

# **PRE-SCREENING NOTIFICATION**

## SEA PRE-SCREENING DOCUMENT

**Responsible Authority:** City of Edinburgh Council on behalf of World Heritage Site Steering Group composed of City of Edinburgh Council, Historic Environment Scotland and Edinburgh World Heritage.

**Title of the plan:** Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan 2023

**What prompted the plan:**  
(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

The United Kingdom has obligations under the World Heritage Convention 1972 in relation to effective management of World Heritage Sites requiring that every Site has an appropriate management structure in place. It is UK best practice that every World Heritage Site should have an up-to-date Management Plan in place.

**Plan subject:**  
(e.g. transport)

Heritage Conservation.

**Brief summary of the plan:**  
(including the area or location to which the plan related)

The Plan sets the broad policy framework to sustain and monitor the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site. One of these aims is to facilitate engagement by the communities living in, working in, and enjoying the World Heritage Site.

The Management Plan must follow UNESCO Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The Plan will include:

- Executive Summary and Purpose of the Management Plan
- Site description and brief history
- Statement of significance
- Interests in the World Heritage Site
- Vision and long term aims (2024 – 2050)
- Short term objectives reviewed biennially.
- Monitoring strategy, implementation, and performance indicators/ actions.

The vision and long-term aims will be set out in the Management Plan, as will the short-term objectives. However, these will be set out in more detail in a separate Action Programme for the site. The vision and long-term aims were informed by early stakeholder engagement on the previous management plan and remain unchanged.

[Map detail of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site boundary](#)

**Brief summary of the likely environmental consequences:**

(including whether it has been determined that the plan is likely to have no or minimum effects, either directly or indirectly)

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan was originally produced in 2005. The second iteration of the Plan was subject to a full SEA. This fourth version of the Plan continues to set the agenda for actions aimed at the conservation of the World Heritage Site. This iteration of the plan is a refresh of the existing plan, and no significant changes are envisaged. For this reason, this iteration of the Plan is likely to have minimal effects additional to those identified in the previous assessment.

The plan describes the significance of the Site, with particular emphasis on its Outstanding Universal Value. It is a continuation and co-ordination of existing actions towards the management of the World Heritage Site and minor changes will be based on the outcomes of stakeholder engagement and the past five years of monitoring. This reflects the requirements of UNESCO for identifying any need for change in the management of a World Heritage Site.

The Management Plan relates directly to the Edinburgh City Plan 2030 (currently at examination stage) and other relevant supplementary planning documents, which remain the main mechanism for local implementation of the priorities within the Plan.

The Management Plan:

- Includes the shared vision, long-term goals and shorter-term actions to preserve the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site's OUV
- Helps to explain the special qualities and values of the Site
- Advocates existing protective policies
- Influences the day-to-day management issues
- Provides supporting information on managing the opportunities and threats facing the Site
- Provides a framework to monitor the condition of the built environment.

It provides a framework for the management, promotion, and environmental improvement of the World Heritage Site. The plan will identify actions and targets for the management of the World Heritage Site in key areas such as the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value.

It will result in a reduction in duplication of efforts through better coordination with partner organisations and community groups.

It will guide the management of the World Heritage Site for 10 years, with interim monitoring of its associated actions.

The principal framework for managing development affecting the WHS is NPF4 and the Local Development Plan. The management plan provides background detail to and is a material consideration within the City Plan 2030. It is also a background document to other development within the City Council.

Ongoing work on the current Plan has identified environmental issues in relation to the impacts of both the Covid-19 Pandemic and the climate emergency on the fabric and the communities of the World Heritage Site. The emerging Plan will continue to provide a framework for environmental protection, and no significant changes to the existing plan are envisaged in relation to these environmental issues.

It is a tool for advocacy and provides the mechanism to inform and influence change through education opportunities and community engagement.

It is a tool for sharing good practice with other (international) urban World Heritage Sites to the benefit of the city.

[Current Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan](#)

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**Date of opinion:**

02/11/2023

When completed send to: [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or to SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

<sup>1</sup> Please note: (A) The plan has to fall into Section 5(4) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 & (B) you should apply the criteria specified within Schedule 2 of this Act to reach a conclusion on no or minimal environmental effects: [www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2005/15/contents) *(delete this note before submission)*