



PERICLES Project no. 770504



PrEseRving and sustainably governing Cultural heritage and Landscapes in European coastal and maritime regions

Small Isles' cultural heritage: risks and opportunities

Report on the results of the workshop and the pre-workshop
questionnaire

Contents

Introduction.....	1
Values	2
What is your heritage?	3
Future visions for the islands and the role of cultural heritage	5
The role of heritage in the future vision for the islands.....	5
Are there potential conflicts between visions for the future of the islands and cultural heritage?.....	6
Do you have the means and tools to achieve the envisaged role of cultural heritage ?	7
Risks and opportunities	8
Risk.....	8
Opportunities	12
Actions	13
Conclusions.....	14
Appendix 1: Responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire	15
Appendix 2: Workshop presentation.....	39

Introduction

This report shares the results of the workshop *Small Isles' cultural heritage: risks and opportunities* held online in February 2021, with participants from each of the Small Isles: Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck. The objectives of the workshop were:

1. To explore the role of cultural heritage in plans for the future of the islands,
2. To assess risks and opportunities
3. To identify and prioritise actions that can be taken

The workshop was intended to link to ongoing work on risk to cultural heritage within the remit of the PERICLES project (<https://www.pericles-heritage.eu/>) which aims to take a participatory, bottom-up approach to heritage governance.

The ongoing Covid-19 situation meant that the workshop had to be held online rather than in person as originally planned. The restricted scope and time for discussion meant that it was necessary to prepare for the workshop differently and we did so by asking participants to anonymously complete a pre-workshop questionnaire, the responses were used in preparing the key stages of the workshop. This report is based on the results of both the pre-workshop questionnaire and the online workshop. The full, anonymous responses to the questionnaire are included here as Appendix 1, the responses have not been modified in any way except to remove some information that could be used to identify an individual.

The workshop was designed using an 'imagined future' framing. We used this framing in the hope of contextualising risk to heritage more broadly i.e. rather than focus on specific risks to heritage in the present we thought it would be beneficial to be able to also include risks to the role that heritage could or does play in the communities and in achieving the hoped for future for each of the islands. This is a very different approach to the one that is currently being taken to risk to heritage by professional bodies and we wished to demonstrate that taking a participatory and deliberative approach to heritage governance might significantly expand the understanding of both heritage and risk.

While the main focus of the workshop was on risk, it has become apparent through work in the project that when addressing risk people also talk of opportunities, we therefore included a

discussion of heritage-related opportunities in the workshop. Further, attitudes to heritage and perceptions of its status cannot be separated from people's values which were also included in the workshop discussion.

The workshop started with a short presentation intended to familiarise participants with the key results from the questionnaire. The material used in this presentation is included here as Appendix 2 but it should be emphasized that it only provides an overview of the full results in Appendix 1.

Values

The most commonly mentioned values from the pre-workshop questionnaire are shown in Figure 1, the full range of values mentioned is available in Appendix 1.

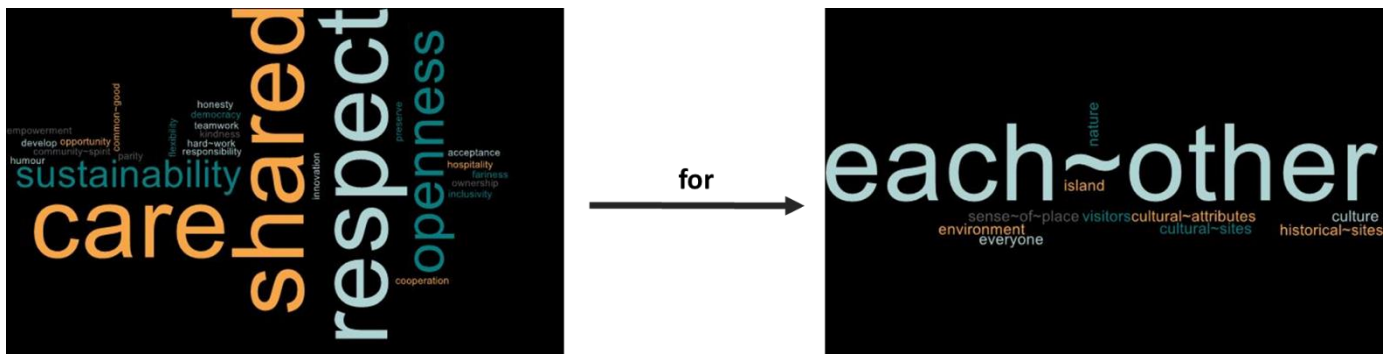


Figure 1: A representation of the values identified in the questionnaire

In short, the values identified show the importance of sustainability and the ethos of democracy, sharing and teamwork. These were demonstrated in terms of: opportunity for all, shared work and working together, shared responsibility and shared benefits. Other-regarding values of kindness, respect for each other and for the environment, openness and humour were also important.

When these values were discussed during the workshop, there was broad consensus in all groups that the values listed were representative of the wider community. The group discussions also

allowed the identification of other important values that were not identified in the questionnaire including: resilience (also stamina) and self-reliance, a healthy lifestyle, an outward-looking approach, responsibility for the environment and heritage, accepting failure without criticism, identity, playing to strengths and “just getting on with it.”

What is your heritage?

Taking a participatory approach is central to the PERICLES project, therefore rather than taking a prescriptive approach to what heritage is, we asked participants to identify what they consider their heritage to be. The results show that participants’ conceptualisation of cultural heritage includes, but also extends far beyond, the idea of heritage as objects from the past and that tangible, intangible and living heritage were all included. More specifically the responses mentioned:

- The community, the people, the welcome
- Music, dance, feis, ceilidhing
- Language and stories
- The environment e.g. landscape, views, wildlife (e.g. deer, Rum ponies, Manx shearwaters), the feeling of wilderness
- Ways of living e.g. crofting and livestock, running, swimming
- Built heritage: Canna house, Kinloch castle, monuments, clearance villages, archaeological sites, museums
- History and the story of the islands e.g. the buyout, previous owners, faith, historic figures

While participants identified all of the above as heritage, it was also evident that the combination of all of these elements combined to form the heritage and in large part, the identity, of each of the islands. In this sense, while the elements mentioned were themselves valued as heritage, they were also valued as a constituent parts of the islands’ heritage as a whole.

Importantly, participant responses also highlighted the *process* of heritage. For example, some responses mentioned the loss of the Gaelic language and some traditions, the idea that heritage and place are interconnected and that both are made by people and, linked to this, the impact

that the various island owners have had on the current heritage and identity of each island. Therefore participants' view of what their heritage was encompassed individual heritage elements, the combination of elements that blend to form heritage and the processes that impact on the formation of heritage and island identity. Further it was also evident that heritage was not considered exclusively in terms of the past but was instead thought to very much include the current island way of life as practiced on each island.

A related aim of the pre-workshop questionnaire was to try to understand how people related to heritage and the Life Framework of Values was used to structure four of the questions. The Life Framework is currently used in sustainability research to understand how people relate to the world in terms of the four frames of *living in* the world, *living from* the world, *living with* the world and *living as* the world. Heritage was considered to be essential to shaping the islands that participants *live in*, it makes each island what it is and it was also important in informing future directions. Further, the contribution of heritage to place and to lifestyle was thought to be a large part of what attracted people to visit and move to the islands. The responses to the question on heritage as a resource that aimed to address the idea of *living from* were more mixed. Some participants saw heritage as an important resource that could be used for tourism and/or to support jobs although in this perspective, heritage was considered to be one of the attractions alongside other factors such as wildlife and natural beauty. However, others thought that heritage played a limited role as a resource in this sense. Other participants took a different approach to 'resource' and either did not think of heritage as a resource to be used or viewed it as a different sort of resource i.e. one that provided inspiration or emotional sustenance to an individual or community. In contrast there was broad agreement on the role of heritage in shaping the way that people *live with* the non-human world (e.g. other species). In this perspective, the importance of nature to the participants was clear and the idea of *living with* nature was deeply engrained in some responses, as for example in a response that indicated that the natural world *is* our world and not one that we should need to be making space for. Many responses also referred to cultural and natural heritage being inextricably linked in shaping the physical landscapes and practices that exist today. Finally, perceptions of the role of heritage as an integral part of life (*living as*) were also mixed. For some respondents, heritage was integral to them or to shaping the community, for others it was important to the community and to a way of life but not integral to their own lives in

the same way. Interestingly, some participants identified the importance of a connection to people who lived on the islands in the past and mentioned the fact that they followed the same practices or felt an inherited sense of stewardship.

Future visions for the islands and the role of cultural heritage

In preparation for the workshop, participants were also asked to share their visions for how their island would be in 2030 in the questionnaire. The full responses are available in the appendix and the key points were:

- A sustainable, thriving population and a place where children can prosper
- Good infrastructure but not too much development
- Diverse, locally-based economy including, but not dependent on, tourism and blue-growth opportunities
- Opportunities for work: some preferred work opportunities to be based on sustainable small-scale practices, others saw a role for larger aquaculture developments
- Good environmental status: clean, high levels of biodiversity, low input crofting, more trees
- Clean and renewable energy, low or zero net carbon
- A peaceful environment
- Valued heritage

The role of heritage in the future vision for the islands

In relation to the previous question, participants were also asked what they thought the role of heritage might be, if any, in achieving the imagined future of the islands. Overall, there was a desire to share the islands' heritage and consensus that heritage did have a role to play although the roles identified varied. Some participants thought that heritage is currently being overlooked and that it should play a bigger role in the future than it does at the moment, others thought that it would be intrinsic to survival of sustainable populations and to future development. Some participants saw heritage as being a way to enrich the tourism experience and generating work linked to tourism for example through ranger or guide roles. Similarly, although not necessarily

linked to tourism, heritage was also seen as a way of differentiating the islands and celebrating the identity of each. Heritage was also considered to be part of the ongoing story of the islands and in this way was thought to be integral for people living on the islands and was not just for visitors. In this sense, it was seen to have a role in education, in making and maintaining the community and the way of life, in contributing to identity, to a sense of place and in shaping a direction for the future. In sum, while heritage was thought to be important for the tourism product, it was not exclusively or universally seen as a resource to be utilised.

