

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
for SCOTLAND

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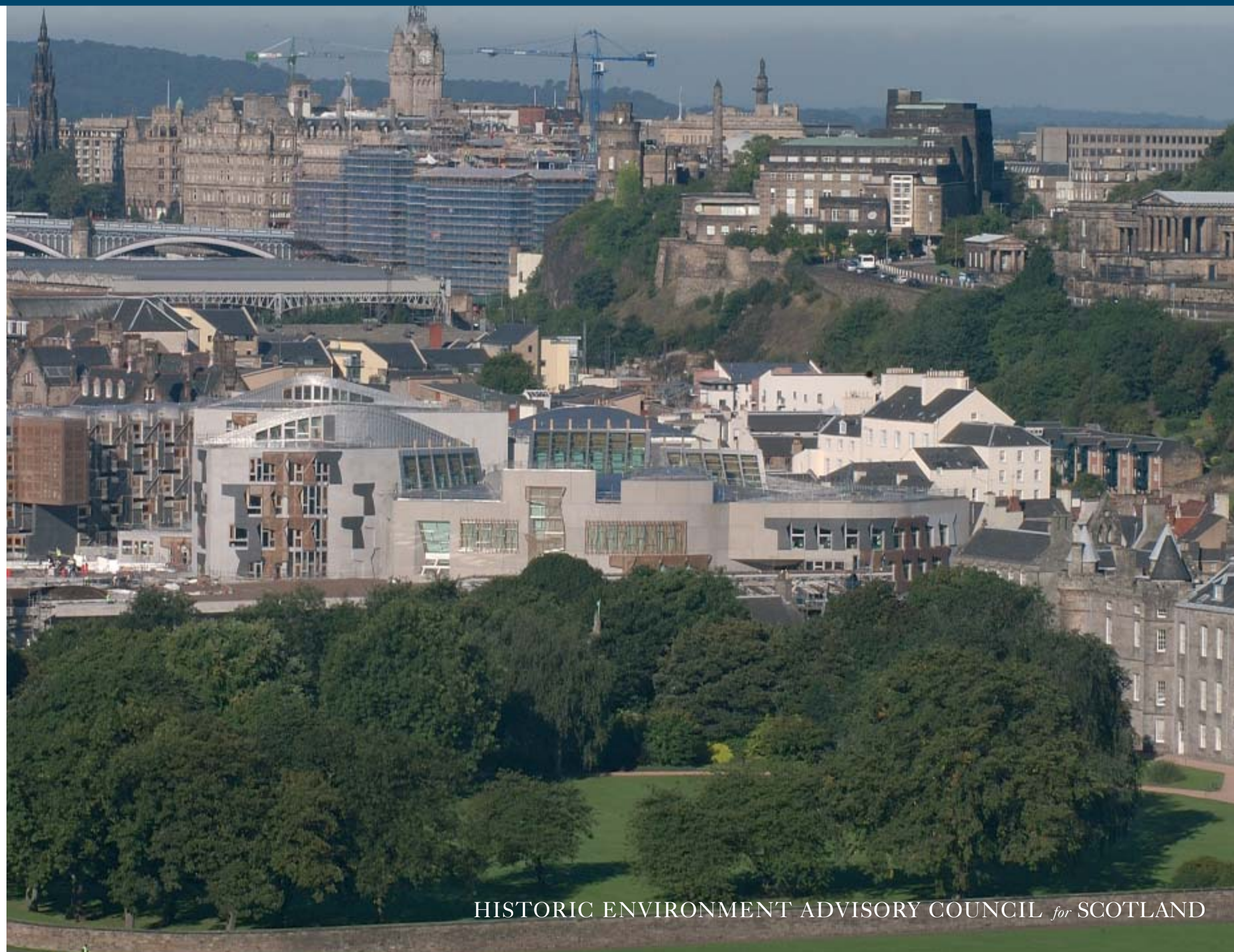
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HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
for SCOTLAND

First Annual Report
1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004

Laid before the Scottish Parliament
by Scottish Ministers
September 2004

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Chair's Introduction



..will ensure that we make a significant and relevant contribution to the key element of heritage in the lives and culture of the people of Scotland.

