing element may be proposed. The original frontage to a building may have become partially or completely hidden behind later extensions. The appearance of the building and its setting could be improved by their removal and the restoration of the facade. Planning authorities will often seek to promote restoration, provided there is sound evidence on which to base the work. Where an extension has architectural merit in its own right, or has through time become part of the character and interest of the building, it should be retained.

Replication

- 3.4 Replication is where new work is designed specifically to match the original building and does so in all respects, not only in the use of the same materials in the same style. The dimensions and finish of the materials used and details such as coursing, pointing, tooling, window proportion and profile, roof pitch and slate must all be accurately modelled upon the existing building or they will not sit comfortably beside the original.

Complementary additions

- 3.5 Complementary new work takes as design cues the profile, massing, bay rhythm, scale and proportion of the existing building, but without replication of the details.
- 3.6 Quite substantial additions can be made to some buildings without detracting from the character of the original work.

The same added to other buildings would result in imbalanced design or a straggling composition. In those cases, a well-designed modern addition that will not read as part of the original building will affect its appearance less radically.

Deferential contrast

- 3.7 Deferential contrast is where the new becomes a self-effacing backdrop against the old. Even if it is large, it seeks not to be assertive. It might be achieved by reflective glass, for example.

Assertive contrast

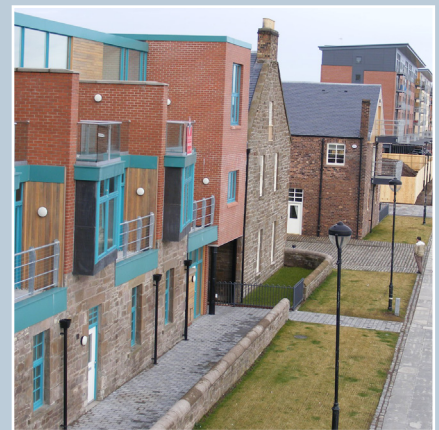
- 3.8 Assertive contrast means affirmation of the new as a more or less equal partner to the old. New and old combined should be of greater lasting value than either on its own. This demands higher-quality new work than would often be found in an isolated new building. The presence of the existing building 'raises the game' for the new build.



Former Arctic Tannery and Harbour Workshops, Dundee. A fire destroyed the upper part that had originally been of timber louvres to cure sealskin hides, replaced in brick. The development of housing (see below) echoes in a new form the timber and brick previously used here.

4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 It is difficult to lay down hard and fast rules for new work when much will depend upon the site, the landscape, the scale and form both of the existing building and of the addition or extension proposed. The following basic principles will, however, apply:
- An addition or extension should play a subordinate role. It should not dominate the original building as a result of its scale, materials or location, and should not overlay principal elevations.
 - Where an extension is built beside a principal elevation it should generally be lower than, and set back behind, that facade.
 - An extension that would unbalance a symmetrical elevation and threaten the original design concept should be avoided.
 - An extension should be modestly scaled and skillfully sited.
 - Fire escape routes may be internal wherever space can be created without damaging important interior work. Where an external escape stair is necessary, it should be located as reversibly and inconspicuously as possible, and not on principal elevations.



Deferential contrast: Harbour Workshops, Dundee, following redevelopment as housing in 2008.

5. SMALL BUILDINGS

- 5.1 Small buildings such as tollhouses and lodges present challenges of scale but may need extension to give them purpose. One way to maintain the visual integrity of the original building may be to construct a lower link block, perhaps in glass, between it and the extension. Very small structures such as garden buildings not intended for permanent occupation will seldom be capable of extension. A proven need for additional accommodation



Assertive contrast: the rear extension of the former India of Inchinnan Tyre Factory (1930). The aerodynamic curve reflects earlier use of the site to make aircraft and dirigibles.



An extension to a house in a conservation area, set back from the front elevation, of glass and timber that echoes conservatories in the area.



Fairfield House, Dalkeith, built for an iron founder. The cast-iron vine house on the right was repaired as part of the development as offices for Midlothian Council. The house is still the focal point although smaller than the new-build addition. The pink building is the rear of a separate structure.

© Royal Fine Art Commission.



Former nurses' home of 1938–47, Salisbury Road, Edinburgh. The additional rooftop storey is set back from the wallheads, minimising its impact on the original design.

might instead be met by a new free-standing suitably scaled and designed structure, nearby or elsewhere. A condition might be set to phase the new work after the repair or restoration of the small building.

6. ROOF EXTENSIONS

- 6.1 A planning authority will consider the special interest of the existing roof and the visibility of the extension in views, and take into consideration the amenity of adjacent buildings. See also Historic Scotland's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Roofs*.

Special interest

- 6.2 Where the external form is significant to the character of the building, or where the internal structure and decoration have historic interest, a roof extension will not be appropriate that destroys this or requires such a high degree of new supporting structure that only the facades of the historic building remain.

Visibility

- 6.3 A roof extension may not comfortably fit where long views are important to the profile of a building. Where streets are narrow and buildings are tall, the visual impact to pedestrians in the street of a roof extension will be less but must not have an adverse impact.

Height

- 6.4 The presence of a neighbouring high building should not be taken as a reason for an inappropriate roof extension to a historic building.

7. BUILDING STANDARDS

- 7.1 Rather than force the existing building to adapt to meet modern requirements, the new extension will normally be the place to provide:

- accessibility to existing floor levels through lifts and ramps (see accessibility guidance in this series)
- new services that might be difficult to route through the existing building
- high thermal performance
- fire separation
- rainwater collection and disposal (consider Sustainable Drainage Systems)
- independent foundations that do not compromise the foundations of the existing building

- 7.2 Many historic buildings are capable of alteration that is of its time, respects and defers to what has gone before, and may be

justified as supporting the continued conservation and use of that building. A Design and Access Statement, if required, should bring this out within these guidelines and with reference to a statement of significance or conservation plan specific to the building.

