A Climate Change Action Plan for Historic Scotland 2012-2017

HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

Preface

Welcome to Historic Scotland's Climate Change Action Plan for 2012-17. This document sets out our approach over the next five years to address the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change to the historic environment. In it we outline Historic Scotland's role in supporting the historic environment through a period of necessary adaptation in the transition towards a low-carbon economy.

We have identified seven strategic themes that will define our work in this area; to be addressed through forty-two specific actions. This document complements our Carbon Management Plan, published in 2011, which sets out a detailed five year programme to reduce carbon emissions from our own internal operations by 25% from 2008-09 levels. The Climate Change Action Plan articulates our wider intentions to increase resilience and help prepare the broader historic environment for a future changing climate.

Context

04 Climate Change in Scotland
06 Threats to the historic environment
08 Historic Scotland's role and our climate change responsibilities

Strategic themes and actions

10 Reducing energy use in our buildings
12 Improving our operations
14 Improving energy efficiency in traditional buildings
16 Building resilience: preparing the historic environment for climate change
18 Improving sustainability
20 Developing and promoting sustainable tourism
22 Informing and influencing others

Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh

Foreword by

Ruth Parsons, Historic Scotland Chief Executive

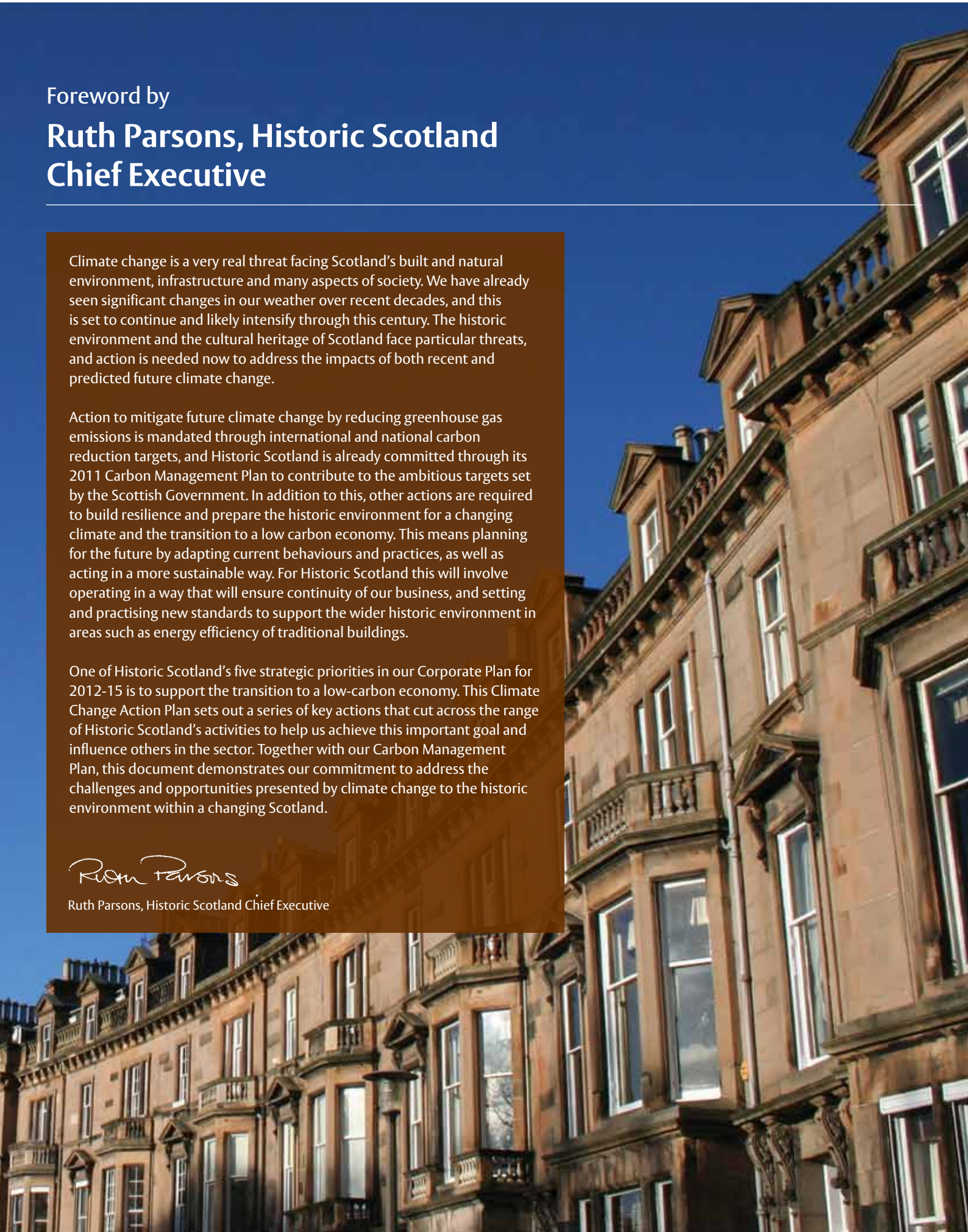
Climate change is a very real threat facing Scotland's built and natural environment, infrastructure and many aspects of society. We have already seen significant changes in our weather over recent decades, and this is set to continue and likely intensify through this century. The historic environment and the cultural heritage of Scotland face particular threats, and action is needed now to address the impacts of both recent and predicted future climate change.

