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**HERITAGE FRAMEWORK AND
STRATEGY**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This report has been commissioned by the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) to provide an overarching heritage strategy for the cultural heritage of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI). Its purpose is to provide the framework in which the stated heritage aims and objectives in the GSGSSI's *Strategy 2016-2020* and subsequent aims and objectives can be enacted.

The heritage strategy has been written to apply to the whole territory although information regarding the cultural heritage assets of the South Sandwich Islands is scant.

1.2 DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

This document is set out in three parts:

Section 2	Conservation Framework	This provides a summary of the component parts of the cultural heritage of SGSSI and sets out an overarching Conservation Philosophy and set of Conservation Principles.
Section 3	A Strategy for SGSSI's Cultural Heritage	This sets out the heritage strategy for SGSSI with a masterplan of key activities that are required.
Section 4	Delivering the Heritage Strategy	This discusses in more detail considerations related to the delivery of the heritage strategy.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

The report has been prepared as a desk-based exercise and has not involved a visit to SGSSI. Michael Morrison has, however, visited South Georgia previously as part of the preparation of reports on the whaling stations and as a member of the Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP).

The report has been prepared in consultation with James Jansen, Chief Executive of GSGSSI, Richard McKee, Operations Director for SGSSI, and the Heritage Advisory Panel. The draft document was put out to public consultation in July and August 2017 and was shared with key stakeholders for consultation. These included the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Falkland Islands Government, the Norwegian Government, the South Georgia Heritage Trust, Øyas Venner (the Norwegian Friends of South Georgia) and the South Georgia Association. Amendments were made to the draft document following receipt of comments.

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- *SGSSI Strategy 2016-2020* (GSGSSI) and the stakeholder consultation pertaining to it
- *Draft GSGSSI Heritage Mission Statement 2016* (GSGSSI)

- *Proposed South Georgia Cultural Heritage Listing Process April 2016* (GSGSSI)
- The draft Schedules of South Georgia's Heritage Sites by Sally Poncet
- Policy on the Release and Movement of Artefacts (GSGSSI)
- 'Report on visit to huts at Jason Harbour, Harpon, Greene and Sorling' by Tim Stenning (30 March 2016)
- 'Inspection of the Disused Shore-Based Whaling Stations' by Purcell Miller Tritton (July 2011)
- *The Shore Whaling Stations at South Georgia* by Bjørn L. Basberg (2004).

In addition, research was carried out looking at where there were similar sites around the world and a review of comparable legislation and strategy documents was carried out. Amongst the most pertinent were:

- *Conservation and Protection of British Heritage in the British Antarctic Territory Headline Strategy* (November 2016)
- 'Bill for Landsting Act No. 18 of 19 November 2007 on the Preservation of Cultural Monuments' (Greenland)
- *St Kilda World Heritage Site Management Plan 2012-17* by the National Trust for Scotland
- 'Svalbard Environmental Protection Act 2001' by the Norwegian Government.

A fuller bibliography can be found in Section 5.

I.4 CONTEXT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF SGSSI

South Georgia is thought to have first been sighted in 1675 by a London merchant, Antoine de la Roché, and in 1775 Captain Cook sailed down the east coast. He made the first landing, took possession of the island in the name of His Majesty and named it after George III. Cook discovered the southern eight islands of the South Sandwich Islands in 1775 but thought the last three were a single island. This was disproved by Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen, a Russian naval officer, in 1820, who had a week earlier discovered the northern three islands, which he called the Traversay Islands.

Hunting for fur and elephant seals began on South Georgia in 1786 with peaks in the 1790s, late 1810s and 1870s. Elephant sealing continued between 1905 and 1965. Whaling was carried out from 1904 until the 1960s with whaling stations at Grytviken, Ocean Harbour, Husvik Harbour and Stromness (established by Norwegian and Argentine companies), Leith Harbour (set up by a Scottish company) and Prince Olav Harbour (set up by a South African Company.) In addition, Godthul was an anchorage for a Norwegian floating factory.

In 1882-1883 a German expedition was stationed in Moltke harbour on South Georgia as part of the first International Polar Year and carried out research. Scientific research on the flora, fauna and geology of the islands and the surrounding seas was continued mainly by Norwegian and British scientists and cartographers, including the important Discovery Investigations on whales, and subsequently by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Evidence of research field stations from throughout the twentieth century survives on South Georgia. The UK Government funded a new scientific research station, to be operated by BAS in support of the GSGSSI, at King Edward Point in 2001.

South Georgia's location has meant it has been part of the story of Antarctic exploration, notably with CA Larsen and Ernest Shackleton. The latter set off on the *Endurance* from South Georgia in 1914 and in 1916 managed to hike across the uncharted interior of the island to effect the rescue of his men. Shackleton died on the *Quest* at anchor off Grytviken in 1922 and is buried in the cemetery at Grytviken. Carl Anton Larsen was also an Antarctic explorer, born in Norway, who visited South Georgia when commanding the *Antarctic* for the Swedish Antarctic Expedition in 1901-03. He used his previous experience as a whaler in Norway to establish the Antarctic whaling industry on South Georgia in 1904. He founded Grytviken and later introduced reindeer to the island.

During the Second World War, two guns were established on South Georgia for the defence of the island but were not used. Boats from Leith Harbour were requisitioned for war use. In the late 1970s, Argentinian activity on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands were the prelude to the Falklands War, which ended with the islands remaining under British sovereignty. The wreckage of British and Argentinian helicopters on South Georgia and the ruined Southern Thule research station/military base on the South Sandwich Islands are evidence of the war.

In 1992, the former manager's villa in Grytviken was opened as the South Georgia Whaling Museum. The museum now displays collections relating to the wider history of South Georgia. A major asbestos removal programme in 2003 has enabled continued visitor access to Grytviken.

I.5 GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

I.5.1 Glossary

Heritage Asset – A site, structure or artefact that has heritage value.

Cultural Heritage – *An expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values.*¹

I.5.2 Abbreviations

BAS British Antarctic Survey

BS British Standard

GIS Geographic Information System

GSGSSI Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

HAP Heritage Advisory Panel

ICOMOS International Council for Monuments and Sites

KEP King Edward Point

¹ What is Cultural Heritage, http://www.cultureindevelopment.nl/cultural_heritage/what_is_cultural_heritage, accessed 13 March 2017.

SGHT South Georgia Heritage Trust

SGSSI South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

UK United Kingdom

USA United States of America

2.0 CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK

This section sets out an overarching understanding of the cultural heritage of SGSSI and the importance of appreciating it as a sum of its component parts. It describes the concept of significance and how the understanding, retention and enhancement of significance is the foundation of conservation. This section also provides a conservation philosophy and a set of conservation principles that will form the basis of future policy documents and decision-making.

2.1 THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SGSSI

The cultural heritage of SGSSI encompasses both tangible heritage assets, such as the remains of the whaling stations, and intangible heritage for which there is no physical evidence on SGSSI, such as the memories of Captain Cook's exploration of the islands.

The cultural heritage of SGSSI can be divided into five broad categories:

- Seafaring and navigation
- Exploitation of the natural environment
- Scientific research and conservation of the natural environment
- Exploration of the southern polar region
- Governance, sovereignty and defence.

