

Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group Historic Built Environment Sub Group Terms of Reference

Historic built environment is defined as buildings, monuments, archaeological remains, other man-made structures and designed parks and gardens that are historic places of significance.

examples of property relevant to the group

castles	cathedrals
estates	churches
stately homes	bridges and aqueducts
landscape gardens	parks
follies	earthworks
industrial heritage	visitor centres in historic places

Value

People value historic places in many different ways. These include:

- the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present – this historic value tends to be illustrative or associative.
- the aesthetic value, as people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Aim

Our fundamental aim is to identify and promote ways to manage visitor safety that sustain the heritage significance and value to society of historic places.

In doing this we will embrace the aims and objectives of the VSCG by:

- identifying and sharing good practice.
- promoting the application of consistent management principles.
- developing a model approach to risk assessment that incorporates valuing benefits.
- encouraging consistency in the choice and application of risk control measures.
- seeking a balanced and pragmatic approach to the many, varied and conflicting, factors bearing on visitor safety management.
- producing sound interpretation of legislative requirements and the implications of case law decisions.

We aim to assist organisations to:

- achieve acceptable levels of safety using risk controls that do not harm the heritage significance and value to society of historic places.
- promote enjoyable access to historic places.
- meet moral obligations.
- achieve cost-effective visitor safety management.
- demonstrate risk control solutions which comply with statutory requirements.
- minimise losses, including those due to claims.

Membership

Any VSCG member having an interest in the historic built environment is welcome to participate in the sub group. The sub group may invite the participation of non-members when it is judged beneficial or necessary to achieve our aims.

Current Active Members

Chatsworth Estate
English Heritage
Historic Houses Association
Historic Scotland
Manx National Heritage
National Trust
National Trust for Scotland
OPW

Other Participants

Association of English Cathedrals
Cadw
Institute of Historic Building Conservation
The Churches Conservation Trust