

### Historic environment and cultural heritage

#### Key message

Scotland's coastal and marine historic environment and cultural heritage is both wide ranging (prehistoric monuments, lighthouses, harbours, wrecks and museums) and a precious asset that contributes to the economy. Many sites are popular visitor attractions. Eight Historic Marine Protected Areas have been designated since 2011.

#### What, why and where?

The historic environment around the coast is the physical evidence of past human activity, connecting people with place, and with related traditions, stories and memories.

This cultural heritage includes remains of coastal settlements from prehistory to the modern day and built structures such as harbours, lighthouses and ship-building yards, ecclesiastical buildings, castles, war-time defences and wrecks of ships and aircraft offshore. These help create a sense of place, wellbeing and identity, enhancing the distinctiveness of the coast, attracting visitors to Scotland and contributing to the economy.

The vision for Scotland's historic environment is that it 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 to benefit future generations (Scottish Government, 2014).

There are many opportunities for the public to appreciate the historic environment and cultural heritage, e.g. visiting historic ships, museums with maritime exhibitions, properties in the care of Historic Environment Scotland, festivals of the sea and diving on historic wrecks.



Forth Rail Bridge World Heritage Site (Forth & Tay SMR).  
© Historic Environment Scotland.

The significance of many historic sites is recognised through various designations, e.g. World Heritage Sites, listed buildings, scheduled monuments, Historic Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and protected military remains. The locations of these historic sites are shown in Figure 1. There are eight Historic MPAs designations: in 2013 six were designated for vessels previously protected under the [Protection of Wrecks Act 1973](#), with a new designation for a recently discovered wreck near the village of Drumbeg, Sutherland. Another new designation was made in 2016 for the 19th century paddle steamer, Iona 1 (Figure 2), in the

Firth of Clyde.Aberdeen south is expected to be completed in 2021 (Figure 3) to improve the infrastructure.

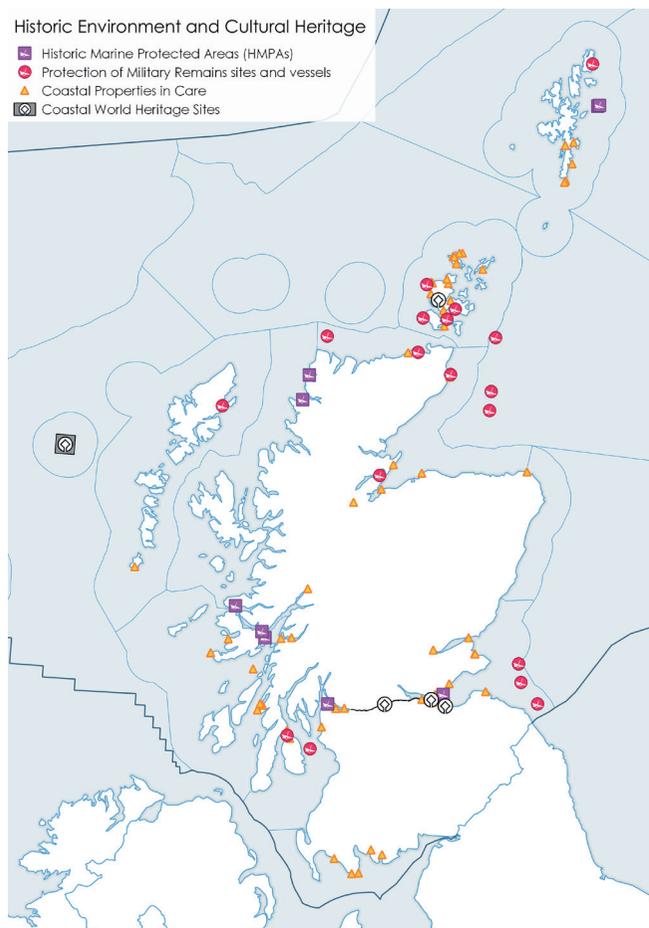


Figure 1: Distribution of Historic Marine Protected Areas, World Heritage Sites, Properties in Care and Protection of Military Remains Act wrecks.



Figure 2: Model of Iona 1, subject of the new Historic Marine Protected Area in the Clyde. © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection.

## Contribution to the economy

Scotland's historic environment and cultural heritage is a unique asset that attracts millions of visitors each year and generates income and jobs across Scotland (HES, 2018) although the full extent of this contribution can be difficult to measure. Many heritage sites (e.g. historic harbours and lighthouses) are in commercial use and others generate economic value from tourism.

Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA) is an assessment of the historic environment (not necessarily marine related). The database includes statistics on the contribution to the economy, as well as Scotland's heritage assets and details of how these are changing over time.

SHEA 2018 figures indicate that Scotland's historic environment generated £4.2 billion (direct and indirect) for Scotland's economy in 2017 (an increase from £3.4 billion in 2014) (HES (2018)). The direct contribution was estimated to be £2.3 billion in 2017 (Table 1). This contribution increased from 2014 to 2017 from £1.8 billion to £2.3 billion. In 2018, HES employed almost 1,300 staff (full time equivalent), while the many associated organisations employed many more, in addition to the seasonal staff and volunteers.