Action to mitigate future climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is mandated through international and national carbon reduction targets, and Historic Scotland is already committed through its 2011 Carbon Management Plan to contribute to the ambitious targets set by the Scottish Government. In addition to this, other actions are required to build resilience and prepare the historic environment for a changing climate and the transition to a low carbon economy. This means planning for the future by adapting current behaviours and practices, as well as acting in a more sustainable way. For Historic Scotland this will involve operating in a way that will ensure continuity of our business, and setting and practising new standards to support the wider historic environment in areas such as energy efficiency of traditional buildings.

One of Historic Scotland's five strategic priorities in our Corporate Plan for 2012-15 is to support the transition to a low-carbon economy. This Climate Change Action Plan sets out a series of key actions that cut across the range of Historic Scotland's activities to help us achieve this important goal and influence others in the sector. Together with our Carbon Management Plan, this document demonstrates our commitment to address the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change to the historic environment within a changing Scotland.

Ruth Parsons

Ruth Parsons, Historic Scotland Chief Executive



Context

Climate Change in Scotland

Scotland's climate is changing. The last century has been characterised by overall warming with altered precipitation patterns leading to wetter winters, drier summers and increased frequency of extreme and unpredictable weather including heavy rain and storm events. Since the 1960s average precipitation has increased by over 20%, and in northern Scotland winter precipitation has increased by over 70%. Sea level rise around the Scottish coast has accelerated in the last 2 decades and now exceeds 3-4 mm/yr. around most of Scotland. Left unchecked these changes are predicted to continue and intensify through the present century, accelerating damaging impacts on Scotland's environment and infrastructure, with significant consequences for economy and society. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that the "scientific evidence for warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and all the major models of global surface temperatures show a warming trend over the last century with the 10 warmest years on record since 1998. Evidence and analysis of the threats and opportunities presented by climate change are summarised in the 2012 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Report.

Further reliance on fossil fuels and the increasing demand for energy, goods, transport and housing will continue the increase in greenhouse gas emissions to ever more dangerous and potentially irreversible levels. Scotland must play its part in rapidly adopting energy conservation and efficiency measures and shifting to low carbon solutions for energy and other activities. The Stern Review of the economics of climate change concluded that the benefits of taking early action far outweigh the long-term costs of taking no action. It recognised energy efficiency as the simplest and most cost-effective way to reduce emissions quickly across areas such as housing, business and transport; all major consumers of fuel.

Scotland produces roughly twice the global average level of emissions for each person in the country, and our use of resources is three times greater than is globally sustainable. We must reduce our consumption of materials and use resources more efficiently. The Scottish Government intends to set a strong example to other countries seeking to manage climate change and has set emissions reduction targets which are more ambitious than the corresponding EU or UK targets.

"Climate change will affect many aspects of society, environment and economy, presenting challenges for Scotland's distinctive biodiversity and habitats, our built environment and infrastructure and remote coastal communities."

Scotland's Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2009

KEY COMMITMENTS FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 ARE:

- **At least 42% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020, and 80% by 2050 (on 1990 levels)**
- **Improve energy efficiency of activities and supply the consequent energy requirements from renewable and low carbon sources**
- **Include the full effects of emissions from international aviation and shipping from the start**
- **Action taken throughout Scotland's economy and society (central government, local government and the public sector, businesses, communities and individuals)**
- **A strong duty on public bodies to make a full contribution to tackling climate change**

Much of the change in climate that will occur over the next 30 to 40 years has already been determined by past and current emissions, so it is important that Scotland also prepares itself for inevitable impacts. The Public Bodies Climate Change Duties published in 2011 make it clear that a public body such as Historic Scotland must:

1. **Contribute to emissions reduction targets (Mitigation) directly, and indirectly through wider functions and influence**
2. **Deliver programmes for Adaptation by planning to continue function and increase resilience; including considering impacts of current decisions and investments over future decades**
3. **Act in a Sustainable way; through considering social, economic and environmental impacts of all activities, policy decisions and strategy**

The duties state that the public sector should provide leadership in its approach and demonstrate exemplary behavior and that major players should do more. Climate change actions should be embedded into corporate procedures and business planning. Public bodies should make a public commitment through a Climate Change Action Plan and set annual emissions targets and establish annual reporting of progress and compliance.