[Are there potential conflicts between visions for the future of the islands and cultural heritage?](#)

During the workshop, the responses outlined above were used to identify and discuss any potential conflicts between the future visions for the islands and their cultural heritage and in the discussion several different potential areas of conflict were identified.

One issue raised was that island life is busy and hands-on and that while there was a desire to do more with the heritage, there were also time and capacity constraints meaning that heritage would not necessarily be high on the agenda if there were more urgent matters to deal with. There was also a concern that there was a lack of knowledge and appreciation of cultural heritage which would hinder its role in the future of the islands. Participants were also concerned that cultural heritage is sometimes overshadowed by natural heritage and wished to contextualise heritage by 'giving cultural heritage its past'. A related point was the question of whether heritage is considered of the past or the present. The example given was that of the Gaelic language – if people are not using it, has it become a thing of the past or is it part of current and ongoing heritage?

Another potential area of conflict was based on the view that heritage can be potentially restrictive in achieving the desired future for the islands, for example there have been difficulties with getting permits to build new houses. In this context, participants wished to prioritise the future of the community rather than heritage as prioritising heritage in terms of a strong conservationist stance was seen to jeopardise the viability of communities and island life. Participants did not wish to live in a museum, rather they saw heritage as something living and

fluid that required stable communities. In a way, this is a conflict between different heritage narratives and which type of heritage is prioritised in each one. This concern was strongly related to concerns about the control and ownership of heritage. In some of the islands, heritage is seen as being owned by external bodies who manage the islands from a distance. This has several consequences including a lack of continuity within the owning bodies and their approaches to the islands, and friction between the visions of the owning bodies and those of the residents. Participants did recognise that the owning bodies are bound by certain obligations and may themselves be caught up in a restrictive process but were also of the view that managed change should not conflict with heritage and that any proposed action that would be considered detrimental by the communities would not pass. There was also a view that any conflict that did arise could be managed and negotiated.

Other concerns were about tourism; while tourism is important to the islands, there was a desire to not exclusively depend on it. Further, participants did not wish to see tourism causing changes on the islands, they did not wish to see a situation in which the natural beauty of the islands would be sacrificed or damaged by a need for tourism infrastructure or by mass tourism. Instead participants hoped that heritage could enrich an experience rather than be used to attract too many visitors and that visitors would bring benefits and income and not just visit and spend money off the island.

[Do you have the means and tools to achieve the envisaged role of cultural heritage ?](#)

Following discussion of the envisaged role of heritage in the future of the islands, it was important to assess whether the means to achieve this were available and what was needed if not, as this could emerge as a potential risk to heritage. During the discussions, resources were flagged as an issue but while the need for funding and IT support was acknowledged, there was also a view that sources of funding were available and that the main resource limitations were related to a lack of time and lack of enough people to achieve the desired status or role for heritage, i.e. that there was currently a potential lack of adequate capacity to achieve the vision for heritage on the islands. Related to this was the view that more education, of both residents and visitors, about the heritage of the islands was needed. Others pointed out that knowledge, for example about traditional place names, does exist but is not easily accessible or widely shared linking to a need to

share existing knowledge more broadly. One suggestion was to create ranger roles where absent, to maintain, make visible and share place names and records.

Another identified constraint was linked to issues of ownership in two ways. There were fears that if external experts were brought in to work on making the heritage more visible, then there was a risk of losing control of direction. A second point was that even if the necessary means and tools were available or found, then actions can be constrained by the islands' owning or managing bodies.

Risks and opportunities

Risk

One of the project aims is to take a participatory approach to identifying, assessing and addressing risks to heritage. Broadly speaking the heritage of the islands was thought to be in a good state although several participants did also think that some intervention was needed. The workshop and questionnaire were framed with the intention to not only address risks to heritage but also risks to the role of heritage, if one was identified, in the future of the islands.

Risks to heritage were addressed in several steps. First a risk matrix was developed for the questionnaire which was based on a literature review conducted within the PERICLES project and refined on the basis on interviews that had been conducted earlier in the project. The risk matrix was included in the questionnaire and participants were asked to identify those risks that were considered to be both highly likely to occur and that would have a high impact if they did occur. The intention was to identify the risks considered to be the most relevant within the context of the Small Isles and to use the results for discussion in the workshop. The full results from the questionnaire are shown in Figures 2 and 3. Figure 2 shows the rating for high likelihood and high impact for each risk. Figure 3 shows the risks that were considered to be both highly likely and to have a high impact. In the questionnaire participants were also invited to list any risks that had not been captured in the risk matrix, the full responses from the questionnaire are available in the appendix; those raised during the workshop are discussed below.

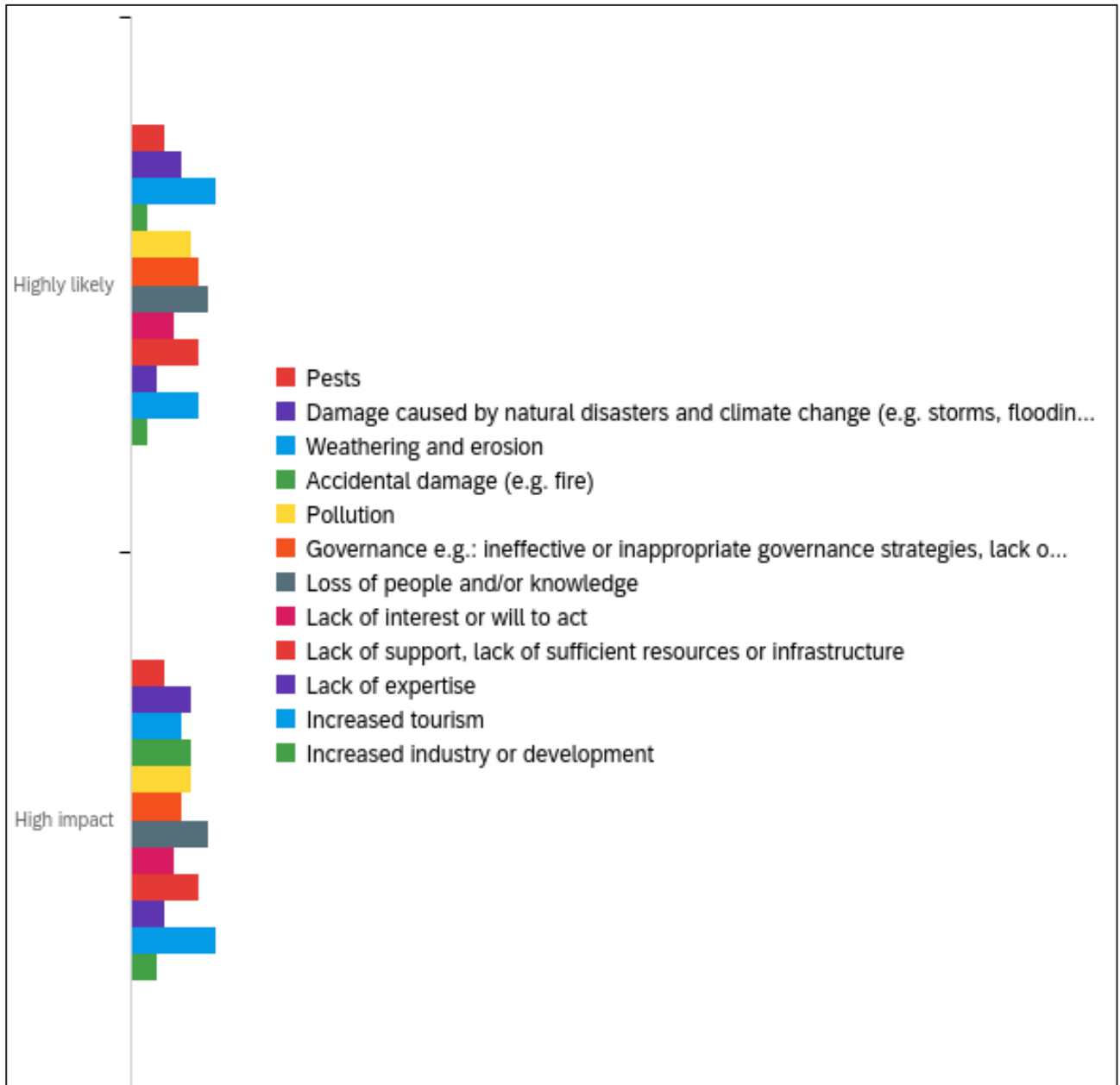


Figure 2: Results from the questionnaire showing responses to risks in terms of how highly likely they were and how high their impact might be.

