

## Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG)

– 25th May 2022

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

*Chair:* Ian Baxter, BEFS Vice-Chair

*BEFS attendees:* Ailsa Macfarlane, Hazel Johnson

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies.

Apologies:

Andrew Hopetoun	HH
Andrew McMaster	War Memorials Trust
Bill Pagan	BEFS
David Wood	PAS
Diane Gray	NLHF
DJ Johnston-Smith	SCT
Euan Leitch	SURF
Euan Ryan	RICS
Gordon Brown	ICE
Gordon Barr	AHF
Gwen Thomas	ICON
Lindsay Lennie	SCHT
Lucy Stewart	SPAB
Mark Douglas	COG
Phil Prentice	STP
Sarah Kettles	IHBC / BEFS
Sarah Pearce	HTN
Sean O'Reilly	IHBC
Simon Gilmour	SoAoS
Sue Evans	SCivicT
Susan O'Connor	SCivicT

Attended:

Diarmid Hearn	NTS
Frankie Toner	NLHF
Judith Roebuck	CoS
James Garry	Cockburn
Jo Robertson	AHF
Jocelyn Cunliffe	AHSS
John Lawson	ALGAO
Kate Darrah	RIDGE
Tyler Lott	BEFS
Kevin McClure	The Ridge

### 2. \*Postponed to August\*

Welcome to Craig Mearns the new Director of Operations at HES.

New Directorate launches officially on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

Group discussed questions and possible discussion areas for August meeting:

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- Would be good to have some clarity over the changes taking place within HES.
- Members were keen to hear more about the Tier 1 high level inspection, incl. training provided to inspectors and overall approach to the project.
- Members asked about risk assessments and liability – are PICs covered under govt indemnity scheme?
- Group discussed closures of HES PICs – keen to hear more about the timeframe for re-opening.
- With site closures greenspace is also unavailable.
- Noted Neil Gray's (Culture Minister) response to Parliamentary questions around the project and inspections – SG not responsible for operational aspects.
- Discussion acknowledged that HES is the first large organisation to undergo this process, how may owners/orgs. are in the same position but haven't been able to asses (yet).
- Group notes the need for more noise to be made about investment in Historic Buildings
- Group noted that the knock-on effect of closures for tourism/communities etc is important.
- Concerns that the impression could be given that Built Heritage is inherently unsafe, this was seen as the wrong message – and detrimental to wider advocacy.
- Members keen for key learnings from the project and issues faces to be shared/process to be transparent.  
Potential for wider learning from this process for other buildings owners and assets.  
This isn't just an issue for HES, it is a wider one. Will everyone need to follow this approach?  
Concerns around sector capacity.
- Huge positive scope if communities can be persuaded of social benefit of looking after built fabric.
- Need to ensure the LAs are enabled to deliver on repair and maintenance agenda, as a key asset holder and local stakeholder.
- Advocacy - cross parliamentary approach necessary, get lots of departments involved in positive outcomes.

**ACTION:** BEFS to ask for a helpful organigram to aid understanding of new HES structure, particularly for Partnerships, Ops, Heritage and Assets.

**ACTION:** Articulate a range of concerns that we can condense: Tourism and advocacy, staffing elements, attitudes to liability and risk. Would it be beneficial to note those concerns across a range. 'these are the concerns, what would be beneficial'? What would be constructive? Find out what the ask could be.

3. Agreed [previous meeting note](#) – no actions from previous meeting, any related topics will be updated on in BEFS Sector updates.

BEFS now has equipment to enable hybrid meetings. Today would have been a trial run. BEFS will continue to find a balance of online/in person events and meetings across the year.

#### 4. BEFS Sector Updates

##### BEFS news:

BEFS thanks all those who were able to attend BEFS Connects at the start of March. It was fantastic to see so many folk from across the sector, and to hear the volume of enthusiasm in the room.

BEFS will be welcoming a new Communications Manager in early July 2022.

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Jess Burrows has been presented with the opportunity to become full time with SHTB – and develop the skills and research she completed as part of her Masters project in relation to Conservation Areas. We're very sad to see her go, but delighted her skills remain within the sector. The new Communications Manager will be in touch with members once in post.