Context

Threats to the historic environment

The impacts of climate change on the historic environment are wide ranging and potentially devastating. Rising sea levels and increased storm events endanger historic landscapes, structures, buildings and archaeology in the coastal zone. More frequent intense rainfall events will cause flooding in historic settlements and erosion of archaeological sites. Some of Scotland's most unique and internationally recognised sites such as parts of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site are amongst those most at risk. Historic buildings are being threatened by increased levels of rainfall causing water penetration into masonry, increasing the risk of dampness, condensation and mould growth and, at worst, structural collapse. Increased extremes of wetting and drying may lead to accelerated decay of stonework and other traditional materials as well as buried artifacts. Changes in hydrology and vegetation patterns can threaten the integrity and visibility of archaeological remains and historic landscapes, including preserved wetland archaeology and designed landscapes and gardens. Even changes in the distribution of pests and biogenic growth such as lichen can threaten the integrity of historic buildings, collections and historic plantings.

Climate change does not only threaten Scotland's unique heritage of ancient and historical monuments which help define our culture and support a large part of our tourist industry. There is just as much risk to the wider historic environment that forms the physical backbone to many communities and transport routes. Buildings constructed using traditional materials and methods such as Georgian terraces, Victorian villas, city tenements, rural dwellings, bridges, railways, canals and many other structures are also being affected. Much of this traditionally constructed infrastructure indirectly supports Scotland's economy and society through accommodating business and economic growth, and their upkeep makes a significant contribution to employment within the construction industry. It is vitally important that our traditional buildings and historic infrastructure are well managed and maintained to ensure that they can withstand the pressures that climate change will bring. A key element in this is promoting and sustaining the availability of traditional skills and materials at national and local level throughout Scotland to ensure the future viability of the historic built environment.

Tantallon Castle

Context

Historic Scotland's role and our climate change responsibilities

Historic Scotland undertakes, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, statutory functions to protect and promote the historic environment. We act as leader and enabler to ensure that the historic environment sector delivers economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for the whole of Scotland. Our vision for the historic environment is set out in the Historic Scotland Corporate Plan 2012-15 which supports Scotland's national outcomes and economic strategy, focused towards accelerating economic recovery and driving sustainable economic growth. Historic Scotland's five strategic priorities are:

- Championing our historic environment
- Supporting sustainable economic growth
- Managing our historic environment creatively
- Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy
- Delivering our business

The agency provides guidance on the management of over 8,200 scheduled monuments of national importance, 641 conservation areas, 389 gardens and designed landscapes, and 43 battlefields and wrecks; all protected by law. We directly manage and maintain 345 nationally significant sites and properties, which in 2010/11 attracted over 3 million visitors and generated nearly £27.8 million income.

We provide advice, technical support and financial assistance to the owners of listed buildings and support a network of organisations and initiatives including City Heritage Trusts and Conservation Area Regeneration Schemes that bring direct benefits to local communities. Historic Scotland employs over 1,000 staff across Scotland, delivering a broad range of activities from visitor services and education, property conservation, heritage management advice, archaeology and technical research, and training. Our business includes improving and developing Scotland's tourism industry, increasing capacity in the construction industry through improved traditional buildings skills availability and training; developing demand in the repair and maintenance sector, and using our procurement activity to stimulate capital growth for small and medium businesses. All this is underpinned by our reputation for world-class research, innovation and production of high quality technical and practical guidance.

The historic environment has a significant role to play in addressing climate change and contributing to a low carbon future. We are strongly committed to maximising the historic environment's contribution to a sustainable Scotland and meeting Scotland's carbon reduction targets.

Culross, Fife

As a large public sector body, Historic Scotland has a significant role in supporting the Scottish Government's climate change targets. In 2011 we published our Carbon Management Plan setting a target of 25% reduction in our carbon emissions over a 5 year period and establishing ourselves as a national and international leader in the field. Furthermore, we have a mandate through the Scottish Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan to take a lead in researching and developing energy efficiency solutions for traditional buildings and to disseminate findings to improve the provision of advice, skills and qualifications for public and professionals. Through our regulatory role in providing advice on the management of the historic environment and our repair grant funding supporting Scotland's cultural heritage and regeneration in both urban and rural areas, we are able to influence and set best practice to ensure that climate change is factored into future decision making.

