



### CONSULTATIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE RECOGNITION SCHEME (SMC 15/04/05)** The Scottish Museums Council (SMC) has initiated a museum and gallery sector consultation into the development of a Significance Recognition Scheme for Scotland. The consultation launched by Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, highlights a need for significant collections held in non-national museums and galleries throughout Scotland to be formally recognised. Deadline for response: 8 July 2005

[http://www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/pdfs/Significance\\_cons.pdf](http://www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/pdfs/Significance_cons.pdf)

**TOLLED BRIDGES REVIEW - PHASE TWO (SE 18/04/05)** The Government has committed to carry out a review of all the tolled bridges in Scotland. The first phase of that review was completed in November of last year. The second phase will now look in more detail at the options for the future management and operation of the Forth Road Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge and the Erskine Bridge. Deadline for response: 8 July 2005

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0011034.pdf>

### PUBLICATIONS

**REVIEW OF SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE – STAGE 1 REPORT (SE APRIL 2005)** The report on the stage 1 phase of consultation of Scottish Natural Heritage, which ran from September to December 2004, has been published. A key recommendation made is that there should be no change to SNH's current status as a non-departmental public body at this stage, but notes that, as wider proposals for a more integrated approach to land use and management throughout Scotland are developed, this may be revisited within the next 2-3 years. Further areas for investigation at stage 2 are identified.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Countryside/SNH/reviewstage1>

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS CONSULTATION RESPONSES (SE 29/04/05)** Copies of responses received.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/19111238/12398>

**NATURAL FLOOD STORAGE AND EXTREME FLOOD EVENTS - FINAL REPORT (SE 22/04/05)** This project has developed a generic method for broad-scale assessment of the potential to use natural floodplain areas to provide attenuation during large events. The natural characteristics of a catchment, together with man-made influences, determine the generation, duration and extent of an out-of-bank flood event.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0011212.pdf>

### EVENTS

**CROSS PARTY GROUP MEETING: AFFORDABLE AND HIGH QUALITY HOUSING** This joint meeting of the cross party groups on Affordable Housing, and Architecture and the Built Environment will take place on 11 May at 6pm in Committee Room 1 in the Scottish Parliament. To register interest in attending please contact Eugene Mullen at Smith Scott Mullan Associates at [e.mullan@smith-scott-mullan.co.uk](mailto:e.mullan@smith-scott-mullan.co.uk)

**USING HERITAGE AND CULTURAL ASSETS IN REGENERATION** This conference offers an opportunity to see how cultural and heritage assets can be used and lead the regeneration of historic towns and cities. This event will take place in Gateshead and Newcastle on the 8-9 June. The cost of the conference will be £120 for non-members, £90 for full members and £105 for affiliated members. For more information please contact the English Historic Towns Forum on 0117 975 0459 or book online at:

<http://www.ehtf.org.uk/events.asp?eventOccurrenceID=482>

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## SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

**PROTECTING THE WATER ENVIRONMENT (28/04/2005)** Stronger regulations and improved monitoring to protect Scotland's rivers, lochs and coastlines were announced recently. The Controlled Activities Regulations will apply to all activities that impact on the quality of that environment such as abstraction of water, pollution and building or engineering works. They are designed to be flexible, risk-based and proportionate in their application. Investment of almost £3 million will extend the groundwater monitoring network and provide digital mapping of all engineering changes to rivers in Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/28104621>

**EURO FUNDING FOR HYDROGEN OFFICE (28/04/05)** Plans for an office building powered by cutting edge renewable energy technology will be awarded European funding, it was announced recently. Developed by the Business Environment Partnership and Scottish Enterprise, the Hydrogen Office will be powered by Hydrogen Fuel Cells and will demonstrate the practical applications of this rapidly developing technology.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/28103258>

**MORE WORK TO PREVENT FLOODING (21/04/2005)** An expert group set up to tackle the threat of flooding in Scotland met for the first time today. The Flooding Issues Advisory Committee (FIAC) has been established to advise the Executive on implementing the National Flooding Framework. The Committee will provide advice on flood risk management issues and will assist in the ongoing development of policy in this area.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/21102301>

**ROYAL COMMISSION ON ANCIENT AND HISTORICAL MONUMENTS – NEW CHAIR (18/04/05)** The new Chair of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland was announced recently by Culture Minister Patricia Ferguson. He is Professor John Hume who holds Honorary Professorships at the Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews and is a former Senior Lecturer in Economic History at the University of Strathclyde and a former Chief Inspector of Historic Buildings at Historic Scotland.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/15161337>

**SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE (15/04/05)** Deputy Environment and Rural Development Minister Lewis Macdonald recently announced the appointment of two new members to the Main Board of Scottish Natural Heritage; they are Michelle Francis and Phil Thomas. The appointments will be for three years and will run from 1 April 2005, until 31 March 2008.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/15151708>

**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN (14/04/05)** The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh (RBGE) is to receive an additional £1.7 million over three years following a review of its operations. The funding will enable RBGE to increase visitor numbers, develop its plant collections and promote plant science to a wider audience. The four gardens of the RBGE (Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan) comprise the National Botanic Gardens of Scotland and are numbered amongst the most popular visitor attractions in Scotland bringing together many inter-related cultural areas of activity.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/14113624>

## NEWS RELEASES

**CABE TO BE GIVEN STATUTORY STATUS (CABE 15/04/05)** The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act received Royal Assent on 7 April. This means, on the relevant provisions being brought into force, that CABE will change from a private company to a statutory body. There will be no fundamental changes to its present functions or powers and there is no intention to change CABE's role as a non-statutory consultee for planning purposes.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/news/press/showPRelease.asp?id=718>

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## MOTIONS & BILLS

**S2M-2698 DES McNULTY (18/04/05) PUBLIC CONTROL OF WATER AND SEWERAGE PROVISION IN SCOTLAND** That the Parliament celebrates the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Glasgow Corporation Water Works Act in April 1855 which passed control over provision of water supplies from private companies to the public sector and which resulted in the biggest improvement in public health ever seen in Scotland and condemns the latest proposal from the Conservatives to pass control over water and sewerage provision in Scotland back to the private sector.

**S2M-2376 # JOHN SWINNEY (18/04/05) BOUNDARIES OF THE CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK** That the Parliament notes that the current boundaries of the Cairngorm National Park differ from those originally recommended by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) following extensive consultation on behalf of the Scottish Executive; notes that, as a result of these boundaries, large parts of Highland Perthshire and East Perthshire are excluded from the national park; recognises the strength of support within these areas for participation and involvement in the national park; considers that the case for designation of the Cairngorms as a World Heritage Site would be strengthened by the inclusion of the Perthshire area in the park, and considers that the Executive should conduct an early review of the boundaries of the national park and extend the current boundary to that originally proposed by SNH.

## NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

**S2F-1602 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (28/04/05)** To ask the First Minister what steps have been taken to provide guidance to local authorities on suitable locations for wind farm developments.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-28d.htm>

**S2W-16116 MARGARET JAMIESON (22/04/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it is giving to strengthening the powers of planning enforcement officers.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-22e.htm>

**S2W-16055 NORA RADCLIFFE (18/04/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive how 'Charting progress: an integrated assessment of the state of UK seas' will be used in the process of developing a strategic framework for the marine environment.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-19e.htm>

**S2W-16030 MARY SCANLON (18/04/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what action is being taken in each local authority area to protect gravestones in cemeteries and old churchyards.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-18e.htm>

**S2W-16014 FRANCES CURRAN (15/04/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive, following the European Union's establishment of a strategy for sustainable development in May 2001, what measures it has put in place to promote research relating to sustainable development.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-15e.htm>

**S2W-16025 RICHARD LOCHHEAD (15/04/05)** To ask the Scottish Executive what costs it has incurred in respect of the nuclear industry in each of the last five years, broken down by department and showing also the year-on-year percentage change

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-15e.htm>

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Q S2W-15497 ROBERT BROWN, HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2001**

**A** We have no plans to change the criteria. The Executive is required by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 to report on the effect of the right to buy by September 2006, and will consider the merits of the cases being made for further adjustments to the operation of right to buy in the light of that report. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (15/04/05)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0415.htm>

**Q S2W-15275 RICHARD LOCHHEAD, CLIMATE CHANGE**

**A** The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) commissioned research on the climate change impacts on the safety of British reservoirs. **LEWIS MACDONALD (14/04/05)**  
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0414.htm>

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Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A+DS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents. If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Chris Stuart [cstuart@befso.org.uk](mailto:cstuart@befso.org.uk) or Jo Robertson [jrobertson@befso.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befso.org.uk) at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.