

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) is the policy umbrella body for organisations working in the built environment in Scotland. Drawing on extensive expertise in a membership-led forum, BEFS informs, debates and advocates on the strategic issues, opportunities, and challenges facing Scotland's historic and existing built environment. BEFS champions outcomes for people, place, and planet, amplifying the understanding that the targets to achieve net zero cannot be met without utilising our existing built environment appropriately. BEFS Members include the built environment professions, conservation organisations, civic Scotland, and communities of place and interest, as well as funders. BEFS is a supporting member of the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

BEFS previous statement on the Bill consultation can be read [here](#).

The main thrust of BEFS previous statement was that 'the environment' should be considered to include the natural and historic environment. And we reiterate the points made in our previous statement that:

The existing and historic built environment, whilst often recognised in part, frequently lacks full integration within other national policies; it delivers ecosystems services benefits including habitats, carbon retention and supporting soil health. We know that existing buildings and infrastructure are positive solutions across a variety of policy areas, they should not sit separately.

In this statement we welcome the below extract from the Bill – Part 4 – **Power to Provide Support** (page 22):

11 *Preservation of historic and cultural sites*

Assisting persons to protect or enhance the conditions of sites of historic or cultural interest.

This power to provide support in relation to historic and cultural sites is an excellent start. We'd press that perhaps further integration within the Bill could elicit greater benefits more broadly.

Within Schedule 1 there are some areas where 'environmental benefit' is mentioned relating to support, and it would be helpful to define what that means. Can the historic environment be funded as part of this?

Given that the Bill uses the term 'natural environment' as well as 'environment' within the document, we'd proffer that defining environment within the Bill as natural and historic built environment would be of greater benefit and provide necessary clarity.

We appreciate that Environmental Standards Scotland are clear that by environment they also mean the historic environment, so the inclusion of historic environment within this Bill would align with already ongoing work within Scotland at legislative and enforcement level.

BEFS responses to a number of Consultations in relation to the Built Environment can be found at:
<https://www.befs.org.uk/resources/consultations/>

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

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The Scottish Parliament would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference: **Publish response with name**

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We will share your response internally with other Scottish Parliament policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Parliament to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?
YES

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy. **I CONSENT**