



CONSULTATIONS

REVISED CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE FOR DEFINING NATIONAL IMPORTANCE, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 (12/03/04): A covering letter and appendices A to F (14 pages) concerning proposed new criteria for determining whether a monument is of 'national importance' and can therefore be included in the Act's schedule. The consultation can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/culture/natimport.pdf>

FEEDBACK SOUGHT FROM PROFESSIONALS ON PILOT PASTMAP WEBSITE: Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland are developing a joint map-based website, on which the contents of the National Monuments Record are displayed, along with locational and other information on scheduled ancient monuments and historic buildings. The idea is that surveyors, estate agents, planning consultants, solicitors, other interested professionals and the public will be able to find and display the location or boundaries of sites protected by Historic Scotland. The system is called PASTMAP. The site is to be launched in the summer and feedback is currently being sought from professionals - the URL is:
<http://canmap.rcahms.gov.uk/PastMAP/start.jsp>.

There is a simple registration page and, all being well, you will be able to access the site. Please send all feedback to Gordon Barclay at Gordon.Barclay@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, or call 0131 668 8919.

PUBLICATIONS

PAN 57 PLANNING FOR TRANSPORT (24/03/04): Provides good practice guidance to planning authorities to assist in their transport policy development, proposal assessment and project delivery. The publication can be found at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/planning/pan57-00.asp>

EVENTS & TRAINING

FUTURE LANDSCAPES: WORKING WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION: This ICOMOS-UK, IUCN-UK international conference takes place in Oxford on 7-9 May 2004. The conference will promote understanding of the purpose and scope of the European Landscape Convention and demonstrate benefits to the UK. Further information available from the Department of Continuing Education at the University of Oxford: email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk, or call 01865 270 380.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE BEFS OFFICE

WORKSHOP ON SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS CONSULTATION: BEFS will be holding a workshop on Friday 23 April, 2-5pm at the offices of the National Trust for Scotland. The workshop will consider the current consultation on the cultural significance criteria for Scheduled Ancient Monuments (see Consultations section above). Invitations for the event will be issued shortly. Spaces are limited, however if you are interested in attending please get in touch with Jo Varley at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM (11/03/2004): Frank McAveety MSP, Minister for Tourism Culture and Sport told the Scottish Parliament that the historic environment is crucial to Scotland's economy. In a debate on

the economic value of the built heritage, Mr McAveety said: "The historic environment also plays a crucial role in other aspects of Scotland's economy. £1.5 billion is spent in the construction industry – that's half of all expenditure – on the conservation repair and maintenance of the historic buildings, monuments and townscapes on which our tourism industry depends.... Looking after our historic buildings and places pays dividends – it results in a high quality and distinctive environment where people want to live and work. Where we have looked after our historic buildings, there has been a direct effect on the businesses that operate there.... The historic environment, just as much as the natural environment, is a finite resource that requires our stewardship. If we destroy it or fail to protect it, it will be lost and gone forever. It provides physical evidence of our history and the achievements of the past and it embodies the energy and effort used in its creation: that investment should not be wasted.

TOURISM SHAKE-UP ACROSS SCOTLAND (11/03/2004): Extra investment in marketing and re-organisation of the Area Tourist Board network are among a package of measures designed to provide the basis for an even more vibrant tourism industry, MSPs were told. The Parliament heard that the Executive has responded to the demands of the industry by putting together a £20 million investment package aimed at increasing tourism revenue by 50 per cent over ten years, ensuring that Scottish tourism is in the best possible shape to grow in the 21st century.

SCOTTISH AWARDS FOR QUALITY IN PLANNING (11/03/2004): Highland Council scooped Scotland's top award for quality in planning for the Eastgate Shopping Centre in Inverness. Phase II of the Eastgate was judged to be a hugely impressive project and a beacon of good urban design and partnership working, which transformed a disused site in Inverness city centre.

BUILDING STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (16/03/2004): The new Chair to the Building Standards Advisory Committee (BSAC) has been announced as David Wedderburn, who was first appointed as a member of the Committee in 1997 and has been part of the work of the main committee and to its technical sub-committees over the past few years. The remit of the Committee is set out in the Building (Scotland) Act 1959, and is essentially to advise Scottish Ministers on the continuing development of the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations and on the operation of the Scottish building standards system.