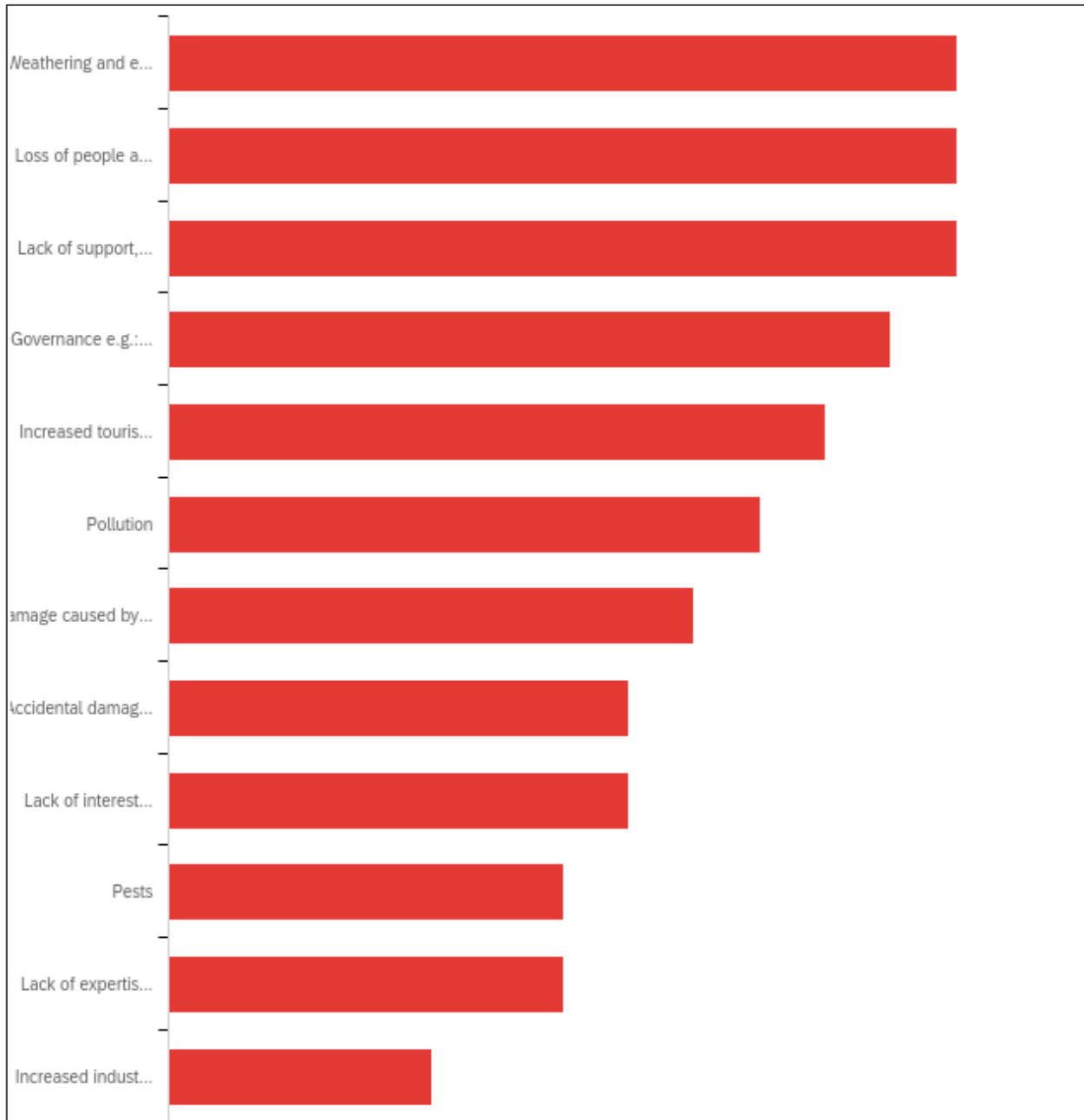


Figure 3: The risks that were ranked as both highly likely to occur and that would have a high impact if they did occur.

Figure 3 shows that weathering and erosion, loss of people and knowledge and lack of support, sufficient resources and infrastructure were all equally considered to be the risks that were most likely to occur and that would have the biggest impact. They were followed by ineffective or inappropriate governance and increased tourism. These 'top' five risks were used as the basis of the workshop discussions on risk. First, participants were asked to add any risks that they thought

were important but that were not captured in the risk matrix or not reflected in the questionnaire ranking results. The added risks included:

- Ownership: who has ownership and who interprets heritage? External people setting priorities
- Overuse
- Misappropriation and stereotyping of heritage and using it to generate a view of the islands as museums rather than places where people live
- Risks and impacts from external changes e.g. Brexit will impact funding available
- Lack of time, people and expertise, risk of burnout
- Inappropriate development
- Bad planning decisions leading to erosion and storm damage
- Pests
- Problem of allocating limited financial resources and balancing solutions that are more sympathetic to the heritage aspects of buildings but are more expensive
- Unknown heritage could simply be missed
- A lack of ability to deal with accidental damage like fire
- Conflict within a community
- Pollution e.g. plastic pollution on the beaches

Concerns around ownership and external decision making and its impact on heritage and/or on the future of the islands had been raised earlier in the workshop and were reiterated here as was the point that capacity to act on plans for heritage was limited in terms of time and people available to do so. Conflict between different views within a community was also identified as a potential risk but not one that could not be surmounted.

The next step in the workshop was to see if there was broad agreement about which risks from those discussed were the most important to address. Weather damage was considered inevitable and in this sense not something that could readily be addressed. Some participants considered that ensuring good governance was fundamental to addressing all the other risks – without appropriate governance other risks could not be dealt with. An inclusive approach was also considered crucial to good governance – if people and communities were included then this would also help tackle concerns of ownership, misappropriation and mis-use of heritage as well as a perceived low interest in heritage. Other participants thought that a lack of interest in heritage was the key issue to address as it was the basis of other risks to heritage. Another fundamental risk that was prioritised for attention was the problem of the loss of people and knowledge which

was related to a lack of funding and support for establishing sustainable communities on some of the islands. In sum, the discussions focussed on the key risks of: non-inclusive and inappropriate governance, a lack of interest and the loss of people.

Opportunities

Participants in the wider PERICLES project have regularly brought up heritage-related opportunities when discussing risks, and based on this we wished to include a discussion of potential opportunities in the workshop. Interestingly, the three discussion groups all identified similar opportunities and rather than seeing heritage largely as a source of economic opportunity, many of the ones identified were community-focussed and were based on educational and engagement opportunities for the islanders.

More specifically, opportunities were seen for the creation of heritage related jobs or income sources through musical events, creative industries, ranger, interpreter or guide roles and income from visitor accommodation. Participants also identified the potential of using experiential archaeology or other outreach projects and activities that could get both residents and visitors more involved in exploring the heritage of the islands. Opportunities to invite experts to give talks were identified as well as for residents to engage with and learn about their heritage through the researching of content for online platforms (e.g. apps). Linked to this was the view that heritage was seen as offering a different kind of opportunity, i.e. one to facilitate education for residents, for school children and for potential future islanders by anchoring and connecting them to the islands and, through a shared heritage, to each other thereby by strengthening the living heritage of the island way of life. Heritage was also seen to be a source of knowledge which allowed for the development of new practices from old ways e.g. in crofting practices. Heritage, understood as the island way of life, was seen to offer people the opportunity to learn from each other and a way of transferring skills within communities. Heritage was also perceived to offer an opportunity as a medium through which governance could be more inclusive. In short, rather than seeing heritage mostly in terms of income generation, many of the opportunities identified centered on opportunities for island communities of the present, and of the future, to learn more about and engage with the heritage of the islands and with each other.

Actions

Following discussion of risks and opportunities, participants addressed the scope for taking action in the workshop. Actions were differentiated in terms of (i) actions that could be taken now by the communities with the resources they already had, (ii) actions that could be taken with some additional support e.g. funding and (iii) actions that required more formal support e.g. permits.

Actions that can be taken now included:

- Making a heritage plan for the island and linking it to existing plans (e.g. the 10 year plan). The plan would identify what the community thinks is important to generate community ownership and what sources of funding may be available
- Identifying the opportunities islands create, translating shared values into stories about our lives
- Challenging management bodies' current way of working
- Establishing shared visions, communication and cooperation
- Finding community heritage champions and stimulating more interest in heritage *
- Organising site visits
- Challenging the heritage narrative, making new pathways and pushing the boundaries of the legacy of land ownership that is being written i.e. creating new heritage
- Promoting the islands to tourists **

Actions that required some support were:

- More funding
 - Being eligible to apply for funding opportunities
 - Having a fundraising strategy but support was needed in applying for funding which is time consuming, has a high failure rate and relies on local associations to raise funds
- Growing the populations – other opportunities follow with more people
- ** Promoting the islands to tourists (e.g. Visit Scotland)

Actions that required more formal support were:

- Actions linked to housing and infrastructure and land tenure that required planning permission
- Growing the population (linked to the above)
- Generating formal support for the heritage plan
- Identifying activities that boost heritage, creating part-time jobs and offering training e.g. a photo archive
- Sharing and disseminating existing knowledge and records
- *Management bodies supporting a community heritage champion

From the workshop discussion it was clear that there are many actions that the communities can take themselves should they wish to do so, and should they have the time and capacity to do so. But it is also clear that more formal and consistent support is also needed and that the support required goes beyond making funding available or providing technical expertise but is also linked to alleviating limited capacity and the many demands on residents' time and energy.

Conclusions

We are grateful to everyone who participated for sharing their thoughts, knowledge and concerns with us and for enabling the participatory approach that is central to the PERICLES project. In holding the workshops and everyone's generous completion of the questionnaire we have been able to expand our understanding of what people consider their heritage to be, what risks it faces, what roles it may play and what opportunities it may bring. We hope that working with us was also of benefit to the participants and, through them, to their communities.

Appendix 1: Responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire

What are the most important values that guide you and your community?

Community empowerment, self determination, togetherness, building a strong future

Respect, honesty, openness, fairness

Community empowerment and values that work for the common good

common good, commitment to local area, democracy, innovation

Our different cultural and historical sites

Inclusivity; teamwork; acceptance; parity

Community spirit

Shared ownership, shared responsibility, shared opportunity

Cooperation, care for the island and each other; caring for the sense of place; enjoyment

Sustainability - Working together - Celebrating together

hard work, kindness, sense of humour, flexibility

Respect for the environment and each other. Openness and hospitality to our visitors. An appreciation of the rich and unique culture of the island.

Hard work

Respect for the unique cultural and environmental attributes amongst which we live. To preserve and develop for all.

Nature and sustainability

Sustainability

What would the community, environment and economy of your island ideally look like in 2030?

A vibrant, diverse, economically strong small community using a renewable energy supply, having a strong environmental policy to prevent pollution and waste.

Low or net zero carbon. Inclusive

More people, more self-reliance, more trees, a diverse economy, no Covid!

