Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL

From mountain to sea

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Strategy Review

2014-17

"We will aim to provide the best protection, management and promotion of the historic environment of Aberdeenshire for the benefit of all."

The review of the strategy is primarily an assessment of key priorities and outcomes achieved by Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service over the last 3 years.

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1 Introduction

From mountain to sea, Aberdeenshire boasts a rich and valuable resource in its historic environment. The archaeological sites, from the unique recumbent stone circles to castles, are internationally recognised for their importance and attract numerous visitors every year. The historic environment is an essential component of the character of Aberdeenshire and helps make it one of the most desirable places to live and visit. It is intrinsic to our sense of place and strong cultural identity.

However our historic environment is also dynamic and constantly changing through natural processes, development, land management and climate change. The historic environment resource is finite, and as such must be carefully managed in a sustainable way.

1.1 Review of Strategy

The Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service has the job of understanding, evaluating, safeguarding, and promoting the historic environment within Aberdeenshire and other Local Authorities with which it has an agreement. This involves partnership working across a diverse range of bodies including national agencies, academic institutions, public and private sector bodies, landowners, community groups and individuals. The core of the team's work is based around the sustainable development of the historic environment in the planning process.

The 'Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Strategy 2014-17' was the first Strategy produced by the Archaeology Service. The Review of the Strategy over the last three years shows what the Archaeology Service has delivered, or contributed to, in terms of Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire Council Priorities. The Strategy has also provided opportunities to improve efficiency, participation and collaboration with key stakeholders and partners, and embed best practice in the delivery of the Archaeology Service. Overall, it can be considered a success in terms of how it focussed and streamlined the team's working practices. However the Review process highlighted that future strategies could be presented in a more outcome focussed manner. , linking more closely to the team's Action Plan and better facilitating monitoring of performance for reporting purposes. The new Strategy for 2017-20 reflects these improvements.

1.2 Aberdeenshire Council's Vision for the Archaeology Service

It is Aberdeenshire Council's vision to be the best area and the best Council in Scotland. It is the vision of the Archaeology Service that the benefits gained from Aberdeenshire's unique historic environment should be available to those who live in, work in and visit Aberdeenshire, and that the value of these resources, and the need to protect and enhance them for future generations through sustainable management, is understood. This vision for the Archaeology Service can be summarised:

"*We will aim to provide the best protection, management and promotion of the historic environment of Aberdeenshire for the benefit of all.*"

2 Overview of Archaeology Strategy Performance 2014-17

The Archaeology Strategy objectives were drawn together to reflect the strategies, plans and policies which formed the 'golden thread' between Scottish Government outcomes and delivery on the ground. The Strategy objectives provided a common framework for a customer and performance focussed service. The staff worked in partnership with stakeholders to deliver a high quality, efficient service for best value.
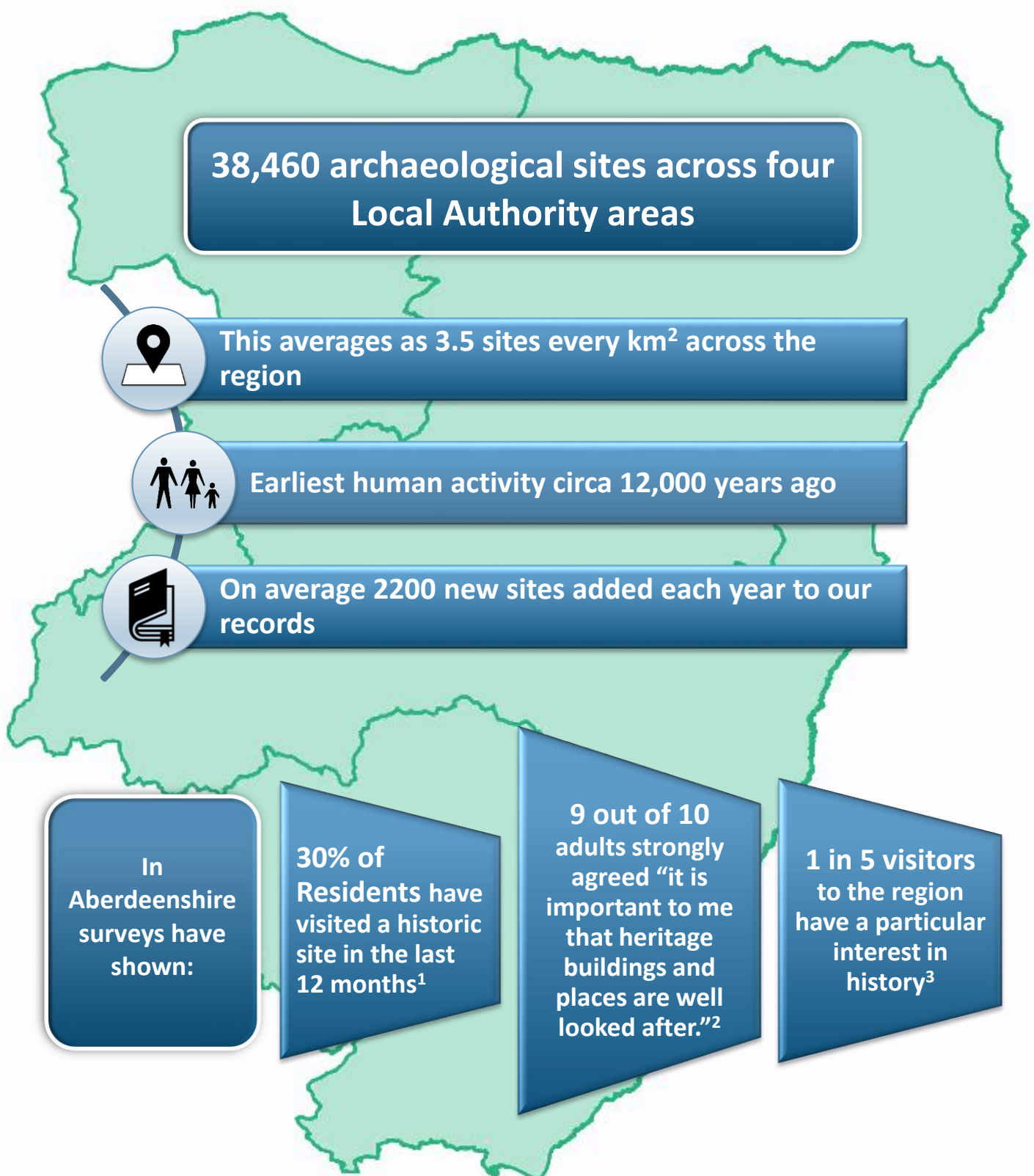
2.1 Team Objectives 2014-17

Over the 3-year period of the Strategy, the primary team objectives were achieved. The most significant step was expanding the service to include Aberdeen City Council, which secured an additional external funding stream. This sharing of the service, now with three other Local Authorities, results in a more resilient team delivering consistent best practice across the North East of Scotland.

Table 1: Team Objectives 2014-17

| Objective	Success Measure	Outcome
1 Protection	Increased no. of records in the Sites & Monuments Record by 17%	Better management of the historic environment
		Better understanding of the historic environment
		Increased public access to the historic environment resource
2 Management	Revised Planning Conditions implemented	Increased efficiency
		Better management of the historic environment
		Clarity for staff and public
3 Promotion	Developed a social media presence (Twitter, YouTube, SketchFab, Instagram)	Promotion of the region
		Increased economic activity
	Increased No. of local projects supported by 20%	Better public access to information
4 Operational	Signed Shared Service Agreement with Aberdeen City Council	Consistent service across Local Authorities
		Efficiency savings
		Resilient service

2.2 Overview of Resources

38,460 archaeological sites across four Local Authority areas

This averages as 3.5 sites every km² across the region

Earliest human activity circa 12,000 years ago

On average 2200 new sites added each year to our records

In Aberdeenshire surveys have shown:

30% of Residents have visited a historic site in the last 12 months[1]

9 out of 10 adults strongly agreed "it is important to me that heritage buildings and places are well looked after."[2]

1 in 5 visitors to the region have a particular interest in history[3]

Illustration 1: Historic Environment Overview in North East Scotland

[1]2015 Scottish Householder Survey, [2]People Culture and Heritage 2015, [3]Scotland Visitor Survey 2012