SHEILDAIG HYDRO POWER SCHEME REFUSED (16/03/2004): Scottish Ministers have refused the application by Highland Light and Power Limited for consent for a Hydro-Electric Generating Station at sites around Shildaig and Slattadale in Wester Ross. The plans involved constructing four new weirs, transferring water through a buried pipeline, building new turbine houses and other modifications to existing water courses and lochs in the area. Deputy Enterprise Minister Lewis Macdonald said: "We have a responsibility to balance renewable energy benefits with potential negative impacts on the environment and local communities. "In this instance the potential impact of this scheme, now and in the future, on an area of national and international significance is simply too high and outweighs the potential benefits."

ANTONINE WALL WORLD HERITAGE SITE (24/03/2004): European heritage experts have met in Scotland to mark the start of a bid to win World Heritage Site status for the Antonine Wall, the most northerly boundary of the Roman Empire. The Antonine Wall stretches from Bo'ness on the River Forth to Old Kirkpatrick on the Clyde and is 37 miles in length. The 'wall' consists of a turf rampart on a stone base, fronted by a wide and deep ditch. Forts linked by a road, were built at roughly two-mile intervals. Scotland currently has four World Heritage Sites: The Heart of Neolithic Orkney, St Kilda Archipelago, Edinburgh Old and New Towns, New Lanark.

NEW ONLINE CONSULTATION SYSTEM (23/03/2004): The Executive launched two new online systems today that underline its commitment to hearing the views of the people of Scotland on a full range of issues. New consultation pages on the Executive website will provide improved listings of consultation exercises – current and closed. They will also include upcoming consultations for the first time. And SEConsult will allow people to receive a weekly e-mail with details of all newly-launched and forthcoming consultations.

NEWS RELEASES

ANDREW McINTOSH ANNOUNCES INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST ISSUES AT CABE (15/03/04) (ODPM): Heritage Minister Andrew McIntosh today announced an independent Audit into issues of conflict of interest at CABE, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. The audit, which has been

welcomed by CABE, is to be conducted by the Chartered Accountants AHL Ltd, and is expected to report quickly. Other interested parties will also have an opportunity to provide submissions.

MOTIONS & BILLS

***S2M-1033.1 - THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT, A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR SCOTLAND:** As an amendment to motion (S2M-1033) in the name of Mr Frank McAveety, insert at end "and believes that Historic Scotland, in its policies, must be mindful of the immense benefits to employment, income and culture brought by tourism and, in particular, art and archaeological tourism." (Jamie McGrigor, 11/03/04)

***S2M-1033.2 - THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT, A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR SCOTLAND:** As an amendment to motion (S2M-1033) in the name of Mr Frank McAveety, insert at end "; regrets that, notwithstanding the work done by individuals and organisations, there remain serious concerns about (a) a lack of both resources and information and (b) the failure to sufficiently protect, conserve, interpret and promote Scotland's historic environment and endorses the call for a review of the historic environment backed up by a regular audit to measure progress." (Roseanna Cunningham, 11/03/04)

***S2M-1063 - MEASURING QUALITY OF LIFE:** That the Parliament acknowledges and agrees with the position of the New Economics Foundation report, Chasing Progress - beyond measuring economic growth, that the growth and consumption represented by gross domestic product does not give a true picture of quality of life and fails to deliver the Scottish Executive's own sustainable development targets; recognises that economic growth is not a good indicator of human progress and well-being; further recognises that present rates of economic growth are leading to unacceptable environmental risks, failing to guarantee social progress and do not make the population any happier, and calls on the Executive to introduce new social and environmental indicators such as environmental footprinting and the new measure of domestic progress as baselines to measure the overall performance of all its policies. (Robin Harper, 19/03/04)

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS *'To ask the Scottish Executive...'*

S2O-1638 Mr Jamie McGrigor: ...what steps it will take to encourage Historic Scotland to focus on building partnerships with stakeholders and customers and be open to input from external bodies.

S2W-6651 Shiona Baird: ...what strategy is being implemented to meet the First Minister's commitment to place culture at the heart of its agenda.

S2W-6855 Shiona Baird (11/03/04): ... what energy efficiency measures are required in planning applications for housing, commercial and industrial developments.

