

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

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

Chair: Ian Baxter, BEFS Vice-Chair **BEFS attendees:** Ailsa Macfarlane, Hazel Johnson, Jess Burrows

Apologies:

Bill Pagan	BEFS
Diane Gray	NLHF
Gordon Barr	AHF
Jo Robertson	AHF
Judy Riley	SGDL
Niall Murphy	GCHT
Nikola Miller	BEFS
Peter Hinton	CifA
Rachel Tennant	LI-S
Sarah Pearce	HTN
Barri Millar	GT-CoS
Sarah Kettles	IHBC
Torsten Haak	GCHT
Gwen Thomas	ICON
Sue Evans	SCT
Maggie Mercer	GCHT
Terry Levinthal	The Cockburn
Christina Sinclair	EWB
Isobel Griffin	ICON
Marion Shawcross	SGDL

Attendees:

Andrew Hopetoun	Historic Houses
Caroline Clark	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Frankie Toner	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Gordon Brown	ICE
Iain McDowall	BEFS
James Garry	The Cockburn
Jocelyn Cunliffe	AHSS
John Lawson	ALGAO
Mark Douglas	IHBC
Kelcey Wilson Lee	AHF
Rob Lennox	CifA
Simon Gilmour	SoAoS (Arriving after 2pm)
David Tittle	Heritage Trust Network
Susan O'Connor	SCivicT
Andrew McMaster	War Memorials Trust
Kevin Murphy	ALGAO
Phil Prentice	STP
Lindsay Lennie	Stirling City Heritage Trust

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

1. Introductions and Apologies – introductions to BEFS new Team Members Jess Burrows, Communications and Membership Manager, and Hazel Johnson, Policy and Strategy Manager.

2. Agree [previous meeting note](#)

All necessary actions completed, or to be updated on in BEFS - Sector updates. **Agreed.**

Previous actions note:

AM thanks IB for funding information in relation to cost courses, and a link to the Scottish Funding Council. IB noted that each year a figure is allocated to each price group by SFC, and universities are allocated a capped number of student places to offer in specific subjects (with a tolerance to account for variations in recruitment). Link to the full document for those interested is in the meeting note.

http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/announcements_sfc202021/university-final-funding-2021-22-announcement.pdf

3. BEFS Sector Updates

a) Digital Data - David Hume Inst.

David Hume continue to 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. Event still expected to occur – but delayed due to unexpected family leave in relation to DHI.

b) 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. Under One Roof and the Tenement Action Group (as well as others) will input into the workplan actions as required. The recent Scottish Government and Green Party joint policy statement explicitly mentions progressing this work. *BEFS met with SG to discuss progress and be introduced to Tony Cruickshank (Simon Roberts)*

c) BEFS Briefing Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

BEFS was invited by the Convenor ([Ariane Burgess](#)) and Vice Convenor ([Elena Whitham](#)) to brief the Committee on priorities for the coming parliamentary session. Full briefing is here: <https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/LGHPC-Briefing.pdf>

BEFS raised tenement maintenance, and access to building data as mentioned above – but also expanded this to include the Traditional Building Health Check Scheme as a stepping-stone to more legislative maintenance occurring. Detailing how these issues clearly supported both economic and green recovery work.

Planning was also covered – with BEFS highlighting the potential for LPPs and reiterating the lack of resource for Planning authorities more widely.

BEFS also fed back to the committee on working practices across LAs which had proved useful during remote working, and raised the issue of digital HERs.

BEFS thanks all those who took the time to respond to my questions, and provide documents and detail to expand the information provided to the Committee.

ACTION: JC to contact Mike Heffron at Under One Roof re members of cross-party group taking parliamentary questions.

d) Planning:

BEFS attended the SG overview NPF4-iRSS workshop – there had been a series of widely attended events. These pointed towards the inter-related strategy approach set out in the Position Statement previously. Whilst there is indication that a draft NPF4 is still intended for the Autumn I'm not in possession of any clearer dates.

BEFS also held a LPP Workshop due to interest from Members. This informed the LPP Consultation submission, briefly updated on later in the meeting:

<https://www.befs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BEFS-LPP-Response-.pdf>

e) SG – SHEF – OPiT - HES

SG: Believe a recent change of staffing within what has traditionally been CHED, Evie McGregor having moved on. I've contacted Callum Grigor to get something in the diary shortly.

It is also understood that in her role as Culture Minister Jenny Gilruth is taking stock of any plans for **SHEF** / event and any current ideas are on hold. SG directorate are learning Ministers approach.

OPiT CEO Forum met in early June. No minutes received yet. Sector updates included: concerns around funding, continued uncertainty, sector burn-out and lack of thinking space. 25% of museums not opening... for example. Challenges across the board.

SHEF replacement - Sector led event – planning...

OPiT – 2years to end, need strategic space and discussion for the future.

Working Group Updates were provided:

OPiT built heritage investment group – draft plan being refreshed with feedback from the group, acknowledge changed landscape. Work aligning to OPiT Climate work continues but meeting have not occurred, paused due to CV19

OPiT SKILLS – sub groups taking work forward. SIP focused activity. Cross sector delivery groups to take actions forward. Currently, the City of Glasgow College, HES, NTS and Glasgow Life are working together on how sustainable tourism, heritage skills and context can be embedded in HNC/HND provision from August 2021.

OPiT Heritage Tourism Group – outcomes from here described as potentially less tangible. Pre-dates OPiT – working on recovery for the tourism sector. STERG (Scottish Tourism Emergency Response Group – useful national focus). 2021 Year of Coast and Waters – important aspect to continue.

OPiT Volunteering replaced by the Make Your Mark campaign - Website:

<https://makeyourmark.scot/>

HES – BEFS

AM and IB in his role as CHERF Chair met with HES CEO Alex Patterson – looked at future areas of interest for the sector (sector data); CHERF a final post-summer close-the-loop session to consider bringing activity back into business as what is now usual. Future of OPiT – collectively steer thinking to benefits of sector and how it can support wider recovery.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

HES– Heritage Policy Stakeholder Group – first meeting.

Revised intention for the group has now been circulated – headlines include:

Revised Draft Aims

- *Debate and influence Historic Environment Scotland's approach to heritage management policies and guidance*
- *Focus upon the development and delivery of Historic Environment Scotland's programme for Managing Change Guidance Notes*
- *Work in partnership in promoting positive outcomes for the historic environment in the context of climate change, place making and inclusive communities.*
- *Collaborate to support the implementation and dissemination of Managing Change Guidance Notes*
- *Work together to identify gaps and prioritise topic areas where further guidance is needed*
- *Champion the historic environment, its best practices and value to policy and decision-makers*

These aims are focused on HES documents, updates and guidance which BEFS considers to be entirely appropriate. There were some initial questions from BEFS Members around the scope at the outset. These have been discussed with HES and the tightening of intent should prevent duplication of effort across the sector.

f) National Partnership for Culture

BEFS and Culture Counts as the relevant intermediaries have been invited to attend all workshop meetings. These have been on -Wellbeing, Fair Work, and Education/Skills. Focus remains on the 'arts' aspect of culture but BEFS continues to mention and engage cultural heritage within the context of the Culture Strategy.

Notes have been circulated to Members after each event and comments fed back to SG. Further developments and briefings made available to BEFS will be circulated to Members.

g) BEFS recently formed working groups

BEFS Working Groups – COG Conservation Officers Group with Mark Douglas as Chair had a very well attended first meeting with 40+ attendees from all Local and Planning Authorities except Shetland. Lots of enthusiasm, delighted to be connected. Early days for online engagement in the Group set-up – especially over the summer. Graham Saunders from HES attending next event – to introduce and talk about Managing Change guidance.

BEFS Working Group -POW Places of Worship Sara Crofts ICON Director is chair. First formal meeting agreed Terms of Reference and BEFS is drafting a rout-map for activity around transition. This group is a strategic group for owners, funders and those giving national level advice around the owning, funding and transition of places of worship.

4. Policy Consultations

PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS ON LOCAL PLACE PLANS CONSULTATION – (25/06/2021)

BEFS response supports the Regulations as they stand, but notes that many of the concerns around LPPs remain unaddressed by the consultation. Guidance and further clarity is needed around a number of issues, most notably the lack of mitigation for inter-community conflict, and the lack of resourcing for either communities or Local & Planning Authorities. Read Member responses: [SURE](#) [RTPI](#) You can see the response from HES [here](#).