Illustration 2: Objective 1 – All currently known archaeological sites in North East Scotland (2017)
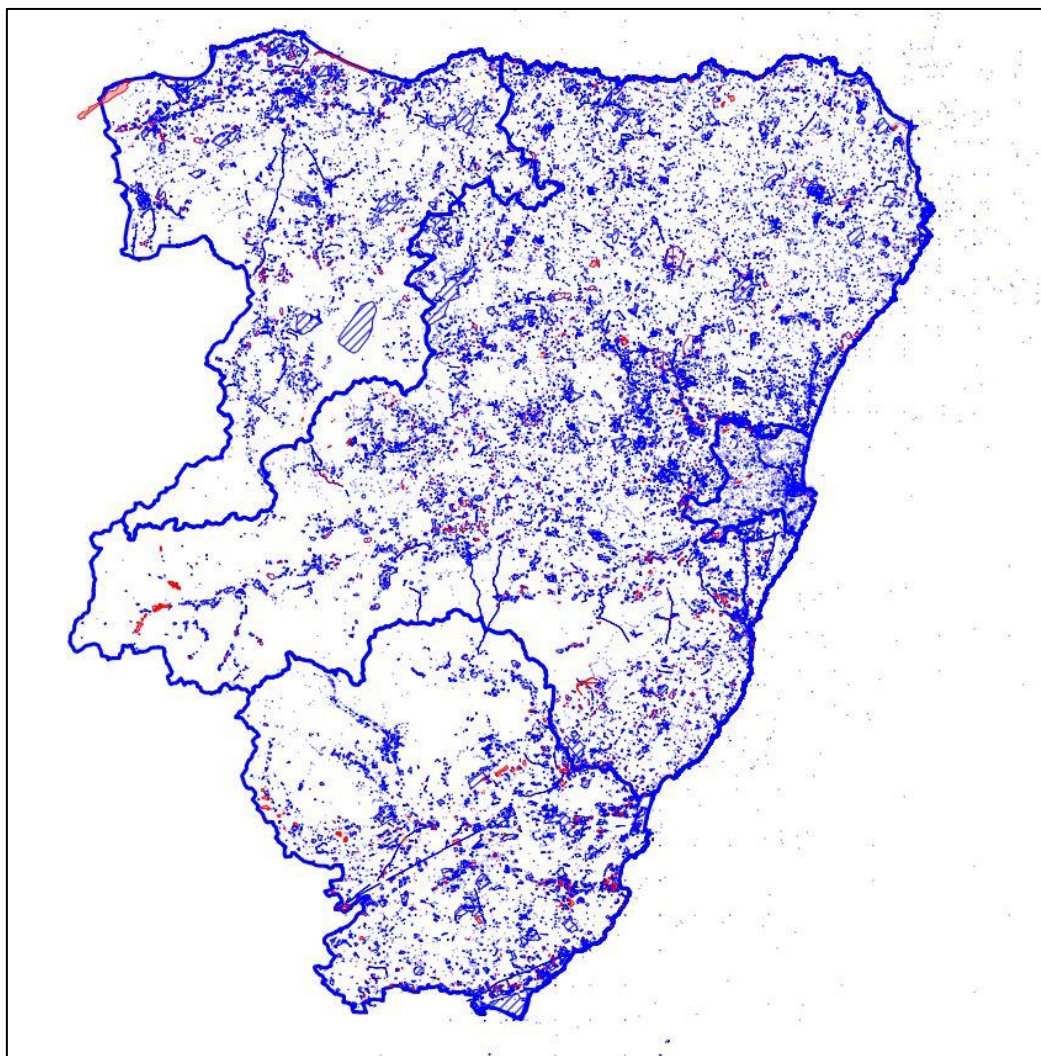
Table 2: Objective 1 – Local Authorities within Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service remit

Local Authorities within Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology service remit		
Aberdeenshire Council	6,317 sq. km 20,584 site records	8% of Scotland 7% of national record
Moray Council	2,237 sq. km 7,814 site records	2.9% of Scotland 2.7% of national record
Angus Council	2,184 sq. km 6,513 site records	2.8% of Scotland 2.2% of national record
Aberdeen City Council	182 sq. km 3,549 site records	0.2% of Scotland 1.2% of national record

Financial Year	Staff Numbers
2014/15	2.8 FTE
2015/16	2.8 FTE
2016/17	3.8 FTE

Table 3: Staffing

In 2016 a Shared Service Agreement was signed with Aberdeen City Council. The funding secured by this allowed for a 1.0 Full-time equivalent (FTE) SMR Assistant post to be filled, thereby increasing the team to 3 full-time individuals and 1 part-time individual.

Financial Year	Allocated Budget
2014/15	£183,200
2015/16	£199,530
2016/17	£219,145
TOTAL	£601,875

Table 4: Budget

Amount of funding allocated by Aberdeenshire Council as budget for the Archaeology Service, including salary and associated staff costs.

Financial Year	Income
2014/15	£47,031
2015/16	£70,355
2016/17	£65,300
TOTAL	£182,686

Table 5: Income

Total income generated by Archaeology Service.

2014-17 Average Working Day for Archaeology Service

£	**Resources**	• **3.8** FTE staff • Spent **£771.66** of archaeology budget (including staffing costs) • Generated **£237.25** of income
	Supporting Sustainable Development	• Checked **24** planning applications • Commented on **2.8** planning applications • Instigated **2** pieces of archaeological mitigation work • Commented on **1** other land use change consultation
	Improving Management of Historic Environment	• Created **8.6** new site records • Updated **12.4** site records • Supported **8** historic environment projects • Contributed **£96.38** to historic environment projects • Facilitated **£275.28** external funding for historic environment projects
	Creating Community Opportunities	• Provided support to **0.04** ongoing community project • Contributed **£58.92** to community projects • Facilitated **£198.73** external funding for community projects • Created **4.2** volunteer days, worth **£451.39**
	Promoting Aberdeenshire	• **367** people visited the website • **46** people searched the online databases • **25** leaflets picked up by visitors • **2** posts on social media read by **5470** people
	Sharing Skills and Knowledge	• Trained **0.18** Development Management staff • Answered **6.8** general enquiries from the public • Contributed to **0.2** policy, strategy, guidance or plan documents • Supported the work of **1** national group or organisation

Table 6: Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology service 2014-17 Average Working Day (based on 770 available working days over the 3-year period).

2.3 Team Objective 1 – Protection

Maintain a record of all known archaeological sites, between 12,000 BC and 1945 AD, to use that record as a basis to provide expert advice and information on those sites, and to ensure that all sites are protected where possible for future generations.

Table 7: Team Objectives – Protection

Team Objectives – Protection – Achieved 2014-17
1. Develop, maintain and update the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR)
2. Provide input into national policy and guidance development
3. Provide input into Local Development Plan process
4. Provide input into historic asset designation process
5. Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations at national, regional and local level to share knowledge and best practice
6. Develop and support projects that protect the historic assets in the area, or which increase our understanding of the historic environment of the area

Table 8: Team Objective 1 – Protection: Overview of Performance Indicators

Team Objective 1 Performance Indicator	2014-17 Totals	Outcome
Total No. of Records in SMR databases (31st March 2017)	38,460	Better management of the historic environment
Total No. of New Records Added	6,143	Better management of the historic environment
Total No. of Records Updated	9,541	Better understanding of the historic environment
Total No. of Historic Environment Management Projects Supported	32	Enhanced communities and places
		Better protection of the historic environment

Total Funding Contributions to Historic Environment Management Projects	£74,215.47	Higher quality of project delivery
Total External Funding Raised by Historic Environment Management Projects	£211,969.10	For every £1 invested into asset projects, £2.86 was match funded
Total No. of Volunteer Days Created	666	Enhanced skills Enhanced wellbeing
Economic Value of Volunteers	£72,247.00	Greater re-investment in the historic environment

2.3.1 The Sites & Monuments Record (SMR, also known as the Historic Environment Record or HER) is the principal source of, and signpost to, information relating to historic landscapes, buildings, monuments, sites, places, and archaeological finds spanning more than 12,000 years of human activity in the region. While primarily used for planning and development management, the records also fulfil an educational and visitor attraction role.

Over the last three years the records have seen a significant increase as a result not only of new discoveries, but also from an ongoing programme of including all maritime sites and all Listed Buildings for Aberdeenshire, Moray and Angus Council areas. This is in anticipation of future additional responsibilities associated with regional marine planning boards, and the increased recording of designated structures in the planning process at a Local Authority level.

In addition, since the implementation of the Shared Service Agreement with Aberdeen City Council, the SMR for Aberdeen has undergone a complete rebuild to ensure it meets national standards. The new database is expected to be launched online in the autumn of 2017.

2.3.2 The baseline information provided by the Sites & Monuments Record allows the Archaeology Service to provide management and mitigation advice to landowners, agents, developers, local communities and researchers.

As of March 2017, the baseline consists of 38,460 known archaeological sites in the North East, many of which are recognised as being of national importance through the scheduling process. There are currently 652 Scheduled Monuments in Aberdeenshire.

2.3.3 Our understanding of these sites is constantly developing as new discoveries are made. For staff to be able to keep pace with these changes, and provide the most accurate management advice possible to landowners and developers, the Archaeology Service supports projects which develop our understanding of the region's history. These projects not only help to inform sustainable development, but also provide opportunities for communities to learn about, and engage with, Aberdeenshire's past.

2.3.4 At a national and local level the Archaeology Service has also continued to contribute to the development of policies and guidance documents. Essential to the protection and management of archaeological sites, which are by their very nature a finite resource, are the Local Development Plan policies within each Local Authority.