### Broader topic areas:

**OPiT** – further item of discussion later, but CEO Forum did meet earlier this month. Skills update; OPiT review update.

**ACTION:** Raise the issues above at the OPiT CEO forum?

**CULTURE & HERITAGE Manifesto**, led by Museums Galleries Scotland, with a range of partners across the cultural and heritage sectors. This was launched prior to the local elections – BEFS and MGS met with Sarah Boyak in relation to the asks, and our existing places.

**ADVOCACY PACK for ELECTED MEMEBERS:** This piece of work is almost complete and will highlight key issues and messages, case studies and connection. All Councillors, All MSPs and ALL Community Councils will be able to use the information.

**COG:** Plans are underway for a Conservation Area CPD event for Conservation Officers and the Conservation Area policy event planned for Spring 2020 will now happen in early Autumn 2022, working with HES and AHSS. A CPD session on windows will take place in July.

**POWF:** Engagement continues to grow with new members, and advocacy statements are being worked on to support developments in this area. Acknowledging there is much activity particularly around the CofS estate.

### Tenements:

BEFS is working with Energy Efficiency and Zero Emissions Team, and sits on the SLWG in relation to Legislation for Net Zero for MoMu Buildings.

BEFS also met with Patrick Harvie, Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights and briefed on: Tenement Maintenance, Data, Skills, EPCs and Planning.

BEFS also working with the Scottish Law Commission as they further the SG workplan, particularly in relation to compulsory owners' associations.

Comments across attendees do involve concerns over the timeframe. But maintenance and the retrofit of buildings is bringing increasing pressure into this area. Note: the process to change legislation has a vital Human rights perspective. This needs to be taken in to account and expressed in legal changes, which require due diligence. Compulsory is different, and what are the unintended consequences? This is being considered as part of the process.

BEFS continues to monitor ongoing activity from across the Parliament – and further activity will be planned to support and align ongoing work – driving forward the aims and timescale wherever possible. BEFS also met with the team within Scottish Government working on Cladding and Remediation – there was shared thinking and learning.

**SKILLS:** Emergency Stonemasonry meeting was called this month (May). Colleges, employers, heritage organisations all involved. Issue of trad skills, low number of trainees and the cost of training were discussed.

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HES to lead on piece of research around the issues and need, as well as future for this aspect of the sector. Potential around shared services. Significant pressure on how fit-for-purpose the qualification is (or more exactly, how the process matches the sector need). Are sector masons paid enough? Waiting to hear next steps from this.

*Group noted that there are concerns about all the trad skills, spotlight is currently on stonemasonry.*

### DATA:

NHLF - Heritage Pulse – lack of Scottish take-up therefore difficult to get meaningful data from the first round. Maintain interest and desire to support. Hope to meet with NHLF data team and HES and MGS in the near future.

**EXISTING BUILDING DATA:** BEFS held a roundtable with David Hume Institute and representatives from Scottish Govt, Legal Profession, Surveyors and Register of Scotland as well as Land researchers and those involved with the formation of ScotLIS originally. Raising the profile of the issues with the lack of knowledge we have about our existing buildings at national scale. Without this information (around age, condition, materials) we cannot model for future and existing need – this is and will continue to impact upon the ability to maintain and retrofit our existing places. Agreement from all parties the issue is pressing, next steps to involve more data holders in the discussion.

**BEFS** and HES continue to engage with The Heritage Alliance, Historic England, Cadw, NI Communities Directorate, and the Historic Environment Forum on a regular basis engaging on strategic matters from a UK wide perspective.

**BEFS** meets with Built Environment professionals regularly – and is looking at post-election advocacy for the professions with ICE, LI, RIAS and RTPi.

**BEFS** continues to meet regularly with members of CHED within Scottish Government.

### NPF4 and LDP:

The consultations for both NPF4 and LDP were submitted at the end of March. These underwent extensive engagement: this included working with Engagement Team at Scottish Parliament to ensure Local Gov Housing and Planning Committee Members could engage with professionals across the sector, and those working directly within a planning capacity across a wide range of local authorities, archaeology services and heritage trust experiences. This was alongside BEFS events and sector events.