Historic Scotland is well positioned to support the transition to a low carbon economy. For example, we are committed to using our procurement where possible to promote sustainable manufacturing, distribution and the use of local products. We also support the reintroduction of indigenous materials to provide alternatives to imports; to encourage sustainable tourism in partnership with local authorities and the tourism and transport sectors; to focus our research programmes on ways to improve the energy efficiency of traditionally constructed buildings and to disseminate information to encourage the sustainable use, reuse and adaptation of historic buildings. We are in a unique position to take a lead in helping others to prepare for the effects of climate change and to improve the long term sustainability of the historic environment. Our aim is to communicate these messages widely on both a national and international scale.

Strategic Themes and Actions

1. Reducing energy use in our buildings

Historic Scotland manages and operates a diverse property estate including iconic monuments, historic buildings, visitor centres, retail outlets, offices, works depots and storage facilities. Our historic sites include castles and cathedrals, historic homes, unroofed ruins, carved stones and industrial properties such as old mill buildings. Some of our larger sites are co-occupied, for example with the Army at Edinburgh Castle and Fort George, and the Royal Household at Holyrood Palace, whilst other properties are in active use as places of worship. Of the 345 historic sites in our care, 166 have a direct energy requirement (i.e. are consumers of electricity, gas or oil).

Because of our large estate, Historic Scotland is a significant consumer of energy and makes up a significant proportion of the carbon footprint of the organisations under the control of Scottish Ministers. We are part of the mandatory UK-wide CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme that requires us to report our energy use annually and are subject to a charge on our carbon emissions. As a major public body in Scotland we have a duty to reduce energy use and carbon emissions in order to help achieve the targets set by the Scottish Government. Our Carbon Management Plan sets out a detailed strategy to reduce carbon emissions from our operations by 25% over a 5 year period and specifies a set of detailed 'invest to save' projects such as improvements to monitoring, heating and lighting. As well as reducing our carbon footprint, the implementation of these projects will reduce our utility bills and provide better use of public resources.

Edinburgh Castle »

"As a major public body in Scotland we have a duty to reduce energy use and carbon emissions."

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **We will take a strategic approach to carbon management within Historic Scotland, based on a hierarchy of firstly understanding, monitoring and setting targets, reducing energy use through behavioural and operational changes, adapting infrastructure, and diversifying our energy sources where appropriate.**
- **We will follow the strategy laid out in our Carbon Management Plan which details actions to reduce energy consumption, starting with improved monitoring and reporting of our energy use, followed by adaptation measures including improved building management systems and controls, and working with staff and co-occupiers of our properties to change behaviour.**
- **We will invest in energy efficiency measures such as relamping of sites using low energy LED technology, improved lighting controls, replacing inefficient boilers and heating systems, and installation of appropriate fabric measures such as thermal insulation and window improvements.**
- **We will investigate the use of renewable energy to reduce our reliance on carbon-based fuel sources where these are appropriate to the historic setting and minimise disruption to sensitive sites or historic fabric.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

These actions will directly reduce energy use from the Historic Scotland estate to help achieve the carbon reduction targets set out in our Carbon Management Plan, reduce our CRC Energy Efficiency burden and contribute towards the national targets of 42% by 2020. Our 'invest to save' approach will produce lasting improvements to our properties through installation of more efficient systems which use less energy, and improved controls and monitoring of future energy use. Experience gained through energy efficiency improvements of buildings in our care will help us to develop appropriate methodologies for assessing and carrying out improvements to the wider historic environment, in particular carefully balancing the benefits of emissions reductions against potential detrimental effects such as loss of historic character and other potentially negative impacts to historic buildings and sites. The work will also increase our expertise in the assessment and application of renewable energy systems to heritage settings.

MEASURING PROGRESS

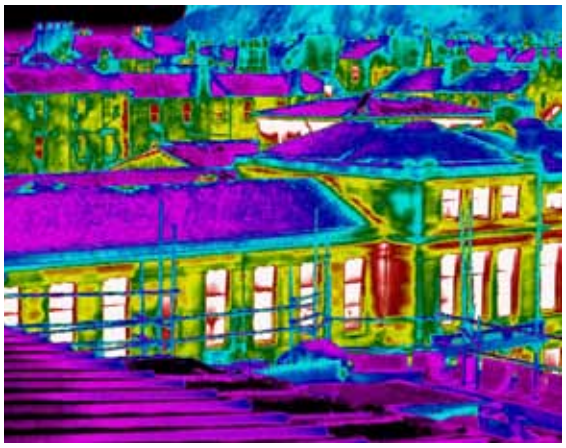
Our Carbon Management Plan sets out carbon reduction targets to 2015. Under the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties, from financial year 2011/12, Historic Scotland will publish an annual climate change report containing our carbon emission figures measuring our performance against targets. Additionally, progress will be measured through the annual reporting of our carbon emissions published (from 2011) in the UK CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme league table. Achieving the targets set out in our Carbon Management Plan is currently a Key Performance Indicator for Historic Scotland.

