

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 27-08-2020

See BEFS [HEWG page](#) for past papers.

Chair: Ian Baxter, BEFS Vice-Chair

o Apologies

Andrew Hopetoun	Historic Houses
Ann Packard	RSA
Judy Riley	Scotland's Garden & Designed Landscapes
Rachel Tennant	Landscape Institute - Scotland
Stuart Beattie	Scotland's Churches Trust
Diane Gray	NLHF
Carol Brown	ICON
Deryck Irving	Green Action Trust (was Central Scotland Green Network)
Niall Murphy	Glasgow City Heritage Trust
Rob Thompson	ICON
Eila Macqueen	Archaeology Scotland
Chloe Bennet	Scotland's Garden & Designed Landscapes
Gordon Barr	AHF

o Attendees

Ian Baxter (IB)	Conf Inst
Bill Pagan (BP)	BEFS
Calum Maclean (CM)	RIAS
Graeme Purves (GP)	BEFS
Iain McDowall (IM)	BEFS
John Lawson (JL)	ALGAO
Euan Leitch (EL)	BEFS
Mhora Samuel (MS)	Ind Member
Saskia Smellie (SS)	BEFS
Jo Robertson (JR)	AHF
Susan O'Connor (SOC)	SCivicT
Terry Levinthal (TL)	Cockburn
Torsten Haak (TH)	GCHT
Sarah Pearce (SP)	HTN
Ailsa Macfarlane (AMAC)	BEFS
Charles Strang (CS)	IHBC
Caroline Clark (CC)	NLHF
Diarmid Hearn (DH)	NTS
Christa Gerdwilker (CG)	ICON
Simon Gilmour (SG)	Soc of Antiq
Jocelyn Cunliffe (JC)	AHSS
Raymond Young (RY)	CoS - GT
Rob Lennox (RL)	CifA

- o Agree [previous meeting note](#) (available online) - Agreed

○ CHERF update (EL)

All those who signed up to CHERF events will have received email with much of the below information on 26/08.

[Summary Document](#), and full CHERF webpage is here - [link](#).

Whilst CHERF was to focus on medium-longer term concerns and solutions, the immediacy of the situation kept much of the conversation in 'the now'.

However, many positives could be found in examples of work ongoing, albeit awareness of some of the work wasn't as widespread as could be hoped. With that in mind, when producing the Summary Document BEFS also mapped the discussions arising from CHERF to OPiT groups and activity – then demonstrated the policy landscape that this work sits along-side. (Annex A in the Summary Document).

This highlighted areas the OPiT model was not fully addressing, and where further development may be useful:

- Explaining/demonstrating the relevance of heritage across policy agenda;
- Exclusion – highlighted by recent events relating to Black Lives Matter, but broadly addressing many issues of exclusion related to the sector, and
- the Localism agenda.

In relation to OPiT – as part of its funding bid BEFS has volunteered to become a repository for all OPiT group papers, making them publicly available and making the process and work done within the groups more transparent. This action also supports the [OPiT review](#) which was completed in 2019.

Suggestions around Regional Delivery Strategies have also come to the fore.

BEFS has issued a [call for ideas](#) to explore/challenge how the sector infrastructure could adapt to best deliver for the future.

These ideas will be explored at a series of events in the Autumn.

Action: Members to submit ideas.

○ OPiT CEO Forum update (EL)

- HES CEO Alex Paterson called to attend the Culture Committee 3rd Sept.
- Reframing Heritage document produced by HES discussed – view was that it needs to be tailored to the audience – particular government directorates need to know direct solutions and the benefits to their agendas.

The document reflected the pillars in the Scottish Government response to the AGER report. (Links within the policy section below).

Scottish Government response –has the pillars as:

Economic Produced capital (buildings, transport infrastructure and knowledge assets such as R&D) and financial capital.

Natural/Environment Critical aspects of the natural environment: assets and ecosystems

Social - Civic engagement; social network support; personal relationships and trust and co-operative norms.

Human - Skills, competencies and mental and physical health status of individuals.

Largest % of older housing stock in Europe (most likely the World's largest) – therefore how that is cared for is a particularly important

National Performance Framework stat -

- Reopening – HES and NTS fed back to the CEO Forum on their reopening. Currently – only 10% capacity at Edinburgh Castle
NTS and HES – finding that no-shows for booked visits are problematic.
- Catastrophic effect on volunteering. Driven by demographic, digital capacity and skills.
- HTN – discovering challenges around re-opening and the lack of maintenance over the preceding months.