Without clear understanding of the significance of the historic environment presented in these policies, and the positive opportunities it offers to landowners, it is all too easy to regard archaeological sites as 'contaminated' land which need to be 'dealt with' under the polluter pays principle. Through closer working with other Council staff, in particular Development Management, the team has helped to ensure that the historic environment is becoming increasingly better integrated into masterplans and other forward planning documents. This not only ensures that sites are protected for the future, but that they also help new developments gain a sense of place, and as a consequence value, from the onset.

2.3.5 The team continues to be acknowledged as an example of delivering best practice both at a Scotland and a UK wide level in terms of planning mitigation advice, partnership working, and inputting into policy development. Over the last three years the team have represented the Council on the following national groups:

- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO: Scotland) *Association Chair 2014-17*
- Sites & Monuments Record Forum (Scotland)
- Built Environment Forum Scotland
- Scotland's Historic Environment Data (SHED) Strategy Programme Board
- Scotland's Historic Environment Data (SHED) Strategy Management Board
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) Historic Environment Working Group 6 - Undesignated Assets
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy - Aim 3 Caring & Protecting
- The Archaeology Forum (TAF) UK
- Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) Liaison Group UK

Furthermore the team have supported partnership working with the following organisations for activities undertaken in North East Scotland:

- North-East Scotland Archaeological Exchange
- North-East Scotland Archaeological Research Society
- Doric Diggers
- National Museum of Scotland
- University of Aberdeen
- University of Reading
- University of Wyoming
- University of Dublin
- University of Stirling,
- University of Bradford
- University of Harvard
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- National Trust for Scotland
- VisitScotland
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Marine Scotland
- Scottish National Heritage

Finally the team have input (through working groups, steering boards, formal responses, provision of evidence, interviews) into the following national policy and strategy consultations during 2014-17:

- Historic Environment Bill (Scottish Government)
- Sampling Large Burial Grounds (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burial Grounds in England)
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy (Historic Environment Scotland)
- Scotland's National Peatland Plan (Scottish Natural Heritage)
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy Consultation
- Permitted Development Rights Review
- Scotland's Planning Review
- Historic Environment Scotland's Managing Change in Battlefields Guidance
- Burial & Cremation and other related matters in Scotland Bill
- Our Place in Time Strategy – Measuring Success
- Forestry Commission Scotland Guidance for Archaeology

| Case Study 1	Upper Dee Tributaries Project, Aberdeenshire
Who	2013-16 partnership project with National Trust for Scotland, University of Aberdeen, University of Stirling, and University of Dublin
Where	Mar Lodge Estate and the glens feeding into the upper River Dee
Aim	Advance our understanding of the early prehistoric archaeology of the Mar Lodge Estate and contribute to the successful management of prehistoric remains in these upper river catchment and glen landscapes.
Results	Identification of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age settlement and activity in areas previously considered sterile for these periods of time.
Legacy	Development of a Management Plan for sustainable forestry planting across the estate, meeting EU requirements for creating shaded water courses for the protection of fresh water mussels.
	A series of community events ranging from talks to guided walks and demonstration days.
	Development of a methodology for archaeological monitoring during forestry planting in upper glen and highland areas.
	50 volunteers trained, providing 290 voluntary days.

Case Study 2	National Planning Framework – Shared Services
Who	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service
Where	Angus, Moray, and Aberdeen City Councils
Aim	Renew and establish legal agreements with neighbouring Local Authorities to deliver an archaeology service to those areas, with particular reference on provision of consistent expert advice to the development management process.
Results	Delivery of Service Level Agreements with Moray and Angus Councils, Shared Service Agreement with Aberdeen City Council.
Legacy	Scottish Government recognition of good practice by Aberdeenshire Council and its Archaeology Service in the Planning Performance Framework (Indicator 13 'Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge between authorities').
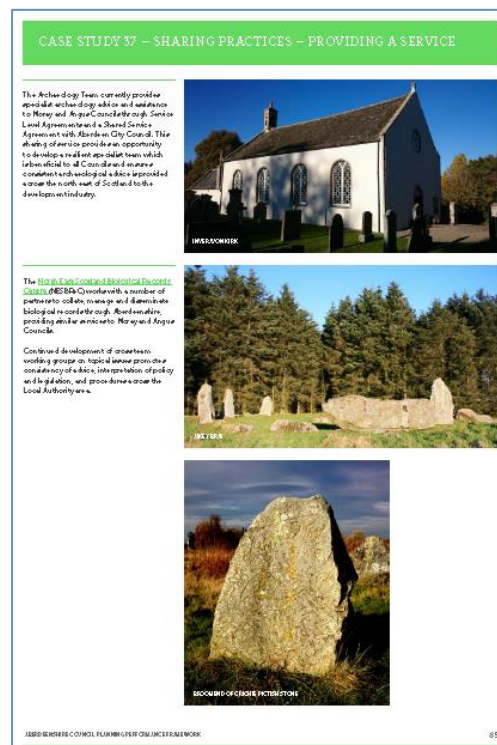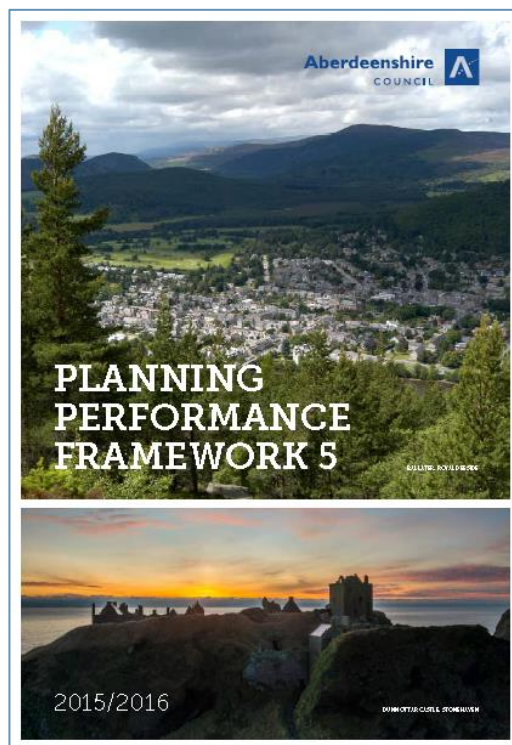
2.4 Team Objective 2 – Management

Provide advice, support and expertise to ensure that conservation and change within the historic environment is managed in a considered, sustainable way, in line with national and local policies.

Table 9: Team Objectives – Management

Team Objectives – Management – Achieved 2014-17
7 Provide consultation advice and support to the Development Management Process
8 Provide consultation advice and support to the Forestry Process
9 Provide consultation advice and support to the Agri-environment Process
10 Provide consultation advice and support to the Utility Process
11 Provide consultation advice for property enquiries
12 Provide advice and support for human remains discovery and reporting
13 Provide advice and support for artefact discovery and reporting
14 Provide advice and support to Scheduled Monument Consent process
15 Provide and exchange information and advice to colleagues, government, charitable, private, commercial and public individuals and organisations on the historic environment
16 Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations
17 Establish and explore opportunities for sharing services with other local authorities

Table 10: Team Objective 2: Management – Overview of Performance Indicators

Team Objective 2 Performance Indicator	2014-17 Totals	Outcome
Total No. of Planning Applications dealt with	2,192	Better management of historic environment
		Increased sustainable development
Total average response time to a Planning Application (days)	13.3	More efficient development management process
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days *(includes direct consultations and weekly list monitoring)*	59.5%	Increased customer satisfaction
Total No. of archaeological mitigations put into place	1,604	Better protection of historic environment
		Increased sustainable development
Total No. of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans dealt with	170	Better protection of historic environment
		Increased sustainable development
Percentage of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans responded to within 14 days	85.7%	Increased customer satisfaction
Total No. of Forest Plans and Felling Applications dealt with	422	Better management of historic environment
		Increased sustainable planting
Percentage of Forest Plans and Felling Applications responded to within 28 days	100%	Increased customer satisfaction
Total No. of Scottish Rural Development Plans dealt with	60	Better management of historic environment
		Increased sustainable farming and forestry
Percentage of Scottish Rural Development Plans responded to within 28 days	100%	Increased customer satisfaction

Total No. of Utility and Other Applications Dealt with	158	Better management of historic environment
		Increased sustainable development
Percentage of Utility and Other Applications responded to within 28 days	100%	Increased customer satisfaction
Total No. of General Enquiries dealt with (internet derived only)	5,226	Customer satisfaction

2.4.1 The core business of the Archaeology Service is to conserve and manage the historic environment through ensuring sustainable landscape change. Provision of advice ranges from advice to developers during the planning process, to advice to landowners looking to develop forestry plantations, to helping utility companies mitigate against unexpected impacts. The consultations the team are involved with cover almost all scales and types of change within the landscape.