Strategic Themes and Actions

2. Improving our operations

Historic Scotland is a relatively large public body with a wide range of functions and a large geographical spread. Our operations include the conservation and maintenance of historic sites, managing visitor attractions and retail outlets, and providing advice and support to owners of listed buildings and scheduled monuments. Like other public bodies in Scotland we have a duty to improve our operations in terms of energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint, throughout the wide range of our operations including reducing business travel, waste, water, and improving IT systems. The embedding of climate change actions into our day to day business operations requires a comprehensive review of all our processes and systems to identify opportunities where improvements can be made, and investing in the short term to deliver long term savings. Our Corporate Plan states that Historic Scotland is committed to delivering our business as high quality public service through an efficient organisation.

Replacing badly weathered stone, Glasgow Cathedral »



Thermographic image showing heat loss from a Victorian building

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **Historic Scotland will adopt the actions detailed in the Scottish Government's Public Bodies Climate Change Duties.**
- **We will embed climate change checklists into our business planning and purchasing procedures, including considering carbon impacts as part of business cases.**
- **We will develop an environmental travel policy for business travel and encourage staff to reduce their emissions from commuter travel.**
- **We will review our vehicle use and purchase low-emission and more fuel-efficient vehicles in line with Scottish Government policy.**
- **We will work to reduce our waste and improve recycling facilities at sites for staff and visitors, and prepare our properties and operations to comply with the requirements of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Regulations.**
- **We will improve monitoring of water use at our sites through installation of automated metering, in order to identify where and how water can be used more efficiently.**
- **We will adopt utility monitoring and property management software in order to improve monitoring, target setting, and data management for our sites and properties.**
- **We will offer staff training to raise awareness of climate change issues, in particular carbon reduction, energy efficiency and efficient driving skills, and create a network of 'Green Champions' throughout the agency to help drive behavioural change at all levels of the organisation.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

These actions will contribute directly to the reduction of carbon emissions from travel, waste and water. The inclusion of climate change criteria in business planning and purchasing procedures, as well as increased staff awareness, will strengthen the capacity of Historic Scotland to continue to improve its operations over the longer term. The 'greening' of Historic Scotland will result in an enhanced reputation within our areas of influence, sending positive messages to visitors and stakeholders, and demonstrating the commitment of the public sector to champion national climate change targets.

MEASURING PROGRESS

The Historic Scotland Carbon Management Plan sets out specific projects for improving performance related to waste, travel and water over a 5 year period to 2015. Progress on all the above actions will be reported in our annual climate change reports, starting from financial year 2011/12, including numbers of staff trained, improvements to our vehicle fleet, and the introduction of new internal policies and practices. Early progress will be measured through establishing improved baseline information, recording and monitoring procedures. Staff will be kept informed of progress through the Historic Scotland intranet and staff newspaper.

Strategic Themes and Actions

3. Improving energy efficiency in traditional buildings

More than 40% of Scotland's total carbon emissions arise from the energy used to heat, light and occupy our buildings. Energy efficiency is recognised as the largest potential opportunity for reducing emissions and meeting carbon reduction targets by 2050, resulting in both environmental and economic benefits, and sits at the top of a hierarchy of energy policies as the simplest and most cost-effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly across areas such as housing, business, and transport.

Buildings constructed using traditional materials and methods form approximately 20% of the building stock in Scotland and are commonly considered as 'hard to treat', requiring a different approach from more modern buildings if measures are to be successful, cost effective and avoid damaging the building fabric. Upgrading traditional properties is necessary in order to achieve a sustainable energy solution for Scotland, yet requires options that respect the traditional nature of these buildings and their contribution to local distinctiveness and sense of place.

The repair, maintenance and adaptation of existing buildings currently accounts for approximately 46% of the total construction industry output in Scotland. Improving knowledge and skills in this sector will directly support and encourage economic activity. In some cases it may be unrealistic to expect older buildings to achieve the energy efficiency of a new building; however this must be balanced against the contribution made in other ways such as their cultural value, urban identity, life cycle and longevity, and importance and significance to communities.

