

Protocol for the consideration of OUV in the planning process

Context

This planning protocol has been agreed by partners to enable a collaborative response to the impact of development on the World Heritage Site (WHS) in the planning process.

Role and responsibilities

The day-to-day management of the World Heritage Site is overseen by a Steering Group that is made up of members from Historic Environment Scotland (HES), City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH). This partnership must demonstrate that it is fulfilling its obligation in meeting the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. To this end, each partner has a responsibility in considering the impact of development on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site.

World Heritage Site coordinator

In relation to protocol for the consideration of OUV in the planning process, the role of the World Heritage Site coordinator is the following:

- To promote the Outstanding Universal Value and public benefit of the WHS, increase awareness and understanding among partners, stakeholders and the public, and provide a central point for advice.
- To manage effective communication between Partners, provide key officer advice, and co-ordinate/advise on the implementation of related policies, plans and activities.
- To produce and/or co-ordinate formal reports for UNESCO, and for WHS Steering/Management Groups.

	WHS Coordinator	EWH	City of Edinburgh Council	HES
PLANNING APPs				
pre-application enquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform EWH of proposals that may impact on OUV. • Discuss case with case officer to advise of potential impact and have initial discussion on proposals. • Work with EWH to develop response to case officer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On receiving request for consultation advice, assess OUV impact and agree comments with WHS Co-ordinator • Send response to <i>case officer</i>, based on agreed comments. • n.b. if developer/architect asks for direct comments/advice, same process is followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this stage, onus on Team Principal and case officer to identify relevant proposals, inform WHS Co-ordinator, and provide relevant information and timescale for comment. • Will include proposals outside WHS that may have an impact on setting (key views). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cases where OUV impact should be considered • Discuss with WHS Co-ordinator • Attend pre-application consultee meetings to address OUV
live applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check weekly list of applications • If no pre-application discussion, assess impact on OUV with EWH. • If there has been previous discussion, check OUV has been addressed. • Be available for discussions with case officer and keep EWH and HES informed of application progress. • Consider S172 reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no pre-application discussion, assess OUV impact with WHS co-ordinator. • If there has been previous discussion, check OUV has been addressed. • Write to <i>case officer</i> with agreed comment. • n.b. if developer/architect asks for direct comments/advice, same process is followed. • Attend Committee to respond to consultation response on OUV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWH to confirm or otherwise that OUV issue has been addressed. • EWH comments to be included in Committee or delegated report in Appendix • If EWH objects or raises concerns, application should go to Committee • WHS co-ordinator may attend Committee to respond to any questions on OUV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify cases where statutory OUV impact should be considered • Discuss with WHS Co-ordinator • Maintain record of cases where OUV is considered/triggers national objection • Consider S172 reporting
Place Briefs & Masterplans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input after discussion with EWH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with WHS coordinator. Attend workshops as required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input managed by WHS co-ordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend workshops as required.
Key projects e.g. infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input alongside EWH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input to workshops, charrettes, etc., otherwise consultee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input as required
Policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input as required

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e.g. attributes, key views				
Public realm working groups eg Grassmarket, SWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As existing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input as required
Annual Monitoring Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management role • Responsible task for Co-ordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed by CEC. • Advise Planning Committee members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting role
WHS Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead project-management role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input and implementation • Report to Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task managed by CEC • WHS Steering Group and Oversight Group, co-ordinated and facilitated by CEC • Report to Planning Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct input and implementation • Report to Board

The above table indicates linkages and responsibilities for a range of tasks relating to the planning process.

Notes:

1. **Planning Applications.** EWH will be responsible for making comments to the case officer on development proposals. These comments will be put together and agreed first with the WHS co-ordinator. The WHS co-ordinator and EWH will only assess applications where there is likely to be an impact on the OUV of the Site. Where possible, involvement should be at the pre-application stage. Comments should be **focussed on the impact of the proposal on the OUV**, not on other matters which will be assessed by CEC officers. The majority of major applications will undergo pre-application consultations and comments should always be made at this stage, thereby enabling the final

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development of a proposal to take these comments into account. In the event that there is no pre application consultation, EWH will make comments to the *case officer* after discussing the proposal with the WHS co-ordinator. The role of HES has a broader reach in relation to their wider statutory function; however they also have a statutory role in considering impact and commenting on OUV.

2. **Place Briefs/Masterplans.** The WHS co-ordinator will work with EWH to gain their views. The focus should be on the OUV of the site. If there are workshops, charrettes, etc EWH and the WHS co-ordinator should attend. HES are likely to have a consultee role in this process.
3. **Key Projects.** The WHS co-ordinator is likely to have a direct input to key projects but it is also recognised that EWH will have a valuable contribution to make. It is therefore appropriate for EWH to be directly involved in any workshops or similar relating to such projects. Key projects are likely to include those relating to infrastructure/public realm/cultural facilities. HES are likely to have a consultee role in key projects.
4. **Policy Development.** The WHS co-ordinator is likely to have a direct input to policy development within the WHS and EWH and HES will remain as consultees.
5. **Involvement in Public Realm.** The WHS co-ordinator will be involved, as required, in public realm. It is anticipated that EWH will continue to have a direct involvement in such projects as they provide valuable input and can align their own project work to support CEC managed public realm projects.***HES role?
6. **Annual Monitoring Report.** This will be produced by the WHS Co-ordinator on behalf of the Steering Group.
7. **Management Plan.** The revision of the MP is a key task. The WHS Steering Group and Oversight Group should oversee this process. The WHS co-ordinator will take the lead role in ensuring the task is completed within agreed timescales. EWH and HES will continue to facilitate the process and work in partnership on this. CEC will produce the Management Plan on behalf of the WHS Steering Group.

Revised: January and July 2018.

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