Historic England

HERITAGE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Plan

INTRODUCTION

We are facing a global climate crisis and the UK has committed to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by no later than 2050.

Historic England recognises the urgent need for positive action and is committed to achieving net zero by 2040. This plan sets out our baseline and our approach to achieving this.

Over the past several years, we have been working closely with other organisations, on a national and international scale, to understand and address the challenges that the historic environment faces as we move into a period of climate uncertainty. We are signatories to the Joint Heritage Sector Statement on Climate Change and members of the Climate Heritage Network.

At Historic England, we are researching and promoting the role our cultural heritage can play in both climate change mitigation and adaptation – for example, looking at recycling and reusing existing historic buildings.

As an organisation, we have a duty of care to protect our heritage. We support actions that address the causes of climate change and that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Statement on Climate Change and Sustainability July 2020

Flooding around Tewkesbury in 2018. The town has suffered increasingly regular flooding in recent years

ACHIEVING NET ZERO

The UK government has set out an ambitious strategy to tackle climate change. In 2019, the government amended the Climate Change Act (2008) to require the UK to bring greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change requires global emissions to rapidly decline over the next 10 years and reach net zero no later than 2050.

Our commitment is that by 2040, we will reduce our scope 1,2 and 3 emissions by at least 90%; or to a residual level that is consistent with reaching net zero emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. We will then neutralise any residual emissions, and any greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere, through recognised carbon offsetting schemes.

Our targets and pathway have been set using the most recent climate science and methodology available via the Science-Based Target initiative.

The Engine House, Swindon. We will strive to make our offices more energy efficient

---

[1] Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting company. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in a company's value chain.

BASELINE EMISSIONS

Our baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is in line with the GHG Protocol . This has allowed us to fully understand our emissions and which are our most carbon intensive activities (our 'carbon hotspots'). We have been able to use this GHG inventory to recognise our risks and identify opportunities to reduce them.

Our GHG inventory accounts for 100 percent of Historic England's emissions over which we have operational control, which includes all direct and indirect emissions.

2019 baseline year emissions			tCO_2e	% total
Scope 1	Gas	Emissions from energy usage associated with Historic England offices	441	11
Scope 2	Electricity		512	13
Scope 3	Purchased goods and services	Emissions associated with goods and services purchased by Historic England during the baseline year	895	22
	Capital goods	Emissions associated with capital goods purchased by Historic England during the baseline year	328	8
	Fuel and energy-related activities	Upstream emissions associated with the fuels and electricity consumed by Historic England	170	4
	Upstream transportation and distribution	Emissions associated with courier and postal services purchased by Historic England	6	0.2
	Waste generated in operations	Emissions associated with waste generated by Historic England during the baseline year	56	1.4
	Business travel	Emissions associated with business travel by Historic England employees	472	12
	Employee commuting	Emissions from employees travelling to and from Historic England's offices	726	18
	Downstream transportation and distribution	Emissions from Historic England visitors travelling to sites	44	1.1
	End of life treatment of sold products	Emissions associated with the disposal of Historic England's packaging by customers	0.03	0
	Downstream leased assets	Emissions from assets owned by Historic England and leased to third parties	375	9.3
	Franchises	Not applicable (N/A)	-	-
	Processing of sold products	N/A	-	-
	Use of sold products	N/A	-	-
	Investments	N/A	-	-
	Upstream leased assets	N/A	-	-

---

[2] The GHG Protocol establishes comprehensive global standardised frameworks for measuring and managing GHG emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions.

EMISSIONS REPORTING

Since 2017, we have been reporting our sustainability metrics through our annual report. This included scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions and some scope 3 emissions, including business travel, waste, water and paper.

In future, our reporting will include all scope 3 emissions included in our inventory above.

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Emissions associated with business travel are already included in our reporting. We calculate this figure using financial data we have available from our finance system. It includes air, rail and road travel.

For future reporting, we will work towards gathering more accurate business travel data, including breaking down the data by each journey leg, type of travel and class. This is to add transparency to our data.

EMPLOYEE COMMUTING

Historically, we have not included employee commuting in our reported scope 3 emissions because we do not have a source of commuting activity data. To gather this data, we will first conduct employee commuting surveys to capture typical commuting behaviours. This methodology is recognised within the GHG Protocol; Technical Guidance for Calculating Scope 3 Emissions; Category 7: Employee commuting.

In the longer term, we intend to develop a system and process to capture actual employee commuting activity data.

PURCHASED GOODS AND SERVICES AND CAPITAL GOODS

Purchased goods and services and capital goods will be added into our scope 3 emissions reporting. For our 2021/22 financial year reporting, we will use financial data on spend (in £) to calculate and report on our emissions.

For future reporting, we intend to move away from spend data by working with our suppliers to gain more accurate data – for example, raw material data for all products, separated by product type. This will allow us to calculate and report our emissions data more accurately.

UPSTREAM TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Emissions from upstream logistics have not been included in our current scope 3 emissions reporting so far, but will be from now on. For now, we are reliant on financial data and spend (in £) to report on these emissions. We then intend to start recording origin and destination addresses.

WASTE GENERATED IN OPERATIONS

We already calculate the waste generated by our operations (in tonnes) and include the figure in our annual report. For future reporting, we will use our waste data to calculate the associated carbon emissions by applying the appropriate DEFRA conversion factors.

To monitor and reduce our waste, we will also report against internal Key Performance Indicators that we set ourselves.

EMISSIONS REPORTING
CONTINUED

DOWNSTREAM TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION

These emissions have not previously been included in our scope 3 emissions reporting. To include this in our future reporting, we will engage with visitors to gather information on modes of transport and distances travelled per visit.

DOWNSTREAM LEASED ASSETS

We lease seven of our offices to other organisations. We will now include emissions associated with these offices, including both electricity and gas used by our tenants, as part of our scope 3 emissions reporting. We will calculate the proportion of our tenants' emissions using figures for total energy usage and the number of non-Historic England employees.

UPSTREAM LEASED ASSETS

There are no activities of this kind associated with our organisation. This scope 3 emissions category is therefore not relevant to us and will not feature in our reporting.

PROCESSING OF SOLD PRODUCTS

There are no activities of this kind associated with our organisation. This scope 3 emissions category is therefore not relevant to us and will not feature in our reporting.

USE OF SOLD PRODUCTS

There are no activities of this kind associated with our organisation. This scope 3 emissions category is therefore not relevant to us and will not feature in our reporting.

FRANCHISES

There are no franchises associated with our organisation. This scope 3 emissions category is therefore not relevant to us and will not feature in our reporting.

INVESTMENTS (TO INCLUDE GRANT GIVING)

There are no investments associated with our organisation. This scope 3 emissions category is therefore not relevant to us and will not feature in our reporting.

Grant giving to projects is currently not included in our baseline and reporting. We will look to include this is future reporting, considering the environmental impact of projects and reflect this in our decision making.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

To achieve net zero by 2040, we must set a series of near-term targets to be achieved by 2030, along with a long-term target of at least a 90% reduction in overall emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) before reaching net zero in 2040.

- Near-term target: a linear-annual-rate (LAR) reduction of 5.75% of scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030

- Near-term target: a 46% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2030

- Long-term target: at least a 90% reduction in overall emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3) before reaching net zero in 2040; this means an annual reduction of 4.6% from 2030 to 2040

Our reduction pathways are based on:

- our initial baseline inventory
- our current understanding of government policy and aspirations
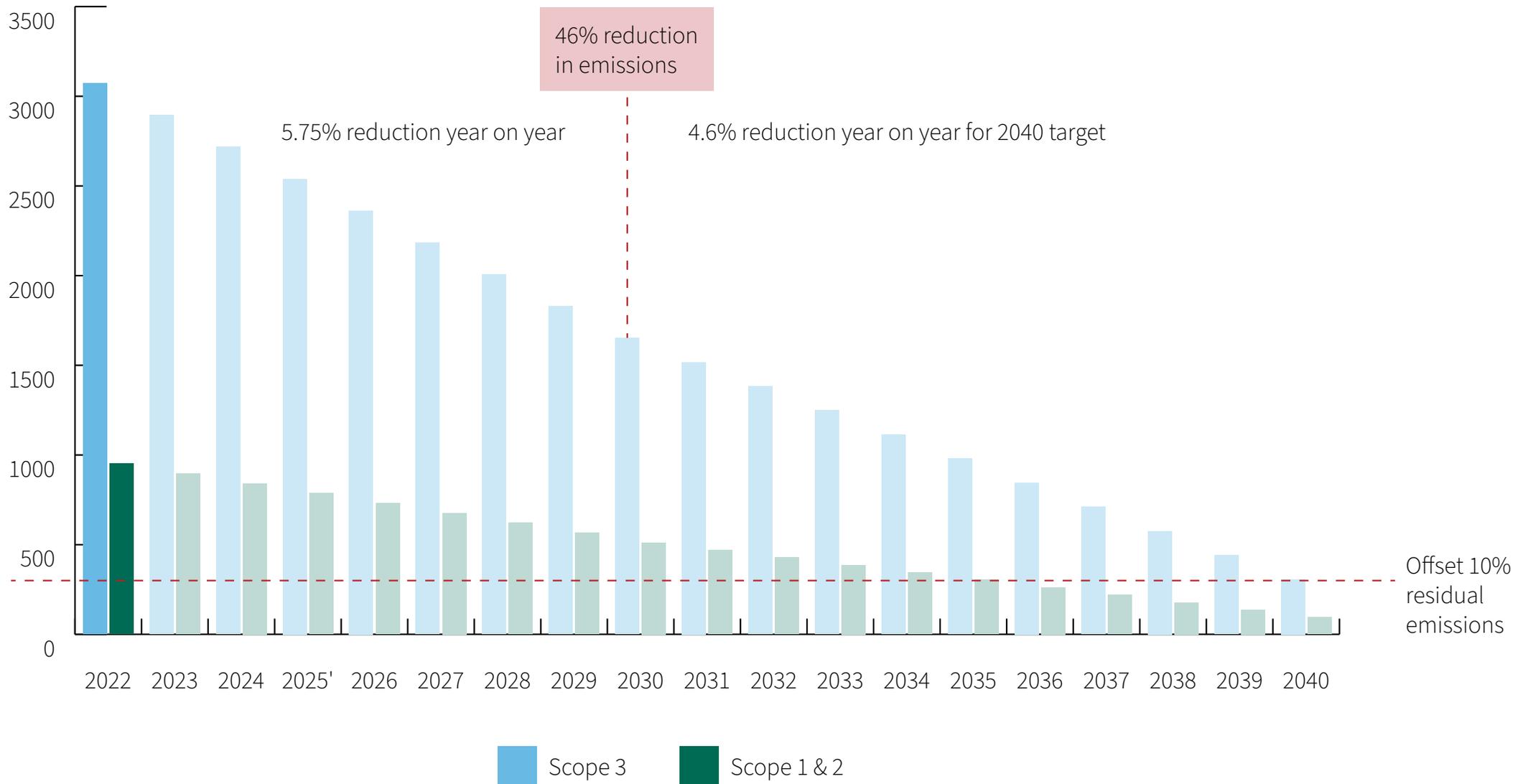- the currently available technical solutions

While we are committed to net zero as a non-department public body, we will need to balance our carbon reduction programme with the rules for spending public money and providing public value.

This will require our targets and trajectory to be reviewed at least annually and, where required, updated to account for changes in government policy, available grant in aid and other developments.

Teesside Offshore Wind Farm, North Yorkshire. We will move away from fossil fuels to renewable and sustainable energy plans

7

CARBON REDUCTION TRAJECTORY

46% reduction in emissions

5.75% reduction year on year

4.6% reduction year on year for 2040 target

Offset 10% residual emissions

Scope 3   Scope 1 & 2

CARBON REDUCTION PROJECTS

Our baseline indicates that our emissions are 4,025 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO$_2$e). To reduce our emissions by at least 90% – a reduction of 3,622.5 tCO$_2$e – we will implement the following environmental management projects and measures.

Reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions

- Improve energy efficiency
- Move away from the use of fossil fuels for our buildings and offices

Reduce the emissions associated with our procurement of purchased goods and services

- Embed sustainability into our procurement process
- Capture supplier-level data to report our emissions accurately
- Work with our suppliers to source more sustainable materials, products and services
- Implement a Supplier Carbon Reduction Programme
- Use the circular economy when sourcing materials, products and services
- Review and lower the threshold for our procurement contracts to provide a carbon reduction plan

Reduce our emissions through sustainable travel

- Install electric vehicle charging points at allocated offices
- Incentivise more sustainable modes of transport such as car sharing, cycling, walking, trains and buses
- Consider the benefits and implications of hybrid working, weighing reduced staff travel against increased energy use for home working

- Track employee commuting to understand employee behaviours and increase the accuracy of our data
- Work with our third-party car hire supplier to introduce full electric and hybrid vehicles only

Improve waste management at our offices

- Centralise our waste
- Develop a waste management procedure
- Implement waste targets

Introduce environmental targets

- Implement and report on environmental targets to help drive improvement

Reduce emissions by improving data and setting targets

- Improve accuracy of our data and implement data management processes so we can monitor progress against our targets
- Develop an internal framework to support data management
- Invest in a data reporting system within financial year 2022/23
- Collect and track scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions data on a monthly basis
- Develop a quarterly dashboard as a method of communicating progress

NEXT STEPS

We will monitor and review our plan on a regular basis to make sure we stay on track to meet our emissions reduction targets. Our progress will be included in our Annual Report.

To find out more about the work that we are doing to tackle climate change, see our Heritage and Climate Change Strategy

HistoricEngland

Historic England

historicengland

Historic England

This former reservoir used to serve the nearby Greenburn copper mine, but has returned to its original state as a tarn, fostering wildlife and enhancing the diversity of the landscape