8. ARCHAEOLOGY

- 8.1 It is possible that archaeological resources survive within or beneath a listed building or unlisted building in a conservation area. Planning authorities should seek to manage archaeological issues, such as recording or preservation in situ, through the use of conditions or agreements under Section 75 of the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Advice on archaeological sensitivity should be obtained from the planning authority's archaeological adviser at an early stage.

9. RECORDING

- 9.1 When proposed extension works to a listed building will result in significant loss of fabric or changes to the building's character, it is suggested that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's (RCAHMS) is given the opportunity to record the historic structure prior to works commencing. This becomes a statutory requirement only when demolition of the historic structure is proposed. However, RCAHMS is always pleased to consider recording changes to historic structures whenever the opportunity arises. Contact details for RCAHMS can be found overleaf.

10. CONSENTS

- 10.1 Listed building consent is required for any work to a listed building that affects its character. The local authority determines the need for consent.
- 10.2 Where listed building consent is required, an application is made to the local authority. This should include accurate scale drawings showing both the existing situation and the proposed works in context. It is normally helpful to provide detailed technical information and photographs. A brief description of the interest of the building and an explanation of the impact of the alterations are always helpful in assessing change.



Kilncraigs Business Centre, Alloa. Above: cast-iron columns are retained internally behind the glazed curtain wall constructed in 2000. Below: A 19th-century woollen yarn store was skilfully extended in contrasting concrete and steel (left-hand side of photo) in 1938 by William Kerr. Most of the very deep original but multi-phase block (right-hand side of photo) was cut back and a new curtain wall added to the existing structure in 2000, making an assertive but revealing contrast of new and old, and achieving a visual link between Alloa Tower and the town. Junctions are clearly formed in red and white.



Other selected Historic Scotland publications and links

[Guide for Practitioners 6: Conversion of Traditional Buildings](#) (2007) (Historic Scotland online shop: DVD available for purchase).

For the full range of Inform Guides, Practitioner Guides, Technical Advice Notes and Research Reports please see the [Publications](#) section of the Historic Scotland website.

Other selected publications

Scottish Government, [A Policy on Architecture for Scotland](#) (2001) (PDF 608K) and [Building Our Legacy: Statement on Scotland's Architecture Policy](#) (2007) on Scottish Government website.

Other selected contacts

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH8 9NX
Tel: 0131 662 1456
Fax: 0131 662 1477
E: info@rcahms.gov.uk
W: www.rcahms.gov.uk

Architecture & Design Scotland (A+DS)
Bakehouse Close
146 Canongate
EDINBURGH
EH8 8DD

Tel: 0131 556 6699
Fax: 0131 556 6633
web: www.ads.org.uk
e-mail: info@ads.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Details of all individual scheduled monuments, listed buildings, designated gardens and designed landscapes, and designated wrecks can be obtained from Historic Scotland (see contact details below) or at: www.pastmap.org.uk. Details of listed buildings can also be obtained from the relevant local authority for the area.

Advice on the requirement for listed building consent, conservation area consent, building warrants, and other permissions/consents should be sought from local authorities.

Historic Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
EDINBURGH
EH9 1SH

Tel: 0131 668 8981 or 8717

Fax: 0131 668 8765

E-mail: hs.inspectorate@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

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www.historicscotlandimages.gov.uk

Cover images

Beach Shelter (1934), Broughty Ferry Esplanade, City of Dundee, extended and refurbished in 2005.

Castlemilk Stables (circa 1800), Glasgow, were converted in 2003–7 for the Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, requiring a glazed extension into the courtyard to give reception and circulation space to the narrow stable buildings around the perimeter of a square.

Pier Arts Centre, Stromness, Orkney, refurbished and extended in 2007. The scale and massing of the extension complements the adjacent traditional waterfront buildings that provide the conservation area with much of its character.



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Planning Advice Note

conservation

Area Management

Designation alone will not secure the protection and enhancement of **conservation areas**. Active management is vital to ensure that change can be accommodated for the better



protection and enhancement

Planning series:

- › **Scottish Planning Policies (SPPs)** provide statements of Scottish Executive policy on nationally important land use and other planning matters, supported where appropriate by a locational framework.
- › **Circulars**, which also provide statements of Scottish Executive policy, contain guidance on policy implementation through legislative or procedural change.
- › **Planning Advice Notes (PANs)** provide advice on good practice and other relevant information.

Statements of Scottish Executive policy contained in SPPs and Circulars may be material considerations to be taken into account in development plan preparation and development control.

Existing National Planning Policy Guidelines (NPPGs) have continued relevance to decision making, until such time as they are replaced by a SPP. The term SPP should be interpreted as including NPPGs.

Statements of Scottish Executive location-specific planning policy, for example the West Edinburgh Planning Framework, have the same status in decision making as SPPs.

