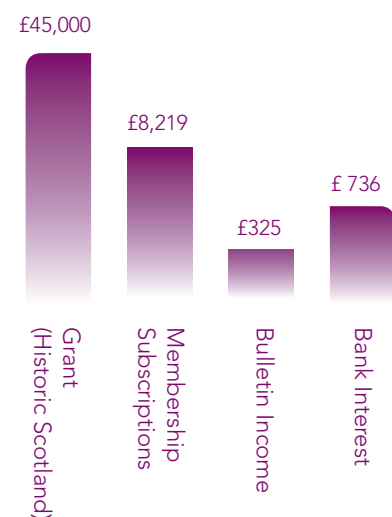


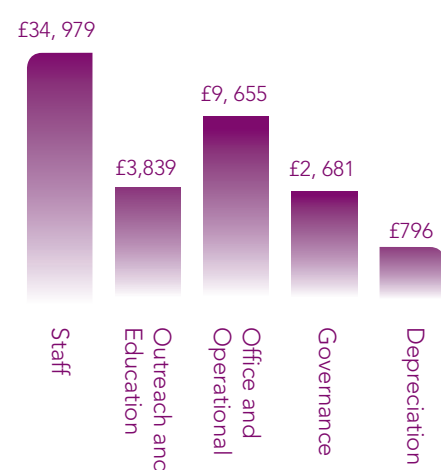


### Financial activities:

Income: £54,280



Expenditure: £51,950



### Board and Staff:

Our Board of Directors is largely drawn from the Member organisations and our Chair is independent from the Membership.

#### Our Board members are as follows:

**Chair:** Robin Burley MBE

**Vice Chair:** Robin Turner (National Trust for Scotland)

**Treasurer:** Graham U'ren (Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland)

Seán O'Reilly (Institute of Historic Building Conservation)

Andrew Leslie (Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland)

John Sode-Woodhead (Institute of Field Archaeologists – Scottish Group)

Courtney Hyde-Peyton (Thirdwave Scotland Ltd)

#### Our staff members are as follows:

**Forum Co-ordinator:** Jo Robertson

**Administrative Assistant:** Anne Wilkinson

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BEFS is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, no: 250970

BEFS is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity, no: SC 034488



### Acknowledgements:

**BEFS** gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Historic Scotland, along with the financial and in-kind contributions of all its Member organisations and their representatives, and its own Board of Directors.



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Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS)  
**Annual Review 2007:08**



“Welcome to the BEFS Annual Review for 2007:08. This year we have begun to take the steps necessary to develop the organisation further. We want to be able to promote more effectively the needs of those people responsible for managing our historic and contemporary built environment. Our Vision is to improve the quality of Scotland’s places – our role is to support our members in achieving this ambitious goal. We work on a voluntary basis, so if you are interested in participating in strategic debate - get in touch and get involved!”

**Robin Burley MBE (Chair)**

## Members

Archaeology Scotland (AS), Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS), Association of Preservation Trusts -Scottish Committee (SAPT), Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS), Garden History Society in Scotland (GHS), Historic Houses Association for Scotland (HHA), Institute of Field Archaeologists – Scottish Group (SGIFA), Institute of Historic Building Conservation – Scottish Branch (IHBC), Landscape Institute in Scotland (LI), National Trust for Scotland (NTS), Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland (RICS), Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland (RTPI), Saltire Society (Saltire), SCAPE Trust (SCAPE), Scottish Ecological Design Association (SEDA), Scottish Civic Trust (SCT), Scottish Stone Liaison Group (SSLG), Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group (SVBWG), Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SAS)

## Subscribers

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers in Scotland (ALGAO), Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT), Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH), Glasgow Caledonian University – Heritage Futures (GCAL), Homes for Scotland (HfS), Scottish Urban Archaeological Trust Ltd (SUAT), Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in Scotland (SPABis)

## Supporting a forum, developing an agenda:

As a membership forum, BEFS supports an ongoing process of communication involving:

**Dialogue and information**, which generates  
**Understanding and awareness**, which enables  
**Advocacy and promotion**, which will secure...

## The Forum:

By providing opportunities for members to meet and discuss needs and concerns, we are starting to build a **collective agenda** for the sector. This year we welcome the Scottish Ecological Design Association, the Landscape Institute in Scotland and the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working

Group into the Forum. **With every new member comes greater opportunity** for existing and new members to benefit from the mutual opportunities that arise through networking and sharing information. To find out more about joining BEFS, visit the website and get in touch.

# A higher profile for the built environment and better quality places

Forming a connection to the past, providing context for the future, our places are a key part of Scotland’s cultural identity. By providing opportunities for

networking and information exchange between organisations, BEFS is helping to develop an agenda for achieving better quality places.



## This Year:

This year we’ve developed a three year **Strategy** which sets out the rationale behind BEFS and explains our principles, values, and what we want to achieve. It highlights that our surroundings are dynamic - are constantly evolving. To achieve ‘good places’, we must take care of our historic environment whilst accommodating demands for growth and change. A recurring theme within forum discussion is that the management of our environment should be based on an understanding of what people value.

As a forum, BEFS accommodates a range of perspectives from the various disciplines that work with the built environment. This cross-cutting approach means that BEFS can promote the collectively held needs of stakeholders in calling for better quality places, and make links with other policy agenda. For example, our workshop on ‘Healthy Places’ fed built environment issues into a Government consultation on mental health and well-being.

We’ve been examining, at our quarterly General Meetings, what are the **characteristics of ‘successful places’**. By thinking about what makes places successful, we can begin to identify what is needed in terms of policy and practice to support good results on the ground.

Our e-Bulletin continues to provide a catch-all of relevant policy publications, consultations, news releases, and parliamentary activity. More formal reporting at our General Meetings keeps members **up to speed** with policy developments.

We **enable early input** into developing legislation, for example we have been keen to ensure effective recognition of the historic environment in the context of the Scottish Marine Bill. So in advance of its publication, we established a taskforce, hosted a workshop and submitted a response to Historic Scotland’s consultation on this topic, encouraging others to do the same. Securing

improvements to the legislation that governs the historic environment is a top priority. We will continue to pursue this goal, with our Historic Environment Working Group leading on this issue.

The new relationship between central and local Government and the process of developing Single Outcome Agreements will have significant implications for the management of the built environment in local authorities. BEFS has written to local authorities to **highlight the importance of the built environment** in meeting the Government’s outcome for ‘well-designed, sustainable places’.

Many of our outputs, including workshop reports, consultation responses and the

e-Bulletin, are available online at [www.befs.org.uk](http://www.befs.org.uk).

## Development Priorities:

Our Strategy outlines six priorities for development. In the next three years we will:

- Develop an agenda for the historic and contemporary built environment - **an agenda for Scotland’s places**
- Strengthen the **cross-disciplinary** input into all aspects of our work
- Expand the **membership** and draw on expertise more effectively
- Develop our **intermediary** role and the services we provide
- Expand our **influence**
- Increase our **resources**

## Example of Workshop Outcomes –

Healthy Places Workshop held 17th March 2008 – to feed into Government discussion paper ‘Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland’: Key themes coming out of the discussions were: the significance of feelings of responsibility towards the physical environment; the importance of relationships; the importance of understanding how people use space; the importance of providing options and choice in the built environment. Key needs include better linkage into the planning process, adopting a cross cutting approach, and collating, undertaking and promoting research. There are significant opportunities currently to address these needs and develop this agenda in Scotland.

Our highest priority is to secure additional resources that will enable us to **strengthen our operations and develop our services.**