During the period that this Review covers the number of overall planning applications being submitted has decreased within Aberdeenshire, but this is contrasted by a steady increase in the Angus and Moray Council areas, and the addition from 2016 of Aberdeen City planning applications to our caseload. Amongst the developments that have happened are several major infrastructure projects including the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route, the new Nigg Bay Harbour, the new Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, the Aberdeen Art Gallery redevelopment, the HVDC Shetland to Keith offshore/onshore cable route, and the Jericho to Old Rayne gas pipeline installation. All of these, and numerous smaller developments, have led to significant archaeological discoveries requiring careful oversight between numerous contractors and Council Departments.

Key to the Service's successful input into these developments is the all-inclusive approach by the team of not only engaging with applicants at an early stage, such as through Major Pre-application meetings, and detailed explanations of what mitigation requirements are expected, but also the support given throughout the works. This support includes reviewing all stage documents produced by archaeological contractors, discussions and meetings where required for any issues which arise, and guidance for stepped discharge of planning conditions where on-site works may have finished, but complicated post-excavation analysis and publication are still required.

2.4.2 Also within the Strategy period, the Archaeology Service undertook a significant expansion in 2015 when a temporary agreement was reached with Aberdeen City Council to provide a service to them following the retirement of their own in-house archaeologist. This agreement was formalised into a Shared Service Agreement in 2016, with funding securing the employment of an additional member of staff within the team. By providing a service to other Local Authorities efficiency savings are achieved, while ensuring a robust team is in place delivering consistent support across the whole of North East Scotland.

2.4.3 Out with the usual development works seen across the North East of Scotland, the last three years has seen an increase in two particular threats to the physical remains of the historic environment: climate change and heritage crime.

Climate change is most notably evidenced by heavier localised rainfall over a short duration. The warmer climate is also placing more stretches of coastline at risk from erosion, changing the chemistry of soils within fields, increasing the number of flood events, and causing the failure of the historic fabric of buildings. We are still at an early stage in understanding the full implications of these changes, but the team has worked with services across all four of the Local Authorities within their remit to provide advice and project support as attempts are made to identify and protect key community assets.

The second threat is the increase in heritage crime. The term "heritage crime" relates to any crime committed against a cultural heritage asset, that is to say any historic or archaeological site, monument or building, and includes metal theft, vandalism, stone theft, graffiti, arson attacks, and unlawful metal detecting on historic sites. The number of instances of damage to assets within North East Scotland has seen an increase in recent years. Going forward, this is an issue which the team will be more proactive in monitoring and reporting, working in partnership with key Council initiatives such as the Historic Asset Management Project (HAMP).

2.4.4 Overall the last three years should be seen in a positive light. The following case-studies give a flavour of some of the more significant discoveries that have been made as a result of the Archaeology Service's work, and the continued positive working relationships it has with commercial, private and public sector organisations.

Case Study 3	Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route
Who	2007-18 Transport Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Jacobs, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Historic Environment Scotland
Where	Aberdeen City, extending into Aberdeenshire
Aim	Provide advice, oversight, and stage completion sign-off for all archaeological mitigation works associated with the construction of £745m new trunk road bypass for Aberdeen, and its associated infrastructure.
Results	Successful oversight to completion of major 3-year programme of archaeological fieldwork completed during the period of this Strategy. Agreed programme of post-excavation analysis, publication, and community outreach.
Legacy	Significant discoveries of national importance dating from the Lower Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, and Early Medieval periods. New understanding of the formation of the River Dee, of human activity in the hinterlands between the Don and the Dee, and of Roman activity of a type not seen on the northern borders of the empire before. An academic and a popular publication of the findings and what it means for our understanding of the history of North East Scotland is forthcoming.

Case Study 4	New SSE Substation Development, Kintore
Who	2014-15 Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE), Amey, Guard Archaeology Ltd
Where	Leylodge, Kintore
Aim	Provide mitigation requirements and advice during the planning process, and provide advice and oversight to both SSE and their contracting unit during excavation works, ahead of the construction of a new electricity substation.
Results	Discovery and successful excavation of a nationally significant 14th/15th Century farm building.
Legacy	The first such find of its kind in Aberdeenshire, and a rare survival in Scotland. The excavation has provided valuable insights into medieval rural life in the region. Furthermore the discovery led to widespread national news coverage, helping to showcase the importance of Aberdeenshire's history.

Case Study 5	Portstown/Osprey Heights Housing Development, Inverurie
Who	2013-15 Barratt North Scotland, Malcolm Allan Housebuilders Ltd, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Cameron Archaeology Ltd
Where	Uryside and Portstown, Inverurie
Aim	Provide mitigation requirements and advice during the planning process. Provide advice to both developers and their contracting units during the £110,000 archaeological project works ahead of the construction of a new residential development.
Results	Discovery and successful excavation of a regionally significant Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement, and a Neolithic cremation cemetery. Successful advice and transition assistance between the initial archaeological contractor and the principal one when the original contractor became overstretched by the volume of archaeology on the site.
Legacy	A programme of community events including lectures have helped the local community understand their history better. Furthermore the discovery of a prehistoric settlement and activity over a 4,000 year period on this site has helped develop our understanding of human activity in the Garioch area, and improved our knowledge of what to expect ahead of similarly located developments.

Case Study 6	Balmachie Road Sports Pitches, Carnoustie
Who	2016-17 Angus Council, Guard Archaeology Ltd
Where	Balmachie Road, Carnoustie
Aim	Provide mitigation requirements and advice during the planning process, and provide support to the Council during the contractor tendering process. Provide advice to the Council and their contracting unit during the £246,900 archaeological project ahead of the construction of two new sports pitches.
Results	Discovery and successful excavation of an internationally significant Bronze Age hoard with surviving organic remains, two Neolithic Timber Halls, and a Bronze Age settlement.
Legacy	A programme of community events including volunteer placements, local lectures, and site tours. Worldwide press coverage, helping to showcase the importance of Angus's history. Significant advances in our understanding of both early Neolithic settlement in Scotland, and in the use of animal pelts and textiles on Bronze Age metalwork. Further results to come following an extensive programme of post-excavation analysis.

2.5 Team Objective 3 – Promotion

Promote understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment, and to ensure that it is at the heart of community wellbeing, economic development and sense of place.

Table 11: Team Objectives – Promotion

Team Objective 3 – Promotion – Achieved 2014-17
18 Develop, maintain and update Archaeology section of corporate website
19 Provide training days as appropriate
20 Develop and support projects which increase public participation and enjoyment of environment in the area
21 Develop promotional material on the historic environment of the area, focussing on tourism opportunities
22 Participate in relevant promotional events which highlight the historic environment of the area
23 Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations

Table 12: Team Objective 3: Promotion – Overview of Performance Indicators

Team Objective 3 Performance Indicator	2014-17 Totals	Outcome
Total No. of Online SMR Database Users (hosted on corporate website)	35,735	Greater public access to information Better awareness of historic environment
Total No. of page views of website (hosted on corporate website)	283,089	Information about archaeology in Aberdeenshire has reached people in 108 different countries
Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	6	Better understanding and management of historic environment

Total No. of Attendees at Training Events Delivered	140	Better prepared Development Management staff
Total No. of Community Projects Supported	31	Enhanced communities and places Better protection of the historic environment
Total Funding Contributions to Community Projects	£45,374.41	Higher quality of project delivery
Total External Funding Raised by Community Projects	£153,022	For every £1 invested into community projects, £3.37 was match funded
Total No. of Volunteer Days Created	2,537	Enhanced skills Enhanced wellbeing
Total Economic Value of Volunteers	£275,322	Greater re-investment in the historic environment
Total No. of Leaflets Distributed	19,000	Promotion of the region
Total No. of Twitter Followers (as of 31st March 2017)	4,216	Greater public access to information Promotion of the region
Total No. of Instagram Followers (as of 31st March 2017)	375	Greater public access to information Promotion of the region
Total No. of SketchFab Views (as of 31st March 2017)	2,000	Greater public access to information Promotion of the region
Total No. of YouTube Views (as of 31st March 2017)	40	Promotion of the region

2.5.1 One objective of the 2014-17 Strategy was to increase the number of opportunities for the local community to participate in archaeological projects in the North East, giving people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to volunteer, learn new skills, and interact with the historic environment. Surveys and excavations cannot be undertaken by the team itself given the resource implications, as well as the amount of time required to fully manage multiple projects.

In order to help facilitate this, the Archaeology Service has successfully used part of its annual budget to fund local projects which not only allow voluntary participation, but which also provide direct benefits back to both the local community in terms of asset management and to the wider understanding of archaeology in the region.

2.5.2 A successful example of partnership working from the last three years involved the Archaeology Service working in tandem with a local community group, the MacRobert Trust, and the University of Reading at Hillhead, a site on the hills above Tarland. Forestry operations had unintentionally damaged a site recorded as a prehistoric 'hut-circle'. Following a meeting with the Trust it was decided to use the site as an opportunity for excavation overseen by the University of Reading - who had experience of working in the area - aided by local community volunteers.

