

Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU)

Health Impact Assessment Screening Record Sheet

Conducted by:

Historic Environment (Wales) Bill Team

Title of programme, policy or project

Historic Environment (Wales) Bill

Description (including key aims and objectives)

The Bill provisions involve a number of technical amendments to the existing legislation, but taken together they will:

- Enable the Welsh Government and local authorities to give more effective protection to the historic environment;
- Enhance existing mechanisms for the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- Introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

Nature of Evidence considered/to be used (including baseline data, technical and qualitative research, expert and community knowledge)

The Bill itself will not have a direct impact on health and wellbeing. However research has been carried out¹ which provides robust evidence that the historic environment has a positive and significant impact on people's sense of place. It also made the link between people's sense of place and the positive impact on well-being.

Specific research carried out for English Heritage in 2014 into the impact of heritage and well being² found clear evidence that visiting heritage sites positively contributes to a person's well-being. The research found life satisfaction gained by such visits was slightly higher than participating in sport or the arts and the benefit was monetised as equating to £1,646 per person per year.

It is impossible to show a direct correlation between the individual Bill

¹ Historic Environment and Sense of Place: Heritage Counts 2009 <http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/Previous-Reports/HC-Sense-of-Place/>

² Heritage and Wellbeing; Fujiwara, Cornwall and Dolan; 2014 <http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/National-Report/>

provisions and benefits to well-being but given the outcomes of the research cited above it is evident that introducing measures that will allow more effective protection and management of the historic environment will result in a positive impact on people's wellbeing.

There is a link between the physical environment, health benefits and well-being; highlighting the fact that poorly designed, poorly managed, poorly maintained environments impoverish communities and are inherently unsustainable.

Key population groups affected by the programme, policy or project.
Using the list of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups included assess which groups amongst the general population will potentially be affected by the proposal

Vulnerable Groups
N/A
Other Groups
No specific population groups will be affected by the programme, policy or project.

Lifestyles	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
Improving the protection and management of the historic environment will assist in the sustainable survival and enhancement of heritage assets. Surveys have shown that some 73% of adults visited a heritage site in the previous 12 months. As such heritage sites can encourage physical activity by providing a focus for walks or by providing an environment to explore.		

Social and community influences on health	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
<p>The historic environment is seen as making a positive contribution to community life by boosting social cohesion, a sense of place and of a common cultural history. This will be supported by placing the Historic Environment Records on a statutory basis to ensure it sustainable future. The HER provides a freely accessible resource on the historic assets and historical information about their area and so can support community identity.</p>		

Living environmental conditions affecting health	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
<p>Enforcement powers for listed building and scheduled monuments will support the protection of the historic environment and its attractiveness. It will also enable neglect and blight within communities by stopping damage and ensuring assets are maintained to an appropriate standard.</p>		

Economic conditions affecting health	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
A 2010 study showed that the economic value of the historic environment in Wales which supported 19,000 F.T.E jobs directly and over 30,000 indirectly. It contributed some £1.8 billion in output and approximately £840 million to Wales' national Gross Added Value (GVA).		

Access and quality of services	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
The Bill will help support the provision of public amenities such as public parks and gardens by ensuring that the register of historic parks and gardens is complete and up to date, thereby ensuring the such amenities are protected by the planning process.		

Macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors	Vulnerable Groups/Distribution	
Positive (+)	Negative (-)	
<p>The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill forms part of a suite of legislation, policy, advice and guidance that will help improve existing systems for the protection and sustainable management of the historic environment. As outlined above the historic environment has a significant role in improving the well being and, to some extent the health, of the people of Wales.</p>		

Recommendations

Are the impacts that have been identified above enough to warrant a more comprehensive health impact assessment?

~~Yes~~/No

If No, what are the reasons for not conducting an assessment

<p>It is clear that the historic environment has a positive role to play in the well being, and to a lesser extent the health, of the people of Wales. The Bill will improve the protection and sustainable management of the historic environment and as such will have some limited, indirect, benefits but these are impossible to measure in terms of individual provisions or the Bill overall. The Bill will not have any negative impacts and, given, the relatively intangible benefits arising directly from the Bill provisions it is not considered that a more detailed assessment would serve a useful purpose.</p>

Do any additional actions need to be taken as a result of this HIA process?

Yes/No

If Yes, please outline (list recommendations and/or mitigation/enhancement here)

If a further HIA is required, outline next steps (E.g. Date and time of scoping meeting)

Have there or will there be other impact assessments conducted? ie Equality Impact Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment. Or will this form part of one?

If Yes, please outline

Yes.