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Planning Advice Note

conservation

Area Management



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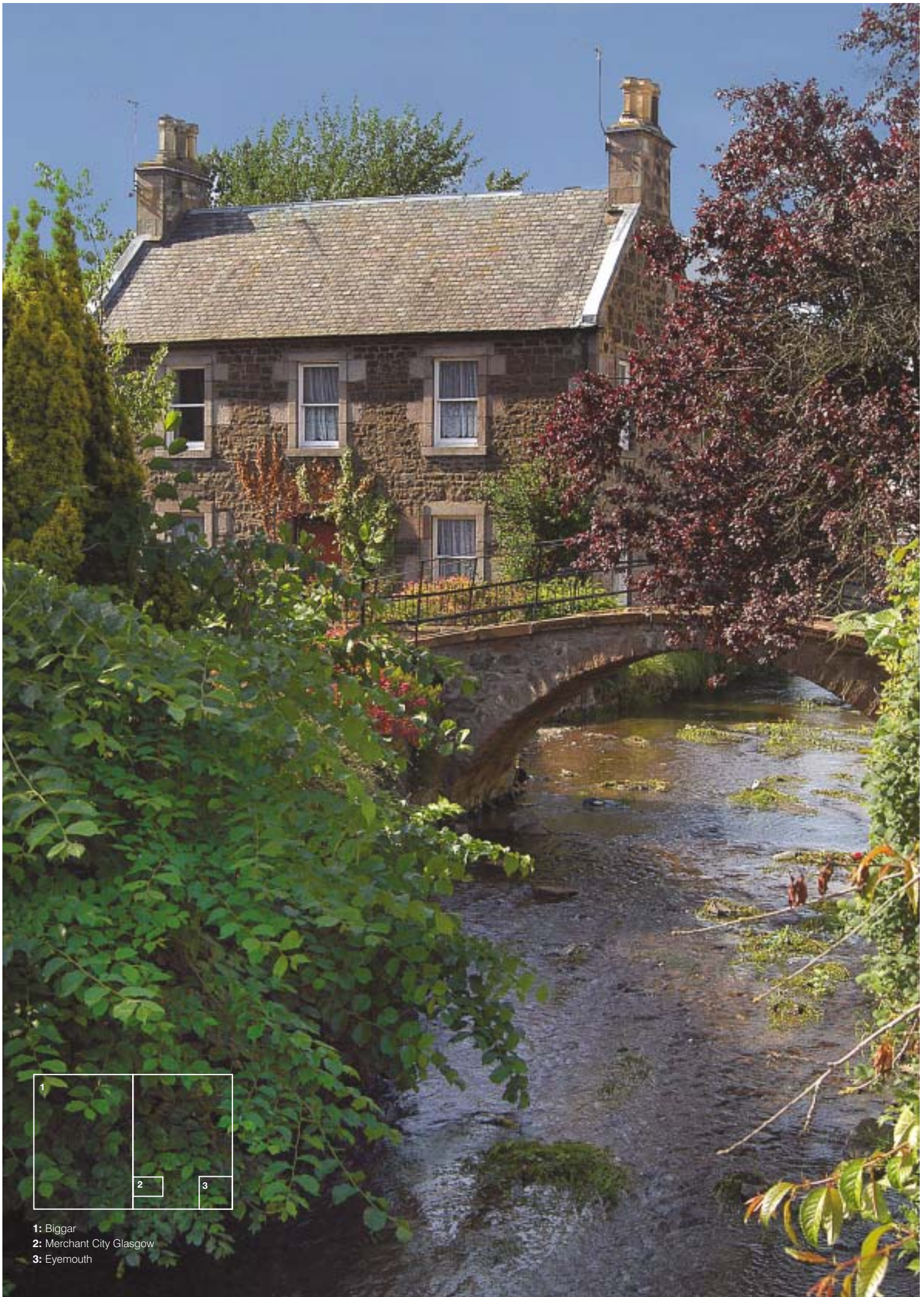
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Annex Conservation Area Appraisal

20





- 1: Biggar
- 2: Merchant City Glasgow
- 3: Eyemouth

Introduction

Designing Places, published in November 2001, sets out the Scottish Executive's expectations of the planning system to deliver high standards of design and quality. This Planning Advice Note (PAN) fits with Designing Places and forms part of the design series of Advice Notes, which together strive to provide the foundations for tomorrow's conservation areas.

There are over 600 conservation areas in Scotland. They can be found in our cities, towns, villages and in some rural settings, and can play an important role in economic and community regeneration and environmental enhancement. The designation of a conservation area is a means to safeguard and enhance the sense of place, character and appearance of our most valued historic places. Buildings of character, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, trees, historic street patterns, open spaces and designed gardens and landscapes are important components of these areas. The overall layout and pattern of development may be just as important to the character as individual buildings. The activities that go on inside conservation areas are also important. Conservation areas are living environments that despite their history, will continue to adapt and develop. Designating a conservation area does not mean a prohibition on development. It does mean carefully managing change to ensure that the character and appearance of these areas are safeguarded and enhanced for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

This PAN complements existing national policy and provides further advice on the management of conservation areas. It identifies good practice for managing change, sets out a checklist for appraising conservation areas and provides advice on funding and implementation.

This PAN should be read in conjunction with other national policy and advice. Of particular relevance are: The Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, NPPG 18 Planning and the Historic Environment, Designing Places: A Policy Statement for Scotland, PAN 52 Planning in Small Towns, and PAN 68 Design Statements.

The advice in this PAN will be of particular relevance to planning authorities, but effective management of conservation areas requires support and input from other stakeholders. This advice is also intended as a guide for other local authority interests, developers, heritage trusts, utility companies, public sector agencies, residents, property owners, community organisations and amenity bodies. Effective co-ordination of the knowledge, enthusiasm, commitment and resources of these interests can contribute significantly to the effective conservation and enhancement of Scotland's historic environment and the quality of life of those who live in, use and enjoy these places.





enhance

Designation of a conservation area should not be regarded principally as a means of increasing control but rather as a commitment to take positive action to safeguard and enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area. Memorandum of Guidance, sect 4.21.