The demolition of traditional buildings and their replacement by new construction should be considered in terms of the loss of previously-invested embodied carbon. When whole life costing is considered, such practice may negatively impact on emission reduction targets, ecosystems and use of resources.

Installing sheep's wool insulation, Holyrood Palace »

"Improving knowledge and skills in this sector will directly support and encourage economic activity."

OUR RESPONSE/ACTIONS

- **We will continue, as stated in Scotland's Energy Efficiency Action Plan, to undertake and coordinate research into energy efficiency improvements of traditional buildings, principally through a series of pilot schemes in a range of building types across Scotland.**
- **We will continue to work with external partners to research issues such as thermal comfort, air quality, embodied carbon and energy modelling related to energy efficiency improvements in traditional buildings, and highlight significant issues that will determine the success of such improvements.**
- **We will disseminate the results of research and energy efficiency pilot studies to a range of stakeholders including buildings, professionals, community groups and home owners, through publications, events and lectures, and partnership working with organisations such as Energy Saving Trust and professional bodies.**
- **We will work with the education sector and industry to ensure that knowledge of energy efficiency improvements for traditional buildings is included in skills training for the construction sector and in course materials for training.**
- **As stated in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan we will include energy efficiency improvements for domestic buildings as part of Historic Scotland's grants schemes.**
- **Through our Heritage Management activities, we will continue to provide positive advice to assist with appropriate upgrading and adaptation of listed and other protected buildings and sites, in support of Scotland's emissions reduction and energy targets.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

These actions will greatly develop our current knowledge of energy efficiency improvements to traditional buildings, and in particular the domestic housing stock. This will be important in helping to achieve Scotland's climate change targets as well as providing practical solutions which could help to alleviate the proportion of traditional dwellings currently in fuel poverty. Undertaking specific energy efficiency measures which are appropriate for traditional materials and construction methods, will reduce the amount of potential damage to traditional buildings which could otherwise result from inappropriate interventions. Improving knowledge amongst building professionals and within the construction industry will improve skills and increase capacity in the sector, supporting economic growth and providing employment opportunities.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress in delivering these targets will be measured through the number of technical publications, training events, lectures and engagement with external organisations including colleges, professional bodies and community groups. Uptake of publications, attendance at events and feedback will be taken into consideration when assessing the impacts of this work.

Strategic Themes and Actions

4. Building resilience: preparing the historic environment for climate change

Climate change models predict that the trends seen during the latter part of the 20th century will continue through this century. For example, under a low emissions scenario winter rainfall in the west coast of Scotland will increase 40-50% by the 2080s, and 50-60% in a high emissions scenario. Temperature increases across Scotland are likely to be 2-3°C (low emissions scenario) and 3-4°C (high emissions scenario).

Existing evidence indicates that parts of the historic environment are poorly prepared for climate change. For example, the Scottish House Condition Survey has identified that 75% of pre-1919 buildings are already in a critical state of disrepair. Historic Scotland's role, as stated in our Corporate Plan, to improve the condition of the historic environment and reduce the number of historic buildings and monuments at risk, requires that we take a proactive approach to "future-proof" the nation's historic environment assets. This means working not only with our own estate of properties in the care of Scottish Ministers, but also to providing support and guidance on appropriate strategies to increase the resilience of the broader historic environment, including individual buildings and urban areas, infrastructure, monuments, landscapes and archaeology.

Duffus Castle »

"A proactive approach to 'future-proof' the nation's historic environment assets."

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **We will develop a methodology for assessing the impact of climate change on heritage assets including historic buildings and monuments, buried and submerged archaeology, historic landscapes, plantings and battlefields.**
- **Undertake a climate change risk assessment across the Historic Scotland estate to evaluate which sites are most at threat from issues such as coastal erosion, flooding, rainwater penetration etc.**
- **Work with a range of external partners to research and evaluate specific threats to buildings and monuments, such as increased biological growth and enhanced stone decay, and develop strategies to manage impacts.**
- **Review Historic Scotland's on-going maintenance and condition survey programmes in the light of climate change predictions to modify conservation strategies and target priority sites where necessary.**
- **Input climate change factors into estate management strategies and business continuity planning, for example where threats to sites are likely to affect future visitor numbers and income.**
- **Respond to current and emerging climate change threats by prioritising our grant funding.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

Evaluation of climate change risk for the Historic Scotland estate will improve decision-making for prioritising the on-going conservation and maintenance programmes, thus ensuring the long term survival of the most valuable assets in our care. It will enable better use of resources which can be targeted to particular priority sites. This strategic approach will benefit the wider historic environment through the development of methodologies to assess risks and plan for future impacts, thus strengthening capacity and building resilience throughout the sector.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress will be measured by the development of a methodology for assessing climate change risk to historic sites, the creation of a climate change risk register for our properties and the incorporation of these into management planning and resource allocation. We will publish the results of research into climate change threats to the historic environment and amend current guidance where appropriate.