Our environment is enhanced by increased biodiversity, but protected from tourism development which remains low impact and sustainable, based on slow adventure concept, our island has a healthy demography with young people and families having a good quality of life, meaning job opportunities and access to affordable housing. The economy is based on local resources, and we are able to produce seaweed, shellfish and local meat for consumption locally in the islands and near mainland as well as increase our production of local veg and fruits. We resume keeping bees and produce our own island honey. Our historic and natural environment provides good summer ranger jobs for local people. The island produces more local goods and has invested in the circular economy to process its waste and turn it into a resource.

Thriving community with lots of small businesses

Pretty similar to now, maintaining a balance between nature, farming, tourism - real economies not museum tourist spot.

Healthy and sustainable and moving forward

Another 5 households, preferably some folk in their 20s. More emphasis on environmental, sustainable practices, including marine ... sea grass areas, seaweed areas. Economy more resilient and more manufacturing (on a small scale) so not so reliant on tourism.

The community would be around 25% more numerous, more people for ideas, getting things done. Everyone would have work and there would be money for infrastructure, without a massive increase in tourism. Environment: the island would run on low carbon, there would be no plastic waste on the shoreline, there would be even more of an emphasis on biodiversity in the land management

An increase on the current number of residents to a sustainable population, with a demographic of all age ranges, where people are gainfully employed. The environment will be as good as or better than it is now - nature on the land, seabirds, and the marine environment will all be in good health - farming systems will be low input and sustainable. Energy provision will be clean and from renewable sources. Buildings will be well maintained and functional, and the archaeological heritage valued. There will be good internet (whatever that looks like in 2030) and transport links - and sustainable tourism, and our ability to welcome visitors, will presumably still be a mainstay of the island economy.

A thriving and happy community that values its environment, able to share out responsibilities

An increase in population but retaining the ideals of a Hebridean crofting community.

Sustainable

A living thriving community of at least 40 people, new housing and jobs. Preservation of our unique peaceful environment with as little manmade impact on our surroundings. Jobs for all or at least, support & advice made available for those who wish to be self-supporting. Visitor facilities improved without impacting too much on the environment

More sustainable, in balance with nature

Thriving community where people can earn a decent living, make a valuable contribution to both the island and the world community, and where children can grow and prosper.

What role, if any, do you see for the island's cultural heritage?

For its intrinsic value as part of history and our island culture. And for tourism and education

It's a central part, but agreeing a definition of what is meant by cultural heritage can be difficult

The cultural heritage of Canna has been molded and selected over the years, but I believe it is the community. It's the people who have and do live and work here, who make the island work and give it its individual personality. I want to see the community, past and present at the forefront of its cultural future.

Important for the quality tourism product. Music and dance and the local feis continue from strength to strength and are a big factor in the attractiveness of the island.

Each island is different, and we need to expand on it and use it to attract more tourism

As part of the tradition and in use as now for naming fields bays etc and continued to be protected where possible e.g runrigs etc

Needs to play a bigger part than currently

It is important to celebrate and research cultural heritage, promote and create new cultural threads through the community. Eigg has been very active in making its story in recent years and its roots run deep.

It is part of the sense of place and identity and contributes to the sense of belonging of both residents and visitors. The cultural heritage of the island should be integral to the community and not kept separate. It should be the locus for bringing people together, for stimulating ideas, for island culture of the present!

Ooh.... define cultural heritage...!? I've not seen that anywhere in the info provided so far. If (as it must) cultural heritage encompasses more than just buildings and artefacts, and includes intangibles such as folklore, traditions, local knowledge and landscapes - then it is integral to what shapes the community and how others perceive the island. It forms the basis of the themes and stories that we tell to others about the place in which we live.

It makes a valuable contribution to tourist interest and generates work on the island. It is a repository of past ways that can be built on to incorporate present and future life on the island

The cultural heritage is key to the identity of Canna. A history dating back to prehistory and also as St Columba's second home (the fabled island of Hinba).

Not sure

Canna's cultural heritage is intrinsic to the island's survival & development. Canna House has a major part to play in this. Canna itself is a beautiful friendly island to which visitors will flock regardless- but Canna House and its potential for the cultural heritage awareness of the whole Small Isles area is quite astounding. It has the potential to put Canna on the world heritage map.

Not sure

Important to be able to share experiences and heritage with others.

What role, if any, do you see for marine-based activities such as energy generation, aquaculture or tourism?

To boost the island economy and help us provide greener energy for ourselves.

Significant role

It has and always will play a huge part. I would like to see small scale eco aquaculture. No fish farms! Slow tourism with more quiet watersports (kayaking, SUP, wild swimming etc) and marine conservation/wildlife watching

Big role for sustainable aquaculture (seaweed farm and wild seaweed harvesting, shellfish - oyster farm already developing). No giant fish farm though. Energy generation; if we could get a small scale wave/current system that would complement our local energy generation good, but this is still too experimental and costly so can't see it happening as yet. No one would want an offshore windfarm. Tourism marine based activities; kayaking already is present but could be developed, all dependent on the right people being there, having the right qualifications and certificate and the possibility of generating enough income to afford the insurance and other expenses associated with these type of activities and wanting to develop

We have our own hydro, not convinced about aquaculture here

There seems to be some scope for growth, whale trail etc. Tours round island for wildlife but also to see features such as Dun Ban ('The caste' fortified rock south west of Port viewed by sea) fish farm development

Utilising wave energy would be ideal. Currently have healthy aquaculture via Mowi, but, would be beneficial to establish other aquaculture such as bivalve farm, which would then provide much needed residential employment.

The tides and currents are strong around the small Isles. Tidal energy would be an interesting project. Aquaculture like 3d marine farming, but not monoculture, or multinational company. Tourism within reason.

Definitely a role if these activities are sensitive and without big environmental impact. Whether to have a fish farm is an ongoing discussion. There is a lot of marine based tourism here already, there is scope for more and varied activities.

New technologies would need to be developed if the seas around the islands are to be harnessed for energy generation. Aquaculture should be sustainable (the 's' word again) - not 'industrial' fish farms, but local fishing industries, shellfish, seaweeds? Visitors arrive by boat, so marine based tourism, including yachting, kayaking, diving, seabirds and marine wildlife helps underpin the economy.

We have looked at wave / tidal energy generation and it was discounted. It is currently being investigated as a possible means of heat transfer energy generation. A big industrial fish farm is currently looking at working here - still to be decided. Small aquaculture ventures already contribute to some residents' income and way of life. Yachts, cruise boats and the ferry all bring tourists and employment. Further use of tourist kayaks is being investigated currently.

As one of the most important MPA's in the UK there is no role for aquaculture. Tourism both cultural and environmental is key to the island's sustainability.

Important

Marine based tourism can be developed extensively on Canna without impacting overly on the environment. With climate change, the potential that seasons will be extended is becoming more apparent and there is scope for low impact marine activities such as kayaking, paddle boarding etc. If jobs can be supported in these areas rather than other areas such as aquaculture, then that is preferable from a heritage point of view, as well as environmentally. We do not have the necessary infrastructure yet to be able to service intensive energy generation projects such as wave culture etc

A large role, energy generation is at the forefront of the community

Scotland and especially the islands are surrounded by sea. We should be developing the best possible value of this precious resource - as a means of generating renewable power, growing a proportion of our food and encouraging tourism that treasures our seas and coasts.

How would you describe the island community's identity, ways of doing things and customs?

That's tricky, I'm not sure we have an identity, though our way of getting things done is very much doing it with what we have. We are island centric and try to do things ourselves before looking for help

Community ownership and the benefits and responsibilities it offers play a huge part in the island's community identity and ways of doing things. I'm not sure what our island's customs are.

Canna's community is tiny but mighty. It's very hardworking and just gets things done. It's had its problems in the past, but there remains a core group of people who are forging ahead with determination to make the longevity of a community viable. We also love a party!

Strong at present, but still liable to erosion if population numbers are not kept up and young people don't get a chance to stay and make a living. Innovations welcome, and good support from the community landowner for new initiatives, but all depends on individual initiative and capacity, so important to encourage young people to settle and be creative!

We capitalise on our significant history, in particular the deer and venison here which makes us unique compared to the other islands here

Practical, efficient, maintain customs that are enjoyable, mixed level of interest in different areas of the past, still use old names for fields and encouraged to take interest in past, enjoyment of past methods (usually because they have good reason), more complicated logistics for most things

Family friendly island, welcoming, traditional and supportive to other islands.

I think the island is evolving and at present there are two definite threads or identities. Eigg has a reputation for being a party island. There is a following of folk who are loyal to the ceilidhs and festivals that go on here. Others are more into the quieter life, and the beauty of nature and the tight knit community, not necessarily the one you will see at the pier. There is a growing element prioritising wellbeing and health.

The community's current identity is welcoming, outward looking, positive, cooperative, quite forward looking in the day-to-day rather than emphasising the past. This may be partly due to a feeling that the external landholding organisation has ownership of the 'heritage'. There is a tradition of the open door, hospitality. There isn't an emphasis on old customs, but people come together for community work and fun very readily.

Difficult.. If you asked me, I would say that each of the Small Isles has its own identity, but I would be hard pressed to define what each is. Some things about identity are in the present - those who currently live and work there - particularly so with a small population. Relative isolation (being an island) particularly influences how things get done, by working together - and we celebrate together also, traditions and events old and new.

We don't have any particular historical customs on Canna although bonfires on Nov 5 and at New Year happen weather permitting. Sometimes some of us get together to celebrate Burns night. The farm calendar also dictates gatherings. The Gaelic culture is very much linked to National Trust for Scotland. I

would say that most of the community's identity is very much in the present although it does not disregard its history. Many of us are incomers

A fragile community which constantly requires to be reminded of its heritage.

Welcoming

Quiet, unassuming, committed, imaginative but basically happy to see the way of life continue, if more people can be accommodated and young people encouraged to stay and work. This year of Covid has been at times very challenging also however in terms of an almost sense of remoteness 'from it all' and a challenge to encourage all residents to comply with the law, which has at times been stressful! The traditional 'customs' in normal times work very well and are seen I believe, by outsiders as being something very special- i.e. Small isles games.