A large proportion of the surviving tangible heritage assets relate to whaling and sealing and those relating to the whaling industry have been the focus of much of the investment in SGSSI's cultural heritage to date. It is important, however, to recognise that there are other components to SGSSI's cultural heritage and that conservation of the tangible heritage assets and the celebration of the intangible heritage assets relating to all these components is necessary to preserve the cultural heritage of SGSSI.

There are no permanent residents of SGSSI² nor is there known to have ever been an indigenous population. The cultural heritage of SGSSI reflects the historic and continuing involvement of several countries, particularly the UK and Norway³, on the islands. However, the different elements combine to form a cultural heritage that is not that of another country but is the cultural heritage specifically of SGSSI.

² Although there has been a continued presence of people on South Georgia since 1904 including a government representative for almost all that time.

³ This is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Norway and the UK for collaboration in the management of the shared heritage on SGSSI.

2.2 SIGNIFICANCE

2.2.1 Understanding Significance and Heritage Values

The significance of a heritage asset is the sum of its heritage values and expresses the worth of the heritage asset to current and future generations. Heritage values are the different aspects of what makes a heritage asset important to people. This may include:

- Evidential value: what can be or could potentially be learned about the heritage asset or the economic or social forces that created it or the people or organisations who used it. Built or below ground archaeological evidence may be concealed;
- Illustrative value: the understanding of the use and development of a heritage asset from what is visible;
- Associative value: the importance of a heritage asset as a result of a connection or connections with particular people, organisations or historical events;
- Aesthetic value: the quality of its appearance, whether this reflects an intentional design or fortuitous beauty;
- Communal value: the way in which people now or in the past have appreciated a heritage asset. This may be as an educational tool, a place of spiritual experience, a contributor to a wider landscape, or a representation of a particular place, amongst other reasons.

The significance of a heritage asset is not immutable: the heritage values may change over time as the heritage asset becomes better understood through research and investigation or as it takes on a new function or acquires a new association.

The significance of a heritage asset can be assessed through evaluating the different heritage values of the asset and the resulting assessment may be expressed as a statement of significance. When assessing significance, the contribution of the different heritage values to the significance is not necessarily equal; sometimes one or two heritage values are predominant. Understanding and expressing this in the statement of significance is important in ensuring what is most significant about a heritage asset is preserved.

2.2.2 Conservation Management

The understanding, retention and enhancement of the significance of a heritage asset form the foundation of conservation.

Retention or preservation of significance is not a presumption against all change but a process of carefully managed change. Change can mean repairs or periodic renewal of elements such as the roof covering as well as adding to or taking away from the existing heritage asset.

By understanding the significance of a heritage asset, the heritage asset can be proactively managed, possibly through a conservation management plan, to undertake changes that will preserve and enhance the significance of a heritage asset. Equally, if change is needed reactively, for example due to the failure of a component or the requirements of a new use, assessing the impact of the proposed change on the significance allows an understanding of whether the change is acceptable or not.

Not all elements of a heritage asset may contribute positively to the significance of the heritage asset. For example, a later extension to a building may be poorly built, not appropriate in its design and not have been constructed for an important part of the building's history. In such a case, removing the later extension would enhance the significance by removing a part of the building that is detracting to the aesthetic value of the building and by revealing how the building appeared at a more important stage in its history.

2.2.3 Important Concepts

Both when assessing significance and when considering the impact of proposed works on the heritage values of a heritage asset, there are a number of concepts that are important to evaluate. These include:

- **Authenticity:** the truthfulness of the fabric of the heritage asset (i.e. an authentic building will be one that reflects its age and development; it is not something that appears to be older than it is.)
- **Integrity:** the honesty of the spirit as well as the material of the heritage asset (i.e. that any single element is appropriate to the whole.)
- **Legibility of Historical Development:** the layers of development (including proposed ones) are discernible.
- **Setting:** the location of a heritage asset and the natural and built environment in which it sits can contribute to the importance of a heritage asset or to the understanding of it.

When proposing change, the following need to be considered:

- **Reversibility:** the potential for the proposed changes to be reversed in the future, either by removing additions or reinstating elements that have been taken away.
- **Legibility:** how easy it is to read the changes as new interventions.
- **Sustainability:** the ability of the heritage asset to be maintained in the future using the resources it generates, which includes reducing the need for maintenance and reducing the costs associated with maintaining the asset. Additions or changes that increase future costs without proportionally increasing resources will have a detrimental effect on an asset's sustainability.

2.3 CONSERVATION PHILOSOPHY

The cultural heritage of SGSSI is of territorial and international significance. It will be preserved through physical conservation or recording of individual heritage assets. The significance of these heritage assets will be better understood through research, comparison with other examples on SGSSI and through analysis of the relationships between the heritage assets on SGSSI and related artefacts held overseas.

Decisions regarding the conservation of any heritage asset on SGSSI will be made based on an understanding of its significance in relation to:

- the category of heritage asset it belongs to,
- a wider understanding of the cultural heritage of SGSSI,

- historic international social, economic and cultural patterns.

This will enable the limited resources available to be deployed to greatest effect.

Where heritage assets are in good condition and safely accessible, regular maintenance is essential to the preservation of the heritage assets and their significance. Appropriate materials should be used to preserve the historic fabric and the appearance of the heritage asset.

It is recognised that SGSSI is of outstanding nature conservation value. Cultural heritage assets should be preserved wherever this is possible without undue harm to the natural environment.

SGSSI's cultural heritage will be made better known through conveying the growing understanding of its significance to visitors and to the wider world by the sharing of information.

2.4 CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

1. The cultural heritage of SGSSI should be preserved.
2. There is a presumption in favour of heritage assets being retained on SGSSI.
3. Where it can be demonstrably proven that heritage assets can be studied, conserved or better preserved in perpetuity elsewhere, consideration will be given to proposals to remove heritage assets from SGSSI. Decision-making should be transparent.
4. The significance of SGSSI's cultural heritage will be understood and documented.
5. Significant heritage assets will be managed to preserve their cultural heritage value.
6. The setting of significant heritage assets will be preserved where it contributes to the understanding and values of the heritage assets.

It is recognised that conservation and repair work are expensive to undertake, particularly on SGSSI. Such work will only be achievable through collaborative funding.

3.0 A STRATEGY FOR SGSSI'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

3.1 PURPOSE OF THE HERITAGE STRATEGY

In its *Strategy 2016-2020*, the GSGSSI has expressed its commitment over the next five years to develop a better understanding of SGSSI's heritage and establish policies and procedures for its preservation. Alongside this, new legislation will be passed to ensure statutory protection for SGSSI's heritage. (See box below for the heritage objectives from the SGSSI Strategy.)

To enable the GSGSSI to meet the objectives set out in its Strategy and also to safeguard the longer-term future of the Territory's heritage, this heritage strategy has been developed to set out specific areas for action. It has been developed with an understanding of the prevailing conservation philosophies and practices as expressed internationally by ICOMOS and in England by Historic England. The heritage strategy for SGSSI needs to be deliverable by a government with limited resources on islands whose location, topography and climate limits access.

