

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

See [HEWG page](#) for past papers. **Chair:** Ian Baxter, BEFS Vice-Chair **BEFS attendee:** Ailsa Macfarlane
Apologies

Cara Jones	CIfA
Rob Lennox	CIfA
Sarah Pearce	HTN
Stuart Beattie	SCT
Kate Darrah	Ridge Project
Sarah Kettles	IHBC
Euan Ryan	RICS
Gordon Brown	ICE

Attendees:

Diarmid Hearn	NTS
Andrew Hopetoun	HH
Ann Packard	MCICH - RSA
Bill Pagan	BEFS
Gordon Barr	AHF
Jocelyn Cunliffe	AHSS
Kelcey Wilson Lee	AHF
Simon Gilmour	SoAoS
Terry Levinthal	Cockburn
Calum Maclean	BEFS
Rob Thomson	ICON Scotland
Susan O'Connor	SCT
Robbie Calvert	RTPI
Christopher Dingwall	SGLH
Frankie Toner	NLHF
Graeme Purves	BEFS
Diane Gray	NLHF

1. Introductions and Apologies.

2. Agree [previous meeting note](#) – all necessary actions completed, or to be updated on in BEFS - Sector updates. **Agreed.**

IB ACTION noted he will find out more from Scottish Funding Council in relation to subject funding cuts, such as occurring in England in relation to Archaeology in particular, but across arts/history subject areas.

3. BEFS Sector Updates

- a) **CHERF – State of Heritage (report [here](#))** IB

Previous meetings of CHERF useful. Where are we now – do we need to enable sector connection in a post-emergency sense.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

Feel there could be an offer in relation to how CHERF might aid the OPiT refresh process. Still mileage in it for strategic support – and providing that connecting perspective for where we are as a sector.

Opened discussion to the room, comments included:

Using CHERF to connect with current planning issues. Both planning's place in the new Cabinet structure, and how to connect planning with the broader agendas. Also, the relaxation of planning controls due to Covid. Desire to support businesses that have suffered, but without increasing planning tensions and setting precedents.

CHERF appeared to be a good format for HES and the sector to connect more broadly, is there a role for this to continue?

*Suggestion for BEFS Board to connect with HES Board – look at gaps in working and knowledge where BEFS can support. **ACTION***

Related – planning pressure through the retro-fit agenda was mentioned.

Comments also made consideration that CHERF was initiated as short-term measure, and some issues raised are now more suited to BEFS main role. Covid has accelerated many things, but some of those action are now becoming business as usual. Therefore managing those changes is perhaps more suited to business as usual.

b) Election update – new CabSecs/Ministers

AM reported from the outline provided online. <https://www.befs.org.uk/latest/scottish-parliamentary-election-2021-update/>

Particular note was paid to the new Cab. Sec. for *Constitution, External Affairs and Culture*, Angus Robertson, and Minister for *Culture, Europe, International Development* – Jenny Gilruth.

Further [information published lists responsibilities](#) for Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development as:

- Support for European and external relations
- International Development
- Major events
- Creative industries
- Scotland Touring Fund for Theatre and Music
- Youth Music Initiative
- Creative Scotland and other arts
- Cultural Collections
- Major Events and Themed Years
- National Towns of Culture
- Historic Environment Scotland
- National Performing Companies
- Youth National Performing Company
- Fair Trade
- Architecture, place and built heritage

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG)

Meeting Note 20th May 2021

Tourism now sits within a busy Ministerial portfolio (Ivan McKee) including it with Business, Trade, and Enterprise.

Environment now has no Cabinet Secretary post, but is within the remit of two Ministers. Land Reform follows the same pattern. Climate change also loses a Cabinet Secretary –but is perhaps replaced by new description within Michael Matheson’s role relating to *Net Zero, Energy and Transport*.

Housing, is included through Shona Robison, Cabinet Secretary for *Social Justice, Housing and Local Government*. **Planning** (an area where much implementation is still due to occur, not least Local Place Plans) – finds itself in the Ministerial portfolio of Tom Arthur sharing space with Public Finance and Community Wealth (overseen by Kate Forbes).

Discussion from the group made it clear that there was some concern/confusion as to where directorates aligned (or misaligned) with work previously. What knock-on effects there would be to Cross Party Groups, and where wider alignment could be sought. Local Government was an area of interest, as well as Planning (and the planning reforms which are taking place in England). Planning’s contribution to place making, rather than as about regulation/deregulation could be key. An agent of recovery, not a barrier/red-tape mechanism. ACTION: BEFS to engage quickly and effectively.

c) Digital Data – pre1919 HES, Round Table, David Hume Inst.