The resultant project not only trained a core set of volunteers in new skills such as survey and excavation techniques, but also revealed a previously unknown recumbent stone circle and later Bronze Age settlement across the wider landscape. For everyone involved it brought a new appreciation of the history in the Howe of Cromar, as well as a new programme of academic research in the area. Further projects, such as the development of hiking and bike trails around the village, are being undertaken by the community in order to capitalise on the wealth of historic assets within easy reach.

2.5.3 It is also worth noting the economic benefits of this volunteer work - the monetary worth of local people giving up their time to participate in these projects allows the limited funding available to go significantly further, both within a particular project and towards the funding of new projects elsewhere.

2.5.4 During the 2014-17 Strategy period, the team also looked to increase public awareness and enjoyment of the historic environment. Aberdeenshire contains a wealth of historic assets and landscapes providing not only a sense of place for local residents but also a key reason for visitors deciding to spend time in the area. Such visits are essential for healthy economic development in the region and the Archaeology Service supports where it can any initiative which helps drive this business forward.

At a national level, 2016 saw the overarching Scottish Government theme of 'Year of Innovation, Architecture & Design' being introduced followed by 2017's 'Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology'. The Service participated in a series of events celebrating these two years, ranging from poster displays to themed site promotions via the website and social media to lectures at conferences. Audience reach varied from 200 people attending a lecture at the 2017 Hall of Mirrors Conference in Aberdeen to circa 40,000 views per month on Twitter.

2.5.5   Supplementing these themed promotions, the team also targeted opportunities for specific media promotion. In 2015 a series of three feature articles were produced for the Press & Journal looking at the history of the Picts, Stone Circles, and Castles in Aberdeenshire, and which sites to visit. Online features have included participation in the annual international 'Day of Archaeology' blogs, showcasing not only sites from North East Scotland but also the day-to-day work of the team itself. The level of public interest in the historic environment is considerable. The discovery in 2015 of medieval monastic skeletons during works next to Aberdeen Art Gallery (which preceded the 2016 finds from underneath the Art Gallery itself) involved the team not only advising contractors on site, but also the Council's Public Communication Team. The publicity reach within the first week consisted of:

- 5 local newspaper stories
- 2 national newspaper stories
- 3 national magazine articles
- 2 local radio interviews
- 1 national radio interview
- 2 national TV news stories
- 76,665 people reading the Council's Facebook article
- 2,614 people reading the Twitter updates

2.5.6   To fully exploit the potential of social media, which has seen a significant upturn over the period that this review covers, a series of new audiences have been targeted through the creation of Twitter, Instagram, SketchFab, and YouTube accounts. These accounts highlight key events for people to participate in and sites to visit across North East Scotland. Each year has seen significant increases in numbers of 'followers' of these accounts, with positive feedback from users around the world.

Case Study 7	Aden Country Park, Aberdeenshire
Who	2014-17 partnership project with Cameron Archaeology Ltd, Book of Deer Project, Aberdeenshire Council Museum service, Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services
Where	Aden Country Park
Aim	Excavate the alleged 19th Century 'Episcopal Meeting House' in order to understand its date and function, and develop a Management Plan for this Council owned asset.
Results	Identification of a previously unknown late medieval tower house, predating the ruined mansion house currently seen by visitors to Aden.
Legacy	79 volunteers trained, providing 762 volunteer days.
	5 local Primary Schools and 1 Secondary School involved in 2016. This provided a learning day on site to 295 children and 15 helpers.
	Delivery of 15 community events.
	A key site forming part of a successful 2016 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid for the Park.

| Case Study 8	Harper's Bazaar Fashion Shoot, Aberdeenshire
Who	2016 Harper's Bazaar
Where	Easter Aquhorthies Stone Circle, Inverurie
Aim	Arrange access and support for a Harper's Bazaar magazine fashion shoot. Promote Aberdeenshire as a viable backdrop location for the media industry.
Results	February 2017 fashion article in Harper's Bazaar entitled "High Priestess" featuring Gucci and other dresses modelled at Easter Aquhorthies Stone Circle. Additional shots taken at Nine Stanes Stone Circle, Banchory.
Legacy	Magazine distribution reached circa 110,000 people. Positive feedback from LS Productions for using Aberdeenshire in future work.

Case Study 9	Pictish Stone Trail and Stone Circle Trail, Aberdeenshire
Who	2014-15 Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development European Funding Team
Where	Aberdeenshire
Aim	Launch visitor guides to ten of the best stone circles and ten of the best Pictish symbol-stones in Aberdeenshire in order to increase visitor numbers to archaeological sites in Aberdeenshire.
Results	Production of two new trail leaflets, funded in part by the EU Regional Development Fund. The Stone Circle Trail leaflet launched in 2015 in both German and English, followed in 2016 by the Pictish Stone Trail leaflet.
Legacy	8,000 Stone Circle Trail leaflets in English distributed to date.

5,000 Stone Circle Trail leaflets in German distributed to date, both here in the UK and in Germany.

6,000 Pictish Stone Trail leaflets distributed to date.

Stone Circle Trail leaflet included in Forestry Commission Scotland education packs.

Foundation for a new suite of visitor trails and leaflets promoting Aberdeenshire to a wider audience. Future leaflets in the series are being planned. |
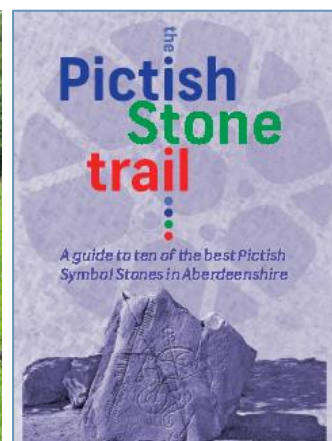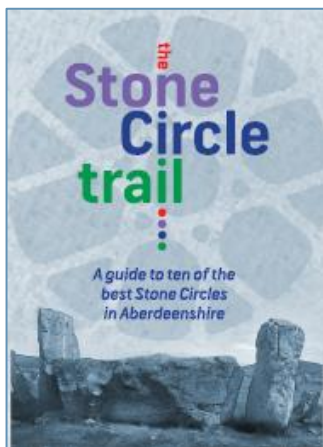
2.6 Team Objective 4 – Operational

Ensure that the Archaeology Team's service is high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Table 13: Team Objectives - Operational

Team Objectives – Operational – Achieved 2014-17
24 Develop and maintain a Team Strategy and Action Plan
25 Ensure staff CPD requirements are met as required by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA)
26 Maintain Key Performance Indicators
27 Produce performance reports
28 Maintain continuous service improvement

2.6.1 The team has continued to pursue a programme of continual improvement, both in each individual's professional development and in shared day-to-day working practices. Key has been the review and overhaul of the team's operational manual during the last three years. This document details each key business process to be followed, whether it be dealing with those seeking permission to metal-detect on Council land to step-by-step 'how to' guides for adding new information to the databases and Geographical Information System (GIS). This process mapping allows for a consistent approach by all staff across different areas of work, and ensures that relevant training material is on hand to support new staff coming into the team.

2.6.2 In 2015-16 the team undertook, with Development Management staff, a review of model planning conditions used in the planning process. This led to revised wording of model planning conditions used by planning staff, the removal of two condition types which were considered to be outdated when compared to current policy requirements, and the creation of a suite of model informatives to be applied to planning Decision Notices as required. This has led to greater clarity for applicants and developers in terms of understanding what archaeological planning conditions and their mitigation requirements mean for them. This has ensured that any planning condition requested to be applied to a planning application would meet the required six tests as set out within Circular 4/1998.

2.6.3 In addition the team has undertaken review of all its key performance indicators and implemented additional ones where required following the national review of Measuring Success for Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy 'Our Place in Time'. The results of these new indicators can be seen throughout this document and in the annual reports to the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC).