S2W-7016 Ms Wendy Alexander (18/03/04): ... whether any research has been carried out on factors affecting land supply for housing in urban areas to inform the formulation of forthcoming plans for planning reform.

S2W-7020 Ms Wendy Alexander (18/03/04): ...what external research it has commissioned to inform the forthcoming planning consultation.

S2W-7021 Ms Wendy Alexander (18/03/04): ...what action is planned to speed up the approval of structure plans.

S2W-7037 Shiona Baird (19/03/04): ...what steps it is taking in relation to Directive 2002/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings.

S2W-7045 Linda Fabiani (19/03/04): ...whether section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

S2W-7096 Ms Sandra White (22/03/04): ...when it will publish a consultation document on the proposed Planning Bill.

S2W-7097 Ms Sandra White (22/03/04): ...what the timescale will be for the consultation process in respect of the proposed Planning Bill.

S2W-7152 Rhona Brankin (24/03/04): ...how its Education Department implements policy on sustainable rural communities.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q. S2W-6715 – MURDO FRASER (18/03/04): FUNDING FOR URGENT REPAIR OF PLACES OF WORSHIP

A. The Repair Grants for Places of Worship Grant Scheme is run in partnership by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, grants are offered by the two organisations separately. Accordingly, congregations and denominational bodies can choose to seek assistance from Historic Scotland only. **(Margaret Curran, 18/03/04)**

Q. S2W-6651 – SHIONA BAIRD: STRATEGY FOR CULTURE

A. Action is already taking place to implement the First Minister's vision for culture in Scotland, as stated in his 2003 St Andrew's Day Lecture. I am engaging with ministerial colleagues to discuss how different parts of the Executive and its agencies can contribute positively to this vision. A new focus is required by all who make cultural provision in Scotland. The First Minister also announced that a review of culture would be launched, as promised in our partnership agreement. I look forward to announcing arrangements for the review in the coming weeks. **(Frank McAveety, 16/03/04)**

Q. S2W-6855 – SHIONA BAIRD: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES

A. The Executive supports the efficient use of energy in new developments and promotes this through planning policy, which recognises the benefit of good design as a means of achieving energy conservation. This is stated in both Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2: Economic Development and SPP3: Planning for Housing (Bib. numbers 25318 and 26732 respectively). Planning authorities should take this into account when deciding planning applications. In addition, within the building regulations, there are mandatory requirements relating to the conservation of fuel and power. **(Mary Mulligan, 22/03/04)**

Q. S2O-1638 – JAMIE McGRIGOR: HISTORIC SCOTLAND PARTNERSHIPS

A. Following its review, Historic Scotland will continue to develop its relationships with stakeholders and customers and to welcome dialogue with external bodies. Recent examples of this policy in practice include working with the City Councils in Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Stirling to develop City Heritage Trusts; supporting and meeting regularly with the Built Environment Forum for Scotland (BEFS); and developing concordats with key partners in the historic environment, most recently with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland and soon with the National Trust for Scotland. Historic Scotland also intends to consult more frequently and formally with stakeholders on policy development. **(Mr Frank McAveety, 18/03/04)**

Q. S2W-6811 - SARAH BOYACK: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA IN SCHOOL PPP PROJECTS

A. The commitment in Building a Better Scotland is continued in Partnership for a Better Scotland, which indicates that new schools should demonstrate commitment to the highest design and environmental standards. This is being taken forward through the School Estate Strategy. Building our Future: Scotland's School Estate includes sustainable development as a key element in the shaping of the future school estate. The Executive has also held two national conferences focusing on the school estate which have highlighted examples of environmentally friendly design and encouraged authorities to use Green Public Private Partnerships, a guidance note on how to include environmental considerations within PPP projects. **(Peter Peacock, 22/03/04)**

Q. S2W-6832/33 – SARAH BOYACK: BUILDING STANDARDS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A. The Executive will monitor and review the effectiveness of the Building Standards (Scotland) Regulations 2001 within the time-scale set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment. To obtain a

building warrant all new buildings must comply with the higher standards set out in the regulations. (Mary Mulligan, 23/03/04)
The Building (Scotland) Act 2003 will not come fully into force before spring 2005. (Mary Mulligan, 23/03/04)

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites (mainly Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament). If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Sharon Graham or Jo Varley at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.