Strategic Themes and Actions

5. Improving sustainability

The extensive geographical spread of Historic Scotland's operations provides an opportunity to positively influence local communities through direct employment, procurement and investment through grants to the historic environment. Our activities also create wider benefits to attracting visitors to areas and the purchase of local services and materials for the repair and maintenance of our properties and operations. Historic Scotland recognises the value of public sector spend to provide social and economic benefits. We have an interest in ensuring that traditional materials and skills are available for the wider historic environment and recognise the importance of small and medium businesses in the traditional buildings sector. Through our Traditional Building Skills Strategy, Historic Scotland is committed to stimulate demand for skills in the construction, repair and maintenance sectors and increase the availability and quality of training and education in traditional skills. Our grants schemes will take account of the wider goals of sustainability and sustainable economic growth and be evaluated to ensure they are aligned with this vision. In addition to supporting 60,000 jobs in Scotland, the historic environment has other social and economic benefits, such as strengthening local communities through social cohesion and sense of place and creating attractive places in which to live and do business. Additionally, we are in a position to improve ecosystems and biodiversity at our sites, and through our wider influence over the management of historic landscapes and gardens.

Buchanan St, Glasgow »

Reopening of local quarries provides skilled jobs and increases rural employment

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **Historic Scotland will adopt the Scottish Government's guidance on Sustainability Reporting alongside our Annual Report and Accounts, starting from the 2011-12 reporting year.**
- **We will work to evaluate and improve the positive social, economic and environmental impacts of our operations by embedding sustainability checklists into our business planning processes.**
- **We will adopt the Scottish Government's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan and consider the sustainability implications of our purchasing decisions and the way we conduct our business, including stimulating small and medium businesses.**
- **We will increase awareness and understanding of the importance of using appropriate materials and skills for the upkeep of traditional buildings in order to build capacity in the sector, for example encouraging the reopening of stone and slate quarries and investing in training and skills development.**
- **We will seek to influence local communities, economy and jobs through our grants schemes to promote a wider understanding of the issues.**
- **Work to avoid adverse effects of climate change on biodiversity at our sites including, for example, European Protected Species through on-going wildlife surveys and safeguarding important sites, and explain the importance of biodiversity through appropriate interpretative media including our ranger service, information panels, guidebooks and education events.**
- **Promote the sustainable reuse and appropriate adaptation of existing buildings in terms of whole life costings and embodied carbon, highlighting other benefits such as the passive aspects of traditional design and the benign nature of many traditional materials.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

The inclusion of sustainability factors will enable Historic Scotland to target spending to increase social, economic and environmental benefits. Such actions will directly benefit local communities and small to medium businesses, strengthening links and enhancing the perception of the historic environment. Improved understanding and investment in traditional materials and skills will increase capacity for the wider repair and maintenance sector, providing on-going benefits over the longer term.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress will be recorded through annual sustainability reporting accompanying our Annual Reports and Accounts. Progress against specific sustainability actions will be detailed as part of our annual climate change report.

Strategic Themes and Actions

6. Developing and promoting sustainable tourism

The tourist industry is one of the largest sectors of the Scottish economy and Historic Scotland is the largest operator of paid-for visitor attractions in the country. This provides an unparalleled opportunity for us to influence the wider industry, for example, promoting low carbon and sustainable tourism. The high number of visitors passing through our sites, and our 122,000 strong membership, gives us a large public exposure and profile which can be used to promote positive messages relating to climate change and the transition to a low carbon economy. Our participation in the Green Tourism Business Scheme since 2002 is a signal to others about how we have focussed our business on environmental credentials and sustainability and value this aspect of our operations. Historic Scotland's Corporate Plan reinforces our commitment to continue to develop our leadership role in the tourism sector, including through joint working with other agencies and operators. Increasing the income generating capacity of the historic environment sector will result in continued investment for the future, but must be done in a sustainable way.

