

# Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment

## Summary



# Introduction



The Valuing our Environment Partnership works together to reveal hard economic evidence that the environment is fundamental to prosperity in Wales. Its work over the past 10 years has been led by the National Trust Wales, with core partners: the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the Welsh Assembly Government - specifically Visit Wales and the Department for the Economy and Transport.

The Heritage Minister's Historic Environment Group, which was established to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on action to benefit and promote the historic environment, identified that Wales lacked up-to-date evidence that fully captured its economic, social and environmental benefits. In addition, it lacked a consistent methodology for ongoing data capture. The Valuing our Environment Partnership agreed to lead on this research via a special working group led by the National Trust comprising: the Welsh Assembly Government (Cadw, Visit Wales and the Department for the Economy and Transport), Countryside Council for Wales, the National Park Authorities for the Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

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# Key Findings

The Welsh historic environment is a valuable asset that plays a key role in enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of communities in Wales. The active care and promotion of this asset is essential; once elements have been lost or forgotten they can rarely be recovered.

## The Scale of the Welsh Historic Environment

- Almost 30,000 listed buildings.
- Over 4,000 scheduled ancient monuments.
- Three World Heritage Sites.

## The Economic Value of the Welsh Historic Environment

The historic environment is a highly significant contributor to the Welsh economy.

In order to ensure that the results of the economic assessment are robust, a very conservative approach has been taken.

- It is estimated that the historic environment sector supports over 30,000 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in Wales.
- It contributes approximately £840 million to Wales' national gross value added (GVA), which is equivalent to 1.9% of Wales' total GVA.
- It contributes some £1.8 billion in respect of output.
- A considerable share of economic impacts relates to tourism expenditure attributable to the historic environment.

## The Wider Value of the Welsh Historic Environment

The wider public value of the Welsh historic environment is considerable; it contributes to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities.

### Economic

- Supporting wider regeneration activities
- Catalysing investment
- Enhancing skills for jobs

### Environmental

- Protecting the historic environment
- Maintaining environmental quality and biodiversity
- Conserving energy by refurbishing historic buildings

### Social

- Promoting access to and understanding of the historic environment
- Increasing community identity and cohesion
- Enhancing civic pride
- Increasing community capacity and ownership
- Encouraging wellbeing and enhancing quality of life
- Providing learning opportunities for people of all ages and supporting the national curriculum for Wales

# The Research



In 2010 ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd was commissioned by the Valuing our Environment Partnership to undertake research to value the Welsh historic environment; in strict economic terms and in its wider sense of social value. The research also developed a monitoring framework that proposed a consistent methodology for ongoing data capture by partners in the sector.

The model for assessing the economic impacts of the historic environment is based around an income expenditure framework, which was informed by a range of secondary literature and data, plus consultations with 38 individuals, from 24 organisations that are operating in the Welsh historic environment sector. The wider social value of the historic environment is primarily captured through case studies, which included a further 11 consultations.

A summary of the key findings are set out here and the full research findings are presented in the following reports:

- Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment
- Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment: Economic Impact Technical Report
- Valuing the Welsh Historic Environment: A Monitoring Framework

**For more information phone the National Trust on 02920 462 281**

**[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/value-welsh-historic-environment](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/value-welsh-historic-environment)**

**September 2010**