Scotland's Marine Recreation and Tourism Survey (SMRTS) (Scottish Government, 2016) surveyed activities that are marine related, many of which, though not all, are based around the historic environment or cultural heritage. The SMRTS findings indicated that activities such as scenic drives, bus tours, and visits to historic sites, museums and other visitor attractions around the coast account for around £230 million of annual expenditure on marine recreation and tourism activities.

There is no Gross Value Added (GVA) information specifically for historic environment and cultural heritage. However, as many historic sites generate income from tourism, information on the GVA contribution from marine tourism can be used to provide indicative information. The GVA contribution from marine tourism increased

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Change
Amount (£) generated by HE for Scottish Economy (direct only)	£1.8bn	£1.9bn	£2.1 bn	£2.1bn	Increase 2017 on 2014

Table 1: Amount directly generated by Scotland's historic environment (not necessarily marine related), 2014 to 2017

by 30% between 2011 and 2017 (Scottish Government, 2019). Further information on marine tourism and trends by SMR are available and are included in [the marine tourism section](#). However, this covers all tourism and is not restricted to the historic environment and cultural heritage.

Some sites, including shipwrecks offshore, can be visited for free, so do not contribute directly to the economy, but do support jobs (for example, scuba diving in the Sound of Mull and Orkney where interest is significantly based on shipwreck diving). The heritage tourism sector provides employment for staff with particular skills and knowledge including craftsmen and curators, as well as shop staff and guides.

The historic environment also contributes to less tangible social benefits such as education, health and well-being: figures by HES state that those

who visited a historic site were over 50% more likely to report a high life satisfaction. (HES, 2018).

## Examples of socio-economic effects

- Full and part-time employment, often in coastal rural areas.
- Domestic and international visitor tourism.
- Formal and informal education and recreation.
- Many important heritage sites continue in use e.g. lighthouses and harbours. Wrecks may obstruct other sea users e.g. snagging nets.
- 20th century wrecks can pose potential pollution risk. Spatial footprint of important heritage assets may restrict areas for new development.

## Pressures on the environment

An OSPAR agreed list of marine pressures is used to help assessments of human activities in the marine environment. The [marine pressure list](#) has been adapted for use in Scotland via work on the [Feature Activity Sensitivity Tool \(FeAST\)](#). Historic environment & cultural heritage activities can be associated with 11 marine pressures – please read the pressure descriptions and benchmarks for further detail.

## Forward look

The historic environment around the coasts and seas is vulnerable to a wide range of marine activities, developments and natural processes. Some change is inevitable, and a degree of change can be necessary for places to thrive. Careful management is needed to protect the historic and cultural heritage. Caring for the historic environment benefits everyone, now and in the future.

The growing awareness of the potential impacts of climate change is set out in *A Guide to Climate Change Impacts* (HES, 2019). These range from damage caused by spread of invasive species into new areas (e.g. Blacktip shipworm) to wooden shipwrecks; increased rates of corrosion in metal shipwrecks (such as the wartime wrecks in Scapa Flow), structures and artefacts, rapid exposure/erosion of heritage assets and increased wave heights leading to disturbance of underwater heritage.

The [Dynamic Coast project](#) identified 11.5% of Scotland's coast with high erosion susceptibility, with significant implications for Scotland's communities and heritage in light of sea level rise and increased storminess.

Two Historic Marine Protected Areas are currently under consideration (Scapa Flow; Queen of Sweden, Shetland) for possible designation.

There has been a general increase in visitors to historic sites but this trend may reverse in the short term given the current economic climate. Underwater heritage remains accessible to relatively few, but digital technology is presenting new opportunities to promote this resource beyond the diving world.

## Economic trend assessment

There are some data sources which provide a feel for the trend of the historic environment and cultural heritage, however, there are a number of reasons why this cannot be a precise measure and the trends need to be considered with caution. It has not been possible to disaggregate estimates for any regions, only for the national picture.

1. HES estimates the amount generated by HE for Scottish Economy (direct only) (HES, 2018). This contribution **increased by £0.5 billion** from 2014 to 2017 from £1.8 billion to £2.3 billion. This covers all HES records, not just marine records.

2. Considering the category of 'Historic environment and cultural heritage' as a sub-set of marine tourism, the overall trend of the **GVA contribution from marine tourism increased by**

**30%** between 2011 and 2017, while **employment increased by 14%** (Scottish Government (2019)). Trends of tourism by SMR are available and are included in the marine tourism section of the 2019 report. However, this covers all tourism and is not restricted to the historic environment and cultural heritage.

3. From data on visits to historic/cultural marine attractions, the latest results suggest a **slight fall (3%) in visitors** between 2016 and 2018, though specifically historic attractions have shown an increase. Sample sizes are too small to be able to produce a reliable estimate of regional trends in visitors to historical / cultural attractions by SMR.