After the interest and discussion at the last HEWG BEFS held a round table discussion for those working on data projects. The intent was to understand where work was occurring and to connect those wishing to be connected. Invitees included the below.

Katie Carter	HES – Climate change team- little project on retro-fit pre 1919
Kenney Easson	HES – Technical Research Team
Isabel Fry	HES BARR
Calum Maclean	MAAC Studio
Bryan Dickson	NTS - Head of Buildings
Louise Rogers	NTS – Buildings Administrator
Sarah MacKinnon	NTS – Head of Buildings Operations
Ian Scrivener-Lindley	SMR Forum - HER Rep. ALGAO Scheduled Monument Record Forum
Lindsay Lennie	Stirling City Heritage Trust
Brogan Warren	War Memorials Trust – Public Engagement Officer. War Memorials condition

Connections were made. Director of the David Hume Institute, Susan Murray joined on the day. She had connected with BEFS via an SVCO hustings event. David Hume want to explore this issue and are working on a small round table with Scottish Government, Registers of Scotland, Civil Service - to progress work in relation to ScotLIS and how data we already collect in relation to buildings can be better used. David Hume believes this is a social and employment issue, BEFS additionally considers we cannot meet net zero without better availability of data. **ACTION AM to update the group.**

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

d) Tenement Working Group

Progress in this area – Scottish Government work plan prior to the election covered some of this work and recently an invitation to tender around a research project in relation to sinking funds has gone ahead. The Diffley Partnership worked with BEFS and are now connected to the working group members, relevant literature held by working group, and to Mike Heffron the new director at Under One Roof (share secretariat duties with BEFS). **ACTION: AM to update group.**

JC: Board of UoR, and part of Tenement Action Group – who are pan-professional. Input to workplan items. ACTION : AM to keep updated.

e) Cross Party Group – Joint Statement ICE /RICS/ RIAS / RTPI / LI-S

Well received by all – attendees. BEFS role within this is now to continue to promote the activities and publicise connected actions. Recent meeting suggestions include continuing with Cross Party Group structures where possible. Regular meetings of the professions and BEFS now tabled.

f) Home Nations call - THA / HE / CADW / HES / NI Communities Directorate

All meet regularly to highlight/share information of interest across the Nations. NI highlighted Brexit related materials transportation issues initially but this seems to be more streamlined now. Reports of lack of thatch materials across UK and some of Europe. Both organic materials transportation issues post-Brexit, but a poor thatch season has exacerbated issues. 15min Heritage funding in Wales very successful. NI – similar model. Both working with NLHF in some capacity.

g) OPiT – SHEF – HES – SG (April catchup)

Previous meeting with Scottish Government suggested they were still eager to receive meaty asks from the heritage sector. Large projects or those which could scale effectively. It will be interesting to see what changes occur with Angus Robertson and Jenny Gilruth in place.

OPiT CEO Forum is due to meet in early June. And more direction for the replacement to SHEF and the OPiT refresh will be sought then. As will more clarity over the OPiT papers BEFS have offered to hold.

OPiT built heritage investment group – draft plan being refreshed with feedback from the group.

OPiT SKILLS – future skills summit occurred in last few months– many strong and interesting ideas but rightly there was some focus on the issue that there are construction and built environment skills investment plans – these are not being enacted.

OPiT Heritage Tourism Group - last meeting November 2020, no further updates.

OPiT Volunteering replaced by the Make Your Mark campaign... developed campaign, improve number and diversity of those volunteering with heritage. Scottish Civic Trust has an officer – events/comms. 3yr programme. Great cross section of orgs. Worked to foster cross-body across the sector. Website: <https://makeyourmark.scot/>

OPiT Climate work continues but unsure if meetings have occurred.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

HES updates:

Elly McCrone now in role as Director of Heritage, Barbara Cummins is now retired.
Dara Parsons is moving into the Head of Designations.
Robin Turner retires at the end of the month.

It was noted that the directorates at HES have been renamed and refreshed. But there was not official confirmation of this.

TL: reflect on wider issue of OPiT. How to resource, particularly with shift from SHEF to the sector running these groups and leading more formally. Known that post-pandemic finances will change. What support there is from SG is unknown.

HES revisions, right to realigned and reconfigure- but these things bring change which can raise issues around corporate planning. Discussions ongoing around lead body role and what leadership means within that context.

Group discussed that OPiT is known to have under-performed in mainstreaming of heritage.

OPiT still too opaque, how does it go forward, what does it do for the sector?

h) BEFS working groups

BEFS Working Groups – COG Conservation Officers Group initial planning has gone well and Fionn Macintosh at Stirling has laboured to find conservation role information at all local authorities. We're also delighted to announce that Mark Douglas recently retired from the Scottish Borders has agreed to chair.

