

A Ten Point Plan for our Historic Environment

Revised version, December 2001

The three bodies responsible for steering the production of the Scottish Environment LINK *Historic Environment Audit*¹ devised a Ten Point Plan of Action which would substantially improve the way we look after and benefit from our heritage. These points were re-examined by representatives of a wider group of bodies², and some of the 10 points refined to produce the points below. There was universal agreement that the first of these points is the most urgent; details of the others are currently being prepared. We intend to work in partnership with others in Government and the Voluntary Sector to take these plans forward:

1. There is a clear and pressing need for a **major independent review** of the way we care for the Historic Environment in Scotland.
2. It should become a **statutory duty** for local authorities in Scotland to maintain, resource and staff a Sites and Monuments Record, or expanded '**Historic Environment Record**'.
3. The Historic Environment should be recognised as a core part of our lives, and must be considered by government as a key issue in **Sustainable Development** in Scotland.
4. The importance of our historic sites, monuments, landscapes and buildings should be given much more prominence in the **Education** of our children, and in **Lifelong Learning** for all our citizens.
5. All construction industry activity for new building, rebuilding and repair should be normalised at 5% **VAT**.
6. There is a need to identify and agree strategies which will lead to **increased resources** for the understanding, preservation, research, and increased access for place, monument and structure. A review is needed of the whole range of procedures (including accrual accounting) relating to fiscal and financial arrangements for the historic environment.
7. The **European Landscape Convention** should be applied to Scotland, recognising the value of our historic landscapes to our sense of place and quality of life, and taking account of our lack of knowledge and understanding of landscapes, and of the major forces for change that they face.
8. The **economic value** of the Historic Environment needs to be recognised and developed across the range of impacts and opportunities.
9. Investment in **training** and **development of best practice** is needed for historic environment professionals and for all others whose work has an impact on the resource.
10. Greater **liaison and partnership** is needed within the professions - both between central and local government, practitioners and voluntary bodies - and cutting across disciplines and interests in all areas of government.

¹ Representatives of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists, and the Council for Scottish Archaeology comprised the Steering Group for the Scottish Environment LINK *Historic Environment Audit* (Scottish Environmental Audit No. 4, 2001).

² The following bodies were represented: Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists, Council for Scottish Archaeology, Garden History Society, Institute of Field Archaeologists, Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, The National Trust for Scotland, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, Scottish Civic Trust, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.