



Update 25 May 2010

## BEFS meets Minister for Culture

A delegation from BEFS has recently met with Fiona Hyslop, Minister for External Affairs and Culture - the first such meeting since the Minister announced our funding award in March of this year. We were delighted to confirm the appointment of our new Director, Craig Stirrat, who begins in post on 1st June. We updated the Minister on current activity on the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, and plans for our first annual congress which will take place on 2nd September. We discussed the importance of places - particularly for local communities and as an expression of Scottish identity. The Minister observed that in relation to our historic built environment, we must be mindful not only of the protected buildings and sites, but also to celebrate the majority of our heritage that is not recognised formally by any form of statutory designation. We flagged the need to forge linkages across different sectors to achieve better outcomes for Scotland's places - especially with design, culture and natural environment interests. Finally we touched on the enabling role that BEFS will be expanding over the coming months and years, building capacity to help NGO stakeholders achieve more for the places that give Scotland its distinctive character. We look forward to meeting the Minister in the autumn with an update and shared agenda for action.

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