BEFS Working Group -POW Places of Worship is a strong area of interest for HES too and the group has a draft Terms of Reference in the agreement process, an initial meeting date and Sara Crofts ICON Director has agreed to chair.

i) National Partnership for Culture

Two out of three wider meetings have been held. Well-being event, and Fair Work have already taken place. Focus remains on the 'arts' aspect of culture but BEFS continues to mention and engage cultural heritage within the context of the Culture Strategy. Well-being notes were circulated to Members, and a further revised report will be issued by the partnership.

The most recent meeting on fair work has just issued draft notes. Many issues were raised but AM focused most strongly on longer funding cycles an- issue that was raised by both Nicola Sturgeon and Fiona Hyslop in the run up to the election. If government is issuing longer funding to its agencies and ndpb's then that funding needs to trickle down to funded organisations. Longer funding cycles will be supportive of recovery and enable greater stability and strategic planning within this , and other sectors. **ACTION: As soon as a papers are available to share BEFS will circulate to members. Completed**

AP: commented that longer funding cycles, if advocated for by large Trusts could also be a lobbying point.

4. Organisational Updates from Members

RIAS - CM: ongoing work is filled with practical aspects of retro-fit agenda. Embodied carbon discussions etc.

JC: new Conservation course – HES- Engine Shed/Stirling joint venture.

<https://engineshed.scot/learning/msc-technical-building-conservation/>

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

CDT - BILL: *Funding biggest issue at CDT – trusts changing ... running costs from some, heritage focus from others.*

SoAoS - SG: *Conference, end of Month ... releasing many new videos, Q&A Sat. Website for details. Stopped the sale of at least 2 pieces of human remains. Unethical. Want to shut down this transaction completely. Working with HES, NMS on guidance / principles.*

Troubled with what happens in England in relation to closure of Archaeology departments. Even big dept. Sheffield – under severe threat. [Concerns from Royal Historical Society](#) also being raised over threats to History Departments. Additionally - review in England over funding Archaeology Dept. likely 50% reduction in funding.

SoAoS - Budget – uplift of 10K in research grants - Call coming out soon.

HH – AH: *Observations, members pretty hard hit by the past 14 months. Some support forthcoming, but survey of HH Members showed losses of £280M last year and 13% of workforce lost. Looking forward to reopening, demand - variable at best. Partially weather driven, less over-seas tourism, nervousness of return for some. Issue of repairs and maintenance work not carried out over past year remains a real issue.*

AHSS – JC: *Considering lifetime carbon, AHSS written to Graham Saunders – as head of Heritage Management policy at HES – asking for Heritage Directorate to work on Managing Change Guidance for embodied carbon assessment.*

AHSS particularly concerned in relation to net zero and listed buildings. Consultation response picked up by The Times 10th May.

Additional Zoom lectures occurring, but low level of summer activities due to social distancing.

SGLH – CD: *Reduced programme. Early stages of discussion for new publication by 18thC Scottish Studies Society on aspects of garden history.*

NTS - DH: *A lot of effort focus on reopening. Safety for staff, and visitors. Good demand for gardens. Travel trade- buses etc – some requirement, but tricky to manage with bus numbers.*

Policy – NTS manifesto – one idea was for better protection for Battlefields. Looking at what UNESCO status would involve for Culloden. Also exploring a new management plan for multiple-ownership sites.

Short Term: Note the HES Designed Landscapes consultation out – closes end of the month.

*Culture - NCP: working on indicators for change. Notes what indicators for what might underpin that strategy. NPF – due for revision 2023, look at indicators for now and the future. What datasets are needed. **ACTION: suggestion BEFS to explore.***

AHF - KWL: *finished accounts for last year. Strong demand across Scotland despite covid. 120 inquiries, 78 applications, 62 grants awarded. £500K+ given out. 16 loans live in Scotland with over 4M in agreed loans. Looking for new audiences – 51% of applications from new orgs. 34% of applications for BARR buildings.*

Broader insight – new work into organisations, revenue style grants for Heritage Development Trusts (England only) – model keen to bring to Scotland. Beefed up BPTs - portfolio restoration/adaptation – social enterprises using etc. Talking to William Grant Foundation and HES.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

Also developing their environmental policy- considering the impact of developing an historic building. Need more data on what the environmental measures that are part of their grant recipients ask. Fit for the Future – NT project in England. Looking at how AHF can help/signpost the sector more broadly.

Making new EDI policy – initial scoping.

*Just about to launch new strategy period. New Evaluation strategy, framework, and new impact report. **Highlighted that: One of the 4 clear lessons was: need for longer-term funding cycles.***

RSA: AP Recent RSA event on festivals, and cultural tourism. Cliff Hague and international speakers. Upcoming event on crafts and intangible heritage. Aim to get attendees to write to Oliver Dowden to support signing Convention on ICH. .

