

# Scottish Natural Heritage

## LANDSCAPE INDICATOR

December 2016

### LBD2 Visual Influence of Built Development

This indicator monitors the types of development that may be visible from a place and how much change there may have been. This information has been collected since 2008 and was last updated in 2013. It can be a useful tool to look at patterns of visibility of development and how it may be influencing change in Scotland's landscapes.

With good siting and design and a positive focus on placemaking we can seek to manage the potential visual impact of built development on the landscape of Scotland.



Glasgow © Lorne Gill/SNH

#### Evidence

The theoretical visibility of built development on land and at sea between January 2008 and December 2013 was mapped from 14 spatial datasets. For wind turbines, tall structures, major bridges and offshore structures the feature's assumed or actual height and the modifying influence of topography was taken into account (but not vegetation cover that can screen features). The other types of development assumed visibility within pre-defined distances (SNH, 2015). SNH Natural Heritage Indicator [N3 Visual Influence of Built Development](#) provides a detailed breakdown of this data, how it was derived and the source data as well as the visibility of individual components.

#### Assessment

As of 2013, one or more types of built development could be seen from 73% (5,750,855ha) of Scotland's land area (7,880,880ha). This was an increase from 71.4% in 2012, and from 65.4% in 2008.

#### Commentary

For this updated indicator the results show a continuation of the overall trend identified in previous years. There is some variation in the rate of change as shown in the graph.

#### Source data and updates

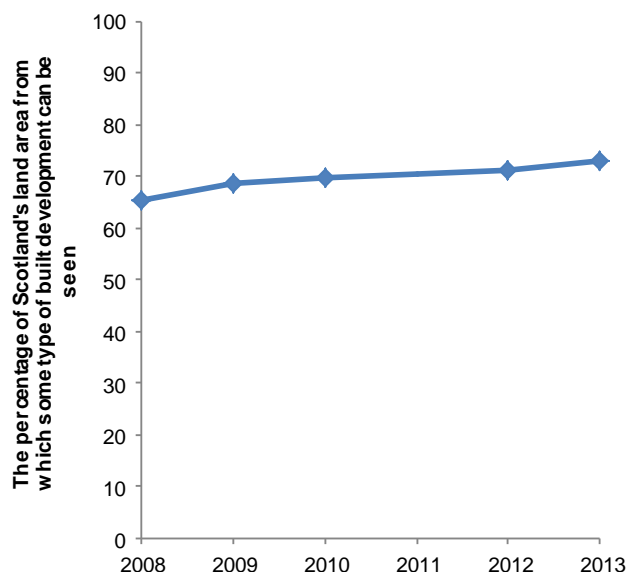
Refer to [N3 - Visual influence of built development](#)

#### UK Indicators

No equivalent.

#### References

SNH. 2014. Visual influence of built development indicator – 2013 data update - Technical note. Scottish Natural Heritage, Inverness.



**TREND**

**Increase**

**DATA CONFIDENCE**

**High**



<http://snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/looking-after-landscapes/landscape-monitoring-programme/>



**Annex1: Visual Influence of Built Development December 2013**