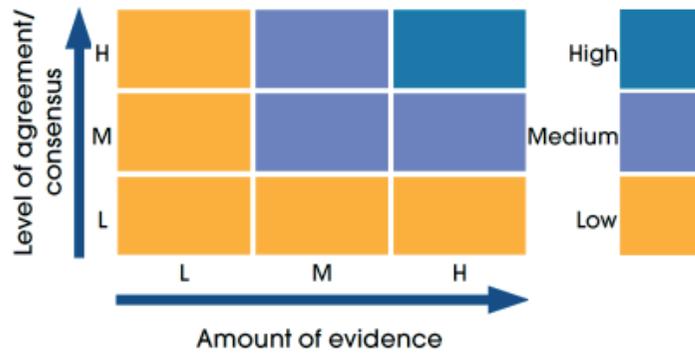
While the various data sources do not provide an entirely clear trend, when they were considered on the basis of monetary contribution to the economy **the trend is of an increasing contribution**. The societal value has therefore not been addressed in this assessment.

Based on various data sources that provide an indicative trend rather than a precise measure, so should be treated with caution.

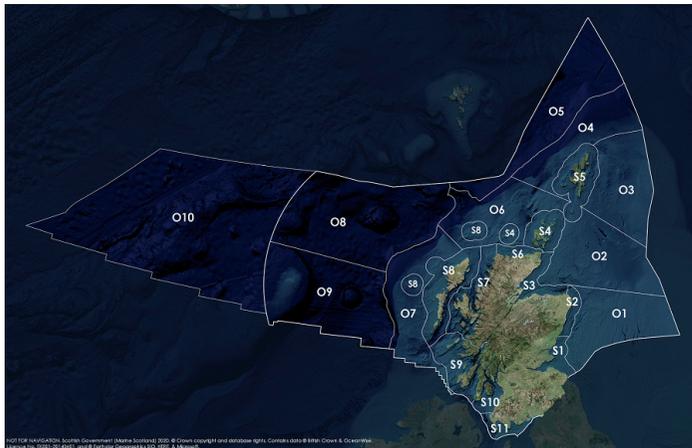
## Status and trend assessment legend

Status assessment (for Clean and safe, Healthy and biologically diverse assessments)		Trend assessment (for Clean and safe, Healthy and biologically diverse and Productive assessments)	
	Many concerns		No / little change
	Some concerns		Increasing
	Few or no concerns		Decreasing
	Few or no concerns, but some local concerns		No trend discernible
	Few or no concerns, but many local concerns		All trends
	Some concerns, but many local concerns	<b>Confidence assessment</b>	
	Lack of evidence / robust assessment criteria		
	Lack of regional evidence / robust assessment criteria, but no or few concerns for some local areas		Low
	Lack of regional evidence / robust assessment criteria, but some concerns for some local areas		Medium
	Lack of regional evidence / robust assessment criteria, but many concerns for some local areas		High

## Overall confidence



## Assessment regions

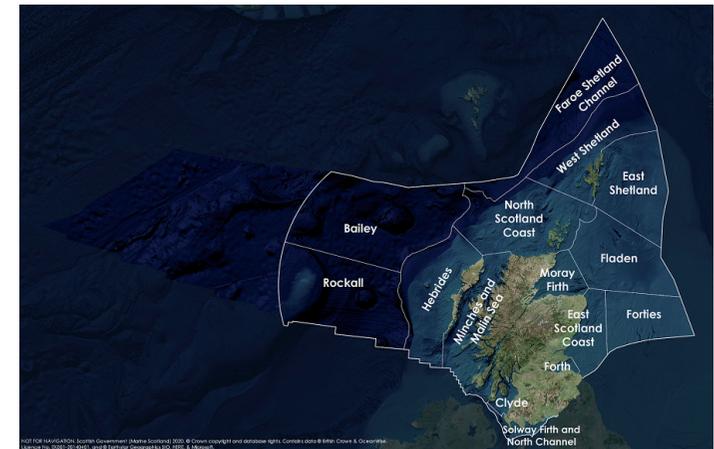


The Scottish Marine Regions (SMRs; S1 - S11) and the Scottish Offshore Marine Regions (OMRs, O1 - O10)

Key: S1, Forth and Tay; S2, North East; S3, Moray Firth; S4 Orkney Islands; S5, Shetland Isles; S6, North Coast; S7, West Highlands; S8, Outer Hebrides; S9, Argyll; S10, Clyde; S11, Solway; O1, Long Forties, O2, Fladen and Moray Firth Offshore; O3, East Shetland Shelf; O4, North and West Shetland Shelf; O5, Faroe-Shetland Channel; O6, North Scotland Shelf; O7, Hebrides Shelf; O8, Bailey; O9, Rockall; O10, Hatton.



Biogeographic, Charting Progress 2 (CP2) Regions. These have been used as the assessment areas for hazardous substances.



Scottish Sea Areas as used in Scotland's Marine Atlas 2011. These are sub divisions of the biogeographic, or Charting Progress 2 (CP2), Regions.