Heritage Objectives from SGSSI Strategy 2016-2020

1. *Develop a system to record SGSSI's heritage sites, structures and artefacts with a view to developing a prioritised list to guide future management interventions, underpinned by new heritage legislation.*
2. *Develop a long-term management plan for Grytviken promoting management sympathetic to the original design and ethos, while incorporating modern health, safety and environmental requirements.*
3. *Enhance communication and outreach of SGSSI's heritage to a wider audience including through improved access to information at Grytviken and the use of digital technology, such as laser surveys, to enable online access.*
4. *Encourage the return of historic artefacts to South Georgia and consider the potential to engage a wider audience through the public exhibition of artefacts elsewhere.*
5. *Evaluate the quantities and location of oil remaining in the whaling stations and sunken whale catchers and develop a plan to remove oil that is in line with both heritage and environmental aspirations.*

In addition to the stated objectives in the *SGSSI Strategy 2016-2020*, the following objectives will also be addressed through the heritage strategy:

6. Monitor the condition of the whaling stations to address the long-term questions of access, asbestos contamination and potential salvage (including translocation) of significance items.
7. Maintain the cemeteries as a significant part of the cultural heritage of the island and, where possible, facilitate public access to the cemeteries.
8. Promote the study of sites, artefacts and documentary evidence associated with South Georgia's heritage to understand better their significance and to facilitate public access to this knowledge where possible.

3.2 HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Heritage Strategy addresses the following seven areas:

1. Legislation;
2. Categorisation of Heritage Assets
3. Heritage Asset Management System
4. Development of Management Plans
5. Formalisation of the Heritage Advisory Panel
6. Furthering Research and Understanding
7. Conservation and Change.

3.2.1 Legislation

There is a need to enact legislation to ensure the statutory protection of the cultural heritage of SGSSI as there is currently no such legislation. This legislation will need to consider:

- Enabling preservation through physical conservation and/or recording
- Protection of heritage assets and the setting of heritage assets
- Monitoring and controlling deliberate change to heritage assets
- Protocols and procedures for moving heritage assets within SGSSI
- Protocols and procedures for removing heritage assets from SGSSI
- The relationship between the heritage legislation and legislation governing the protection of marine and terrestrial nature, especially where this is designated
- Ownership of heritage assets including the South Georgia Museum and its contents
- Enforcement and sanctions.

It is important to establish the infrastructure of the management of SGSSI's cultural heritage so that policies and protocols can be meaningfully developed with parties assigned responsibilities and tasks to ensure the preservation of SGSSI's heritage.

3.2.2 Categorisation of Heritage Assets

3.2.2.1 Existing Schedule

A database of sites, structures and artefacts on South Georgia has been drawn up by Sally Poncet based on records, such as publications by Bjørn Basberg and Robert Headland and reports by Purcell. It includes assets that are recorded but have no known location and assets that existed but have been removed or replaced as well as assets that have a known location and condition.

In its current form, the Schedule is comparable to the Historic Environment Record maintained on a county basis in England, which lists monuments and archaeological features both existing and historically recorded. The Schedule is valuable in its current form as it can be used to understand the lost built landscape of the islands and potentially to identify concealed shipwrecks off the coast.

3.2.2.2 A System for Categorising Heritage Assets

As part of a system of protection of heritage assets, the extant heritage assets including sites, structures and artefacts on SGSSI need to be categorised. This categorisation will also facilitate decision-making regarding conservation works.

The categorisation will not extend to heritage assets that have no known location. Should they be identified in the future, they can then be categorised.

The GSGSSI has identified all sites, structures and artefacts pre-dating 1983 as automatically meriting consideration for protection and categorisation whilst some more recent heritage assets may also be considered.

A methodology for categorisation is set out in Section 4.1.

3.2.3 Heritage Asset Management System

Whilst a register of categorised heritage assets will provide a better understanding of the heritage of SGSSI, a more analytical tool is required for the long-term management of the heritage assets.

The register of categorised heritage assets, including the information from Sally Poncet's Schedule, will be expanded to form a Heritage Asset Management System. This will include records on conservation works that are required and conservation works that have been undertaken, when and by whom. The required conservation works could potentially have indicative costs put against them.

This system will enable the GSGSSI to understand the scale of conservation works required and to plan the potential undertaking of conservation works. In addition, it will inform decision-making about the movement and release of heritage assets as the Asset Management System will indicate the likelihood of the GSGSSI being able to undertake necessary works on SGSSI.

The system will also facilitate good record keeping. This will ensure the transfer of knowledge without relying on individual staff members.

Historic Environment Scotland is currently piloting a new Heritage Asset Management System that enables the prioritisation of conservation to be determined through a matrix that includes measures for conservation, cultural significance, customer experience and additional benefits and opportunities. The merits of a similar system will be considered for SGSSI, including the potential to link with external data management systems. The development of an appropriate management system, within the limits of the capacity of the GSGSSI, is a crucial element of the future management of the heritage of SGSSI. See section 4.2 for further information on the proposed system.

3.2.4 Development of Management Plans

To assist with the management of the heritage assets on SGSSI, the GSGSSI will commission a series of management plans. The management plans, together with the Heritage Asset Management System, will enable conservation works to be carried out in a planned manner within a framework of understanding of the aims and priorities.

A cultural heritage management plan for Grytviken will be prepared in consultation with stakeholders. Grytviken is the most accessible and most visited part of South Georgia and therefore where the conservation requirements need to be balanced with health and safety considerations, provision of interpretation and the requirements of the museum, particularly for storage and display. The extensive works to remove asbestos from Grytviken has left machinery and other originally internal artefacts exposed to the elements and the long-term proposals to address this should be explored as part of the management plan. A management and maintenance plan will also be prepared for Grytviken to set out the programme for structural maintenance of all the buildings and for works to ensure health and safety requirements are met and for conservation works.

A separate conservation management plan or plans will cover the remaining sites on the main island of South Georgia reflecting the different management needs of the different sites. In addition to considering the other four main whaling stations, it will address the sealing sites, research stations, cemeteries and other scattered heritage assets as well as the wrecks. The management plan will include as a minimum a spreadsheet that identifies the immediate, regular and long-term conservation (and other) works that are required for each heritage asset. It is accepted that the scale of the whaling stations, their poor condition and contamination means that the potential for intervention (including salvage) will be modest. Plans for the whaling stations may need to include provisions for managed decline.

In the longer term, another conservation management plan could cover the other islands of SGSSI in the same manner.

The management plans should be prepared by experienced and qualified conservation consultants in conjunction with GSGSSI and other interested parties.

3.2.5 The Heritage Advisory Panel

The Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP) was formed to provide advice to the GSGSSI regarding SGSSI's heritage and operates with agreed terms of reference. It is comprised of experts in conservation and the heritage of South Georgia.

The panel will be chaired by a member of the GSGSSI Government or by such other member of the HAP as the government shall appoint. GSGSSI will invite appropriately qualified people to serve as members of the panel or will invite relevant bodies to nominate appropriately qualified members. The panel members will serve for a fixed term (to be agreed) but may be reappointed.

The HAP ought to include a conservation architect (preferably with experience of working in polar climates), someone with an in-depth knowledge of the history and heritage of SGSSI and such other experts as seems most appropriate.

As noted in 3.2.1, it is an important part of the management of the cultural heritage that suitable expert advice is available to the GSGSSI.

3.2.6 Furthering Research and Understanding

There are some aspects of the history of South Georgia that are better documented and researched. The whaling stations, for example, have been the subject of several publications and whilst there is more work that could be done to relate the extant built fabric and artefacts to the research on the history of the whaling stations, they are nonetheless perhaps the best understood elements of South Georgia's history.

The exploration of the islands by Captain Cook and Ernest Shackleton's visits are known of as part of the history of the exploration of Antarctica. However, there is much work that could be done to better understand these and other events associated with the discovery and exploration of South Georgia and the items that exist in other collections overseas.

The cultural heritage and associated narratives with other strands of South Georgia's history, including research into the island's natural environment, are not mapped and documented to any great extent. The cultural heritage of the South Sandwich Islands is limited but it has not been the focus of any study and therefore offers scope for further understanding.

The creation of the Register of categorised heritage assets and the Heritage Asset Management System is likely to generate suggestions for some additional research and understanding of the cultural heritage of SGSSI and how it is mapped out across the Territory. It will also enable the identification of potential research projects that could be undertaken in the future. GSGSSI will work with stakeholders to identify potential researchers or sources of research funding to enable these research projects to be undertaken where possible.

As alluded to, an important part of furthering understanding of the cultural heritage of SGSSI lies in developing an understanding of relevant material, whether objects or archives, that is held overseas, mostly likely in the UK, Norway or the USA, and comparable material that will provide contextual understanding for the cultural heritage of SGSSI. It may be beneficial to develop further links to or partnerships with relevant museums and other institutions to facilitate the exchange of information and potentially the sharing of artefacts for exhibition.

3.2.7 Conservation and Change

Conservation works or policies of managed decline will be enacted within a framework of understanding of the significance of the cultural heritage assets on SGSSI and the identified priorities. In accordance with the Conservation Philosophy and Conservation Principles in Section 2, the management of SGSSI's cultural heritage will encompass all the strands of its heritage.

There is potential that sources or offers of funding for conservation works or recording may periodically become available from non-governmental sources. The Heritage Strategy should provide a shared focal point for directing funding towards the heritage assets of SGSSI. It should be noted by any future funders that funding conservation works or recording on SGSSI does not convey any rights to or ownership of any heritage assets, which all belong to the GSGSSI.

The preservation of some heritage assets on SGSSI may be achieved through recording, rather than the preservation of physical assets. The composition of a heritage asset record is set out in Section 4.4.1.1. The long-term ambition is that a heritage asset record will be prepared for all heritage assets on SGSSI. This will be an invaluable tool and long-term reference source for GSGSSI and stakeholders alike. Priority will be given to those at greatest risk of substantial change or total loss.

Preservation of SGSSI's heritage assets will necessitate control of change to the assets themselves and their settings. This will be carried out by the GSGSSI within the new legislative framework.

4.0 DELIVERING THE HERITAGE STRATEGY

There are several areas in which policies and protocols need to be developed to enable the delivery of the heritage strategy. This section sets out considerations and recommendations in relation to the following:

- The categorisation of heritage assets
- Developing a heritage asset management system
- Furthering Understanding and Research
 - Physical Access for Visitors
 - Intellectual Access
- Conservation and Change
 - Documentation
 - Controlling change
 - The movement and release of artefacts
 - Access for inspection
- The relationship between cultural heritage and the natural environment.

4.1 THE CATEGORISATION OF HERITAGE ASSETS

4.1.1 System of Categorisation

In the UK, places of historic or architectural interest are designated under two systems. Broadly, places that comprise below-ground archaeological remains, upstanding ruins or buildings for which there is little prospect of use are designated as scheduled monuments. Any changes, however minor, require scheduled monument consent. However, there is no mandatory requirement to maintain the monuments to a particular standard. Buildings and other structures that are in use or have potential for use are designated as listed buildings. Owners are legally required to maintain listed buildings and they must also apply for listed building consent for any works that will affect the special character or interest of the listed building.

Whilst it is not proposed that SGSSI will have a two-tier system as in the UK, the concept of designation denoting different levels of maintenance will be incorporated into the designation system for SGSSI.

The categorisation of the heritage assets on SGSSI will be principally based on an understanding of the significance of the heritage asset. Heritage assets will be graded with consideration given to meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- The heritage asset is strongly illustrative of a particular aspect of SGSSI's history
- The heritage asset has the potential to yield information that will contribute to the understanding of the history of SGSSI
- The heritage asset is uncommon, rare or endangered, whether at a territorial or international level

- The heritage asset demonstrates significant survival of the original or historic fabric, layout or arrangement
- The heritage asset is strongly or specially associated with a particular person or event of significance to SGSSI's history
- The heritage asset exhibits notable aesthetic or design characteristics
- The heritage asset is valued by a particular community for social or cultural reasons
- The heritage asset contributes to the significance of a group of heritage assets
- The heritage asset illustrates in a physical form information found in documentary sources.

In addition to the significance of the heritage assets, their potential for conservation and use will also be considered.

The heritage assets will be categorised according to the following grades:

Grade 1	High priority structures, sites or key artefacts where a long-term management plan is necessary and where work will include conservation to preserve the significance and detailed recording. Work may include restoration.
Grade 2	Structures or sites or key artefacts requiring a basic management plan covering minor protective measures and minor works to help prevent or decrease the rate of natural deterioration.
Grade 3	Structures, sites or key artefacts requiring a passive management plan, purely involving structures to monitor the natural deterioration.

4.1.2 Scope of Categorisation

The Schedule of Heritage Assets on South Georgia prepared by Sally Poncet provides the basis for developing a Register of Categorised Heritage Assets for SGSSI. At this stage, only extant heritage assets with a known location will be categorised.

All sites, structures and artefacts pre-dating 1983 (excluding objects held as part of the Museum of South Georgia's collection) will initially be assessed although some may be excluded from categorisation if they do not meet the criteria for preservation. Sites, structures and artefacts dating from 1983 and later may also be considered if they demonstrate particular historical or architectural interest. In the future, when further assessments are carried out, structures will be at least 25 years old to be considered.

Consideration may be given to a further future development of the Register of Categorised Heritage Assets to provide a link between the Register and the South Georgia Museum's collections database. This will not form part of the initial phase.

4.1.3 Maintenance of the Register of Heritage Assets

The Register of Heritage Assets will be the responsibility of the GSGSSI. The Register will be reviewed regularly (at least every five years). Heritage assets will be removed if they are lost as

a result of the effects of the natural environment. Heritage assets will be added when they are identified.

4.1.4 Format and Distribution

The Register of Heritage Assets will be maintained by (or for) the GSGSSI as an electronic register with appropriate digital and paper back-ups. The electronic register is mostly likely to be integrated with the GSGSSI data portal and GIS systems managed by BAS. The latter is publicly accessible online via BAS’s website and this may offer a public interface for at least a version of the Register of Heritage Assets.

If not integrated with the existing GIS system, the Register will be made available to researchers and other interested parties with a demonstrable interest in the cultural heritage of SGSSI at the discretion of the Commissioner. A redacted version of the Register may be made available on the website of the GSGSSI.