BEFS also took part in workshops run by Scottish Futures Trust to inform the thinking around the delivery of NPF4, attended the RTPi south of Scotland chapter and also a panel hosted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

COG: BEFS complied NPF4 response from this group, a first for a BEFS working group.

At the time Members noted tight timeframe for sector to deliver both, BEFS were pleased to have had great engagement and input from Members to allow a full and detailed response to both consultations.

## 5. Policy Updates – led by BEFS

### a) Policy Consultations

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### Draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Consultation (31/03/22)

Whilst BEFS noted general support for the consultation and the development of NPF4 as a broad and open process, some concern is felt that oversimplification had resulted in omissions – notably the clear list of benefits that the historic environment delivers, somewhat to the detriment of the historic environment's representation as a national asset across planning and infrastructure. Big questions marks around delivery.

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### Local Development Planning – Regulations and Guidance Consultation (31/03/22)

BEFS recognised the draft Local Development Plan Regulations and Guidance's clear aims at interconnectivity, clarity around policy landscape and a holistic approach. The guidance would benefit from greater consistency throughout, but the focus on re-use, infrastructure and read across to NPF4 and Scotland's National Performance Framework (lacking in NPF4) is welcome. Further big question marks around delivery and capacity of local authorities.

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### New Realities of Retail and E-commerce in Scotland – call for views (16/3/22)

This consultation looked at how Scotland's high streets and town centres have changed over a number of years. BEFS response focused on the question of how to keep town centres alive. We noted that to achieve this it is important to recognise the existing built environment as a valuable national asset; within sustainable development, homes, jobs and infrastructure and wellbeing.

### **Analysis and responses to previous consultations now out**

Summary of responses to the Call for Evidence on the regulation of energy efficiency in existing non-domestic buildings (May 2022)

Building regulations – compliance and enforcement: consultation analysis (9/5/22)

Analysis of the building regulations compliance and enforcement consultation which ran between 11 November 2021 and 9 February 2022.

Heat in buildings - Scotland's National Public Energy Agency call for evidence: analysis of responses (10/5/22)

Results of a call for evidence which ran from November 2021 to February 2022.

### **Open consultations**

Share Your View on Cumbernauld Town Centre

Closes 12 June – BEFS won't be responding

Proposed Domestic Building Environmental Standards (Scotland) Bill: Consultation by Alex Rowley MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife Region

Closes 27 July

Review of permitted development rights - phase 2 consultation

Closes 3 August

Environmental Standards Draft Strategic Plan

Closes 17 August

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Delivering Scotland's circular economy: a consultation on proposals for a Circular Economy Bill

Closes 22 August

### 6. Organisational Updates from Members (two minutes per update)

- Key headlines

**KD, The Ridge** – Attended Stonemasonry Emergency Meeting. Continuing to restore buildings as part of training opportunities. Notes rising cost of living and implications for workforce. Rates of pay being assessed - comparisons of pay, comparing rates to those of other organisations ongoing. Lots of outreach taking place with schools and CITB. Training centre – building a purpose-built training centre for schools and joinery apprentices workshop.

**TL, SPAB** - National Mills weekend. Discussions and reports to follow. Working party 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> of September Finzean Mill in Aberdeenshire. Participating in 10<sup>th</sup> the Festival of traditional Buildings in the last weekend in August. Constructing a Minigolf course with trad skills -Modular and collapsible, providing opportunities to upskill and restore.

**JG, Cockburn Association** – Short term let issues and shared use - proposed license of short term lets rolled out in Scotland. Stakeholders are concerned about lack of enforcement. Interested to know if this is a country wide concern. Currently recruiting a new intern. Paused recruitment for a full time post due to financial reasons.

**FT, NLHF** - Strategic view re investment and grants. Working with HES, place-based funding approach. Has been to Parliament to extoll virtues of investment and funding.

**JC, AHSS** – AHSS has published Spring Magazine, articles on Ayr station and town. Looking at how embodied carbon in existing buildings and feel should be including in any assessment of existing buildings and retrofit. Also involved in skyline (rooftops) as part of Edinburgh World Heritage Site Management Plan.

