



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

– OUR ROLE IN THE PLANNING SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

We have a wide range of responsibilities for the promotion and protection of the historic environment, including advisory, regulatory and designation functions. Our role in the planning system is to provide advice to planning authorities, developers and others on the potential impacts of development on the historic environment, and opportunities for its protection and enhancement. We also designate certain historic environment assets – more information on this can be found on our [website](#).

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

As a Key Agency, we work with planning authorities while they are preparing their development plans. We also provide advice in support of their **Strategic Environmental Assessment** of these plans to ensure that the historic environment is considered in a positive and integrated way. We focus on assessing the effects of policies for decision making, strategic growth areas and specific allocations for future development. We also work with planning authorities on items linked to development plans such as supplementary guidance, masterplans and development briefs.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

We provide advice to planning authorities, developers, owners and communities on the potential impacts of development proposals on the historic environment. We welcome the chance to engage with applicants before they submit applications, and our role in this is set out in the joint Key Agency Statement on **Pre-Application Engagement**.

Planning authorities are required to consult us on planning applications for developments

affecting **Category A listed buildings** and their setting, **scheduled monuments** and their setting, **Inventory battlefields, Inventory gardens and designed landscapes, World Heritage Sites, Historic Marine Protected Areas** and Royal Palaces or Royal Parks (if within 800m). We are also a consultation body for developments requiring an **Environmental Impact Assessment**.

Advice we give to planning authorities will also be linked to our statutory functions for other consenting processes where relevant. These include **listed building consent, conservation area consent** and **scheduled monument consent**.

Planning authorities should deal with the majority of routine applications affecting other aspects of the historic environment without consulting HES. There is a range of **guidance** on our website that can help with this. In making decisions, we expect planning authorities to give due consideration to the historic environment in line with their own development plan policies and statutory duties. They should also take advice from their archaeological and conservation advisers.

FIND OUT MORE

Our **Planning Service Standard** sets out further details on how we engage in the planning system. It describes the service that developers and planning authorities can expect from us including timescales for consultation. Our performance against this service standard is published in our annual **planning performance report**.