Designation and Review

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 states that conservation areas “are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. Local authorities have a statutory duty to identify and designate such areas.

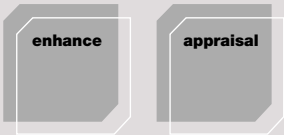
Special architectural interest can be interpreted broadly. As well as the settings of architectural set pieces and the spaces between buildings, designation can give recognition to groups of individual buildings or characteristic forms of urban development and evolution. Equally, conservation area designation provides scope for special recognition of the best examples of town planning and urban design. Special historic interest relates to areas with a connection to events or themes of historic or cultural significance.

The statutory procedures for designation are well established. Proposals for designation, variation or cancellation must be publicised. The Scottish Ministers also need to be notified. Owners and occupiers of property within a proposed conservation area do not have to be specifically notified and there is no right of appeal against a designation, variation or cancellation. Wherever possible, proposals to designate, cancel or redefine the boundaries of conservation areas should first be subject to public consultation through the local plan process, thus providing opportunity for the views of stakeholders to be taken into account.

Whilst designation is a valuable tool in the protection of important areas, authorities should be careful not to assume that designation alone will secure protection and enhancement. Review of existing areas is required and provides an opportunity to assess the justification for designation, consider the validation of boundaries, identify opportunities for enhancement and set management priorities.



1: West Wemyss
2: Inverness



Managing Change

When effectively managed, conservation areas can anchor thriving communities, sustain cultural heritage, generate wealth and prosperity and add to quality of life. To realise this potential many of them need to continue to adapt and develop in response to the modern-day needs and aspirations of living and working communities. This means accommodating physical, social and economic change for the better.

Physical change in conservation areas does not necessarily need to replicate its surroundings. The challenge is to ensure that all new development respects, enhances and has a positive impact on the area. Physical and land use change in conservation areas should always be founded on a detailed understanding of the historic and urban design context.

Whilst the scope for new development may be limited in many conservation areas, all will present some opportunities for enhancement. Most will contain buildings, vacant sites or inappropriate street furniture that have a negative impact on the character and appearance of the area. These represent opportunities for improvement and when managed effectively, can act as a catalyst for economic, community and environmental regeneration.



Understanding and Evaluating

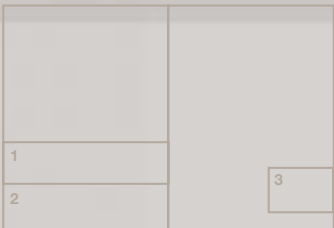
Past approaches to conservation area management have too often been based on a limited understanding of the heritage resource involved. In some cases there has also been an overemphasis on regulation and a lack of clarity over priorities for improvement. ‘Facelift’ schemes which offer short term visual gain rather than more enduring, sustainable conservation, are common. Opportunities for positive planning and enhancement may be missed as a result. A pro-active approach is required.

An overall strategy or vision for each conservation area will help to determine priorities. Townscape audits and conservation area appraisals are useful tools for developing and implementing a management strategy.

Townscape audits do not just apply to the historic environment but provide an analysis of the physical characteristics of the entire settlement. An understanding of the wider area is vital in the management of conservation areas. Townscape audits will identify the context, use and function of a conservation area and its relationship and importance to the surrounding settlement. Further information regarding townscape audits can be found in NPPG 18 and PAN 52.

Conservation area appraisals focus on areas which lie within existing or proposed conservation area boundaries. They analyse what makes a place special and assist managers in: defining and reviewing boundaries; identifying opportunities and priorities for enhancement; assisting policy formulation; ensuring consistent decision making and supporting funding bids. An appraisal is a vital tool to enable the active management of conservation areas. Authorities should prepare one for each conservation area to assist the management process. Further guidance on conservation area appraisals can be found in NPPG 18 and an appraisal checklist is set out in the annex to this PAN.

The management strategy for each conservation area should have shared ownership, involving all the stakeholders in an open and inclusive way. There should also be an understanding of what is achievable and what can be delivered in the short, medium and long term.



1: Beith: 1950's to present
2: Beith: 1950's to present
3: Glasgow



Policy Framework

Once an understanding of the special characteristics, pressures and priorities of a conservation area has been established, it is vital that they are fed into the development plan or supplementary guidance.

NPPG 18 sets out the requirements for structure and local plans. In the past, authorities have tended to rely on general local plan policies for the protection of conservation areas. Whilst these are important, NPPG 18 also requires that local plans go a step further and set out opportunities and priorities for enhancement. These need not be overly prescriptive but should identify sites of opportunity and areas where the Council and other stakeholders will be taking action. The detail of this, which will be informed by a conservation area appraisal, should be set out in action plans or supplementary guidance. Such detailed guidance will provide more certainty to the decision making process. Local plan policies should promote positive development.

6

Whilst NPPG 18 states that development which would have a neutral effect upon the conservation area should be treated as one which preserves the area's character or appearance, this should be considered as the minimum standard. Local plan policies and supplementary guidance should promote and reflect this commitment to quality.

Supplementary planning guidance also plays a fundamental role in the protection and enhancement of conservation areas. Appraisals are likely to be the main form of conservation guidance and will identify issues which require further supplementary guidance.

preserve

enhance



Development Control

Development control has a fundamental role in the management of conservation areas. It is vital that decision makers have the knowledge, skills and confidence to ensure high design quality in conservation areas. Clear information and guidance is essential for planners, politicians and local communities to come to a quick and considered view on the merits of proposals for change. A clear policy framework and supporting guidance will encourage the submission of quality proposals and promote consistent decision making.

Design statements are a way to explain how specific proposals will enhance the quality of an area. For significant applications within conservation areas, local authorities should encourage applicants to submit design statements based on conservation area appraisals.

Planning applications in outline will rarely provide the level of detail required to assess whether the proposal will harm the character of a conservation area or not. It is important to avoid outline consents for large residential or commercial developments without any understanding or realistic assessment of whether they can be accommodated sensitively within the setting of the area. The submission of a design statement will aid the assessment and consideration of proposals in outline and can be used to inform the preparation of planning conditions. Appropriate conditions and effective enforcement should provide confidence that the desired level of quality can be secured.

Conservation area consent for demolition will not normally be granted in the absence of a detailed application, approved in parallel, for the replacement development. This is to avoid the formation of gap sites and to ascertain that the development will enhance or preserve the character of the area, as defined in the conservation area appraisal.

Conditions attached to a planning permission can assist the effective regulation of development. They should meet the tests set out in Circular 4/1998 The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions. Use of standard conditions may not be sufficient to maintain and enhance the special character of the conservation area.

Enforcement

Enforcement has a key role to play in the protection of conservation areas. Local authority enforcement strategies are generally reactive, resulting in investigation only when a formal complaint is made. For conservation areas, local authorities should consider a more proactive approach including monitoring development activity and ensuring compliance with the terms of planning permissions. A positive and active approach to enforcement will help to reduce the number of contraventions and secure sustained improvements in environmental quality.



1: Inverness
2: Dunkeld



Case Study

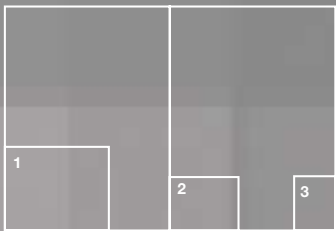
Burgh Yard, Dollar, is a quality development on a key site within an outstanding conservation area. The success of the development is attributable to Clackmannanshire Council's active management process, which was recognised in 1997 with a Scottish Award for Quality in Planning.

The brownfield site provided a rare opportunity for new build within the conservation area. Clackmannanshire Council recognised that wider benefits could be achieved by collectively considering the site along with two neighbouring sites which were considered to have a negative impact on the conservation area.

A detailed development brief was prepared and a design competition launched. A panel of conservation experts (including the Royal Fine Art Commission for Scotland, The Scottish Civic Trust, the Architectural Heritage Society and the Dollar Civic Trust) acted as judges and unanimously chose the winning scheme.

The Council's management strategy also had a number of safeguards to ensure that a quality development was achieved. This included tying detailed drawings into feuing conditions for the site and using the Builder's Licence Scheme.

Clackmannanshire Council displayed excellent management skills by considering not just the opportunity site but the interests of the conservation area as a whole. The brief set out the detailed requirements for the area and the Council were committed to ensuring that a high quality development was secured.



- 1: Burgh Yard, Dollar
- 2: Beith
- 3: Beith



Protecting Vulnerable Areas

Article 4 Directions

The objectives of conservation area management can for the most part be met through an effective policy framework and the positive use of existing development control and enforcement powers.

There will, however, also be a place for further regulation to ensure that the character and appearance of the conservation area is not eroded through incremental change.

Proposals for Article 4 Directions to remove or reduce permitted development rights should be advertised or progressed through local plans. Local authorities should be clear about the classes of development they want to bring within planning control and provide appropriate justification. They should not resort to blanket restrictions of regulation but should relate to the character defined in the specific conservation area appraisal. Further policy guidance on the use of Article 4 Directions is set out in NPPG 18.

Buildings at Risk

Where appraisals identify listed or significant properties which are at risk from neglect, authorities should alert the Scottish Civic Trust, which maintains the Buildings at Risk Register on behalf of Historic Scotland. The register aims to unite owners of neglected properties with those who have the resources to restore them. Further information regarding buildings at risk can be found in NPPG 18, the Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas and from the Scottish Civic Trust. A dedicated website which provides information on many of the properties on the Register can be accessed at www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk

Urgent Works Notices

Urgent works notices allow local authorities to carry out works which they feel are necessary to preserve a historic building suffering from neglect. The notice may be used to deal with listed and unlisted buildings in conservation areas. Notices should, however, only be served on unlisted buildings that make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area. Any costs incurred in carrying out the works can be recovered from the owners. Urgent works notices are confined to those parts of a building which are unoccupied.

The scope of the works covered by the notice should be restricted to the minimum necessary to secure the building rather than comprehensive repair and restoration. For example, it may be adequate to install a temporary roof covering over a building rather than undertake the full repair of the roof.

The use of urgent works notices should not be reserved solely for buildings in an advanced state of disrepair. They can also target relatively inexpensive works where a building is at an early stage of decline. Addressing relatively minor issues such as blocked gutters or rhones can halt deterioration to a more serious and expensive condition. Further advice on the procedures for urgent works notices can be found in the Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.





effective

Effective management of the public realm is not just an issue of funding, it is equally about the skills deployed, the way in which regulations are used and the way in which the design process is managed



- 1: Dundee
- 2: Biggar
- 3: Eyemouth

Enhancing the Public Realm

Many of the challenges for local authorities lie with changes to the public realm. The focus in conservation areas must be on the careful maintenance of public space, and the use of appropriate signage and materials for traffic management and street furniture. Conflicts between the interests of residents, local businesses and visitors must be sensitively managed, with solutions tailored to the specific circumstances of the place. Good working relationships between council departments and with relevant external agencies, especially public utility companies, are vital.

Traffic and Movement

Traffic dominates the character of many conservation areas and often poses the biggest challenge for conservation area management. Standardised transport engineering solutions rarely relate to the special character of the area and present a major challenge to local authorities in their duty to protect and enhance conservation areas.

In certain cases, the solution may be to reduce or divert traffic away from particular conservation areas thereby lessening the need for traffic calming measures, extensive parking or loading arrangements. Caution should, however, be exercised if considering

such an approach as the area may have been characterised historically by the movement of people and goods. Reducing such movement may have a detrimental effect on the special character of the area and may impact upon its vitality and viability. In order to manage traffic in the conservation area, it is important to gain an understanding, through the appraisal process, about how the area works and what aspects sustain activity and movement. Seasonal variation should also be taken into account. Conflicts may arise between the needs of residents, businesses, pedestrians and motorists. Multi-disciplinary teams will be required to consider how best to manage traffic within conservation areas. These teams must work together to provide a solution which meets the operational needs of the conservation area whilst protecting and enhancing its character.

Parking can also pose problems in conservation areas. New parking areas may have implications for visual amenity and traffic flow. Lack of parking can lead to other problems, such as illegal parking on pavements or the removal of gates, fences and walls to provide off street parking. Consideration should be given to the most appropriate location, design and materials for parking areas which will minimise the impact on the conservation area.

appraisal

enhance



Utilities

Another common problem for local authorities can be managing the impact of work undertaken by utility companies who benefit from 'permitted development rights' for various works, including the laying of underground pipes or other apparatus. This can have significant effects on the character of the conservation area, for example, a traditional cobbled street may be reinstated with tarmac. It is essential for planning authorities, roads authorities and utility companies to work together to identify sensitive areas and agree a commitment to sensitive reinstatement.

The Scottish Road Works Register system is used by utility companies to notify road authorities of their intention to carry out works. If the conservation area is identified on the system as an area of 'special designation', the local authority may, in certain cases, be able to prescribe the specification for reinstatement. This should be based on an agreed maintenance schedule. Local authorities should ensure that the Register contains up to date and accurate information.

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Street Furniture and Signage

Inappropriate street furniture and a proliferation of signs and general clutter detract from the character of a conservation area.

The provision of new or replacement street furniture represents an opportunity for local authorities to define and enhance the historic character of the conservation area. However, standard, off-the-shelf designs are usually inappropriate to the historic environment and authorities should consider the need for high quality, custom-designed solutions. In certain conservation areas, well designed modern street furniture may be the most appropriate solution.

The problem of street clutter can easily be tackled by establishing the extent of the problem through the appraisal process, removing any unnecessary objects and then ensuring that a regular monitoring programme is in place.



- 1: reinstatement
- 2: Milngavie
- 3: Wigtown

preserve

enhance



Open Spaces

PAN 65 Planning and Open Space recognises the important role of open space in setting the landscape and townscape structure of urban areas and in contributing to the character of the historic environment. Areas of open space can be a defining element in a conservation area. Appraisals should consider the different types, functions and benefits of open space and identify opportunities to extend and enhance open space networks.

Trees

Trees contribute greatly to the character and quality of many conservation areas. As woodlands, planted avenues, or individual specimens, they can enhance the landscape setting of conservation areas, soften streetscapes and bring life and colour to gardens. Trees may also have historic or cultural significance.

Trees in conservation areas are protected through the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Before carrying out any work on a tree in a conservation area, owners are required to notify the local authority giving details of the intended works. Councils can serve a Tree Preservation Order if they consider a tree to be under threat, but they can also protect and promote tree planting through conditions in planning consents.

Individuals, organisations and local authorities should take responsibility for ensuring that trees and woodlands in conservation areas remain healthy through good management. Management plans and appraisals will help to determine when and where new planting is appropriate, what form it should take and the species to be planted.

Maintenance of the Public Realm

Capacity and responsibility for short, medium and long term maintenance, involving such services as street cleaning and landscaping as well as highways and public utilities, should be programmed and regularly reviewed. A range of advice on maintenance is available from Historic Scotland.



Funding and Resources

The Scottish Executive provides around £14.5 million each year to help offset the cost of the care, repair and conservation of the historic environment. This is administered through Historic Scotland and a significant proportion is targeted to conservation area enhancement. Grants are awarded for the comprehensive repair of key buildings. Town schemes also operate in a number of outstanding conservation areas and provide grants for small scale repairs to property.

Significant parts of Scotland's urban areas are covered by City Heritage Trusts, which benefit from a combined annual grant from Historic Scotland of around £2.6 million. Additional funding is provided from local authorities and a range of other sources. Active Heritage Trusts also exist in Perth and Kinross, New Lanark and Dumfries and Galloway. These can operate local grant schemes and co-ordinate a range of other activity to promote, safeguard and enhance the character and appearance of conservation areas. Their staff are an important source of advice on funding for conservation.

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The Heritage Lottery Fund also contributes significant amounts of money to area conservation projects, particularly through its Townscape Heritage Initiative which focuses on the regeneration of conservation areas that face economic or social problems. The Heritage Lottery Fund generally meets up to 50% of a comprehensive and concentrated programme of building repairs, reinstatement of architectural detail, re-use of vacant floorspace, appropriate filling of key gap sites and conservation and enhancement of the public realm, all based on a conservation area appraisal and action plan. Match funding is generally provided by a combination of grants from Historic Scotland, the local authority, local enterprise company, European Regional Development Fund and Communities Scotland.