Linlithgow Palace »

Jousting tournament, Fort George

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **We will continue to promote and participate in the Green Tourism Business Scheme, working across the organisation to improve performance at our sites.**
- **We will strive to reduce emissions and environmental impacts resulting from our visitor operations through improving efficiency in energy, water, waste and travel, including our retail and catering operations.**
- **We will improve visitor experience through improved waste management and the provision of public waste recycling facilities at appropriate sites, thereby highlighting the importance of environmental issues and our commitment to this aspect of our operations.**
- **We will work with the tourist industry and related bodies to improve understanding and develop strategies for low carbon tourism, for example by investigating alternative travel options, linking visitor sites, and exploring options for lowering carbon footprints such as increasing the length of stay for overseas visitors and expanding the proportion of Scotland-based visitors.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

The above actions will help reduce carbon emissions from Scotland's tourist industry, direct through providing improved travel options and improvements to our own sites and more widely by working with other operators and the broader industry to develop common initiatives including a low carbon tourism strategy. The introduction of specific improvements at our sites, such as recycling facilities, will send positive messages to our visitors regarding climate change and environmental issues, thus influencing wider behaviour throughout the sector.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress will be measured through increasing the number and status of our sites in the Green Tourism Business Scheme; by increasing waste recycling facilities at our sites; and through increased awareness of alternative transport means to our sites where this is possible. We will set benchmarks for environmental impacts and share this information with industry.

Strategic Themes and Actions

7. Informing and influencing others

Public Bodies in Scotland are encouraged to make a commitment to address climate change and to demonstrate leadership by sharing best practice and providing advice to others. As a large public body with a significant estate and large energy requirement, Historic Scotland has a duty to act as an exemplar to other organisations and in particular the heritage sector in responding to the climate change agenda. We can use our position to ensure that climate change considerations are embedded into relevant historic environment matters where appropriate. A significant part of our work is to undertake research and disseminate advice and guidance on best practice to improve the management of the historic environment and traditionally constructed buildings. Historic Scotland is committed to working more closely with the historic environment sector and others to deliver our objectives and other common outcomes, including playing an international role to ensure that Scotland contributes meaningfully to the global conservation and the heritage community.

Learning traditional building skills, Historic Scotland Summer School »

Historic Scotland Energy Efficiency Seminar, Edinburgh

OUR RESPONSE & ACTIONS

- **We will use the emissions reduction strategy set out in our Carbon Management Plan to influence and assist other public bodies and organisations responsible for managing historic estates.**
- **We will act as an exemplar for addressing climate change in the heritage sector, and champion the role of historic and traditional buildings in the transfer to the low carbon economy.**
- **We will work with other organisations, including those on the international stage, to develop new approaches and methodologies and cooperate to share knowledge and expertise.**
- **We will position ourselves at the forefront of research and development in areas such as energy efficiency upgrades to traditional buildings, and provide information in a range of published and digital media, and through dissemination events.**
- **We will publish an annual Historic Scotland Climate Change Report describing progress towards our carbon reduction targets and addressing each of the themes identified in our Climate Change Action Plan, including broader sustainability criteria.**
- **We will work with others to promote good practice and publish good practice case studies on our web site.**
- **We will consider climate change as part of our reviews of historic environment policy.**

WHAT WILL THESE ACTIONS ACHIEVE?

By sharing good practice through our external influence and our work with other organisations, our approach to climate change will have a wider impact beyond our own estate and grants work, thereby helping the broader historic environment to adapt and meet the Scottish Government's emissions reduction targets. Where appropriate, sharing expertise and resources will result in increased efficiencies and improved cooperation between organisations. Our activities will result in increased reference to the historic environment as a contributor to meeting climate change targets rather than being perceived as a constraint in this area.

MEASURING PROGRESS

Progress will be measured through an increased online presence providing sources of information and advice to the historic environment sector, as well as increasing the number of events, training and publications that promote good practice and shared expertise. We will publish the results of joint working with other organisations across the domestic and international arenas.

Moving forward and measuring progress

Publication of this Climate Change Action Plan represents the delivery of a Key Performance Indicator for Historic Scotland for 2011-12. Together with our Carbon Management Plan, on-going progress and delivery will be measured through further Key Performance Indicators set in place over the next five years to ensure delivery of the agency's climate change objectives. In line with Public Bodies Climate Change Duties and Sustainability Reporting requirements Historic Scotland will, from financial year 2011-12, publish an annual Climate Change Report which will document progress of each of the key themes detailed in this plan. In addition, the plan will be subject to a mid-term review and progress reported to the Senior Management Team and Historic Scotland Board; any amendments to the plan will be made only through the agreement of these bodies.

Further information and regular updates on progress will be available on the Historic Scotland website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk, and in our climate change blog at /climatechangeblog.historic-scotland.gov.uk/. If you would like to contact us, you can write to the Historic Scotland Climate Change Team at Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH, or email the team directly at hs.climatechange@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

1. A black house, Arnol
2. Victoria St, Edinburgh
3. Tobermory, Mull

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

T 0131 668 8600
F 0131 668 8620
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk