

# Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales

## Sector Adaptation Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



Historic Environment Group  
Climate Change Subgroup

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# Contents

Introduction to the SAP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	2
<b>1 Indicators and Actions</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Indicators in A Climate Conscious Wales	3
1.2 Actions identified in the SAP to adapt to the impacts of climate change on the historic environment of Wales	3
<b>2 Methodology</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Monitoring and Governance</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Reporting and Evaluation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Roles and Responsibilities</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 The Historic Environment Group	6
5.2 HEG Climate Change Subgroup Terms of Reference	6
5.2.1 Role	6
5.2.2 Membership	7
5.2.3 Meeting Schedule	7



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# Introduction to the SAP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

In 2020, the Historic Environment Group (HEG) published *Historic Environment and Climate Change in Wales Sector Adaptation Plan (SAP)*,<sup>1</sup> building on the high-level strategic actions identified in the Welsh Government's adaptation plan *Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales (A Climate Conscious Wales)*.<sup>2</sup>

The SAP identifies the risks and opportunities of climate change for the historic environment of Wales and the need for adaptation. Its aim is to stimulate collaboration and action.

There are five stages in the SAP adaptation process, which are shown in the diagram below. The fifth and final part of the adaptation cycle is 'monitoring and evaluation'.

Monitoring and evaluating any plan of action is essential to assess its effectiveness. The process must make clear the baseline indicators and actions against which specific evidence will be measured at regular intervals to review progress.

The monitoring and evaluation framework will enable HEG and its stakeholders to understand, monitor and evaluate progress against the published SAP actions, and to identify gaps and priority areas that require further attention.

The process will run in parallel with the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Welsh Government's national adaptation plan, *A Climate Conscious Wales*, to ensure consistent reporting. This will be coordinated by the HEG Climate Change Subgroup in collaboration with the adaptation action leads.



<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales](http://www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change)

# I Indicators and Actions

## I.1 Indicators in A Climate Conscious Wales,<sup>3</sup> the national adaption plan

### *Caring for the historic environment*

**HE1.** Knowledge: Complete and publish the *Historic Environment and Climate Change Sector Adaptation Plan*.

**HE2.** Knowledge: Improve understanding of the threats and opportunities for the historic environment from a changing climate.

**HE3.** Capacity: Develop the methodologies, tools and guidance needed to build adaptive capacity.

**HE4.** Resilience: Increase resilience of the historic environment by implementing actions to respond and adapt to the risks.

### *Protecting our coasts and seas*

**MCI.** Resilience: Improve the resilience of habitats and heritage in Wales's coastal zones from the impacts of climate change.

**MC4.** Knowledge: Carry out research to better understand the impact of climate change on marine ecosystems, ecosystem services and marine heritage.

## I.2 Actions identified in the SAP<sup>4</sup> to adapt to the impacts of climate change on the historic environment of Wales

The headline actions in the SAP are grouped into seven themes under the three overarching and linked objectives of increasing knowledge, increasing capacity and building resilience. Full details of the outputs and broad outcomes for each action are listed in the SAP.

**Knowledge: Increase our knowledge and understanding of the threats and opportunities for the historic environment from a changing climate**

1. Knowledge exchange/collaboration
2. Mapping and monitoring the resource
3. Research priorities

**Capacity: Develop the methodologies, tools and guidance to work with others and build adaptive capacity**

4. Dissemination and promotion
5. Collaborative working
6. Training and guidance

**Resilience: Increase resilience of the historic environment by implementing actions to respond and adapt to the risks**

7. Taking action

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<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales](http://www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales)

<sup>4</sup> [www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/climate-change/adapting-to-climate-change)

## 2 Methodology

Qualitative and quantitative evidence will be used to monitor and evaluate the SAP and A Climate Conscious Wales. Qualitative evidence will include the development of narratives on adaptation, evidence of change and case studies of practice which reduce climate change risk and vulnerability. Quantitative evidence will be used only where the actions clearly influence the indicators, and resources are available for measuring them.

An appropriate indicator, baseline, narrative or measure will be identified to monitor and evaluate progress for each action in the SAP. The following questions will help inform the monitoring and evaluation process:

- are the outputs from the proposed action being achieved?
- is the desired outcome/impact/change occurring from the action?

