

Built environment

Good-quality urban environments are vital for our health and well-being, most people are happy with their neighbourhood but problems remain.





The historic environment makes a valuable contribution to Scotland's economy, generating income and jobs across Scotland, and attracting millions of tourists.

Scotland's built environment comprises our cities, towns and the greenspaces within them. These urban areas are the major focus of economic and social activity; the majority of Scotland's people live and work in them.

The majority of people living in urban areas are happy with their neighbourhoods. However, there are still some poor quality urban environments which need attention. The main reasons for this are poor-quality housing and lack of infrastructure. Other issues such as air pollution, traffic pressures and the closure of heavy industries have also had an impact on the urban environment.

The historic environment is also affected by a range of pressures including inappropriate developments, land use change and climate change.

[Click for explanation of diagram.](#)

Topic	Summary
<p><u>Historic environment</u></p>  <p>Scotland's historic buildings and monuments are unique and irreplaceable, attracting millions of visitors and generating income and jobs.</p>	<p>Scotland's historic environment, which includes thousands of historic buildings and monuments, attracts millions of visitors each year and generates income and jobs. It provides a strong foundation in building a successful future for Scotland.</p> <p>Key pressures are: development, changing land use, climate change, coastal erosion and flooding, carbon footprint, renewable energy, funding, visitors, skills and materials and maintenance.</p>
<p><u>Cities, towns and greenspace</u></p>  <p>Scotland's cities and towns should be healthy, attractive and economically successful places to live, work and visit.</p>	<p>Successful, thriving and sustainable cities and towns play a key role in the lives of most people in Scotland.</p> <p>Services, employment and leisure activities make up the character and role of a place. As key contributors to the national economy, the prosperity and well-being of towns and cities is vital to Scotland becoming a more successful country.</p> <p>The majority are generally good places to live, with 90% of people rating their neighbourhood as good or fairly good.</p> <p>However, there are still significant issues in some deprived areas, related to population pressures, employment opportunities and a legacy of poor housing and inadequate infrastructure and amenities.</p>