

Heritage case Studies: Scotland

Old and New Towns of Edinburgh

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Heritage case studies: Scotland

The heritage traditions of Scotland are unique in comparison to the rest of Britain.

We'll use two case studies to demonstrate how heritage sites have helped to forge the Scottish national identity and history.

- The case studies introduce various typologies of heritage and the methods used to study them.
- The case studies help to draw attention to the fact that the heritage traditions in England, Scotland and Wales are not the same and are enshrined in slightly different legislation.
- Every study of heritage requires an understanding of the legal context and the traditions and history governing the object of heritage



Edinburgh – The **National Monument**

Old and New Towns of Edinburgh

In 1995, a large portion of central Edinburgh – the architecturally significant medieval and early Renaissance ‘Old Town’ and the Georgian ‘New Town’ – were included in the World Heritage List.

Capital of Scotland since the fifteenth century, Edinburgh's unique character, a result of its particular combination of medieval fortress city and eighteenth-century neoclassical Georgian city, was given as the reason for its World Heritage status.

The 'Justification by State Party' noted:

The particular nature of Edinburgh's duality is unusual: on the one hand, on a high ridge is the ancient Old Town, while in contrast, and set apart on a fresh site, is the 18th century New Town.

The former is on a spectacular site, the skyline punched through by the castle, the soaring neo-Gothic spire of Highland Tolbooth St John's and the robust, nationally symbolic, Imperial crown spire of St Giles, a feast of ancient architecture looking down on the New Town, which in contrast is a calm sea of ordered classicism, the whole framed and articulated by neoclassical buildings of world-class distinction.

(World Heritage List Advisory Body Evaluation, 1994, p. 78)



Edinburgh Old Town viewed from Princess Street Gardens



Edinburgh Old Town - **Museum of Scotland**



Edinburgh Old Town – **The Scottish Parliament Building**



Edinburgh Old Town – A shop window



Edinburgh Old Town – A new building along the **Royal Mile**



Edinburgh Old Town – A shop signboard



Edinburgh Old Town – The **High Kirk** (Cathedral) **of Saint Giles**



Edinburgh Old Town – Interior of the **High Kirk of Saint Giles**



Edinburgh Old Town -
Detail of stained glass windows in the **High Kirk of Saint Giles**



Edinburgh Old Town - **Statue of Charles II as Julius Caesar**
in Parliament Square



Edinburgh Old Town - Statue outside High Court
with the High Kirk of Saint Giles in background



Edinburgh Old Town -
The rampart stag of the **Statue of Fifth Duke of Buccleuch** in ,
West Parliament Square



Edinburgh Old Town - The **Tron Kirk** on the Royal Mile



Edinburgh Old Town – **The Castle**



Edinburgh Old Town

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Architectural details



Edinburgh Old Town – **Canongate Kirk**

Edinburgh Old Town

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Grassmarket Street scene





Edinburgh Old Town – Gravestones in the **Greyfriars Kirkyard**



Edinburgh Old Town - **Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre**



Edinburgh Old Town - View down the **Royal Mile**
from Edinburgh Castle



Edinburgh Old Town - **Carson Clark Gallery**

Edunburgh OldTown

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The Nelson Monument





Edinburgh Old Town

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The **Dugald Stewart
Monument**



Edinburgh **New and Old Towns** viewed from Carlton Hill,
in the foreground the **Dugald Stewart Monument**





Edinburgh Old Town - **St Andrew's House**
and monuments on Calton Hill





Edinburgh Old Town - **Palace of Holyroodhouse**



Edinburgh Castle
and **Old Town**
seen from Arthur's Seat



Edinburgh New Town – View



Edinburgh New Town – One of the many pubs



Edinburgh New Town – Outside the Bad Ass Pub at night



Edinburgh New Town – Outside the Bad Ass Pub



Edinburgh New Town – Inside the Bad Ass Pub



Edinburgh New Town

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The Bad Ass Pub
Signboard



Edinburgh New Town – Outside the **Dirty Dick's** Pub



Edinburgh New Town – Inside the **Dirty Dick's** Pub



Edinburgh New Town – The Signboard of **Dirty Dick's** Pub

Edinburgh New Town

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Rose Street





Edinburgh New Town – Buildings along Princess Street Gardens



Edinburgh New Town – Buildings along Princess Street Gardens



Edinburgh New Town – The **Walter Scott Monument**
hidden by the trees





Edinburgh New Town - **Monument to the Royal Scots Greys**
in West Princes Street Gardens.



Edinburgh New Town – Building of the **Royal Bank of Scotland**





Edinburgh Old Town

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The **Castle**



Edinburgh New Town - View



Edinburgh New Town - View



Edinburgh New Town – The Castle in background



Edinburgh New Town - View



Edinburgh New Town - View



Edinburgh Castle viewed from Princess Street Gardens



Edinburgh NewTown

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The Statue of Victory,
holding a laurel wreath,
on top of the Head Office
of Bank of Scotland





Edinburgh New Town – Princess Street viewed from the Castle



Edinburgh New
Town
—
View



Edinburgh New Town - View



Edinburgh New Town - View





In 1999, **Edinburgh World Heritage Trust**, a managing body, was established.

In 2005, it published the ***Edinburgh World Heritage Trust Old and New Towns of Edinburgh management plan***.

This sets out what is significant about the World Heritage site, and outlines the steps for conserving and managing that significance.

- It lists the key features of the World Heritage site as follows:
landscape setting – its topography of hills and valleys, juxtaposition of the Old and New Towns, and the valley of the River Leith; urban form and architecture – its contrasting urban character, highly intact townscape, historic buildings and interiors, parks, gardens, graveyards, statues and monuments;
- history and heritage as the capital of Scotland – associated with a long tradition of education, law and intellectual tradition – and as a festival city.

Edinburgh presents a series of unique challenges as a living city that is also a World Heritage site.

Clearly, it would be impossible to stall all new development in a living city, so the management plan puts in place a series of controls to ensure that new developments enhance or contribute to the significant values of the place.

These include: the maintenance of key views within the city through controls on the construction of buildings that might obscure them; controlling the form and character of new buildings; and excluding the development of areas around the River Leith.

Other controls include those associated with historic and listed buildings, statues and gardens.

Edinburgh provides us with a striking example of the ways in which heritage can be integrated into the management of a modern, living cityscape.

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust Old and New Towns of Edinburgh management plan.