4.2 DEVELOPING A HERITAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

4.2.1 Conservation Indicator

As described in Section 3.2.3, a heritage asset management system will be developed to facilitate the long-term management of the cultural heritage assets of SGSSI.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has developed a methodology for categorising its monuments and prioritising works to them. This involves identifying the type of monument: an occupied roofed monument, an unoccupied roofed monument, an unroofed monument with high level masonry, an unroofed monument with low level masonry, standing stones, and field monuments. The importance of understanding this is that some monuments are inherently likely to have higher scores than other types. The prioritisation of works is determined by an indicator calculated based on a numerical rating of the urgency of works required multiplied by a numerical rating of the risk from not carrying out the works.

This model could be adapted for use for the heritage assets of SGSSI. In addition to understanding the urgency and risk, the significance of the heritage asset and its accessibility (for works to be carried out and for visitors to view the asset) should also be included in the calculation.

The significance of each structure or object will be assessed and given a score:

Significance Value	Explanation of Significance Value	Score
Very High	An asset that is of exceptional heritage value, possibly unique or the best survivor of its kind, which makes an important contribution to the cultural heritage of SGSSI. It may be of international significance.	5

High	An asset of high heritage value that makes an important contribution to the cultural heritage of SGSSI.	4
Medium	An asset that makes a moderate contribution to the cultural heritage of SGSSI.	3
Low	An asset that makes a small but identifiable contribution to the cultural heritage of SGSSI.	2
Neutral	An asset that makes no discernible or a negligible contribution to the cultural heritage of SGSSI.	1
Intrusive	An asset that detracts from the appreciation of other heritage assets on SGSSI.	0*

*A score of zero will give the asset an overall conservation indicator of zero, indicating that conservation works need not be undertaken. However, works to remove the element may be necessary.

The accessibility of heritage assets will be scored:

Accessibility	Explanation of Accessibility	Score
Excellent	Heritage asset that can be readily accessed by tourists	4
Good	Heritage asset that can be accessed by some tourists (or could be if conservation works were undertaken) and is accessible for inspection	3
Fair	Heritage asset that is not accessible to tourists but is accessible for inspection	2
Poor	Heritage asset that is not accessible to tourists and is difficult to access for inspection	1

The condition of the heritage assets would be scored:

Condition	Explanation of Condition	Score
Urgent	Works/recording required within 12 months	6
Necessary – 2 years	Works/recording required within 2 years	5

Necessary – 5 years	Works/recording required within 5 years	4
Necessary – 10 years	Works/recording required within 10 years	3
Monitoring	Following recording, no works other than annual monitoring	2
Opportunistic Monitoring	Following recording, no works other than opportunistic monitoring	1

Note: heritage assets that are not going to be the subject of physical conservation works will initially be scored with a rating based on the urgency of recording. Once recording has taken place, the condition score will be revised.

The risk of not carrying out works will be given a score:

Risk	Impact	Explanation of Impact	Score
High	Serious	Very likely loss of historic fabric, cultural heritage value and/or access	3
Medium	Moderate	Detrimental impact on historic fabric and cultural heritage value.	2
Low	Negligible	Low or no impact on historic fabric and cultural heritage value.	1

This would result in heritage assets being assigned a conservation indicator between 0 and 360. This ought to create a significant range of values that will enable the GSGSSI to determine the prioritisation of conservation works. Any heritage asset with a significance rating of 4 or 5 should be the subject of a regular maintenance programme wherever this is feasible in addition to any conservation works.

The heritage assets should also be categorised by type of monument:

Category	Type	Examples
A	Roofed and occupied heritage asset	Museum, Church
B	Roofed and unoccupied heritage asset	Stromness Manager's Villa, Research post
C	Unroofed heritage asset	Sealing hut
D	Failed Structure	Ocean Harbour buildings
E	Built element with multiple components	Beacon, flensing platform, jetty

F	Built element with single component	Gravestone, marker
G	Vehicle	Ship or helicopter
H	Artefact	Whaling station machinery, trypot

This enables an understanding of the potential conservation options and constraints as well as the potential for use or reuse.

4.2.2 Developing the Heritage Asset Management System

The Heritage Asset Management System should be established as soon as possible using the information currently available in Poncet's Schedule of Heritage Assets. The time and cost of conducting an exhaustive survey of all the heritage assets on SGSSI prior to the development of the Heritage Asset Management System is prohibitive. Limited surveying may take place but the value of the Heritage Asset Management System in facilitating future decision-making is such that its development will necessarily be undertaken using existing information. When the opportunity arises future survey work will be carried out and the Heritage Asset Management System updated accordingly.

The GSGSSI will welcome timely contributions of information from people who have relevant recent photographs or reliable survey information that they are willing to share to inform the initial development of the Heritage Asset Management System.

4.2.3 Maintenance of the Heritage Asset Management System

The Heritage Asset Management System will be the responsibility of the GSGSSI. It will be updated as works are undertaken and conservation indicators will be reviewed annually.

4.2.4 Format and Distribution

The Heritage Asset Management System will be maintained by (or for) the GSGSSI as an electronic database and is likely to be integrated with the GSGSSI data portal database managed by BAS. It will be an internal management tool. Access will be granted to the HAP and others at the discretion of the GSGSSI.

4.3 FURTHERING UNDERSTANDING AND RESEARCH

The purpose of this section is, further to section 3.2.6, is to outline considerations relating to furthering understanding of the heritage assets for visitors, both tourists and researchers, in terms of physical and intellectual access on the islands and remotely. As stated, there is considerable scope for further research on SGSSI's heritage assets but it is not for the Heritage Strategy to identify specific areas or responsibilities for undertaking research. The GSGSSI will encourage and facilitate, within its means, research into the heritage assets of SGSSI.

4.3.1 Physical Access for Visitors

There is potential for visitors to access a number of the heritage assets that represent different aspects of the cultural heritage of South Georgia. There is currently only occasional and very limited visitor access to the South Sandwich Islands.

Access is prohibited to the disused whaling stations except for Grytviken and Ocean Harbour. Grytviken forms the focus of most visitors' trip to South Georgia. A typical visit encompasses a visit to the Museum in the former manager's villa and the church, a walk around the remains of the whaling station and climbing the slope for the view towards the harbour. The Museum offers visitors the opportunity to understand the breadth of South Georgia's cultural heritage as its displays cover the different strands of South Georgia's history.

The sealing sites are generally in sheltered locations on the northern and western coasts of South Georgia and those near designated landing points can potentially be accessed by visitors.

The GSGSSI has developed a series of walks around South Georgia and constructed a boardwalk on Prion Island. Most of these are designed principally in relation to the natural environment but there are walks that allow appreciation of the cultural heritage of the island. The Maiviken Walk from Maiviken to Grytviken includes a sealing site and, as Maiviken is one of the principal research points on the island, draws attention to this aspect of South Georgia's cultural history. It is also possible, though more challenging, to hike the approximate final stage of the route to Stromness taken by Shackleton. A number of overland expeditions undertake the full traverse each year from King Haakon Bay. There is also a guide to Cape Rosa where the James Caird, Shackleton's boat, made landfall. Another, much shorter walk from Grytviken goes to the site of the crashed Argentinian helicopter from the 1982 war. It is not clear from the existing visitor management plans whether other heritage assets relating to, for example, navigation and mapping of the island, are seen as part of the walks. The GSGSSI will continue to develop and provide guidance on walks around South Georgia that enable visitors to appreciate the cultural heritage of the island.