I am still learning about this

We are very much a community, with a strong cultural and historic identity. We try to live our lives in a forward-thinking but community- focused way, making decisions together, for the benefit of all.

How, is your vision for the future of the island influenced by the island's culture if at all? Do you think that it is shared by others on the island?

I would like us to promote our history more, it's very interesting. I'm not sure everyone agrees with me

If by culture you mean how we conduct ourselves then it will influence the future of the island completely. If we move away from the idea of fairness as being a key part of the island's vision for the future, it will completely change the way in which economic development is structured.

It's influenced in the form of not doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results! Island life is about the community bond, and the ability of a community to make decisions, or be involved in the decision making. I think most of the islanders are on the same page.

I'd like to think the Gaelic culture of hospitality, welcome to the stranger and the Craic- story-sharing, ceilidhing, music etc.. will continue, but the fact is that it is getting increasingly diluted with people coming from different horizons and not quite understanding how it works and not passing it on. So, it's a challenge to ensure that local traditions are being passed on. We perhaps take it too much for granted and might need to be a bit more pro-active in passing on those traditions! Ceildh dancing is one tradition that seemed so strong it would never be lost, but there is a feeling now that a lot of people just like to dance to tunes, and not that bothered about traditional ceilidh dancing. So the Feis movement has got a really important part to play in ensure transmission of that cultural tradition and ensure the younger generations will keep it up!

I have just opened a business here on island, it would be good if this is carried on in the future and used

I think most people are keen to keep the family feel with mixture of outside jobs, families for schools, with scope for crafts etc. For tourists.

Would like to continue to be a 'traditional' island as that is what the residents are drawn to.

I think there is an awareness that the island has to be more productive and economically sustainable. It was with heavy hearts that we heard of Calmac's plan to change the way it deals with loose freight. It makes bringing supplies to the island, raw materials, manufacturing and shipment of finished products much harder to contemplate.

My vision for the future of the island is intertwined with its culture. The physical cultural heritage here at the moment seems completely separate and distinct from the community and the its present intangible culture. Both would be so much the richer for integration, and so I would like to see a true involvement there. That vision is shared by others.

Some may be strongly influenced by a particular aspect of island culture. Personally, I feel that the island's history and sense of place should and does influence future development - not followed

mawkishly however - culture is a continuous process - new and different opportunities present themselves.

I would love to see more interpretation of the history of farming and older settlements on the island. There are limits to the number of visitors that we can attract to Canna before destroying what most people look for ie a peaceful and unspoilt escape.

Regrettably the majority of the population lack an appreciation of the culture and heritage.

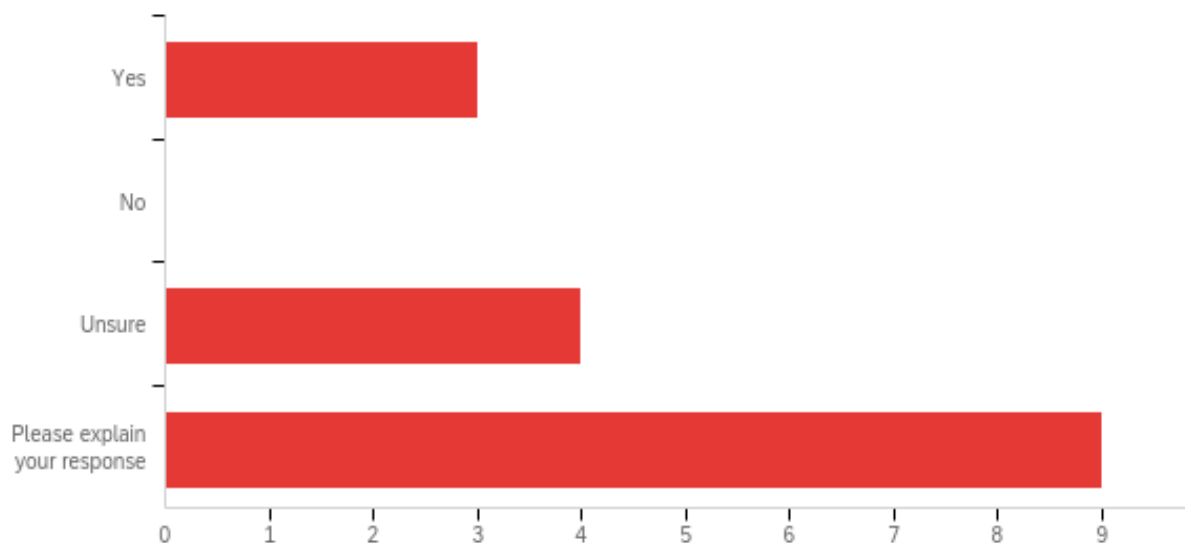
Strongly and yes

My personal vision of the island is to see Canna House open as a fully functional visitor and more importantly, a research center for those with an interest in many fields including Gaelic, the environment, nature studies, music, archaeology, island studies in general and creativity. I believe the community may be split between those like minded with myself and those who believe the future is in the farming/aquaculture/tourism sectors and economy.

I'm not sure

On the whole, I do think we have a shared identity. Of course there are exceptions, but that only helps to enrich the debate.

Q9 - Do you think that it is shared by people on the other Small Isles?



I think most small island communities share the same challenges, and islands tend to attract similar types of people.

I think it is shared at least by Muck and Canna, Rum seems to have had such a influx of new people recently, which is good for the island, but it brings challenges in terms of keeping a sense of identity. Maybe it is the relationship to the environment - the feeling that you relate to a wild environment that you wish to help protect that now tends to replace the sense of a specific Small Isles culture based on the old Gaelic culture that seems to still survive in the other 3 islands?

I think the islands have different characteristics, but all have a level of interest in the heritage as part of the story of the islands

Some islands such as Canna and Rum do share our ideals, Eigg seems to be far more progressive and inventive

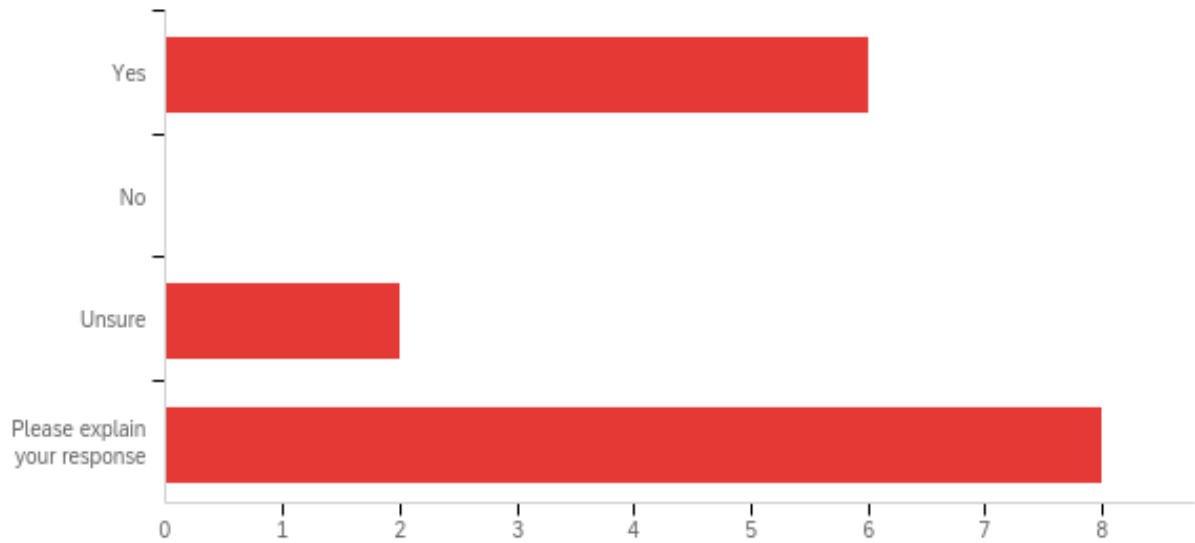
I think that the situation is particular to Canna, although there may be parallels elsewhere, but the general philosophy of community ownership/integration is shared by many others in the Small Isles

I wouldn't presume to know how other communities see themselves.

We haven't discussed it

Each island is completely different in terms of culture and identity. For example, Canna is the only catholic island in the Small Isles.

Q10 - Do you think that it is shared in the west coast of Scotland more broadly?



In some small rural communities, yes.

Depends on the ratio local/incomers? There is a definite "west coast - sesh coast " identity - especially among the young!

Traditional living is preferable to this environment and location

To an extent

No idea it hasn't been discussed

Canna looks towards South Uist more than the mainland.

Don't know too much about other areas

What do you consider to be the island's cultural heritage? Cultural heritage can include things like archaeological sites, buildings, objects, landscapes, species, traditions, songs, practices, ways of life.

Kinloch Castle, the clearances, the ruins of old settlements, archaeological sites, deer, rum ponies, eagles, manx shearwaters, the red deer project, the community buy out, ceilidhs

All of the things listed in the question are part of the island's cultural heritage as are the stories of people past and present, the decisions and impact they've had on others and on the island landscape, economy and environment. Language is also a key part of the island's heritage as is who people think they are and where they relate to.

The community, past and present. People make a place and create its heritage. Some of the cultural heritage has been lost, like the Gaelic language and traditions. Some of the heritage has been molded and selected by past and current landlords, with some buildings and recent history taking priority over the needs of the working community, natural heritage and ancient archaeology.

A bit of all this really: the history, the crofting way of life, the ceilidhing, the "Criac" in the Irish sense, the feeling that you live in a wild land, not a land that is only given over to agriculture. There is a sense of stewardship of the land that we all probably have in common.

We have our own Saint here, I think we need more information on this as Saint Beccan's opinion was sought during the Easter Controversy in the 7th century, we also have the castle here as well as a small heritage center detailing the early Mesolithic sites. Very little archaeology has been done here, it would be really good and informative if there were more digs too.