3 Detailed Archaeology Strategy Performance Indicators 2014-17

3.1 Team Objective 1 – Protection

Table 14: Team Objective 1 – Sites and Monuments Record - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 1 – Sites and Monuments Record	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
Total No. of Records in database	20,257	20,308	20,584
No. of New Records Added	456	51	276
No. of Records Updated	3,776	2,057	822
Moray Performance Indicator			
Total No. of Records in database	5,928	7,236	7,307
No. of New Records Added	138	1308	71
No. of Records Updated	404	236	559
Angus Performance Indicator			
Total No. of Records in database	6,219	6,364	6,513
No. of New Records Added	0	145	149
No. of Records Updated	567	317	803

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

Total No. of Records in database	n/a	n/a	3,549
No. of New Records Added	n/a	n/a	3,549
No. of Records Updated	n/a	n/a	0

Table 15: Team Objective 1 – Historic Environment Management Projects - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 1 – Historic Environment Management Projects	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
No. of Historic Environment Management Projects Supported	7	10	7
Funding Contributions to Historic Environment Management Projects	£21,298	£26,817	£11,521
External Funding Raised by Historic Environment Management Projects	£108,528	£27,550.10	£17,700
No. of Volunteer Days Created	239	173	76
Economic Value of Volunteers	£25,927	£18,767	£8,244
Moray Performance Indicator			
No. of Historic Environment Management Projects Supported	1	2	0

Funding Contributions to Historic Environment Management Projects	£4169.47	£3,000	£0
External Funding Raised by Historic Environment Management Projects	£54,991	£2,000	£0
No. of Volunteer Days Created	84	84	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	£9,112	£9,112	£0

Angus Performance Indicator

No. of Historic Environment Management Projects Supported	0	0	2
Funding Contributions to Historic Environment Management Projects	£0	£0	£0
External Funding Raised by Historic Environment Management Projects	£0	£0	£0
No. of Volunteer Days Created	0	0	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	£0	£0	£0

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

No. of Historic Environment Management Projects Supported	n/a	1	2
Funding Contributions to Historic Environment Management Projects	n/a	£6,370	£1,040
External Funding Raised by Historic Environment Management Projects	n/a	£0	£1,200

No. of Volunteer Days Created	n/a	10	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	n/a	£1,085	£0

Table 16: Team Objective 1 – Historic Environment Management Projects - Overview 2014-17

Historic Environment Management Projects Overview 2014-15	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Aberdeenshire Council Area			
North East Roundhouse Research Project (Aberdeenshire)	£4,000	• £4,400 external funding • 3 volunteers • 51 voluntary days	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
North East Scotland Artefact Review (Aberdeenshire)	£2,500	• £3,000 external funding • 2 volunteers • 40 voluntary days	Supporting volunteers Better understanding of the historic environment
Dee Tributaries Project, Mar Lodge	£5,000	• £3,608 external funding • 20 volunteers • 120 voluntary days • 1 community event	Supporting volunteers Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Ian Shepherd Backlog Project (Aberdeenshire)	£6,000	• 1 volunteer • 20 voluntary days	Supporting volunteers Reduction of outstanding Council obligations
Maiden Stone Scanning Project, Chapel of Garioch	£1,520	• £1,520 external funding	Improved record of asset
North East Scotland Crannog Project (Aberdeenshire)	£0	• 2 volunteers • 8 voluntary days	Better understanding of the historic environment

	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Kindrochit Castle Project, Braemar	£2,278	• £96,000 external funding • 2 community events	Community engagement Repaired Council asset
Moray Council Area			
Sculptor's Cave Project, Lossiemouth	£4,169.47	• £54,991 external funding • 6 volunteers • 84 voluntary days	Reduction of outstanding Council obligations Better understanding and protection of the historic environment

Historic Environment Management Projects Overview 2015-16	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Aberdeenshire Council Area			
North East Roundhouse Research Project (Aberdeenshire)	£1,227	• £9,077.10 external funding • New industry guidance note on excavating roundhouse	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Building Ancient Lives Project (Aberdeenshire)	£600	• 2 volunteers • 20 voluntary days • 1 community event	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Banff Castle Assemblage Project, Banff	£1,000	• £1,000 external funding	

Dee Tributaries Project, Mar Lodge	£5,000	• £3,608 external funding • 20 volunteers • 120 voluntary days	Supporting volunteers Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Ian Shepherd Backlog Project (Aberdeenshire)	£7,672	• 1 volunteer • 20 voluntary days	Supporting volunteers Reduction of outstanding Council obligations
North East Scotland Crannog Project (Aberdeenshire)	£1,260	• £1,865 external funding	Better protection of the historic environment
Fetternear Bronze Age Site Project, Fetternear	£3,645	• 1 volunteer • 5 voluntary days	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Tap O'Noth and Mither Tap LiDAR Project, Garioch & Marr	£3,000	• £12,000 external funding • 2 community events • 3D model for Bennachie Centre	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Kindrochit Castle Project, Braemar	£463	• 2 community events	Community engagement
Tullich Kirkyard Conservation Survey, Ballater	£2,950	• Conservation Report	Better protection of the historic environment

Moray Council Area

	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Sculptor's Cave Project, Lossiemouth	£3,000	• 6 volunteers • 84 voluntary days	Reduction of outstanding Council obligations Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Elgin Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (Ladyhill), Elgin	£0	• £2,000 external funding	Better promotion of the region

Aberdeen City Council Area

	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
St Nicholas Textiles Project	£6,370	• 1 volunteer • 10 voluntary days	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment

Historic Environment Management Projects Overview 2016-17	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes

Aberdeenshire Council Area

	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Ian Shepherd Backlog Project (Aberdeenshire)	£4,481	• £2,000 external funding • 1 volunteer • 20 voluntary days • 2 community events	Supporting volunteers Reduction of outstanding Council obligations
North East Scotland Submerged Palaeolandscapes Project	£3,500	• £3,500 external funding • Sea level change model	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment

(Aberdeenshire)

Project	Cost	Output	Outcome
Inverurie Pictish Symbol Stones Project, Inverurie	£75	• £9,000 internal funding • 3 volunteers • 6 voluntary days • 1 community event	Community engagement Conserved Council asset
Kirkton Cemetery Assessment, Fraserburgh	£800	• Excavation and removal of previously unknown human burials	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Dee Tributaries Project, Mar Lodge	£2,400	• £3,200 external funding • 10 volunteers • 50 voluntary days • 1 community event	Supporting volunteers Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Tullich Kirkyard Digital Scanning Project, Ballater	£0	• Project design	Community engagement
North Auquharney Standing Building Survey, Hatton	£265	• Survey report on rare garden features	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Angus Council Area			
Carnoustie Hoard Project, Carnoustie	£0	• Project support	Promotion of the region Management of a Council asset
Angus Shoreline Management Plan (Angus)	£0	• Management Plan	Better understanding and protection of the historic

			environment

Aberdeen City Council Area			
St Nicholas Textiles Project	£1,040	• Textile report	Better understanding and protection of the historic environment
Balnagask Motte Stabilisation Project	£0	• £1,200 external funding	Conserved Council asset

3.2 Team Objective 2 – Management

In addition to the detailed application responses shown below, the service also examined all 52 Weekly Planning Lists for each local authority area for any potential archaeological impact that would require appropriate mitigation.

Table 17: Team Objective 2 – Planning Applications - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 2 – Planning Applications	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
No. of Planning Applications dealt with	391	515	371
Average response time to a Planning Application (days)	14.7	13.58	18.36
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days *(includes direct consultations and weekly list monitoring)*	50.4%	54.4%	36.7%
No. of archaeological mitigations put into place	303	438	315
Moray Performance Indicator			
No. of Planning Applications dealt with	143	160	176
Average response time to a Planning Application (days)	10.65	12.84	15.47
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days *(includes direct consultations and weekly list monitoring)*	81.2%	66.2%	50.6%
No. of archaeological mitigations put into place	69	96	78
Angus Performance Indicator			

No. of Planning Applications dealt with	124	139	155
Average response time to a Planning Application (days)	13.75	12.9	17.6
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days *(includes direct consultations and weekly list monitoring)*	62.1%	51.8%	41.3%
No. of archaeological mitigations put into place	89	105	12

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

No. of Planning Applications dealt with	n/a	n/a	18
Average response time to a Planning Application (days)	n/a	n/a	3.11
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days *(includes direct consultations and weekly list monitoring)*	n/a	n/a	100%
No. of archaeological mitigations put into place	n/a	n/a	12

Table 18: Team Objective 2 – Planning Pre-Applications - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 2 – Planning Pre-Applications	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
No. of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans dealt with	25	37	31
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days	100%	99.9%	80.6%

Moray Performance Indicator

No. of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans dealt with	25	11	8
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days	99.9%	100%	87.5%

Angus Performance Indicator

No. of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans dealt with	9	9	6
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days	78%	77.8%	33.4%

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

No. of Pre-scoping, Major Applications & Masterplans dealt with	n/a	n/a	9
Percentage of Planning Applications responded to within 14 days	n/a	n/a	100%

Table 19: Team Objective 2 – Other Applications - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 2 – Other Applications	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
No. of Scottish Rural Development Plans dealt with	7	10	20
No. of Forest Plans and Felling Applications dealt with	105	100	80
No. of Utility and Other Applications dealt with	44	25	27
Percentage of all Applications responded to within 28 days	100%	100%	100%
Moray Performance Indicator			
No. of Scottish Rural Development Plans dealt with	5	7	6
No. of Forest Plans and Felling Applications dealt with	41	33	20
No. of Utility and Other Applications dealt with	17	5	10
Percentage of all Applications responded to within 28 days	100%	100%	100%
Angus Performance Indicator			
No. of Scottish Rural Development Plans dealt with	3	0	2
No. of Forest Plans and Felling Applications dealt with	24	11	7