There are several cemeteries on South Georgia, of which only that at Grytviken is accessible due to the exclusion zones around the other whaling stations. GSGSSI is considering how to enable access to the cemeteries of whaling stations for relatives of those buried there.

Access to anywhere on South Georgia is potentially more hazardous than most places visited by tourists. The weather, terrain and wildlife combined with the absence of emergency services or medical provision on the islands as well as the asbestos and poor condition of the built structures significantly increases risks to visitors. The GSGSSI will continue to issue guidance to visitors and to organisers of cruises to make visitors aware of the risks.

4.3.2 Intellectual Access

4.3.2.1 Heritage Interpretation on SGSSI

The main focus of cultural heritage interpretation on SGSSI is the South Georgia Museum in Grytviken, which has displays relating to all aspects of the history of South Georgia. The Museum is considered in more detail in Section 4.4.4.

Almost all the heritage assets on SGSSI require some interpretation for the average visitor to understand what they are and how they fit into the history of the Territory (the possible

exception is Shackleton's grave). However, it is not practical to erect heritage interpretation panels around SGSSI because of the initial costs and the need for subsequent maintenance. Panels would also need to be robust enough to survive the harsh conditions of the winter. Moreover, such panels would impinge on the views and experience of being on SGSSI. Similarly a profusion of leaflets would have cost implications and increases the risk of litter.

Given the development of smart devices, a more practical solution will be to develop a series of downloadable guides. These will be based on the information in the Schedule of heritage assets prepared by Sally Poncet, the information in the Museum and existing publications.

4.3.2.2 Remote Access

There is considerable scope for making the cultural heritage of SGSSI available to a wider audience and it is identified as one of the key objectives of the *Strategy 2016-2020*. Approximately 14,000 visitors currently visit South Georgia annually, of which approximately 9,000 are tourists, and there are both limitations on the number of people able to afford to visit and the number of visitors that the island can accommodate without harm to the natural environment. Therefore, extending access to SGSSI's cultural heritage needs to be carried out through the development of online resources supplemented by overseas exhibitions and lectures as well as documentaries.

The Heritage Asset Management Plan and even the Register of categorised heritage assets is likely to contain considerable information on the assets, including their location. Given the remoteness of the islands and the limited resources for supervision, a decision will need to be taken about how much information is shared publicly to avoid unauthorised visits and potential harm to/removal of assets.

Creating remote access to SGSSI's heritage may include:

- Creating virtual tours of key sites, such as the whaling stations, a sealing site and the cemeteries. This will make use of the detailed laser surveys of the whaling stations that were undertaken.
- Providing an overview of the different parts of SGSSI's heritage through prose and images.
- Providing detailed information and images of the most significant heritage assets.
- Creating online exhibitions.

Possibilities will be considered for creating joint exhibitions or contributing to exhibitions in museums and institutions overseas. Further policy regarding the loaning of artefacts, conditions for their travel and insurance will be developed to facilitate this.

The GSGSSI will encourage those with knowledge and expertise regarding the cultural heritage of SGSSI and its conservation to undertake lectures overseas (outside South Georgia) to raise awareness.

4.3.2.3 Cemeteries

There are cemeteries associated with whaling stations as well as isolated graves around South Georgia. Whilst there are two famous explorers buried in Grytviken's cemetery, which attract

wider attention, the graves of other people who died on the island are of interest to their descendants.

The GSGSSI will consider how best to collect and make available details of the gravestones, the cemeteries and, where feasible, isolated graves, building on work already conducted.⁴ This will enable remote access to the cemeteries for descendants of those buried there and researchers.

4.3.2.4 South Georgia Museum

Collections

The South Georgia Museum contains objects that were acquired by the South Georgia Heritage Trust in addition to the objects that existed in the collections prior to SGHT taking over the running of the Museum. The objects in the Museum's collection form part of the cultural heritage of SGSSI and should remain on South Georgia except for loans to other museums and where permissible in accordance with the GSGSSI's policy on the movement and release of artefacts (see Appendix B).

Most items in the Museum's collections can be viewed online with photographs and information.⁵ The displays in the Museum are also described and illustrated on its website.⁶

It is essential that all objects are accessioned and catalogued so that information about ownership, acquisition and associated history is recorded and so that the holdings of the Museum are clearly recorded. The Museum collections should be managed within a framework that ensures that the conservation, documentation, acquisition and disposal of the collections are undertaken to the standard of the UK Museums Association Museum Accreditation scheme and BS: PAS 197.

Museum Building

The Museum building and the associated stores buildings belong to the GSGSSI and the GSGSSI provides an annual grant towards the Museum's running costs. As the focal point of the interpretation and the principal repository for small artefacts relating to the cultural heritage of SGSSI, it is important that the Museum Building is well maintained. The GSGSSI will continue to contribute towards its upkeep.

The continued existence of the Museum is an essential part of the cultural heritage framework for SGSSI, without which there is no other existing alternative provision to care for and display the collections it holds and for providing a place for other artefacts that ought to be being stored as collections. The GSGSSI will make provision in the proposed cultural heritage legislation to ensure the existence of the Museum.

⁴ South Georgia's Cemeteries, <http://www.wildisland.gs/sgcems/>, accessed 8 June 2017.

⁵ South Georgia Museum Collections, <http://ehive.com/account/3408>, accessed 16 March 2017.

⁶ South Georgia Museum, https://www.sgmuseum.gs/index.php?title=South_Georgia_Museum, accessed 16 March 2017.

4.4 CONSERVATION AND CHANGE

4.4.1 Documentation

4.4.1.1 Recording

Most of the heritage assets on SGSSI are relatively inaccessible and therefore accurate records will be made of each heritage asset as far as practicable. These records should be undertaken as soon as possible as change is occurring rapidly. Photographs from the mid-1990s are evidence of how fast many of the heritage assets have deteriorated in the last 25 years and many larger structures are on the verge of collapse. There are also structures associated with the scientific research that have been replaced by BAS in the last 15 years.

The heritage asset record for each asset should comprise:

- A grid reference
- Latitude and longitude co-ordinates
- A location shown on a map
- Measured survey plans and elevations where relevant
- Photographs of the general aspect of the heritage asset
- Detailed photographs of individual elevations/rooms/components and items of interest (e.g. window, ironmongery, manufacturer's plate)
- Photographs of the setting of the heritage asset
- A written description identifying as far as possible materials and layout
- Any known historical facts
- Any sources of further information

There may be some assets where it will not be possible to collate all this information.

4.4.1.2 The storage of records

Records will be stored electronically on a database maintained by or for the GSGSSI and which will be backed up to prevent loss. The system should be such that information can be transferred automatically as the system is upgraded.

There will also be a paper copy of the records printed on archive quality paper stored in an agreed location. It is essential that the paper archive be kept where physical conditions in terms of temperature and humidity are stable. It should also be located where it can be readily accessed by those most likely to use it.