Building Preservation Trusts also play a significant role in overcoming the challenges presented by buildings at risk and adding value to wider management strategies. Building Preservation Trusts can access loans and grants to tackle development projects on a 'revolving fund' basis where a market solution is not possible. Through developing a relationship with a Building Preservation Trust, a local authority can manage the financial risks associated with urgent works notices, repair notices and compulsory purchase orders. The work of Building Preservation Trusts can also be a catalyst for wider regeneration.

enhance

manage



1: Beith

The recently published “Sources of Financial Help for Scotland’s Historic Buildings”, published by the Scottish Civic Trust on behalf of Historic Scotland, provides advice on a range of other funding possibilities. The Architectural Heritage Fund sponsored website www.fundsforhistoricbuildings.org.uk is another useful source of information.

Although in recent years resources have become fairly limited, local authorities have powers to make grants and loans for the improvement of conservation areas. Good examples of initiatives which have won external validation include Lesmahagow (1985) and Biggar (with Scottish Civic Trust) (1975) for European Architectural Year and more recently with the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning for West Wemyss, Fife and Crichton Campus, Dumfries.

Where no dedicated funds exist for conservation area enhancement, it is still possible to achieve outcomes and deliver conservation policies through influencing and aligning the spend of other agencies and organisations with a clearly communicated vision for the area.

Increasing numbers of Development Trusts are being established and can play a useful role in conservation area management. Development Trusts are community-led enterprises which seek to bring about social, economic and environmental change for the better. They can, for example, be set up to acquire and manage a historic building or historic community asset. Further information about Development Trusts can be found at www.dta.org.uk

Given that there are over 600 conservation areas, competition will be high in securing financial assistance. Applications for funding which are accompanied by supporting documents such as townscape audits and conservation area appraisals will strengthen the basis of any grant application.

The following table lists some of the sources of funding available:

Funding Sources	Grant Programme	Further Information
Local Authority Grants	Local Authority Discretionary Grants including Improvement/Repairs Grant schemes.	Relevant local planning authority.
Historic Scotland	Various	www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
Heritage Lottery Fund	Townscape Heritage Initiative Public Parks Initiative Heritage Grants Programme Places of Worship Grant (jointly with Historic Scotland)	www.hlf.org.uk
Architectural Heritage Fund	Heritage Grants and Loans Feasibility Study Grants Refundable Project Development Grants Organiser Grants Annual report of the Architectural Heritage Fund	www.ahfund.org.uk
European Union	Structural Funds Community Initiative Funding–Interrig iiiB, Leader+, Equal, Urban 11 Programme Culture 2000	www.scotland.gov.uk/esf www.dti.gov.uk/europe/structural.html www.culture2000.info
Others	The Scottish Arts Council The Pilgrim Trust National Trust of Scotland The Scottish Museums Council The Scottish Enterprise Network Communities Scotland Development Trusts Association	www.sac.org.uk www.thepilgrimtrust.org.uk www.nts.org.uk www.scottishmuseums.org.uk www.scottish-enterprise.com www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk www.dta.org.uk

Knowledge and Skills

Conservation officers, or their equivalents, are critical to the success and quality of conservation area management and often have responsibility for a range of statutory and project work. Where specialist expertise is lacking, pooling resources with neighbouring authorities or employing consultants is encouraged. The benefits of having specialist input to decision making, local planning and project work is invaluable. Once an appraisal has been compiled, monitoring and review should be less demanding on staff resources, but will still require the input of a specialist.

Community organisations and amenity bodies often take a strong interest in conservation area issues. Their involvement in the planning process is strongly encouraged as a way of capturing local knowledge and expertise and helping local authorities in their efforts to enhance environmental quality. In particular, they have an important role to play in the appraisal process. Historic Scotland, in the form of the Area Inspector of Historic Buildings, is another source of stakeholder advice on the creation and monitoring of conservation area appraisals and conservation area management generally.

appraisal

manage

1		2	

1: East Dunbartonshire Council
2: Dollar



Monitoring and Review

Monitoring and review is essential in validating the continuing relevance of designations, their boundaries and the success of management strategies. Useful indicators of the impact of a management strategy might include the:

- › extent of repair needs of buildings and the public realm, the progress made towards addressing them, and the quality of repairs undertaken;
- › design quality of new buildings, alterations and extensions;
- › cumulative effect of erosive small-scale changes and the use of planning tools, such as Article 4 Directions, to combat them;
- › vitality and viability of any commercial areas; and
- › the level of investment and progress in the implementation of particular schemes of enhancement, such as shopfronts or streetscape enhancement.

Monitoring indicators should be set out in the conservation management strategy. As most of the indicators are qualitative and hard to measure, it may be necessary to develop assessment methods using external audits or community juries. There are, of course, other indicators of management performance that go beyond conservation, such as litter, graffiti, vandalism, community safety and maintenance standards.

It is necessary to establish a review cycle in order to give continuing support to conservation area management. The local community should be actively involved in the monitoring and review process.



Conclusion

Designation alone does not fulfil a local authority's responsibilities for conservation areas. An active culture of management can deliver quality if it is based on the character and needs of individual areas.

When local authorities have evaluated and understood the issues, it is vital that action is taken to manage change effectively. This may require new policies in local plans, the publication of supplementary guidance, improvements to the public realm or design and conservation training. Management objectives need to be realistic, taking into account: available staff resources and funding; the feasibility of enhancement opportunities; the development plan review timetable and methods to involve the community and other stakeholders.



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A robust and active management strategy combined with an effective monitoring and review mechanism will ensure that valuable aspects of our heritage resource are protected and that opportunities to enhance them are delivered.



- 1: Glasgow
- 2: Dunkeld
- 3: Dundee

appraisal

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Annex: Conservation Area Appraisal

What is a conservation area appraisal and why is it useful?