No. of Utility and Other Applications dealt with	10	11	8
Percentage of all Applications responded to within 28 days	100%	100%	100%

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

No. of Scottish Rural Development Plans dealt with	n/a	n/a	0
No. of Forest Plans and Felling Applications dealt with	n/a	n/a	1
No. of Utility and Other Applications dealt with	n/a	n/a	1
Percentage of all Applications responded to within 28 days	n/a	n/a	100%

Table 20: Team Objective 2 – General Enquiries (Internet) - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 2 – General Enquiries (Internet)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total No. of General Enquiries dealt with (internet derived only)	1651	1682	1893

3.3 Team Objective 3 – Promotion

Table 21: Team Objective 3 – Social Media - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 3 – Social Media	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
No. of Online SMR Database Users (part of corporate website)	12,028	10,597	13,110
No. of countries website users are from	108	90	94
No. of page views of website (part of corporate website)	93,822	91,859	97,408
No. of Twitter Followers	n/a	3,382	4,216
No. of Instagram Followers	n/a	89	375
No. of SketchFab Views	n/a	1,374	2,000
No. of YouTube Views	n/a	n/a	40

Table 22: Team Objective 3 – Development Management Training Delivered - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 3 – Development Management Training Delivered	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator			
Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	1	1	0
Total No. of Attendees	45	40	0

Moray Performance Indicator

Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	0	0	1
Total No. of Attendees	0	0	12

Angus Performance Indicator

Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	0	0	0
Total No. of Attendees	0	0	0

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	n/a	n/a	2
Total No. of Attendees	n/a	n/a	31

External Organisations Performance Indicator

Total No. of Development Management Training Events Delivered	0	1	0
Total No. of Attendees	0	12	0

Table 23: Team Objective 3 – Community Projects - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 3 – Community Projects	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17

Aberdeenshire Performance Indicator

No. of Community Projects Supported	7	5	9
Funding Contributions to Community Projects	£6,018.02	£7,709	£28,068.39
External Funding Raised by Community Projects	£60,350	£44,812	£27,500
No. of Volunteer Days Created	1,048	888	1,255
Economic Value of Volunteers	£113,688	£96,330	£136,142

Moray Performance Indicator

No. of Community Projects Supported	1	2	2
Funding Contributions to Community Projects	£1,432	£2,147	£0
External Funding Raised by Community Projects	£0	£13,360	£1,500
No. of Volunteer Days Created	87	4	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	£9,438	£434	£0

Angus Performance Indicator

No. of Community Projects Supported	1	1	2
Funding Contributions to Community Projects	£0	£0	£0

External Funding Raised by Community Projects	£0	£0	£1,500
No. of Volunteer Days Created	30	30	26
Economic Value of Volunteers	£3,254	£3,254	£2,820

Aberdeen City Performance Indicator

No. of Community Projects Supported	n/a	n/a	1
Funding Contributions to Community Projects	n/a	n/a	£0
External Funding Raised by Community Projects	n/a	n/a	£3,000
No. of Volunteer Days Created	n/a	n/a	0
Economic Value of Volunteers	n/a	n/a	0

Table 24: Team Objective 3 – Community Projects - Overview 2014-17

Community Projects Overview 2014-15	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Aberdeenshire Council Area			
Hillhead Recumbent Stone-circle Project, Tarland	£3,660	• 12 volunteers • 120 voluntary days • 2 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Hillhead Circular Feature Project, Tarland	£1,358.02	• 8 volunteers • 40 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Balbithan Project, Kintore	£700	• £35,250 external funding • 20 volunteers • 200 voluntary days • 3 community events	Enhanced community asset Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Mason's Marks Project (Aberdeenshire)	£0	• 9 volunteers • 34 voluntary days • 3 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Rhynie Woman, Rhynie	£0	• £20,100 external funding • 8 volunteers • 160 voluntary days • 6 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment Promotion of the region
Aden Country Park Community Dig, Mintlaw	£0	• £5,000 external funding • 14 volunteers • 84 voluntary days • 8 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Enhanced Council asset
Kincardine Castle Deer Park Project, Kincardine O'Neil	£300	• 2 volunteers • 10 voluntary days	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Moray Council Area			
Dandaleith Pictish Stone Project, Craigellachie	£1,432	• 16 volunteers • 87 voluntary days • 1 community event	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Angus Council Area			
Mason's Marks Project (Angus)	£0	• 3 volunteers • 30 voluntary days	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Community Projects Overview 2015-16	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes
Aberdeenshire Council Area			
Balbithan Project, Kintore	£2,694	• £35,250 external funding • 20 volunteers • 200 voluntary days • 3 community events	Enhanced community asset Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Mason's Marks Project (Aberdeenshire)	£0	• 9 volunteers • 34 voluntary days • 3 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Kinord Roundhouse Project 1, Dinnet	£1,635	• £5,250 external funding • 8 volunteers • 80 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Aden Country Park Community Dig, Mintlaw	£500	• £4,312 external funding • 29 volunteers • 174 voluntary days • 6 community events	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Enhanced Council asset
Mither Tap LiDAR 3D Model, Bennachie Centre	£2,880	• 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Moray Council Area

Burghead Fort Dig, Burghead	£1,465	• £2,500 external funding • 2 volunteers • 4 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Dandaleith Pictish Stone Project, Craigellachie	£682	• £10,860 • 1 community event	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment

Angus Council Area

Mason's Marks Project (Angus)	£0	• 3 volunteers • 30 voluntary days	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Community Projects Overview 2016-17	Funding Support	Outputs	Outcomes

Aberdeenshire Council Area

Kinord Roundhouse Project 2, Dinnet	£4,661.55	• £1,500 external funding • 6 volunteers • 26 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Project	Cost	Outputs	Outcomes
Aden Country Park Community Dig, Mintlaw	£8,965	• 36 volunteers • 504 voluntary days • 1 community event • 295 schoolchildren visits • 15 additional helpers	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Enhanced Council asset
Dunnicaer Project, Stonehaven	£4,000	• £6,000 external funding • 4 volunteers • 30 voluntary days • 1 community event	Community engagement Better understanding of the historic environment
Druminnor Castle Community Dig, Rhynie	£630	• £1,000 external funding • 12 volunteers • 264 voluntary days	Community engagement Enhanced skills and learning
Book of Deer Old Deer Dig, Old Deer	£5,110	• 26 volunteers • 182 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement Enhanced Council asset
Mesolithic Deeside Community Event, Crathes	£900	• 6 volunteers • 18 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Nethermills Project, Crathes	£2,641.84	• 2 volunteers • 6 voluntary days	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Battlehill Community Dig, Huntly	£1,100	• £19,000 external funding • 25 volunteers • 225 voluntary days • 1 community event	Enhanced Council asset Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement

Project	Cost	Outputs	Outcomes
Findlater Castle Interpretation Board, Sandend	£60	• New interpretation board	Promotion of the region
Angus Council Area			
Mason's Marks Project (Angus)	£0	• 4 volunteers • 16 voluntary days	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Carnoustie Hoard, Carnoustie	£0	• £1,500 external funding • 2 volunteers • 10 voluntary days	Promotion of the region Community engagement
Aberdeen City Council Area			
SCHC Community Conference	£0	• £3,000 external funding • 1 community event	Promotion of the region
Moray Council Area			
Cluny Hill Project, Forres	£0	• £2,500 external funding	Enhanced skills and learning Community engagement
Dandaleith Pictish Stone Project, Elgin	£0	• New stone display, Elgin Museum	Community engagement Promotion of the region

Table 25: Team Objective 3 – Leaflets - Detailed Performance Indicators 2014-17

Team Objective 3 – Leaflets	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
No. of New Leaflets Launched	1	1	0
No. of Different Leaflets Available	1	2	2
No. of Leaflets Distributed	10,000	6,000	3,000

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Appendix 1 – Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Strategy 2014-17

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Strategy

2014-17

The strategy is primarily an Aberdeenshire Council working document to help manage and deliver key priorities of the Archaeology Team for the next 3 years.

"We will aim to provide the best protection, management and promotion of the historic environment of Aberdeenshire for the benefit of all."

1. INTRODUCTION

From mountain to sea, Aberdeenshire boasts a rich and valuable resource in its historic environment. The archaeological sites, from the unique recumbent stone circles to individual castles, are internationally recognised for their importance and attract numerous visitors every year. What's more, the historic environment is an essential component of the character of Aberdeenshire and helps make it one of the most desirable places to live and visit[1].

The Archaeology Team has the job of understanding, evaluating, safeguarding, and promoting the historic environment within Aberdeenshire and other local authorities. This involves partnership working across a diverse range of bodies including national agencies, academic institutions, public and private sector bodies, landowners, community groups and individuals. The core of the Team's work is based around the sustainable development of the historic environment in the planning process.

This strategy shows where the Archaeology Team clearly delivers, or contributes to, Scottish Government and Aberdeenshire Council Priorities, and provides a structured approach to service delivery.

2. SCOPE OF STRATEGY

The strategy is primarily an Aberdeenshire Council working document to help manage and deliver key priorities of the Archaeology Team. The Strategy also provides opportunities to improve efficiency, participation and collaboration with key stakeholders and partners and embed best practice in the delivery of the Archaeology Team.

The strategy provides a structured approach to service delivery for the next 3 years. Through the period of the strategy there will be a requirement to consider the challenges of our changing environment and the changing needs of our present, and potential, user groups. To reflect these changes and challenges, an Annual Action Plan will be prepared which will provide detailed actions on the delivery of the strategy and reflect new and emerging priorities.

3. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM VISION

It is Aberdeenshire Council's vision to be the best area and the best council in Scotland.

It is the vision of the Archaeology Team that the benefits gained from Aberdeenshire's unique historic environment should be available to those who live, work and visit Aberdeenshire, and that the value of these resources, and the need to protect and enhance them for future generations through sustainable management, is understood. This vision for the Archaeology Team can be summarised:

"*We will aim to provide the best protection, management and
promotion of the historic environment of Aberdeenshire for the benefit of all.*"

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[1] Bank of Scotland Rural Areas Quality of Life Surveys 2006-14

4. ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM - RESOURCES

Aberdeenshire Council's Archaeology Team is part of the Specialist Services Team within Infrastructure Services. The Archaeology Team comprises 2.8 (fte equivalent) staff made up of 2.2 Archaeologists and 0.6 Sites & Monuments Record Assistant posts.

The Team is based in Woodhill House, but cover not only Aberdeenshire, but also Moray and Angus Council areas with which Service Level Agreements are in place.

The Archaeology Team has an annual budget (for 2014-15 this is £29,000) but through commercial work, Service Level Agreements and other partnership working it generates an additional income (in 2013-14 this was £42,000, of which £27,000 was passed directly back to Corporate Finance).

5. POLICY CONTEXT – *The Golden Thread*

In order to understand the connection between the work undertaken by the Archaeology Team and the various national and local strategies, plans and policies, the following summarises the link between them all (see Appendix 1 for a detailed breakdown of each strategy, plan and policy):

A) National Strategy & Policy

1. Scottish Government National Outcomes

2. Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland
   a. Scottish Historic Environment Policy
   b. Scotland's Historic Environment Data Strategy

3. National Planning Framework 3
   a. Scottish Planning Policy
   b. Planning Advice Note 2/2011

4. National Tourism Development Framework

B) Aberdeenshire Council Strategies & Plans

1. Aberdeenshire Council Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23
2. Aberdeenshire Council Community Plan 2011-15
3. Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2013-17
4. Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2013-16
5. Local Development Plan (2012 and 2016)

C) Archaeology Team Strategy & Plans

1. Archaeology Team Strategy 2014-17
   a. Archaeology Annual Team Plan
   b. Archaeology Annual Individual Workplans

Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Team Golden Thread

Scottish Government Purpose	**To focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.**

Scottish Government National Outcomes (A1)	*National Outcome 10* We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need	*National Outcome 12* We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations	*National Outcome 13* We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity	*National Outcome 15* Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

SG National Plans, Policies & Strategies (A2-4)	A2) Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland		A3) National Planning Framework 3	A4) National Tourism Development Framework
	A2a) Scottish Historic Environment Policy	A2b) Scotland's Historic Environment Data Strategy	A3a) Scottish Planning Policy	
			A3b) Planning Advice Note 2/2011	

Aberdeenshire Council Vision	**Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland**

Aberdeenshire Council Plans & Strategies (B1-5)	B1) Aberdeenshire Council Single Outcome Agreement 2013-23	B2) Aberdeenshire Council Community Plan 2011-15
	B3) Aberdeenshire Council Plan 2013-17	
	B4) Infrastructure Services Service Plan 2013-16	B5) Local Development Plan

Archaeology Team Vision	**We will provide the best protection, management and promotion of the historic environment of Aberdeenshire for the benefit of all.**

Archaeology Strategy (C1)	C1) Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Strategy 2014 - 2017

Archaeology Plans (C1a-b)	C1a) Annual Team Plan	C1b) Annual Individual Workplans

6. ARCHAEOLOGY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The Archaeology Strategy Objectives have been drawn together to reflect the above strategies, plans and policies. The strategy objectives provide a common framework for a customer and performance focussed service which works in partnership with stakeholders to deliver a high quality, efficient service which provides best value.

The Annual Action Plan, Appendix 2, provides the detailed actions the Team will take to achieve the strategy objectives not just for Aberdeenshire but also Moray and Angus Councils, and indicates how the core outcomes of the Team will be measured. The Archaeology Team will use the strategy and the action plan to develop individual annual work programmes which will reflect the specific historic environment needs and aspirations of the North East of Scotland.

The objectives are divided into the three principal areas of work as reflected in the Archaeology Team's Vision.

Archaeology Team Objectives - Protection

The remit of the Archaeology Team is to record all known archaeological sites, between 10,000 BC and 1945 AD, to provide expert advice and information on those sites, and to ensure that all sites are protected where possible for future generations.

Objective	Description	Golden Thread Relevance *(see Sect 5)*
1	Develop, maintain and update the Sites & Monuments Record (SMR)	A1, A2a, A2b, A3a, A3b, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5
2	Provide input into national policy and guidance development	A1, A2, A2a, A2b, A3a, A3b, B5
3	Provide input into Local Development Plan process	A3, A3a, A3b, B5
4	Provide input into historic asset designation process	A2, A2a, A2b, B3a
5	Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations at national, regional and local level to share knowledge and best practice	A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4
6	Develop and support projects that protect the historic assets in the area, or which increase our understanding of the historic environment of the area	A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

Archaeology Team Objectives – Management

The remit of the Archaeology Team is to provide advice, support and expertise to ensure conservation and change within the historic environment is managed in a considered, sustainable way, in line with national and local policies.

Objective	Description	Golden Thread Relevance *(see Sect 5)*
7	Provide consultation advice and support to the Development Management Process	A1, A3, A3a, A3b, B5
8	Provide consultation advice and support to the Forestry Process	A1, A2, A2a
9	Provide consultation advice and support to the Agri-environment Process	A1, A2, A2a
10	Provide consultation advice and support to the Utility Process	A1, A2, A2a, A3b
11	Provide consultation advice for property enquiries	A1, A2, A2a
12	Provide advice and support for human remains discovery and reporting	A1, A2, A2a
13	Provide advice and support for artefact discovery and reporting	A1, A2, A2a
14	Provide advice and support to Scheduled Monument Consent process	A1, A2, A2a, A3, A3a, A3b, B5
15	Provide and exchange information and advice to colleagues, government, charitable, private, commercial and public individuals and organisations on the historic environment	A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B4, B5,
16	Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations	A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4
17	Establish and explore opportunities for sharing services with other local authorities	A1, A2,

Archaeology Team Objectives - Promotion

The remit of the Archaeology Team is to help promote understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment to everyone, and to ensure it is at the heart of community wellbeing, economic development and sense of place.

Objective	Description	Golden Thread Relevance *(see Sect 5)*
18	Develop, maintain and update Archaeology section of corporate website	A1, A2b, A3b, A4, B1, B2, B3
19	Provide training days as appropriate	A1, A3a, A3b, B4, B5, B6
20	Develop and support projects which increase public participation and enjoyment of the historic environment in the area	A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

21	Develop promotional material on the historic environment of the area, focussing on tourism opportunities	A1, A4, B1, B2, B3
22	Participate in relevant promotional events which highlight the historic environment of the area	A1, A4, B1, B2, B3
23	Work in partnership with relevant individuals, groups and organisations	A1, A2, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4

In addition to the above three strands of objectives, the Archaeology Team will also undertake the following:

Archaeology Team Objectives - Operational

Objective	Description	Golden Thread Relevance *(see Sect 5)*
24	Develop and maintain a Team Strategy and Action Plan	C1, C1a, C1b
25	Ensure staff CPD requirements are met as required by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA)	A2a, A3b, C1, C1b
26	Maintain Key Performance Indicators	A2, B5, C1
27	Produce performance reports	A2, B4, C1
28	Maintain continuous service improvement	B1, B3, B4

In addition to the above, the Archaeology Team supports and contributes to various organisations' strategies, including the Forestry Commission for Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland, and Historic Scotland. The Team's work also supports the following legislation, policy and guidance:

- Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(Scotland) Amendment Order 2011

- Historic Environment (Amendment)(Scotland) Act 2011

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- The Ancient Monument (Class Consents) (Scotland) Order 1996

- Marine (Scotland) Act 2010

- Planning Advice Note 40 Development Control

- Planning Advice Note 52 Planning in Small Towns

- Planning Advice Note 54 Planning Enforcement

- Planning Advice Note 71 Conservation Area Management

- Planning Advice Note 72 Designing Safer Places

- Planning Advice Note 78 Inclusive Design Scotland