Open consultations

[Historic Environment Policy for Scotland Consultation](#) (individual views sought)

Closes 30 August 2021

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

[HES Grants Refresh Consultation](#) (to be discussed)

Closes 6 September 2021

[Funding for Culture - Call for Views](#) (to be discussed)

Closes 8 September 2021

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificates Reform Consultation](#)

Closes 8 October 2021

[Home Energy Efficiency: Equity Loan Pilot - Call for Evidence](#)

Closes 8 October 2021

[Scottish Building Regulations: Proposed changes to Energy Standards and associated topics, including Ventilation, Overheating and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure](#)

Closes 15 October 2021

5. Organisational Updates from Members

SGLH – CD: *No significant changes.*

IHBC - MD: *Summer school in Aberdeen planned for next year.*

RIAS – CM: *Technical issues with building regulations relating to retrofit. Conservation and the policy agenda – all focused on retrofit but in order to meet the zero emissions by 2045 need to upgrade 100K homes every year; repairs prior to this are essential.*

Budgets of 1.6Bn for repairs, grants available around £60M – accounting for less than 4% of the budget available (AM would note that this applies - only if you consider the budget is coming from heritage).

Universities considering a one-stop-shop to shortcut the process – but this is not a positive. 2016 report [Each home Counts](#) – is clear that you can't address the problem with blanket approaches.

HTN - DT: *Scottish Membership growing, September 1st will see the third of the very well attended event on groups for churches and Church futures. Working with Historic Churches Scotland.*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/an-introduction-to-the-heritage-trust-network-tickets-166073551463>

HH – AH: *Has been a very tough year, off the back of an already difficult one. Reduced financial support is met by a reduction in visitor numbers and extra restrictions around events. Welcome uptick currently – but backlog and lack of cash for repairs still a huge ongoing issue.*

ALGAO – KM: *Development Control is very busy.*

ALGAO – JL: *Very good training day 10th June on theme of Dendrochronology – working on process in Scotland. Over 90 attendees. IHBC and ClfA were main partners. CIRIA - new practice guide for Archaeology and Construction available.*

<https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductcode=C799&Category=BOOK>

SCT - SOC: *SCT are now back working in the office. Doors Open Day launched last week with an person event which went very well. Over 400 pieces of digital content created. This is a 75% increase on what was available previously.*

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

Cockburn – JG: A lot of recent interest in Edinburgh planning, significant applications coming through. Events: Cockburn conversations and Doors Open Day in September in Edinburgh.

AHSS – JC: Planning applications cases panel has been continued via Zoom. Across Scotland the digital portals are working well. Some concerns with enforcement issues and standards slipping. [Lecture -28th October – ‘Old buildings, why bother’](#).
No live visits but lecture programme may be both live and blended.

ICE – GB: Focus on: Infrastructure resilience and the need to adapt and retrofit our existing environment.
Worked with SG on resiliency summit, remit less than expected. A lot of good words but given the complex task, more is needed. Looking towards a task force to prioritise the infrastructure ask.

Producing report later this year: infrastructure previously 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. This has changed – working on how to achieve reductions, not just asking the question of why we need to.
ACTION: Invitation for Members to contribute to:
<https://www.ice.org.uk/news-and-insight/latest-ice-news/ice-john-rennie-commemorative-project>

AHF – KW-L: Finalising annual review from AHF – past year was extraordinary in terms of number and value of grants. £600k in early stage in Scotland, with 60 projects. Applications still coming in. New EDI policy in place: <https://ahfund.org.uk/impact/commitments-edi/>

NLHF – CC: Opened new funding programme – first tranche is mixed, organisations finding their feet post covid, and NLHF working to support applicants. This is the first round after emergency funding ending. Tricky as revenue gaps remain in this year.

Register of support services – across UK – previously brought in to support programmes in delivery, now earlier support mechanisms.
[Simon Thurley](#) CBE – new UK Chair. Ros Kerslake also stepping down as Chief Exec.
Two committee members also stepping down.
Integrating PLACE MAKING – locality, wellbeing how to integrate into their grants.
Also looking at how to support assessment going forward.

ClfA - Rob Lennox: new CIRIA guidance - useful, practical – how to integrate archaeology into construction practices.
Publication: Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (IEMA, IHBC) – good principles etc.
ClfA – exercise to update for Scot and NI guidance specifically.
HES – talking to them for new GEOPHYCIS guidance.
ACTION: Call for sessions for ClfA Conference <https://www.archaeologists.net/conference>

Anglo-centric advocacy currently, due to lots of activity within archaeology policy area.
New English Planning proposals
NSIP / EIA – England wants to make them faster and friendlier... may not work out appropriately.