4.4.2 Controlling Change

4.4.2.1 Building Conservation

The standing buildings in Grytviken (including the large oil containers), King Edward Point (KEP) and the outlying research stations/huts that predate 1983 are all regarded as part of the cultural heritage of SGSSI. There is currently no legislation or policy controlling change to these structures beyond the need for a Regulated Activity Permit for building works.

Decisions regarding the future conservation or any other works to these buildings should be based on a detailed assessment of their significance. Change should only be deemed acceptable where it does not harm the significance of the building. To determine this a heritage impact assessment should be undertaken using the criteria for assessment in Appendix A.

The legislation that is being drafted for the preservation of the heritage assets of SGSSI will include measures to prevent inappropriate construction or conservation works and to ensure a simple heritage impact assessment is carried out prior to permission being granted for any works.

4.4.2.2 Preservation of Setting

Whilst there are no planning laws or protocols on SGSSI, any construction works require a Regulated Activity Permit. This provides SGSSI the opportunity to control the construction of works that would affect the setting of a heritage asset. As well as restricting the construction of buildings within the setting of heritage assets, consideration also should be given to the construction of other structures such as fences.

The setting of heritage assets on SGSSI is likely to be closely related to the natural environment. The whaling stations, for example, exist where they do because of the availability of a large enough area of flat land adjacent to a suitable natural harbour and they are all located on the side of South Georgia that is more sheltered from the worst effects of the weather. Within the whaling stations, there is a strong relationship between different heritage assets that comprise each station and several heritage assets contribute to the setting of any one heritage asset. Similarly the location of trigonometry points or research stations, for example, are located where they are in response to logistical needs, convenience and, to some extent, proximity to systems and subjects of study.

The setting of heritage assets on SGSSI often have great natural beauty. The whaling stations are designed entities, albeit designed for functionality rather than aesthetics, and whilst the whole station relates to the natural environment, the individual heritage assets, such as the buildings, relate to each other in a man-made setting. Most of the other heritage assets on SGSSI, on the other hand, exist singly or part of a comparatively small assemblage and therefore their settings are usually simply the natural environment.

The legislation that is being drafted for the preservation of the heritage assets of SGSSI will include measures to preserve the setting of the heritage assets and to ensure an assessment of heritage impact is carried out prior to permission being granted for any works.

4.4.2.3 Movement of Buildings

There is inherently a greater illustrative value to a historic building that exists where it was originally constructed than one which has been relocated. The relationship between the heritage asset and the natural landscape and between the heritage asset and other heritage assets can be appreciated.

However, the extreme climate, the relative inaccessibility of much of SGSSI and the difficulty of conserving heritage assets with limited resources together with the damage inflicted on cultural

heritage assets by wildlife, especially the seals, may necessitate the relocation of certain built structures. The relocation of buildings should always be a last resort.

Before any relocation of a building, an assessment will be undertaken that assesses the significance of the building, its condition, the stability of its condition and risks associated with both moving and not moving the building. A detailed record of the building and its setting should be made, including photographs, before removal commences.

If a building is dismantled for relocation, it is imperative that it is reconstructed immediately and not left in pieces. This is to prevent loss of elements over time or loss of understanding of what the building materials are.

The legislation that is being drafted for the preservation of SGSSI's heritage assets will include measures to control the heritage assets and to ensure an assessment of heritage impact is carried out prior to any works being granted permission.

4.4.3 The Movement and Release of Artefacts

There is an existing policy on the release and movement of artefacts, which is reproduced in Appendix B.

The policy covers the release of artefacts abroad for public exhibition, including their conservation and study, and for the movement of artefacts within SGSSI.

The policy is in the process of being adopted.

4.4.4 Access for Inspection

Whaling Stations

There is currently a 200m safety exclusion zone around the disused whaling stations, except for Grytviken, because the structures are structurally unsound and they are heavily contaminated with asbestos. This will remain in force until these risks have been mitigated.

However, testing has shown that on still days, there is little risk of asbestos fibres being present in the air. Providing that a consultant or contractor has received appropriate training and is wearing appropriate clothing, visual inspections of the whaling stations can be carried out. Workers carrying out any type of works other than visual inspections will be required to wear the necessary protective clothing and will be required to comply with the SGSSI Asbestos Management Plan.

Grytviken was mostly decontaminated in 2003 and consequently is the easiest part of South Georgia to access for inspection. Inspections should be carried out only by people who can recognise hazards such as asbestos as these are still present.

Sealing Sites

The sealing sites are less accessible than the whaling stations and are generally located in sheltered bays on the more exposed western and northern coasts of South Georgia though sealers are likely to have used conveniently located beaches around the whole island. Access is via boat. Access will continue to be restricted during the seal breeding season.

The heritage assets associated with sealing have been increasingly revealed in recent decades. After the fur and elephant seal populations were severely depleted by the sealers two centuries ago, vegetation colonised the back beaches with the accumulation of peat up to one metre thick. The return of the seals in recent decades has led to erosion of the soil and exposure of heritage assets associated with sealing (and the seals are now causing damage to these assets).

Other Sites, Structures and Artefacts

There is a considerable range of structures and artefacts located around South Georgia and to a lesser extent at the South Sandwich Islands. Access to them varies, not least due to the presence of snow and fur seals for part of the year. It is unlikely that easy access will ever be provided to most of these but a programme of inspections should be implemented as part of the conservation of the heritage assets. It may be that in some cases, people visiting areas on the islands where heritage assets are located are asked to take photographs and make these available to GSGSSI so that it is possible to monitor condition without necessarily accessing the assets.

There are also wrecks and other dumped material on the sea bed around the islands, much of which is not recorded and which shifts over time. Consideration should be given to the requirement for permission for diving on any submerged wrecks.

4.5 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.5.1 Relationship to Natural Environment Legislation

As stated in the *Strategy 2016-2020*, SGSSI 'sustains globally significant levels of biodiversity including major populations of marine mammals and seabirds'. The GSGSSI has established a Marine Protected Area around the Territory. All native species, including the fur seals, are protected. Ultimately, the protection of the natural environment takes precedence over the protection of the cultural heritage. However, wherever possible, every effort will be made to protect the cultural heritage where it will not cause undue harm to the natural environment. For example, where elephant seals are beginning to encroach on the cemetery at Stromness and Husvik, they could reasonably be discouraged from occupying an area that they have not used for over a century to protect the cemetery from damage caused by the seals. On the other hand, conservation of the sealing sites, many of which are on the exposed coastline and less readily accessible for inspection, should take the form of recording rather than attempting to discourage the seals, which are causing the deterioration of the built fabric of the sealing sites, as this is unlikely to be achievable without risk to the seals.

4.5.2 Environmental Hazards Contained within Heritage Assets

There are three principal sources of environmental hazards within the heritage assets. The first is oil, of which residual amounts are found in the whaling stations and ships (some of which are submerged). The GSGSSI has made the identification of the location and amounts of oil and the development of a plan for its removal one of its Strategy objectives for 2016-2020.