It gives me very great pleasure to present this first Annual Report from the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS). The 'First Year' is always a special challenge, offering as it does opportunities which never recur in quite the same way and which determine, often in unforeseen ways, whether we have 'got off on the right foot' or not. I am confident that this report will show that HEACS has made a very good start, and that the patterns we have begun to set will ensure that we make a significant and relevant contribution to the key element of heritage in the lives and culture of the people of Scotland.

HEACS was formally established on 1st June 2003, and held its first meeting at the end of June. Its function is to provide advice to the Scottish Ministers on issues affecting the Historic Environment in Scotland, and on how the functions of the Scottish Ministers exercisable in relation to the historic environment may be exercised effectively for the benefit of the historic environment. The Council provides advice whenever Scottish Ministers request it, or when Council considers it appropriate to do so.

In the face of our broad remit, we were fortunate that our first meeting presented us with some very specific objectives. A letter from the Minister identified a set of five topics on which he required advice in our first three-year term, and a second letter, from the Steering Group set up to lead the Review of Historic Scotland, invited us to respond to the review consultation paper. From the outset therefore we had a clear focus for our core task, that of developing and providing sound, informed advice to the Minister.

At that first meeting we were also conscious that we had another task, that of becoming a functioning and effective working team, and that though we had no history as yet, we had in a sense a pre-history as the successor in time, if not functions, of the two earlier bodies, the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland, and the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland. We were very conscious of their long history and of the distinguished service given by their members, which set us a challenging example to follow.

That first meeting established a Working Group to prepare our response on the review of Historic Scotland, and agreed plans for a residential event for our second meeting. We had also determined that we would move around the country for our meetings, assembling on the evening before Council met to host a dinner for a number of guests from the historic environment sector in the area, and had set in train a plan for a rolling programme of meetings with some of the wide range of specialist and expert bodies in the field.

The report which follows sets out the five topics, and describes the work in hand on each one. I have chosen in this introduction to focus rather on process in order to give a sense of the development of HEACS as a work-in-progress, as well as a body progressing work.

Our second convening, in St. Andrews, included our first 'HEACS dinner' with guests from the area; a day for blue sky thinking about our role and task and for forward planning; a meeting to finalise our response to the Historic Scotland Review consultation; and a full Council Meeting. We now had our first formal paper for presentation to the Minister; working

HEACS

groups in place for all five topics requested by the Minister; a statement of aims committing us not only to the highest standards in our core task, but also to working in ways which are open and accessible, and which maximise the involvement of a wide range of expertise and special interests; and a communications strategy, including plans for a website. The programme of meetings with other agencies was developing well, and had been very helpful to us in the preparation of our response to the Review. Patterns were being set which have proved effective both in terms of our core work, and of beginning to create a good profile for HEACS as a distinctive body with a special role to play. We have travelled to St. Andrew's, New Lanark and Inverness, and in each place benefited from the opportunity to meet informally but purposefully with leaders in the field. Our working groups have heard evidence, have recruited expert members from other



organisations and agencies, and have developed good working partnerships and alliances. All Council members have been involved in at least one Working Group, most are involved in two or more. We have produced one report, and are almost ready to publish a second. We have made formal responses to a considerable range of consultative papers. We have established a pattern of regular meetings with the Minister.

We have used the scope of our remit to add three topics of vital importance to the list of five assigned to us by the Minister – we will be looking in this coming year at the infrastructure for the historic environment, at the economic significance of the historic environment, and at the question of funding for the historic environment in the longer term. Our intention is that by the end of our first term we will have in effect carried out our own review of the historic environment in Scotland as a basis for further work in our second term.

HEACS has been established at a very interesting and potentially very significant time for the future of the historic environment. There are many signs of growing interest and awareness of its value and importance, yet at the same time a sense of despair at the continuing rate of loss and decay of sites and buildings through lack of resources, lack of expertise

St Andrews



or lack of interest. There is a sense of relief at the prominence given to the wider cultural debate, but concern that the historic environment has not been given its place in that debate. As an advisory body we can aspire to influence the thinking and policies of those whose job it is to make decisions and see them implemented. Our aim in this first year has been to bring our own skills and expertise to our task and more importantly to engage also the interest and expert knowledge of others, and to be seen to offer sound and well-informed advice. It is satisfying to note that our advice has been acted upon.

We have been impressed by, and grateful for the willing support and expert help we have received from individuals and organisations throughout Scotland. Many people have been very generous with their time, skills and knowledge, and we thank them all. It has been our pleasure, and our privilege, to meet and work with them.

We, and I especially, have particular cause to be grateful to the staff of Historic Scotland who have responded with great skill and sometimes with great forbearance to our often conflicting needs for their help and resources, while yet retaining our capacity for independence. This relationship could also be described as a work-in-progress, and thankfully one which is making good progress.

That a good working relationship is developing between HEACS and the Built Environment Forum for Scotland (BEFS) is also a cause for great satisfaction, and will I hope be of great advantage to both bodies and to the historic environment in general.

My own warmest thanks go to our small secretariat in Historic Scotland, and to Council Members, all of whom give much more time than the job description asked



Council members at Culloden House

for. They bring a wonderfully wide range of skills, knowledge and experience to our discussions, and a generous determination to use them to best effect.

I hope you will enjoy reading our account of our work, and that we will continue to benefit from your interest and support as we move more deeply into meeting the challenges of our remit.

Elizabeth K Burns OBE

Chair

July 2004

Informed
independence
advice

Remit

HEACS is the advisory Non-Departmental Public Body which provides Scottish Ministers with strategic advice on issues affecting the historic environment. HEACS was established in 2003 under the Public Appointments & Public Bodies etc (Scotland) Act 2003.

HEACS was charged by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport with providing informed and independent advice on:

- state of the historic environment;
- how the historic environment is identified and protected;
- how the historic environment is presented and promoted to foster public understanding, enjoyment and support;
- how the historic environment contributes to the wider context: for instance, education, the economy, tourism, arts and culture, leisure and the promotion of social justice; and
- how an adequate supply of skills, materials, and resources is ensured to safeguard the historic environment for future generations.

While the 2003 Act defined the historic environment as 'any or all of the structures and places in Scotland of historical, archaeological or architectural interest or importance', HEACS has understood that this may be interpreted in as wide a way as possible: the historic environment thus ranges from archaeological or designed landscapes to the contents of historic buildings.

The Minister also stated that HEACS was not expected to become involved in casework in the way that the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland and Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland did.

List of Members

The Membership of HEACS was as follows:

Elizabeth Burns

OBE (Chair),
President and
Chief Executive
Officer of the
International Association for
Volunteer Effort (IAVE);



Eleanor McAllister,

Managing Director
of Clydebank
Re-built Ltd;



Professor Charles

McKean, Professor
of Scottish
Architectural
History at the
University of Dundee;



Dr Peter Burman

MBE, Director of
Conservation and
Property Services
for the National
Trust for Scotland and an
architectural historian;



Clare Meredith,

accredited
conservator and
conservation
consultant;



Neil Galbraith

OBE (vice chair),
education systems
consultant and
policy adviser;



Ross Noble, retired

Curator of the
Highland Folk
Museum; and



Mark Hopton,

partner in LDN
Architects;



Andrew Wright

OBE (vice chair),
chartered architect
and heritage
consultant.



Martin Hulse, Senior Projects
Officer for One NorthEast;

Ian Johnson,

Manager of the
Ayrshire Joint
Structure Plan and
Transportation
Committee;



Finlay Lockie,

engaged full-time
in the renovation
of a category
A-listed house,
Northfield House, Prestonpans;



Members were appointed by Scottish Ministers in accordance with the Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Chair was paid a salary of £2600. Members received expenses.

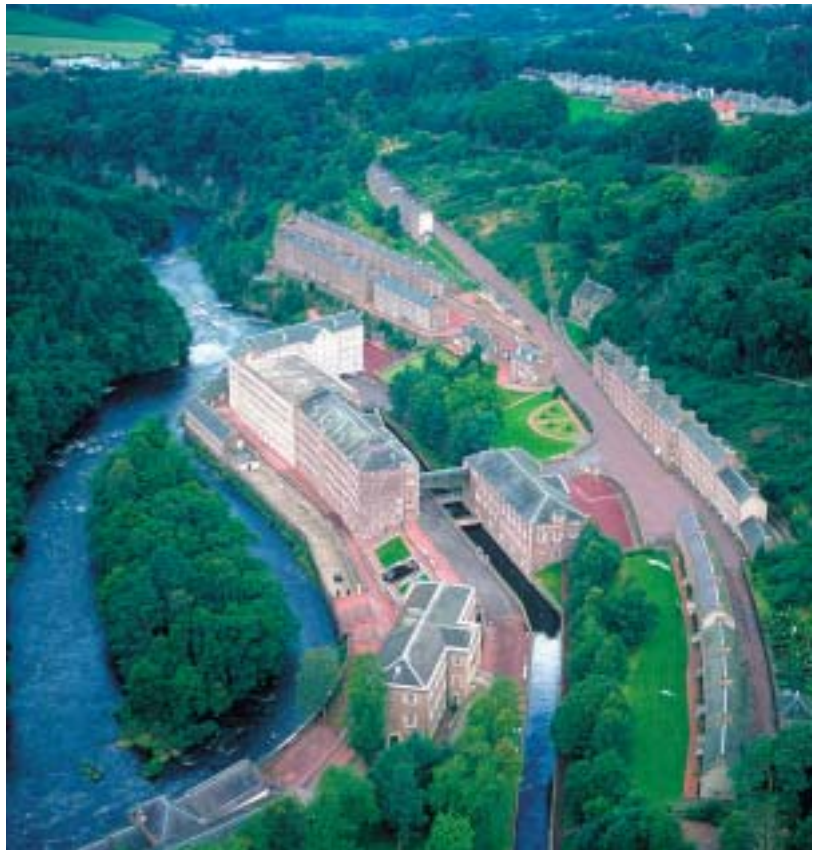
Neil Galbraith and Andrew Wright were appointed as vice-chairs, on the proposal of the Chair, with the approval of Council.

Meetings

HEACS formally came into being on 1 June 2003. Council held its first meeting held at Longmore House in Edinburgh on 30 June.

Council decided that it would normally hold four meetings in the year. In addition to the meeting held at Longmore House, Council held meetings in St Andrews, New Lanark and Inverness.

These were arranged in accordance with Council's wish to hold peripatetic meetings. This has enabled Council to visit important heritage sites including St Andrews Castle, New Lanark and Castle Urquhart. It also quickly became Council's practice to use the opportunity to meet with people involved with the historic environment, including local authority and voluntary sector representatives. This has provided Council with an additional means of contact and discussion with stakeholders.



New Lanark World Heritage Site

Working Group on the Review of Historic Scotland

Established at the end of June 2003, the Working Group met two times between then and the response deadline date which was extended to the end of September. Its main task was to obtain and co-ordinate the views of HEACS members, but it also used Council's programme of meetings with other agencies as a means of informal consultation. In addition, the Group took note of responses from other agencies as they became available. A 'First Response', covering all aspects except the question of the future status of Historic Scotland, was submitted in mid-September. The second paper, setting out HEACS's position on the question of status, was submitted after the Council meeting in October 2004. The Working Group subsequently met twice with the Review Steering Group, and with the Minister, Frank McAveety, to present its report and discuss its implications. HEACS was very pleased to note that its recommendations had been accepted in full.

Liz Burns, Chair

Membership of the Group: Liz Burns (Chair), Neil Galbraith, Martin Hulse, and Ian Johnson.



Urquhart Castle

Letter from Minister

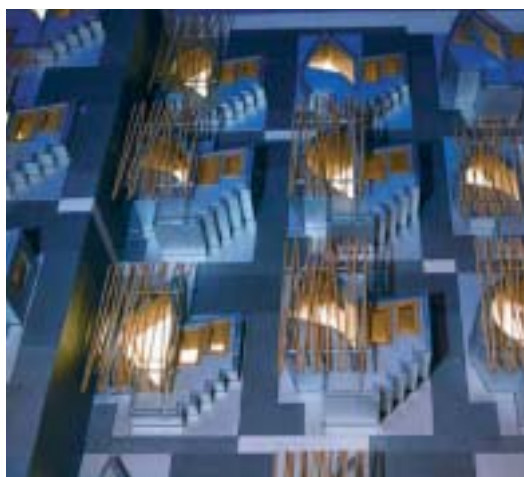
The Minister in his letter of June 2003 asked Council for advice on priority policy areas during Council's first term. These were:

- whether there is a need to review heritage protection legislation in Scotland;
- if there is a need for a "heritage audit" in Scotland and, if so, how to take it forward;
- the role of local authorities in conserving the historic environment;
- how we ensure the availability of adequate and appropriate traditional materials and professional and craft skills to meet the needs of the built heritage; and
- the criteria that should be applied for taking historic properties into the care of the Scottish Ministers.

Five Working Groups were established to address the matters. Some of the Working Groups consisted entirely of Members of HEACS, others included external members who very kindly agreed to assist us in our work. Details of the Membership of Council's Working Groups and the organisations or people the Groups met with is contained within the Appendix to this Report.

Legislation Working Group

The Working Group was first convened in November 2003, and four meetings have taken place in various locations. The starting point, defined in the Minister's letter, was inevitably the consultation process embarked upon by DCMS in July 2003, heralded by the paper



Scottish Parliament

Protecting the Historic Environment: Making the system work better, and the Group was aware also of the shadow consultation launched by the Welsh Assembly in the autumn of 2003.

Until now the Group has focused on taking evidence on a wide range of issues which have embraced legislation affecting the historic environment in addition to the legislation devised to protect it. We have received papers and presentations from advisers on key topics both from within Historic Scotland, and outside the agency. We have focused on what may be perceived to be gaps in protection legislation, such as the designation of battlefields and the protection of historic designed landscapes; where there are overlapping designations; and where primary legislation may be seen to be in conflict. We have an awareness that the protection legislation for the historic environment relates to the wider development legislation controlling the built environment, and that this is also subject to possible reform.

The Group considered that it was important not to provide the Minister with early advice until such time as the results of the consultation in England and Wales were known, and in April 2004 we heard that English Heritage had announced a new approach to heritage protection through the selection of 15 pilot sites, and that 80% of consultees had favoured change. We are aware of a considerable interest in Scotland in streamlining the designations, and propose to host a seminar on the subject with BEFS to which representatives from English Heritage will be invited. It is anticipated that HEACS may be in a position to give advice to the Minister in the winter of 2004-05.

Andrew Wright, Working Group Chair

The Heritage Audit Working Group was established by the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland in September 2003 with the specific remit to address a task set by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, viz. to consider if there was a need for a heritage audit in Scotland, and if so, how it should be taken forward. Three members were appointed to the Group - Peter Burman, Ian Johnson, and Neil Galbraith - with authorisation to conduct its business on an appropriate consultative basis.

The Group determined not to add to its core membership by appointing a number of outside specialists since the scope of "heritage" made the concept of a representative group impossible to achieve in any practical form. Instead the Group determined to proceed by researching the available literature, by taking evidence from a number of historic environment expert witnesses and by involving its members in scoping discussions with a range of professional bodies in the heritage sector.