○ Sector Covid Funding update (EL)

Of the £97M provided to the Scottish Government via the Barnett Formula around £22M has been allocated (information 27/08)

- 3.8m NTS
- 4M MGS - Museums Support Fund – significant threat to sector.
- 2.2 grassroots
- 10M - Events - 6m funding announced 24th *Events Support Fund*, part of 10M
- 2.5M Performing Arts Venues

Previous Parliamentary Questions only state that information will be forthcoming in due course.
Culture Committee 27-08 – questions had been raised by attendees as to whether £30M+ had already been allocated to heritage.

EL stressed that - All funding from the £97M was to be directly related to direct loss of income and keeping jobs.

Updated information released 28/08 – after HEWG:

New SG funding for the culture and heritage sectors announced. Including £20M+ package for HES and almost £6M to secure funds for current grant recipients.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/supporting-scottish-culture-and-heritage/>

EL raised the [HES Survey](#) (closes September 4th). HES – are gathering data to assess direct impacts to the sector.

- Question raised whether HES contribute to the survey to get a full sense of the sector picture.
- Local Authority responses were also questioned – are they fully represented?

○ Question raised about the future of the HES grants programme.

Fiona Hyslop has been clear that funding for this year will be secured (as evidenced above in the recent announcement) but no statements have been made about future funding.

TL – as a HES Board Member is tasked with looking at the grants programme, in which there is a strong interest in using these to support building back better. He is happy to receive feedback and information to help with this assessment.

Some grants are currently paused and some are stalled due to lack of draw-down for projects (such as building repair where work has been put on hold due to COVID).

[HES grants page](#) has information about open funds.

BP: <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/creative-communities/> brought to the attention of the group. Small funding pot for culture and justice post COVID work.

- Organisation updates

JR – AHF : continued strong demand and interest, NB very early stage funder. Applicants and interested parties being advised to consider the scale of the project further down the line. Not imagining a strong funding environment for large capital projects in the immediate future.

CC - NLHF: At the start of the emergency, closed normal grant programmes to corral as much cash as possible. Operating across UK, emergency response funds: last grants awarded 24/08. £6M within Scotland – above Barnett levels – early analysis suggests:

- £3M to historic built env.
- £600k Industrial Heritage
- £1M to green heritage
- Remaining amount to museums/library/archives

At the start requests were often related to back filling core costs. Now organisations are preparing for reopening and the associated costs and changes related to that.

Currently doing a piece of deep-dive research with 10 orgs across Scotland. Work still being analysed but point arising include:

- future is going to be much more recovery based
- diversifying income bases being explored by organisations – new income streams
- severe impact of loss of volunteers – high risk age groups/categories, this is impacting capacity of organisations.
- concerns with digital capacity

Tourism sector is well ahead in digital terms, heritage is behind rest of the sector, ticketing, marketing, online presence. Etc.

JC: AHSS – trying to go digital.

All cases panels are operating, some with online meetings (few site visits in person); AGM and majority of lecture series being planned as online events.

In Edinburgh lectures will be at Riddle's Court where SHBT have a grant to help with digital activity; AHSS hope to capitalise on this and have a hybrid event (in person/online).

Magazine: as planned, but income levels reduced.

CM: RIAS Grants, concerns that HES repairs grant shut in May [see weblink above for open grants currently].

Concerns about lack of access to funds for future works, repair, etc. Shifting of everything to CV19 grants may be problematic for the future.

DH: NTS

- Reassuring that the formal announcement of the award £3.8 is public. Recovery plan agreed with Scottish Enterprise. Financial outlook has not been as bleak as initially forecast.
- Fundraising campaign – positive
- Lack of events/functions at sites – real reduction in funds.
- New CEO – Phil Long – looking towards 10yr plan, NTS Centenary 2031.
- In relation to the green recovery – working with ScotLink.
- Culture Strategy now live – [Cultural Partnership](#) appears to have no direct Cultural heritage/historic representation. NTS – invited to join sub-group: measuring success.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 27-08-2020

JL: ALGAO Since May 2020 partnership working and memorandum of understanding with IHBC – working on training, planning, and policy together. Members contributed to CHERF.

FAME/CiFA etc – publication <https://www.archaeologists.net/news/press-release-publication-professional-archaeology-scotland-structure-funding-and-delivery>

Interesting to see what the scale of planning applications that come forward are. Last recession - works and development really ceased, despite applications still continuing.

TL: Cockburn – Digital capacity been pushing them as a group. Video conferencing/production etc – limits of their kit, as well as their abilities. Starting to see increase in local-level activity around Covid – eg how public spaces are treated within World Heritage Site – all seeing a bit slap-dash and lack of aesthetic consideration, and control. Expect to see that over a few years, short cuts in management as ‘emergency’ avoids public consultation and scrutiny.

GP: On RSPB advisory committee – noting impact on Natural Environment sector – may be issues where built and natural environment sector can work together more. Need more ambition about green and wellbeing economy, making common cause to enhance impact.

Action AM to follow-up: RSPB – Isobel Mercer, Senior Policy Officer

Planning aspects of recovery also need to be considered, natural and built environment not being fully addressed in relation to what is currently being termed ‘planning restraints’.
Built and Natural can work together on this.

EL: BEFS and ScotLink are connecting currently, particularly around lobbying and shared interests, such as the Circular Economy

SOC: SCT Picking up on digital capacity – Doors Open Day – 1000 venues, SCT did baseline survey – only about 10% had any digital capacity at all. SCT have taken on a digital inclusion officer to help – will be taking the survey again after Doors Open Day – see what was effective.

Make Your Mark campaign – volunteering group OPiT – inclusive outlook.

SCT hope to get back into their building next month.

Concern that organisations asked to provide multi-year outcomes for HES – with only 1yr funding.

SP: HTN – new CEO, David Tittle – promoting the work and impact of community groups and building preservation trust benefits. Big programme of events – Unlocking the power of communities. Works with AHF – all benefitting from that programme as now digital so reach wider than initial England remit.

Addressing racism and heritage event – 21/08 – SP has a recording if anyone wants access.

Still got new members coming in – very positive, but main concern is the long-term funding for the projects. Start-up working well – but longer term funding... capital works funding.. where might that come from?

RY: Church of Scotland – General Trustees

Church trying to open-up again. Substantial guidance to be followed. Large number will not reopen until Stage 4

There are congregations which will never re-open.

Virtual General Assembly at start of OCTOBER – to approve a plan of rationalisation and sustainability. Developing joint planning needs, but have no doubt – the Church will be reducing the number of buildings.

Currently holding back applications for major work.

Questioning what is the need for these buildings, what are the outcomes?

2 specific buildings no longer required by their congregations:

St Nicholas -Aberdeen

Brechin Cathedral

Considering the future – considering new management, perhaps General Trustees – looking into partnership working, perhaps LAs.

Have to question who these buildings really belong to – is it local, national.

Insurance – issue of how buildings are defined as empty as places of worship. Insurance deadline extended to September. 25th

Own restructuring, the Secretary/Clark – taking early retirement. A new role dealing with the land and property arm of Cof S will shortly be announced.

ACTION: General Trustees to send details to BEFS – for the Bulletin.

CG: ICON –Survey members – 90% reporting loss of income. Follow up survey planned for autumn after end of furlough scheme has been reached.

Post furlough – bracing selves for the result. Awaiting grants situation from HES before making new application.

Skills workshops moved online – defining new ways of working with increased audience reach but reduced networking and practical training opportunities.

MS: Freelance consultant – working on Palace of Westminster for Houses of Parliament Restoration & Renewal Sponsor Body. In Scotland sits on boards of WASPS and Panopticon Trust. WASPS perspective – trying to move capital projects forward, including Inverness Creative Academy and the Briggait in Glasgow – have written to SG regarding funding. Panopticon Trust – small voluntary SCIO, Glasgow-based, focused on developing feasibility study. Happy to provide case studies.

ACTION: SS from BEFS to contact re: Case studies.

SG: SocOfAntiqs

Agreed budget this week.

Partnering with TUPIX to develop UK innovation grant funded project to bring digital resources to one site online. ISTRY a home for all digital resources – host on this portal with own area; helping to drive traffic to own websites/fundraising project etc.

Government funded project - UK pot of money related to post-covid recovery.

ACTION: SG to provide further details to BEFS for circulation.

TH:

GCHT All city heritage trusts -providing grants all the way through. For Glasgow – same numbers of enquiries but applications slowed as they need costings, and those couldn't happen.

Extended all existing grants for 3 months.

Very busy – moved events to online.

GCHT issue is not enabling revenue etc. Grants schemes often not open to those who haven't been funded previously. Prepared for 3 years funding bid – but now for HES only 1 yr. Prevents long-term planning and it's tricky to give reassurances to applicants for GCHT funding.

Longer term thinking is needed - it can't all be about COVID recovery.

On larger projects working with residents with 30/40 owners etc. Factors may be furloughed, tricky and putting pressure on contracts. Procedural operational changes and how they commit as a grant giving body and assess outcomes and complete evaluations has been difficult.

CS: IHBC annual school cancelled in physical form. Took place virtually. Aberdeen School now 2022.
Suggestion for LA-HEF to return.

Need to address:

- Moving away from short-term-ism.
- Climate crisis
- Potential for more austerity and higher levels of unemployment
- Encouraging joint/co-working on particular topics.

Re LAHEF - **EL** noted that BEFS is investigating a Conservation Officers Group (COG)– providing a place which BEFS co-ordinates and enabled, but not acting as an intermediary between the Group and any other party HES/IHBC etc.

- **Policy updates (AMAC)**
- **Surviving to Thriving - Business Support Project: (AMAC)**

Expression of interest:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JT8TXQ3?utm_content=buffer4cb4f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

BEFS project with lead partner Museums Galleries Scotland, and greenspace scotland , Surviving to Thriving: Supporting Sustainable Scottish Heritage Businesses has now officially launched.
BEFS input has not only helped ensure that the skills necessary are included within the plan, but that built environment organisations can be considered for places on the programme.

This project has received permission to start from NLHF and during this period BEFS have fed into the Expression of Interest form for interested participants to complete. And in the last month I was on the panel who interviewed for the Project Manager role. Fiona Skiffington who has a marketing, project management and business development background has been hired and started at the very end of August. BEFS will work closely with her and the project team to continue the development of the offer for the sector.

ACTION: More information and a web-presence separate to the Eol was requested. This information has been passed to the Project Manager.

Policy Consultations:

BEFS responded to the following five consultations this reporting period.

Online Member's forum working well – thanks to those who have given input. If you need to gain access please use the instructions in the form – available [here](#).

Many responses support the work being done on reframing the sector importance work, and the longer-term factors mentioned by several attendees.

All BEFS consultation responses can be found at: <https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/consultations/>

ADVISORY GROUP ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY – CALL FOR VIEWS (31/05/2020)

BEFS response draws on arguments made previously in relation to the Circular Economy, the Built Heritage Investment Group, Housing to 2040, and the essential part the built environment plays in

supporting a skilled workforce. Making sure that communities across Scotland can make their views heard will ensure the current policy work can go further, with increased economic and social benefits. Members' submissions: [SURF](#). Historic Environment Scotland's [submission](#).

Obviously the [report from AGER](#) and the [Government's response](#) have been seen as somewhat supportive of a green and wellbeing recovery – without any of the transformational push which might be necessary to actually get there.

[JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION – CALL FOR EVIDENCE \(30/06/2020\)](#)

BEFS response focuses on the opportunities for skilled work that the built environment, and particularly a maintenance agenda, can provide across Scotland; fulfilling the immediate need as demonstrated by the Scottish Housing Condition report; highlighting the multifaceted benefits these measures would bring economically, socially and in relation to our transition to net zero. BEFS also highlights the asks made by the Built Heritage Investment Group, which support these aims, as well as the work of the Infrastructure Commission and its recommendations.

[UK WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION \(CONTINUITY\) \(SCOTLAND\) BILL – CALL FOR EVIDENCE \(31/07/2020\)](#)

In response to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee (ECCLRC) Call for Views, BEFS worked with NTS and HES to support the pertinent sections of their responses. These focus on how Scots law would actively keep pace with EU legislation, supporting the enshrining of the four environmental principles, and how the proposed definition of 'environment' should broaden and therefore align with current SEA definitions.

[GREEN RECOVERY – CALL FOR VIEWS \(07/08/2020\)](#)

BEFS response to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform (ECCLR) Committee's call for views reiterates the place of the existing built environment as part of the sustainable circular economy, a resource containing significant embodied energy, but also requiring a policy of maintenance to provide these benefits in full. BEFS also emphasises that seeing leadership invest in policy implementation in a decisive manner is central to the success of any Green Recovery policies, and that a lack of local authority resource would be one of the greatest barriers to a Green Recovery taking place.

[TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN REVIEW – CALL FOR EVIDENCE \(18/08/2020\)](#)

BEFS highlights that addressing circular economy issues, contributing to the localism agenda, bringing in policy incentives for reuse/repurposing, and prioritising maintenance of our existing buildings, whilst considering the value of skills development within a newly invigorated Town Centre Action Plan, could provide the benefits for towns, and their people, that the group are hoping to achieve.

Open consultations Oct and Nov deadlines:

<https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/proposed-policy-amendments/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy-housing-technical-consultation-proposed-policy-amendments/>

1. The Scottish Ministers are consulting on proposed interim changes to the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) (2014) to clarify specific parts of the Scottish Planning Policy that relate to planning for housing.

<https://consult.gov.scot/planning-architecture/pre-application-consultation-requirements/>

This consultation paper relates to proposed changes to the existing requirements for pre-application consultation (PAC) with local communities on national and major developments. These requirements were introduced in 2009, as part of the implementation of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

Planning:

Temporary changes to planning legislation can be found here: <https://www.gov.scot/building-planning-and-design/> (please see both the NEWS and PUBLICATIONS sections).

NPF4 has been delayed until 2021 – a revised timetable is still to be produced. Further information can be found here: <https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/>.
see BEFS Bulletin for updates.

JL was supportive that the PAN and its importance is mentioned within the response. ALGAO and HOPS working together too.

○ **Manifesto Planning**

EL drew attention to the work previously done in relation to Manifesto analysis.

<https://www.befs.org.uk/latest/scotlands-historic-environment-in-the-general-election/>

This work needs to start now – but this is very much a discussion to discover what Members would like to be the focus/issued raised.

Note that manifesto asks tend to be, high-level, national principles – with potential to enact them at a local level.

- NTS is forming their own manifesto – October time.
- SCOT LINK almost completed theirs.
- SURF researching theirs.

DH: Suggestion that BEFS forms a set of high-level ideas that Parties may steal, then considers a Manifesto early next year in a more public-facing format.

TL: The definition of ENVIRONMENT as mentioned in the EU continuity work (above) is a useful barometer of what's being considered and how COVID can be the lever to accelerate zero-carbon work. Potential for BEFS to highlight complementary - or contradictory - ideas and get parties to explain where they sit on the divide.

CM: Challenge BUILD BACK BETTER – it has the potential to try and get more, for less. We need more on a focus on building resilience at community level, investing at skills at a local level. There is a need for services close to home. Building capacity, skills for the future etc.

GP: The arguments we make need to be about jobs. Advice from John Mason in relation to pitching to government was direct: tie it back to jobs.

JC: We need to carry on doing what we've done previously. Funding needs to be more certain – enabling longer term planning. Localism – aspire to getting SME contractors effectively within the skills/training/employment developments.

CS: Could be improvement in conversion grants – these are existing places, in sustainable locations, providing employment opportunities, housing etc This could be the focus for the short term. Would support real localism and provide real benefits.

BP: Last recession French Govt heavily financed maintaining heritage – supported training, jobs, local skills etc. Potentially a positive example.

MS: Also need to ensure impact on volunteering , NPF measures, wellbeing and health are considered– how it all connects.

CM: Suggestion that Adele Leeson work for Heritage Counts and economic indicators may be useful.

EL:

Good to hear - all these chime well with the work BEFS has been doing, and echoes the consultation responses BEFS has been providing across a number of policy fields.

Tenement work could well be featured in the ask as all parties have been involved. The differences discussed make tangible differences to constituents' lives and maintenance work could provide both jobs and warmer homes.

Other issues for consideration:

Dereliction – derelict land/BARR – focusing on place, and how places are managed; bringing in the research from the Scottish Land Commission.

Increased potential for some of the previous issues around VAT – research is currently being done by Fraser of Allender Institute – on the benefits of maintenance to local economies; this could lead-into what mechanisms the Scottish Government might consider to address the VAT asks.

Ultimately, we need to consider how we provide tangible benefits in very bleak agendas, at times of genuine economic crisis.

ACTION: BEFS to make a Forum topic of manifesto asks for comment.

Next HEWG: Wednesday 18th November 2pm – 4pm