A conservation area appraisal is a management tool which helps to identify the special interest and changing needs of an area. An appraisal provides the basis for the development of a programme of action that is compatible with the sensitivities of the historic area and enables local authorities to fulfil their statutory duties to protect and enhance conservation areas. Appraisals also inform policy and assist development control. They provide an opportunity to educate residents about the special needs and characteristics of the area and help developers identify and formulate development proposals.

A conservation area appraisal should not be included in a local plan. It is more appropriate as supplementary planning guidance.

Who should prepare a conservation area appraisal?

Local authorities are encouraged to prepare appraisals for all their conservation areas on a priority basis and in consultation with the local community.

In cases where an appraisal is required to assist the consideration and determination of a major development proposal, the developer may wish to carry out the appraisal or may be willing to pay for its independent production in order to improve the decision making process.

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How do you prepare a conservation area appraisal?

Conservation areas are unique. It is therefore not practical to prescribe a method of appraisal that will be applicable to all. The following checklist, however, provides a starting point for local authorities. The list is not exhaustive but can be adapted to meet the specifics of individual conservation areas and can be updated over time. The left hand column outlines elements which will be likely to form an essential part of the appraisal. Consideration of the significance and importance of each element to the conservation area is vital. The right hand column provides further suggested issues for assessment.

Before commencing the appraisal, authorities should consider the format in which it is going to be presented. Findings should be set out clearly and concisely and seek to analyse and draw conclusions rather than simply describe an area. Publication of appraisals on the internet will give further accessibility and allow for simple updating.

Many of the themes and issues addressed in an appraisal are best communicated through pictures, maps and diagrams.

Appraisal Checklist

Introduction, Purpose and Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Date of appraisal › Purpose of appraisal › Date and reason for designation › Location map showing area in context with the surrounding area (including any adjacent conservation areas) › Boundary map
Location, History and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Reasons for location - natural landforms, strategic defence, river crossing, religious foundations etc › Regional context › Geology › Topography › Historic pattern of land use › Settlement development › Planned landscapes
Character and Appearance Setting Activity and Movement Street Pattern and Topography Buildings and Townscape Spaces Trees and Landscaping Character Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Assessment of the landscape and surroundings › The area in relation to its form and function › Significance of views into, across and from the conservation area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Direction, mode, volume, circulation and levels of activity › Day & night variations › Seasonal variations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to previous street patterns and surfaces › Way in which streets and buildings relate to ancient man-made and landscape features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Scheduled monuments › Key listed and unlisted buildings › Buildings considered to be of townscape merit (including modern examples) › Parks, historic gardens and designed landscapes › Distinctive architectural style and detailing › Building types › Materials › Past and current uses › Orientation and density – possibly reflecting past uses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Types of public and private open space (advice available in PAN 65 Planning and Open Space) › Characteristics of each area of open space – changes in level, surface materials, planting, degree of enclosure, feature or focal points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Tree Preservation Orders › Extent of tree and hedge cover › Nature of any dominant species › Landmark trees › Parks, gardens and designed landscapes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Record and explain any different character areas – Individual policies and action plans may be required for different character areas.

Negative Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify any negative factors
Building by Building Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Record (in written and photographic format) details, condition and alterations at a particular point in time – this can inform decision making and provide a valuable monitoring indicator and enforcement tool
Buildings at Risk Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Note vulnerable buildings that contribute to the character of the area › Advise the Scottish Civic Trust to add to the Buildings at Risk Register › Survival of traditional surfaces
Public Realm Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Appropriateness of street furniture and signage e.g. should reflect the character of the area, be practical, be well maintained, define the area etc. › Effect of traffic and utilities engineering – inappropriate replacement surfaces, signage clutter, visually intrusive cabling etc.
Surveys of Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Record aspects of distinctiveness e.g. typical shopfronts, boundary treatments, building details, materials etc.
Sensitivity Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Highlight vulnerable areas, buildings or issues
Assessment of Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Compare significance of the conservation area in the local, national and international context – this can be a useful tool when sourcing funding and considering development applications
Opportunities for Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify sites where development could enhance the special qualities of the area › Reflect opportunities in the development plan › Prepare briefs or design statements for particularly sensitive sites
Opportunities for Planning Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Assess the need for boundary refinement › Assess the effects of permitted development › Identify the need for the implementation or review of Article 4 Directions › Identify need for urgent works, building repair or amenity notices
Opportunities for Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Bring forward proposals for enhancement identified earlier in the appraisal e.g. new or restored surfaces, street furniture, planting, underground wires, traffic management changes etc.
Conservation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › A strategy may include: guidance on many aspects of managing change, details of any changes required to development plan policies, funding sources and opportunities; staffing resources, briefing for specific developments or sites, links with other strategic aspirations, and details of a monitoring and review mechanism
Monitoring and Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Consider and put in place appropriate monitoring indicators and agree a mechanism for review. Photographic surveys are an excellent means of recording change – they can also be a useful development control and enforcement tool

Information Sources

For historical information, the lists of buildings of special historic or architectural interest, the inventories published by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, books in the Buildings of Scotland series, the RIAS guides, Burgh Survey and other local histories are a useful starting point. Local Authority Sites and Monuments Records provide information, particularly on archaeology, and references to further material. The National Monuments Record, held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, includes drawings, historical photographs and aerial photographs as well as historical accounts. For some specific places there may be archives or transactions of historical societies, which are usually held in the local history section of public libraries. The National Library of Scotland Map Library has a vast collection of historical maps.

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The Scottish Civic Trust

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www.scotland.gov.uk/planning



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