Invite only meeting – with new CE of South of Scotland Enterprise. Need to try and improve N, S, E W engagement within the SoSE Area.

*Notes Heritage Degree ceasing at Heriot Watt, and at Kent. Need to raise profile of need for them, asks whether IB can gather further data. **ACTION IB.***

COCKBURN - TL: Concerned with commodification of open public and semi-public spaces. Process of festivilisation. Relaxation of planning control is part of this. Also concerned with management of interventions in the streetscape within the world heritage site. Looking to have mini conferences – revisit Air BnB and disruptive technologies. Scoping common good assets within towns/cities. Zero carbon – declaration and the implementation to achieve, shifting past the operational aspects.

HES - TL Adverts going out soon for new Chair - recruit soon. Long promised grants review, including Organisational Support Fund is advancing – paper to the Board in May. Business/Corporate plan agenda, including for this year a request for new regulatory strategy.

SCT- SOC: Launch of doors open day 2021 (hybrid – but more in person than digital). Exhibition and even more digital events last year. Also planning out COP26 programme. What kind of digital presence they'll have. Main theme - Climate change and the intersect with structural inequality.

NLHF – FT (Frankie was welcomed by the group) Focus has been on recovery: Resilience, wellbeing, skills, place and area based benefits and improvement. Environmental sustainability. Inclusive approach. NLHF want to engage with politicians – wider audience. Main lottery programme fully open, demand is high. Continue to support grant recipients – with flexibility over cost changes, timescales etc.

RICS - Euan Ryan couldn't attend but provided the following update:

- On planned preventative maintenance; the consultation has been extended until **31 May** and will be reviewed early June, with the publication of the Basis of Conclusions produced shortly after. We are keen to encourage more participants so please feel free to raise with today's participants and share the following link: <https://consultations.rics.org/ppm/consultationHome>
- The RICS Conservation Forum will also be looking to update its guidance note on conservation in the future. Applications to join the Forum can be made here: <https://www.rics.org/uk/surveying-profession/global-professional-network/professional-groups/sector-forums/>

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Meeting Note 20th May 2021

- On Tenement Maintenance, we are definitely keen to continue to monitor and influence the policy debate.
- I'd be more than happy to update on broader policy objective for RICS when I join next time and after I've pulled together a full strategy. As I'm sure you can expect and at a high level, sustainability will be a core cross-sectoral driver of activity ahead of COP26, as well as the 'build back better' agenda post-COVID, with a focus on high street and town centre renewal.

5. Policy Updates

a) Policy Consultations

[DRAFT HEAT IN BUILDINGS STRATEGY SKILLS REQUIREMENTS – CONSULTATION \(30/04/2021\)](#)

BEFS submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Scottish skills requirements for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low carbon heating systems, microgeneration and heat networks for homes. Members' responses: [AHSS](#).

[DRAFT HEAT IN BUILDINGS STRATEGY, ACHIEVING NET ZERO EMISSIONS IN SCOTLAND'S BUILDINGS – CONSULTATION \(30/04/2021\)](#)

BEFS submitted a response to the Scottish Government's Heat in buildings strategy – achieving net zero emissions consultation. Members' responses: [AHSS](#).

[MANAGING CHANGE GUIDANCE NOTE – HES CONSULTATION \(06/05/2021\)](#)

BEFS response to Historic Environment Scotland's consultation on Managing Change Guidance Note: Working on and near to scheduled monuments supports and reiterates points made by Member organisations. Read members responses: [ALGAO](#), [SoAoS](#), [CIfA](#).

b) Open consultations – including LPP Consultation

[Local Place Plan Regulation Consultation](#)

[Designed Landscapes of the recent Past – HES](#) – now closed.

DH: Renewable heat work appears to be considering unpicking EPC in relation to gas which could open the door for review/changes to EPCs **ACTION BEFS to explore**

TL : impact to Local Planning and how LPPs need to be resourced. City Of Edinburgh has made representation to state they shouldn't be tasked with resourcing those.

AM noted that that LAs don't have the resource for LPPs – and we've stated that at every consultation. Noted LPPs are a positive, and need centralised support. AM noted that RTPI are working on this and will liaise with RC.

ACTION AM to talk to RTPI – ALSO BP requested to be included in LPP discussions. As did DH.

6) Awareness raising : 'Culture Wars' and rising Academia concerns.

Still issues. Archaeology and culture courses being cut as mentioned above. **ACTION IB to monitor and note any Scottish information/closures.**

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Next HEWG:

Wednesday 25th August 2pm-4pm

Future dates:

Thursday 18th November 10am -12pm