**JR, AHF** - 3 year funding received. Currently refreshing their strategy. Things busy but as role is early-stage funder, and possible cost of materials etc could see a cooling off. Chair standing down.

**DH, NTS** – 10 year strategy published. Advocacy, public role, research, engagement. Looking at developing skills and the role of NTS. Natural capital – historic gardens store huge amounts of carbon. Typology of all NTS built heritage – NTS now have a list of structures and what they are used for! New acquisition, 1930s building.

**JL, ALGAO** – Busy time, few new faces in ALGAO soon, some retiring. Feeding in to NPF4 (HES – positive discussions) and concerns around policy 28. Responding to consultations: Scot Gov 2016 Burials and Cremations Act. On Scot Gov Working Group looking at new Regulations and Guidance to enact act. Important in terms of 'How do we protect heritage monuments and archaeology' within graveyards going forward and also wider issues around exhumation of human remains? LA is the Burial authority in most cases and owns/manages most Church of Scotland graveyards following 1920's Act

**JR, CoS** - General assembly this week (w/c 23<sup>rd</sup>). Gen Trustees report and Presbytery reform. Appointing Building Officer posts joint funded by Gen Trustees and Presbyteries – Building Officers to

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help understand the buildings and their maintenance needs, and Asset Management assessments. Undertaking a project on ruins – which ruins belong to CoS? Will need to do Management Plans for these.

Work on Net Zero – some recognition that reuse is better than demolition and new build. Closures -all bar one are listed buildings.

Q: JC – will the reports be publicly available? JR - Intending to publish within Presbyteries. Collate all the information known about each congregation. Amba process – acknowledging that quinquennial inspections haven't been done for some time.

**IB, University sector** - Research Excellence Surveys published. Holistic sector improvement. Impact case studies to be published soon, should provide positive case-studies for the sector.

### 7. Our Place in Time – review and new sector strategy – led by BEFs followed by discussion (short discussion took place, limited by available time – details provided below)

#### OPiT:

BEFS are working with HES on engagement. There is now a Terms of Reference with HES, and approved by Neil Gray as Minister.

The commissioning letter for a new strategy reflects both where we know we are, and what priorities are emerging nationally:

- the strategic context has changed considerably since the OPiT was published in 2014,
- highlighting the increased focus on tackling inequality,
- on community empowerment,
- on digital,
- and on prioritising work to combat the effects of the climate emergency;
- identifies an opportunity to align with other Scottish Government strategies, including the Culture Strategy, the Programme for Government, and the National Planning Framework 4;
- emphasises the need to prioritise activity that supports recovery and renewal, which focuses on creating a more resilient and sustainable sector, and helps to communicate the contribution that the historic environment makes to the economy, wellbeing, and net zero

Working to a 5 year horizon, shorter – more collaborative (not just ticking off things already done)

Question asked of the group - what do we need a strategy to enable?

SHEF Conference on the 29<sup>th</sup> to initiate off the wider consultation and engagement process.

Milestones	Timescales
SHEF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Themes from Culture Strategy ...</li> <li>• Climate change &amp; Net-zero</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Education and skills</li> <li>• Economy</li> </ul>	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2022
Engagement activity, including BEFS workshops	July–September 2022
Final wrap-up work shop – SEPTEMBER	
Public consultation (12 weeks) (online and events)	October 2022 – January 2023
Consultation analysis	January–February 2023

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Complete impact assessments	January–February 2022
Final version for approval then publication	March 2023
Launch event	April 2023

Group questions/discussion:

- Measuring and evaluation of existing OPiT – concerns not met? How to measure?
- General positive views on the need for a strategy
- External consultants have been engaged and BEFS will be involved in sector engagement
- Review of OPiT in 2018 and HES Green Recovery Statement is a good update of key issues and views.

BEFS is currently collating previous research and information from sector groups and organisations, including existing strategies and priorities etc. Aim is to avoid sector consultation fatigue and genuinely synthesising what’s already out there.

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Next HEWG:

24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 2-4pm - virtual

24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 10am-12pm - virtual