A second environmental hazard is the asbestos in the whaling stations. Whilst most of the asbestos has been removed from the whaling station at Grytviken, very small amounts remain sealed in the machinery. Moreover, the asbestos was buried and it is important that the GSGSSI maintains accurate information about where the asbestos is buried to prevent it inadvertently being disturbed in the future. The removal of asbestos from the remaining whaling stations would likely require the demolition of many of the built structures, as at Grytviken, and is unlikely to be logistically or economically feasible. The asbestos removal at Grytviken was very expensive (approximately £6 million in 2004) given the GSGSSI's annual income of approximately £7 million and, unlike the other whaling stations, Grytviken has a water supply and electricity to aid works. The existing exclusion zones should remain in force. Detailed laser surveys of the whaling stations have already been undertaken to preserve a record of the buildings as they exist. Further recording should be undertaken through surveys and photography as and when the buildings are dismantled to record what was concealed at the time of the laser surveys.

The third environmental hazard is the built fabric of the whaling stations. This is in very poor condition: much is structurally unsound and contains sharp and rusty edges, wires and other elements that cause physical injury and even death to the wildlife. There is a limited amount that can be done but loose elements such as wire should be recorded, catalogued and either moved to a store or appropriately disposed of if not of particular significance.

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APPENDICES: APPENDIX A

CRITERIA FOR HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Magnitude of Impact	Definition
High Beneficial	The alterations considerably enhance the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
Medium Beneficial	The alterations enhance to a clearly discernible extent the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
Low Beneficial	The alterations enhance to a minor extent the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
Neutral	The alterations do not affect the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
Low Adverse	The alterations harm to a minor extent the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
Medium Adverse	The alterations harm to a clearly discernible extent the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
High Adverse	The alterations severely harm the heritage values of the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.

APPENDIX B

POLICY ON THE RELEASE AND MOVEMENT OF ARTEFACTS

Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI)

South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) has a unique heritage, which includes the remains of the former whaling stations and their historic buildings, wrecks and hulks, sealing artefacts, early expeditions and other sites of historic interest. There are important links to the history of exploitation, science and polar exploration, including Sir Ernest Shackleton.

We recognise the widespread interest in SGSSI's heritage. Our Strategy 2016-2020 sets out the Government's desire to make its heritage more accessible, enhance the visitor experience and encourage the return of artefacts previously removed without permission from South Georgia. The South Georgia Museum has an important role in showcasing and communicating SGSSI's heritage, which it does in situ and through occasional loans of artefacts for public exhibition abroad. While the Government's presumption is that SGSSI's heritage should remain in situ, we recognise the need to bring heritage to people who will be unable to visit South Georgia in person. In addition to loans through the museum the Government also receives direct expressions of interest from time to time for the display and/or ex-situ restoration of specific heritage items.

This policy document sets out the approach that the Government will take in reaching a decision on whether to:

- 1) Release an artefact for public exhibition abroad;
- 2) Permit the movement of artefacts within SGSSI;

Decisions will be made on a case by case basis, and in a proportionate manner, taking into account any recommendations made by GSGSSI's Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP).

Release of an artefact for public exhibition abroad

1. No heritage items will be released from SGSSI without the express permission of GSGSSI. As a general principle, permission for artefacts to be released from SGSSI will not be given, unless there is a very compelling case for doing so. GSGSSI will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Government's Heritage Advisory Panel in reaching a decision.

2. 'Release' will normally constitute a loan from GSGSSI for which an explicit loan agreement will need to be established between the relevant parties. If a transfer of ownership were to be considered, this would likely require agreement around a more rigorous set of conditions.

3. The Government's Heritage Advisory Panel will consider the merits of any proposal for the release of the artefact taking account of, among other things: the benefit to the object in conservation terms; the public benefit arising from the exhibition of the artefact; any loss of significance to the artefact caused by its release; any other implications arising as a result of temporary or permanent relocation including in respect of any change of ownership.

4. Generally, the release of the artefact will be for one or more of the following reasons, with a presumption being that any proposal for release will incorporate some element of public outreach:

- a. to provide for the better public appreciation and understanding of the object through public display;
- b. for its proper conservation which cannot (or will not) be achieved in its present location;
- c. to advance the restoration of specific cultural heritage structures.

5. Where a request is made for release from SGSSI the proposer will need to fulfil the following criteria:

- a. the proposer must represent a Government body, established museum, or other not-for-profit organisation with relevant heritage and public outreach objectives and have, where possible, wider public support. The proposer will be expected to adhere to internationally recognised standards, such as the ICOM (International Council of Museums) Code of Ethics;
- b. the organisation must have a clear rationale to underpin any request for the release of an artefact such that a reasonable link between the organisation and that artefact can be evidenced;
- c. the organisation must be able to demonstrate that it has, or can demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that it will have, financial commitments in place to underpin its proposed activities for the artefact including long-term financial sustainability. There should be no expectation of costs falling to GSGSSI or the South Georgia Museum. Where the financial commitments required are significant the proposal may benefit from more than one source of funding. An agreement on the transfer of ownership and/or of liabilities may be required;
- d. the purpose of the release will be for the study, conservation or restoration of the artefact and / or for its public display, when this is not going to be achieved in situ. This may include the release of artefacts for restoration overseas and return to South Georgia for public exhibition;
- e. the proposer must have in place a detailed project proposal which will need to incorporate (as necessary) the requirement for an Environmental Assessment covering the release of the artefact and the site from which it is being removed. (An Environmental Assessment will also apply to proposals for the movement of artefacts/fittings);

6. Any artefact released from SGSSI must be carefully catalogued and recorded, to defined criteria, and a record must be provided for inclusion within the GSGSSI archive.

Permit the movement of artefacts within SGSSI

1. No heritage items will be moved from one site to another without the express permission of GSGSSI. GSGSSI will, as appropriate, seek advice from the Heritage Advisory Panel in reaching a decision.

2. Generally, the movement of an artefact from one site to another will be for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. to provide for the better public appreciation and understanding of the object;
 - b. to use it for public display in the Grytviken Museum or within the vicinity of the Grytviken whaling station;
 - c. for its proper conservation which cannot (or will not) be achieved in its present location;
 - d. to advance the restoration of specific cultural heritage structures through the movement and transfer of artefacts and fittings (not whole or large parts of buildings).
3. Any artefact moved between sites must be carefully catalogued and recorded, to defined criteria, and a record must be provided for inclusion within the GSGSSI archive.
4. If an object is identified as being a possible historic artefact, which is deemed to be in imminent risk of destruction or damage, then the Government Officers at King Edward Point must be contacted. Depending on the nature of the risk, recovery of the item may be permissible, providing prescribed guidelines are adhered to, to record and report the details of the artefact and its location.

General principles

Any public exhibition of an artefact will be required to acknowledge its SGSSI heritage and recognise the role of GSGSSI. Exhibitors may be requested to engage and involve GSGSSI directly in the development of the exhibition.

Before permission will be considered for the release of any artefact from South Georgia, or movement of artefacts within the Territory, all prerequisite conditions must be met to the satisfaction of the GSGSSI, which will also take into consideration the views of the HAP, and any other key SGSSI stakeholders identified by the GSGSSI or HAP during the course of the application assessment or any wider stakeholder consultation.

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