Summer high ‘dig’ peak – completed without disaster BUT genuine crisis of recruitment.
Archaeology will soon not be able to deliver. Immigration procedures also seen as an issue.
In work training and apprenticeships – also concerns.

WMT – AM: War Memorials Trust, applicants often want advice rather than funding.
Singular projects in Scotland – individual larger projects. More engagement around Scotland – around conservation etc – was all on hold. Digital engagement strategy also on hold.

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

STP -PP: *Focused on funding. Scotland Loves Local fund – want to stretch the ambition. Days Out Fund – funded though this. HES – buying the digital currency card. Fund opened - Historic assets within that context.*

Greater resource available for Local Authorities. sustained – multi-year funding offered.

Levelling up funding – also available right now.

(PP provided the information on allocation seen below.)

<https://lovelocal.scot/scotland-loves-local-fund-application-and-guidance/>

SCHEDULE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Place Based Investment Programme Grant offer per local authority is set out below:

Local Authority	Allocation
Aberdeen City	£975,000
Aberdeenshire	£2,040,000
Angus	£720,000
Argyll and Bute	£821,000
City of Edinburgh	£1,998,000
Clackmannanshire	£512,000
Dumfries and Galloway	£1,029,000
Dundee City	£827,000
East Ayrshire	£1,310,000
East Dunbartonshire	£600,000
East Lothian	£823,000
East Renfrewshire	£635,000
Falkirk	£1,391,000
Fife	£3,163,000
Glasgow City	£3,699,000
Highland	£1,963,000
Inverclyde	£675,000
Midlothian	£613,000
Moray	£770,000
Na h-Eileanan Siar	£134,000
North Ayrshire	£1,260,000
North Lanarkshire	£2,807,000
Orkney Islands	£122,000
Perth and Kinross	£1,265,000
Renfrewshire	£1,195,000
Scottish Borders	£912,000
Shetland Islands	£124,000
South Ayrshire	£797,000
South Lanarkshire	£2,003,000
Stirling	£735,000
West Dunbartonshire	£780,000
West Lothian	£1,302,000
Scotland	£38,000,000

SCHT – LL: *Issues are a current lack of contractors – unable to get quotes etc. Real challenge. Looking at new strategic five-year plan.*

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

6. HES Funding Consultation discussion DRAFT HES Grants Framework 2021 Onwards | Overview

BEFS response as submitted can be viewed [here](#).

Many thanks to all those who contributed.

ACTION: Member organisations who submitted their own responses to submit these to BEFS for inclusion on the website.

Key areas for discussion:

Do you feel that the scope of our new Grants Priorities is relevant and appropriately targeted for historic environment projects?

To what extent do you support what is being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?

Do you feel that the three different tiers of funding proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme) are set at the right levels?

TIERS ARE:

Express Grants: Between £1,000 and £25,000

- Applications accepted on a rolling basis
- Decision within 6-8 weeks

Small Grants: Above £25,000 and up to £100,000

- Three application deadlines per year
- Decision within 10-12 weeks

Large Grants: Above £100,000

- Two application deadlines per year
- Decision within 12-16 weeks

What do you think about the new application and decision timeframes being proposed under Historic Environment Grants (the Open Programme)?

To what extent do you support the scope of the draft eligible costs for Historic Environment Grants (Open Programme)?

Do you have any comments or feedback on any of the other programmes included in the HES Grants Framework (Partnership Fund, CARS and City Heritage Trusts)? N.B. We have already undertaken external consultation on the CARS programme, but further feedback from anyone who did not take part in this consultation is welcome.

To what extent do you support our proposed approach to prioritising and targeting our investment? (p.13 of the HES Grants framework)

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

Overview

New priorities (summary):

- **Grants Priority 1:** Increase understanding of and engagement with Scotland's historic environment
- **Grants Priority 2:** Enhance communities' use of the historic environment in place making
- **Grants Priority 3:** Strengthen the resilience of Scotland's historic environment
- **Grants Priority 4:** Use the historic environment as a catalyst for climate action
- **Grants Priority 5:** Increase the quality and availability of, and demand for, historic environment skills
- **Grants Priority 6:** Increase economic benefits from Scotland's historic environment

There was a wide-ranging discussion where Members raised a number of points in relation to the consultation.