Dominated by clearance village Kiel but some potential interest in islands as part of landscape of prehistory (blood stone hill on Rhum and finds of flints on this island).

Farming, potash production, clearance village and some archaeological sites.

There are a variety of archeological sites from the Neolithic to remnants of cleared villages. Our landscape, especially the Sgurr and the beaches where fossils are in abundance. The views afforded from all parts of Eigg, looking to Rum, Skye, Knoydart, Ardnamurchan, Mull, Treshnish, Col, Tiree and across to the outer hebrides. Eagles: sea and golden, ceilidhs, festivals, the buyout, Green island, crofting, Sweeney's bothy. The Feis, the caves and stories of the massacre cave, the amazonian Knoydart women warriors, the island volunteers, the welcome, the alcohol, the singing, the running and swimming in the sea - the healthier lifestyles that are emerging.

I consider all those things listed in the question to be cultural heritage. Canna had so many of all of those categories. Canna House is an important element with its contents, also the landscape and its layers of

evidence about the past and present. There is one family here who have been here for generations and their memories, connections to people past and present is of generally unacknowledged importance to the cultural heritage here and the shaping of the island's current identity.

All the things you mention. Examples would be: scheduled ancient monuments; listed buildings; artefacts from previous residents; farming; eagles, endemic mice, seabirds, cetaceans, rare and beautiful flowers; music and ceilidhs.

Archaeological sites, the farm through history and today, practice of the Roman Catholic faith, landscape, wildlife - marine and terrestrial, interesting previous owners, e.g. the Campbells with their collections of books, photos, recordings and research into Canna history.

Rich archaeology but most importantly it houses the world's finest collection of Gaelic songs and folklore in Canna House.

Traditions

Canna House, Columban archaeology, livestock herds, songs and language especially, religious practices, the place of Canna 'on the edge, the people who have lived here all their lives.

Wildlife species, deer, birds of prey, marine wildlife, ponies

Rich in history, both that of long ago and more recent. Rich in natural beauty and diversity. Strong tradition of music and shared experiences.

In what ways, if any, does the island's cultural heritage matter to you and your community in terms of shaping where you live?

It makes Eigg, Eigg. Without it and the landscape around us, Eigg would be indistinguishable from other places. It defines what the Isle of Eigg means and therefore determines what living here is all about. There are easier places to live than Eigg. If you didn't love it, you'd leave

It's an integral part of who we are and how we move forward. You have to know where you came from to know which direction you're going in.

We take pride in our cultural heritage, and in particular Feis Eige and other events centered around music and dancing being important calendar dates in our year, when we are reunited with friends, meet new people and enjoy the Craic!(we missed this very much this year of Covid isolation and our social life has really suffered from this). It hugely adds to our attractiveness as a community and attractiveness as a place to live in.

For me, the cultural heritage is of great importance and I feel that we could do more with it, very little is known about the history outwith the castle. The castle seems to dominate the landscape whereas there is so much more to see and learn.

Personally, I think landscape is important and should be preserved where possible or recorded when not. I think there's an underlying narrative which islanders are interested in and that visitors are particularly curious about, particularly being owned by a family still.

When looking for residents or attracting new residents we prefer practical, hardy families. This is the sort of demographic that thrives in this environment and it is what has worked in the past.

Most folk who live on the island have made a very definite choice about the way they are going to live their lives and the island and its story has been a beacon.

It is fundamental because it underwrites the tourism economy here which many residents depend on. It has physically shaped the island into a beautiful thing, and approach of the landowning organisation and the community has preserved much of that beauty and continues to influence decisions. Some of the cultural heritage assets should be contributing more to the daily life of the community and vice versa.

Matters immensely. I think I have already alluded to this in previous responses.

Our present and future are shaped by the past but I am a believer in conservation not preservation, preferring not to pickle the past.

From a personal perspective the cultural heritage is why I live here. Critically important and what makes Canna unique and a magnet for visitors.

Important but need to look to the future as well.

As we are unable to 'put down roots' at present in terms of buying land or property, it is unlikely we will be able to stay here once we have retired. Even if we wanted to, we will have to leave. The cultural heritage is what took us here and that will stay with us always but unless development is rapid, we cannot stay.

Still unsure

Part of our identity, how others know us.

In what ways, if any, does the island's cultural heritage matter to you and your community as a resource that you live from?

It's a part of what we promote and invite visitors to enjoy and explore. The tourism sector is a huge part of Eigg's economy, in financial as well as social terms. Visitors bring money with them, but they also bring different perspectives, views, stories and experiences. Cultural heritage is part of what brings them here, but so to is the landscape, environment and how we live. So cultural heritage does matter, but only in conjunction with these other things.

It's not so much a resource and much as an ethos

The built heritage and the archeology and history of the island is also a factor of attractiveness as a destination and adds to what the island has to offer in terms of activities. The Croft Museum has been really important in terms of giving people a wet weather place to visit and also a way of measuring the progress achieved! It all contributes to tourism which has now become one of the island's main economic activities.

It's very important, we have primary sources of how the people lived, where their houses were, what they ate or drank, this resource is important and could potentially attract more tourism.

Possibly under used/advertised but at the same time we don't have any architecture in the same way Rhum have the castle and Canna have the church.

It helps with tourism but really isn't a resource as much!

The story of the island, past and present, has been integral to the business that I run and has been a big attraction to why people chose to book with my business. So it is a resource to my livelihood as well as to the soul, individual and communal.

Directly or indirectly, the cultural heritage of the island is a resource that contributes to the living of the majority of the population

As a source of interpretation, underpinning a tourist economy - in what facilities we offer - and as a source of inspiration.

It does underpin those jobs that are tourist based or directly concerned with parts of the heritage

Cultural heritage defines who we are.

Limited financial benefit

My livelihood is provided by the islands cultural heritage

Not sure

Rich resources to be soon developed as part of the An Laimhrig project on interpretation.

In what ways, if any, does the island's cultural heritage matter in shaping a space for nature that you live with?

As before

Essential. The natural world is our world, not a separate entity to make space for.

A lot of the cultural heritage has to do with natural features, and it is important to remember for instance the natural features in the place names for instance, it links you with the older occupants of the islands, and gives you a link to the past, as well as making you understand how land use may have change over the centuries also. So cultural and natural heritage are working hand in hand and by using the land more, we actually end up discovering more about forgotten cultural features in the land. This is in relation to planting trees for instance, where old sheilings have been discovered in planting areas and a decision was made to manage spaces in the planting to ensure that they are not destroyed.

Nature & history go hand in hand here as much of the island has not changed in hundreds of years

Life on Muck is fairly intertwined with nature which is probably reflected in the heritage on the island

I have no idea

Respecting both the natural environment and the cultural one is important.

The whole landscape is managed by a heritage organisation, so its cultural heritage is considered as part of the strategy for the land. However, these strategy decisions are taken off island

Integral to the landscape and the environment - as a place to live, and as a place for people to visit

The farming heritage shapes the natural landscape on Canna. Archaeological remains could limit some development. It is not difficult to work with at the moment.

The cultural heritage and environment are inextricably linked.

Don't understand the question

It is important particularly in these days of living on top of one another to have that space and for other people to be able to enjoy it with us.

Nature is important on the island

Very important as we are a rich source of natural beauty as well as a wide range of birds, etc

In what ways, if any, does the island’s cultural heritage matter as a part of you or your community? In what ways, if any, do you experience the island’s cultural heritage as an integral part of your life?

It is a vital part of our island community. I don’t know if I experience Eigg’s cultural heritage as an integral part of life.

The community bond

What feels important to me is how the island features many layers of history and is a microcosm of Scottish history, both ancient and contemporary, so you feel you walk in the footprint of the ancestors, and you feel you have inherited a sense of stewardship.

Every part of the island has its own unique history, many of the black houses still stand albeit ruins, it is lovely still being able to see them daily.

We still use the ‘font’ excavated on the island. We have a heritage area with artefacts from the island. We all take part in shearing, haymaking etc.

Celidih, small isles games when lockdown isn’t in effect

I live next to ruins and every walk I do takes me past dwellings, some ancient, some a hundred years. Every time I dig a bed in the garden, I will find bottles and ironware from the crofting days of yesteryear.

I work directly with cultural heritage so it’s front and center of my life! I see huge opportunity in more integration between the community and the rich tangible cultural heritage of the island, for both.

It matters because it's a part of what makes us who we are, and the things that we do. Professionally, my work used to involve the interpretation of the island's natural and cultural heritage, and to make that accessible to others. I experience it every day - it's why I live where I do

Living on Canna is living on Canna. The cultural heritage shapes the landscape that we see and what we can do with it. Some folk would like to see it kept entirely without change - that is not how I feel but it is important to understand that part of the island's economy is based around the cultural heritage.

The heritage of the island shapes who we are and how we behave. It is also fundamental to explaining the island to visitors.

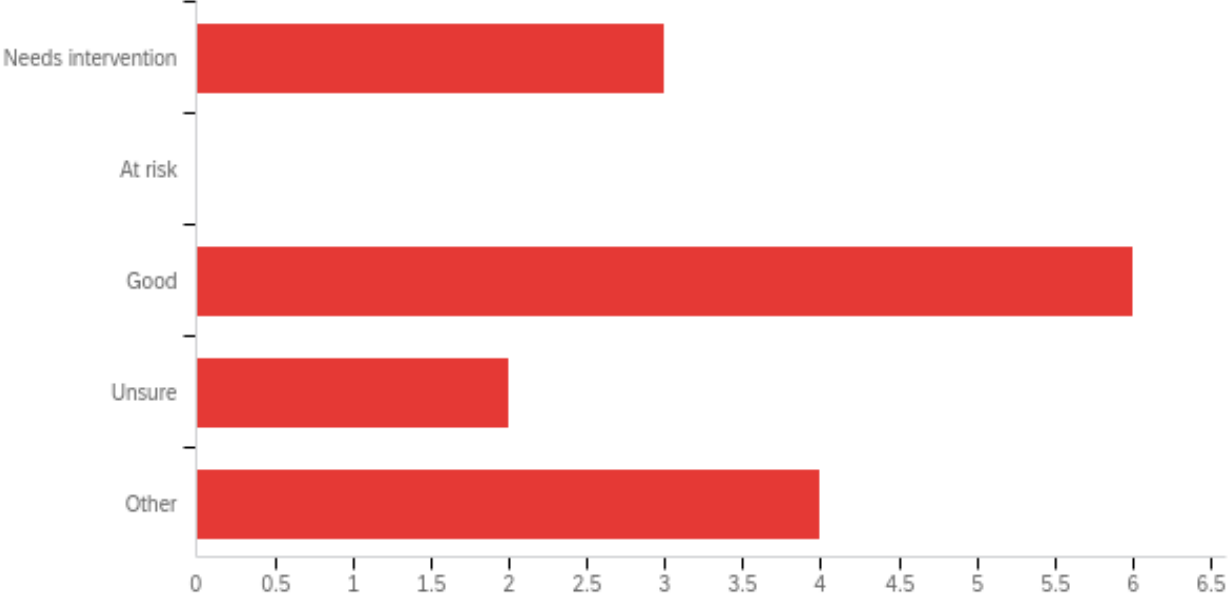
Part of my heritage

The islands cultural heritage IS my life

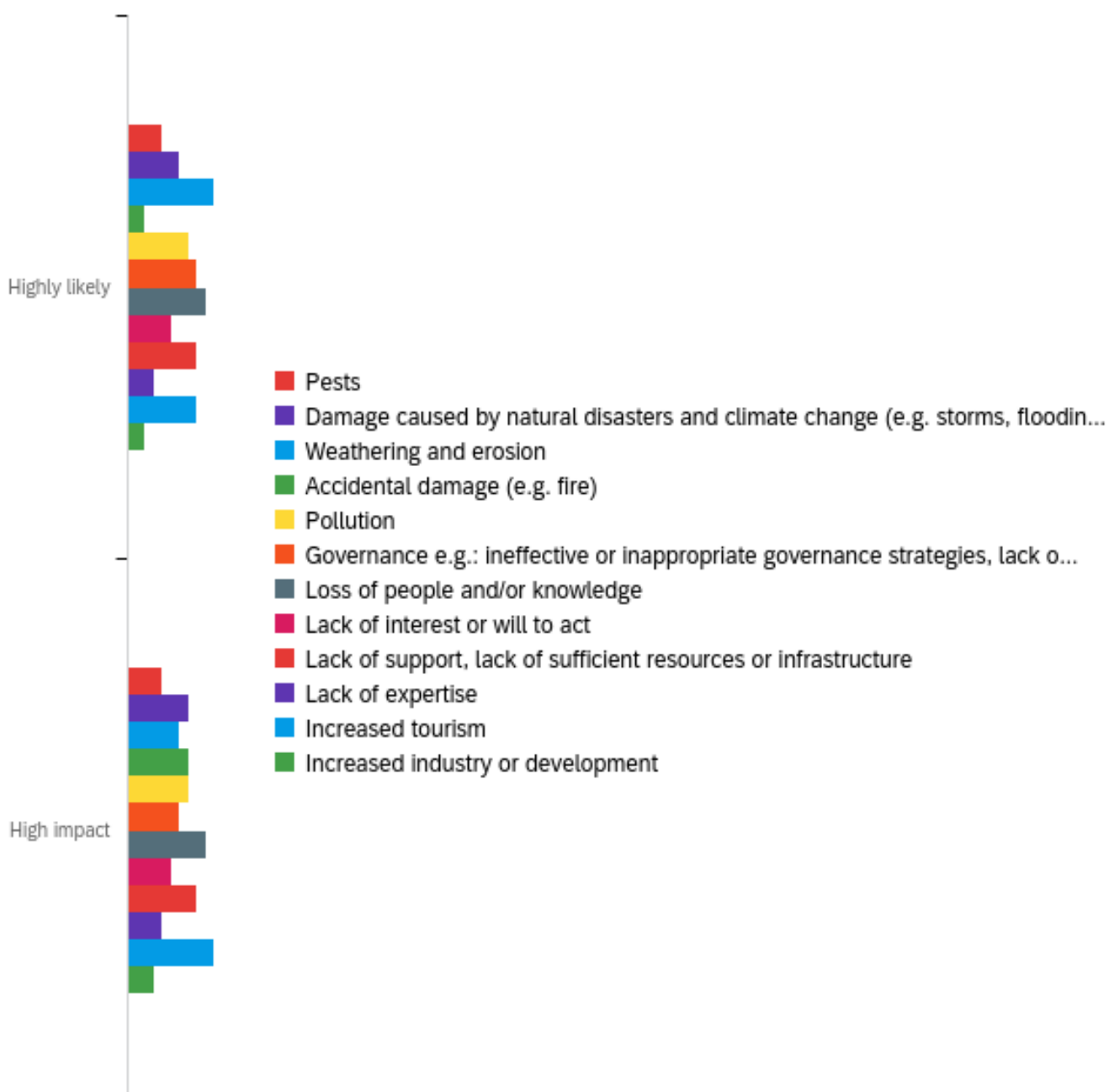
Not sure

It was an integral part of the life of all children in the school. It affects whatever we do, from forestry work to housing.

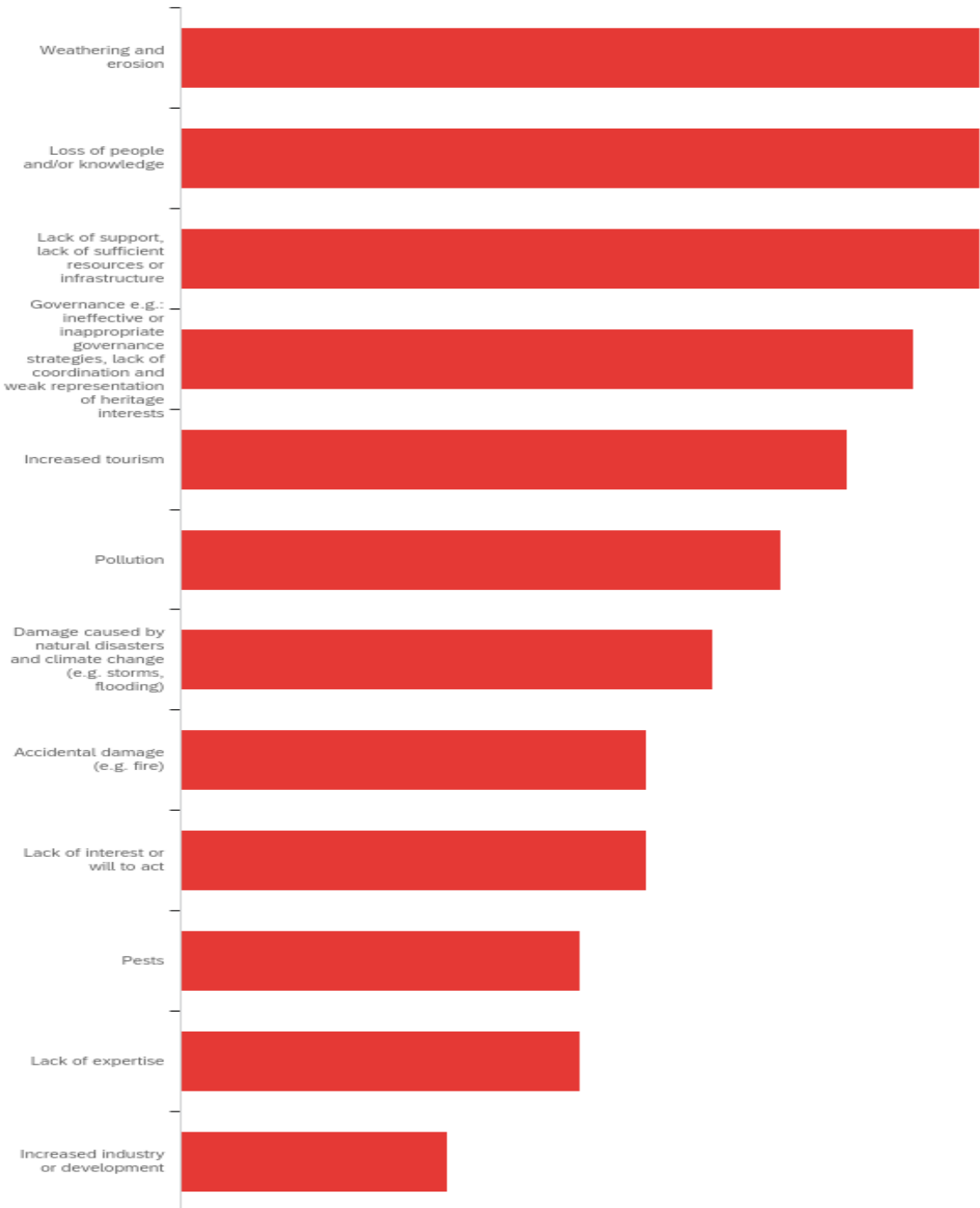
What is your perception of the state of the island’s cultural heritage?



Below is a list of risks that might affect the cultural heritage of your island. Risks are often understood in two terms. The first is how likely they are to occur (for example, a very severe storm is more likely in the small isles than a 40 degree heatwave). The second is how severe the impact is if they do occur (for example, how great is the economic damage, can something be irreparably damaged or irreplaceably lost or not). Please identify the risks that you think are highly likely to occur and would have a high impact on realising your vision for the future of the island and its heritage.



The most highly likely and High impact risks selected were:



Please add other risks that you think are important but that were not included in the previous question.

Climate change

Tourism becoming too overwhelming and changing nature of island (or making the non-tourism economy harder to do)

Loss of population

Covid

Are there any other issues you are concerned about regarding the island's culture, cultural heritage and future?

Blanket national policies aimed at mainland communities or larger islands, that don't fit with small island communities.