- is the action reducing risk/vulnerability?
- has change been stimulated by the action?
- what products have been delivered, for example, toolkits, mapping and guidance?

The SAP action table will be kept live with the addition of new actions as appropriate. Recording activities against the actions and monitoring their progress and impact will be an ongoing process.

This methodology aligns with the Welsh Government's A Climate Conscious Wales Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.<sup>5</sup>



Surface water runoff and erosion of a sunken green lane in the Wye Valley AONB  
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<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework](http://www.gov.wales/prosperity-all-climate-conscious-wales-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework)

### 3 Monitoring and Governance

Steps	Governance activity	Outcome
1	The HEG Climate Change Subgroup will formally request evidence relating to A Climate Conscious Wales indicators and SAP actions from HEG and other external delivery partners.	Evidence of activity
2	The HEG Climate Change Subgroup will consider the evidence and prepare an interim report, which will be presented to HEG for approval.	Interim report approved by HEG
3	HEG/HEG Climate Change Subgroup will publish the report and share with the WG Senior Climate Change Resilience Advisor (SCCRA).	Interim SAP report published in years 1, 2 and 3
4	HEG Climate Change Subgroup will commission an external review and evaluation of activities against the actions and outcomes. HEG will report progress against the indicators and actions to the Welsh Ministers.	Full external monitoring and evaluation report in year 4; report to the Welsh Ministers
5	The SAP will be updated every five years. Links will be made with the Welsh Government's A Climate Conscious Wales and the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). <sup>6</sup>	SAP reviewed and updated in year 5

### 4 Reporting and Evaluation

Year	Outcome	Steps	Timeline
1	Interim report of activity	1–3	2020–21
2	Interim report of activity	1–3	2021–22
3	Interim report of activity	1–3	2022–23
4	Full monitoring and evaluation report	1–4	2023–24
5	Updated SAP	5	2024–25

The SAP monitoring and evaluation reports will be published on the Cadw website. [www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www.cadw.gov.wales)

<sup>6</sup> [www.theccc.org.uk/](http://www.theccc.org.uk/)

# 5 Roles and Responsibilities

## 5.1 The Historic Environment Group

The Historic Environment Group (HEG) is a high-level forum set up by the Welsh Ministers to take a strategic overview of issues and opportunities in the historic environment and to promote common approaches. The group is made up of representatives from the major organisations in Wales with an interest in the historic environment to:

- promote partnership and joint working
- encourage communication and information sharing
- support coordinated action in the delivery of strategic priorities
- contribute to the development of strategy and policy.

One of the key areas of HEG activity is to address the challenge of climate change in the historic environment. To assist in this process, HEG established the Climate Change Subgroup.

HEG maintains close links with the subgroup and members offer strategic advice and participate in the following areas:

- contributing knowledge, ideas and actions on issues relating to climate change risk in Wales
- coordinating their organisation's delivery and contribution to the SAP
- advising and encouraging stakeholder engagement and partnership working across sectors to enable effective working and best use of available resources
- working with officials across Wales to embed the SAP in national and local government policy statements, plans, codes and decision making
- providing governance for monitoring and reviewing of the SAP.

Climate change will feature at HEG meetings as a standing agenda item for brief updates as required, and as a more substantial agenda item when discussing steering/strategic approaches and reporting on SAP actions.

## 5.2 HEG Climate Change Subgroup Terms of Reference

### 5.2.1 Role

The HEG Climate Change Subgroup is charged with assessing and reporting to HEG on how the historic environment sector in Wales should address the challenge of climate change. It is tasked to:

- oversee the effective delivery of the SAP
- interpret new and emerging climate change related risks and any new actions required in response
- maintain links with the Welsh Government and the UK Climate Change Committee
- establish and coordinate working groups as necessary to deliver on SAP priorities
- report on the activities of delivery partners and review progress against the SAP action table
- monitor, evaluate and report to HEG on the indicators and actions in A Climate Conscious Wales and the SAP
- form the pivotal link between any working groups ensuring a continual flow of information and advice between the groups.

### 5.2.2 Membership

- Welsh Government, Cadw
- Natural Resources Wales
- Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
- National Trust
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.

### 5.2.3 Meeting Schedule

- A minimum of three meetings per year to be held before HEG meetings.
- Additional meetings to be called as agreed by the subgroup.
- Meetings will be held face to face, virtually or in combination.

