



**BEFS**

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**BUILT ENVIRONMENT  
FORUM SCOTLAND**

**20 YEARS**

# BEFS BETWEEN 2003 AND 2023

... published at least **64**  
independent and joint  
publications

... hosted **67**  
HEWG

... hosted at least **271** events

... hosted **11**  
unique working  
groups and  
taskforces

meetings with  
more than **815**  
**attendances**

... released **422**  
Bulletins

... submitted at  
least **137**  
consultations

... facilitated at least  
**85** events and  
meetings

...has a social media audience of over **4700**

... and between 2003  
and 2023, our  
Membership  
increased by **400%**





## 20 YEARS WITH BEFS

For BEFS, supporting and building sector capacity over the past 20 years has been a stimulating endeavour. From engaging and collaborating with so many professions across different sectors in Scotland, to continually championing the places and people that make up our unique and world-renowned built environment. Our focus has always been, and remains, policy and strategy for the sector. Looking to the horizon, and ensuring we know where the sector needs to steer – taking advantage of fair winds, and collectively bracing for the storms.

In 2018 BEFS policy role became full-time – significantly increasing our activity and output for the sector. This capacity has enabled BEFS to work with the sector –

taking on significant projects and partnerships, to better understand portfolios and what they deliver for Scotland.

2023 is a special year –

after 20 years we've received some additional funding from the Heritage Fund to examine how we do, what we do.

Thinking about what BEFS model can – and should – look like for the future. We look forward to forming this with our Members and Associates – making sure BEFS is fit for the future, continually meeting sector need. Since 2003 the remit of built environment has shifted. Social movements have brought new perspectives to the fore. Covid changed our understanding of place interactions. Thinking around the climate has coalesced into national and supra national asks and terms. The economy and how and where we spend money has changed – from online expansion, to cost of living crises. Our work now encompasses far more than the bricks and mortar (or lime and sandstone) our originators may have imagined, but BEFS continues to support Members, Associates, and the wider sector. Informing, debating and advocating for the role our existing environment can, and does play in a sustainable future.

*Photo: St. Kilda by Robin Turner, NTS*





## 2003

- **BEFS created** - initially considering 'urban design issues'.

## 2004

- BEFS aims include: increasing organisational capacity, financial sustainability, joint working, outreach and promoting policy.

## 2005

- 2 workshops on Sustainable Development and the Built Environment.

## 2007

- **Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG)** established.
- 8 workshops and reports, including *National Planning Framework*, *Listed Building Consent* and HEACS reports on local authorities.

## 2009

- BEFS gets first **Director**, Craig Stirrat.
- Government consultation responses include: Scottish Planning Policy and Action on Climate Change.

## 2008

- *Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)* first published.

## 2010

- **Congress on the non-economic value of places.**
- *Sustainable Seas for All* workshop.

## 2013

- **RCAHMS and HS merger**
- *Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* draft consultation.
- **NPF3** Consultation.

## 2012

- Ministerial Summit - Demand for Traditional skills.
- SHEP review.

## 2017

- **Advocacy Toolkit** published.
- **Congress** on Financing the Historic Environment.
- Supported the *Glasgow and Edinburgh Built Environment Hustings*.

## 2016

- BEFS **Heritage and Diversity Conference**.
- National Performance Indicator, pre-1919 sites.

## 2015

- Archeology Strategy
- Resourcing Scotland's Heritage partnership formed (BEFS, A&BS, MGS).

## 2014

- *Measuring Success in the Historic Environment Sector* consultation.
- SHEF was established to support **OPiT** (*Our Place in Time*).

## 2018

- Board Diversity in Public and Third Sector Organisations event hosted.
- Formation of the Tenemental Maintenance Cross Party Working Group.
- Prioritisation Work starts.

## 2019

- The Scottish Government declares a **Climate Emergency**.
- The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 went into effect, demanding the creation of the **NPF4**.
- *Built Heritage Investment Plan*.
- *Tenements Today, Tenements Tomorrow* joint Conference including *Voices from Scottish Tenements* film.

## 2020

- *Well Equipped Spaces in the Right Places* report for CoS General Trustees.
- CHERF (Covid-19 Historic Environment Resilience Forum) convened.
- *Surviving to Thriving*, Business Support programme starts with MGS and greenspace scotland.

# BEFS

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## 2023

- **40 Members and Associates!**
- BEFS *Fit for the Future* award.
- **SIT** launch.
- OPOF (*Our Past, Our Future*) launch.

## 2022

- Culture and Heritage Manifesto led by MGS.
- **SCOTLIS 3** collaboration with the David Hume Institute.
- *Scotland's New Historic Environment Strategy* consultation (later OPOF).
- Agriculture Bill consultation.

## 2021

- **POWF** is created.
- Heat in Buildings Strategy published.
- Professions Joint Statement: ICE, RTPI, RIAS, LI, RICS.
- NTS Portfolio Review partnership.
- **NPF4** draft consultation.
- Heritage and Sustainability film for Edinburgh Traditional Building Festival.





As the strategic intermediary body working across policy and strategy for Scotland's built environment sector, BEFS draws together extensive expertise and knowledge on Scotland's existing built environment. BEFS Members and Associates reflect the breadth of places, professions, and passions across the sector.

Thank you for sharing **20**  
years with us!

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HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

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ALBA