It is difficult to access resources for managing small museums, historic graveyards and other important archeological sites on a small islands with a fairly small population. It always depends on volunteer effort, and this can lead to volunteer fatigue. So perhaps some kind of subsidy to create cultural heritage rangers alongside nature rangers would be good! If seen as a job opportunity, it would help maintain a certain level of knowledge with the community and ensure transmission. As long as we keep traditional musicians in the community, we can keep our Gaelic music song and dance traditions alive, and the Feis has a really important role to play in ensuring continuity. Tghe Feis should definitely ensure that local traditions are also transmitted and this is being currently encouraged by Feisean nan Gaidheal.

My main concern is that we are losing some of our sites as they have not been maintained due to lack of money.

Needs to be sympathetically advertised to attract tourists and traditional family possible residents. Transport politics and costs...boat related

Can't think of any

The National Trust for Scotland runs out of funds to support the island

No



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 770504.



Questionnaire results

Values



What's your heritage?



- The community, the people, the welcome
- Music, dance, feis, ceilidhing
- Language and stories
- Environment:
 - landscape, views, wildlife, feeling of wilderness
- Ways of living:
 - Crofting and livestock, running, swimming
- Built:
 - Canna house, castle, monuments, clearance villages, archaeological sites, museums
- History:
 - the buyout, faith, historic figures



Future vision: “*look to the sea*”

Sustainable, inclusive,
thriving population,
children can prosper

Good infrastructure
but not too much
development,
affordable housing

Opportunity based on
sustainable small-
scale practices

Clean and renewable
energy, low or zero
net carbon

Diverse locally-based
economy not
dependant on
tourism

Peaceful environment

Good environmental
status: clean,
biodiversity, low input
crofting, more trees

Valued heritage

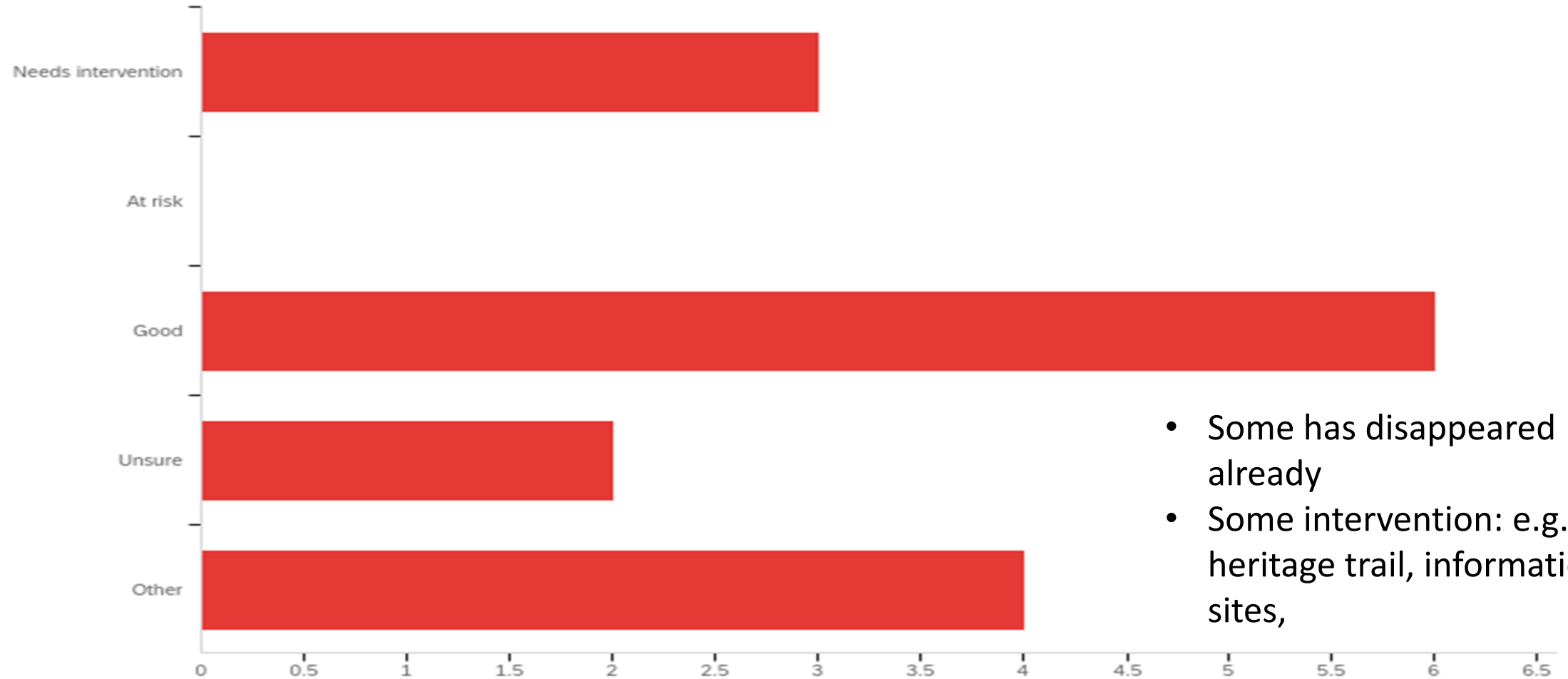
Role of heritage: *not only a resource*



- Central part
- Needs to play a bigger role, some is overlooked
- Integral to the community
 - Central in maintain and making the community
 - Key to identity, contributes to sense of belonging and sense of place
 - Provides a direction for the future
- A way of showing difference and identity of each island
- Intrinsic to survival and development
- Generates work
 - Ranger/ guide roles
 - Attract tourism and important for quality of tourism product
 - Important to be able to share with others
 - Should not be restrictive



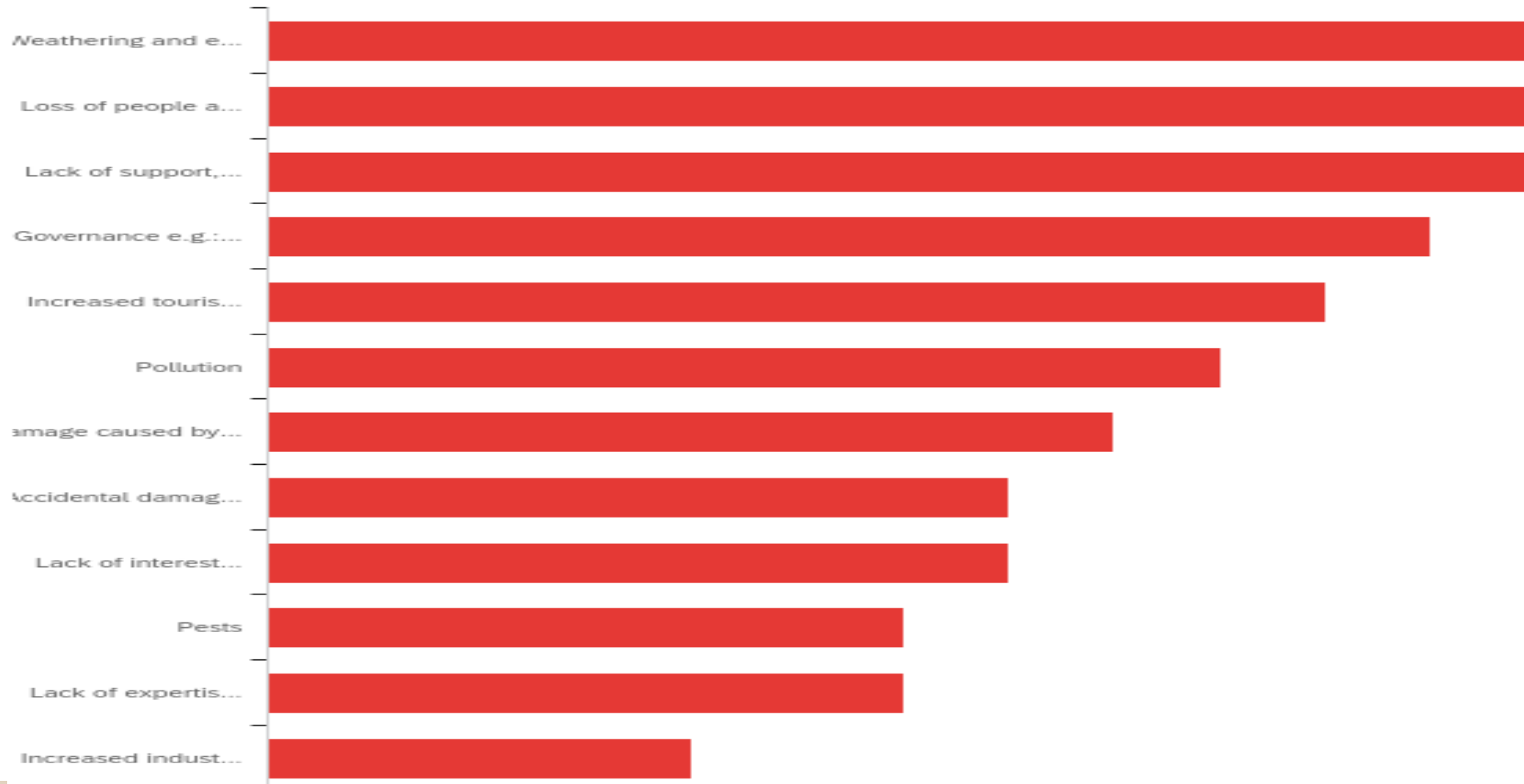
Risk



- Some has disappeared already
- Some intervention: e.g. heritage trail, information at sites,



Risk: *highly likely and high impact*



Risk: *others*



- Inappropriate blanket policies
- Difficulty of access
- Lack of resources and lack of maintenance, running out of existing funds
- Dependant on volunteer effort
- Loss of population, language and musical knowledge
- Tourism impact
- Climate change
- COVID



What happens next

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!

- 1. Breakout session for 30 mins
- 2. Break for 15 mins
- 3. Breakout session for 45 mins
- 4. Overview of the portal and what it can be used for
- 5. Questions