BEFS was supportive of the joined-up thinking demonstrated and that outcomes across HES and National Outcomes were explicitly considered.

An expression of grants applications and information being proportionate to the grant amount was also seen as a positive.

Others welcomed the flexibility with the option for (some) grants to be submitted throughout the year.

But there were also calls for a more streamlined system that was able to respond to particularly repair focused grants more quickly.

The number of pots and different number rounds per-pot may need to be revisited to prevent any confusion.

The two-state process for CARS gained initial support. As did the 'flexibility in grant conditions for third parties' – which was seen as essential.

A more detailed point was raised that the document talks about conservation requirements – but in CARS no requirement for formal qualifications for the people running the scheme. There was a question around what level of experience might be appropriate for assessors. IHBC Accreditation was mentioned.

CARS can get left to the building owners to implement. Steps in the process may not be understood by owners. Process can also take time prior to getting the £ - but time can become quite short... especially with a known shortage of skilled tradesmen and CARS all come at once. Mapping the resources that we have within conservation sector. Essential to the work being able to be carried out.

Some members questioned the 100k threshold, finding it too low. And also found two application deadlines too few for the large grants.

Maintenance – has always been a requirement and now needs to be formalised.

The point below was, by some Members, considered as more fitting to apply to all grants.

To demonstrate a continued priority for projects which look after and protect historic fabric, there will be a weighted Grants Priority (Grants Priority 3: Strengthen the resilience of Scotland's historic environment) for the larger grants stream (grants above £100k).

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG) Agenda 25th August 2021

Some participants expressed a desire for HES grants to be explicitly more fabric focused than other grant funders who may bring in more place, community and wider engagement factors.

Funders expressed that the consultation left space for collaboration and complementarity. Expressing the grants as part of a funding landscape is key. (Eg 60% of AHF grant recipients in the previous cycle went on to receive HES funding.)

7. Culture Committee Consultation discussion

Funding for culture | Overview

Ahead of next year's Scottish Government Budget (Budget 2022-23), the Committee wants to hear your views on the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the culture sector, and how it should recover from the pandemic.

The Committee wants to hear your immediate budgetary priorities for the sector as temporary COVID funding comes to an end. It also wants to know what lessons can be learned from the crisis,

Key areas for discussion:

What should be the Scottish Government's immediate priorities in supporting the culture sector's recovery through Budget 2022-23?

Do you agree with UNESCO that "a degree of restructuring is inevitable" [1] as the sector recovers from COVID? If so, what approach should the Scottish Government adopt?

[1] In December 2020, UNESCO published Culture in Crisis: A Policy Guide for a Resilient Creative Sector which is intended to be both a practical guide to help governments address the challenges artists and cultural professionals are facing during the pandemic, as well as offering advice on how to strengthen the resilience of the creative industries in the future.

A crisis can also trigger new ways of thinking – should the Scottish Government rethink how it supports the culture sector?

Group discussed:

*AM raised the following from the **National Partnership for Culture roundtables***

- *Longer term funding cycles: From government, to Agencies and NDPBs - should this occur these funding cycles should also be made available through those Agency/NDPB grant/funding programmes. Longer funding cycles embed skills and stability enabling greater sustainability of action, better outcomes delivered and increased strategic capacity.*

Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG)
Agenda 25th August 2021

- *Cross SG directorate understanding of what cultural heritage can deliver; exploring a cultural capital approach.*
- *Early years interventions makes future champions for cultural heritage!*
- *BEFS highlighted traditional skills as essential to delivering net zero and maintaining our cultural heritage.*

A brief discussion, due to time, was had by the group and the following points were articulated. BEFS submitted a short statement in response – which can be found [here](#).

Culture and heritage strategies need to be clarified so the funding is implemented accurately. Long standing issue of culture/heritage

Longer term funding is essential to allow organisations to deliver their activities and become sustainable. Saving time and effort supports delivery.

Need – CC noted it was important to flag what is happening in terms of needs:

- *Digital skills*
- *Digital assets*
- *Confidence in, and availability of advance booking for visiting tourist attractions. Set up and use online ticketing... Knowledge skills, maintain digital resources.*
- *Young people and skills – without these we cannot deliver on net-zero*
- *Business planning and financial management etc*

--

Next HEWG:
Thursday 18th November 10am -12pm