A number of expert witnesses responded positively to the Group's invitation to present information to the group and participated readily in an interchange of questions and views. With access to background literature and the illumination offered by the expert witnesses, the Group members were quickly able to come to grips with concerns in the heritage sector and to examine the range of issues underlying the concept of audit.

The major problem confronting the Group was that of determining the scope of any putative audit since "heritage" by any

definition was immense in scale and problematic in approach. At this juncture the Group was extremely fortunate to have its interest picked up by the Built Environment Forum for Scotland, since a great deal of the Forum's own efforts in the past had focused on the question of limited information availability on the historic environment sector and the damaging impact of that knowledge deficit within the sector and on public and political attitudes to heritage issues. Within a very brief timescale the Built Environment Forum for Scotland organised three large-scale historic environment scoping meetings, undertaking all the related administrative arrangements. This facilitation allowed members of the Group to engage in extensive discussions and have the benefit of the input of over seventy contributors to discussions on the scope of heritage issues. The Group would wish to formally acknowledge its debt to BEFS for accelerating its learning processes and for allowing it access to so many of its members.

The Group was able thereafter to complete its considerations of the issues between February and May 2004 and prepare a draft report for consideration by the HEACS Council in June 2004, with the intention that, if the draft were approved in June, this document would be circulated to a range of interested bodies before final consideration and approval by Council in September 2004. Following that meeting it is anticipated that the report will be submitted to the Minister for consideration.

Neil Galbraith, Working Group Chair

"heritage" by any definition was immense in scale and problematic in approach.

Local Authorities Working Group

The Working Group on Local Authorities was created in recognition that local authorities are in many instances the first line of defence in protecting and conserving the historic environment, for example through their planning powers and policies.

The scope of issues that this Group could consider is vast and it essential that our focus recognises the remit of the other working groups. This is especially important in relation to the Audit and the Legislation Working Groups, whose proposals could have a large bearing on local authorities. There has also been a need to reflect on what work or initiatives have already been undertaken.

One such initiative is detailed in the publication 'Report on the Work of Conservation Control Working Group'.

This Group was formed following the Planning Audit of 1998, which identified the need to improve working practices in relation to the operation of conservation controls.

This relationship between the local authorities, Historic Scotland and the Planning Division of the Scottish Executive is a key element for HEACS to understand. Although we recognise that this report does not represent a policy statement from the Scottish Executive, it does contain a large number of actions and suggestions that appear to be logical and relevant.

One key area we have focused on is the concept of the capacity of local authorities to promote and protect the historic environment. In this assessment it must be recognised that different local authorities deal with the issue in a variety of methods. Some have a strong development control function, while others



Culross, Fife

focus on community initiatives, or maybe on particular buildings or projects.

In our initial letter from the Minister, a great deal of emphasis was placed on the role of the historic environment within the new processes of community planning. This concept was introduced, through the Local Government in Scotland Act (2003), with the intention of making public services more responsive and organised around the needs of communities.

It is essential that HEACS understand the approach different councils are taking in adapting their service delivery. We then need to work with these bodies, and involve other groups such as CoSLA, to examine how the historic environment can be incorporated into such a framework.

There is a great deal to understand and promote in support of the local authorities and their essential role within the historic environment. The relationship between the national and local government bodies is crucial to the success of any programme of work; the historic environment must also benefit from the engagement of local communities.

The Group on local authorities will continue to examine these areas over the next year.

Martin Hulse, Working Group Chair

Skills and Materials Working Group

The Working Group was formed to provide advice, requested by Ministers, on how to ensure an adequate supply of skills, materials and resources to safeguard the historic environment for future generations.



At its first meeting, on 26 November 2003, the Group established its membership, further defined its remit and discussed ways of working. Three approaches were agreed: to hold regular meetings to review progress and plan ahead; to invite 'expert witnesses' to talk on specific issues at our meetings and, finally, to get out on site, visit training centres and listen to what people 'on the job' have to say. In addition, Group members agreed to attend relevant external meetings

whenever possible, and an example of this was our representation in January at the Focus Group meeting in Glasgow on Cultural Heritage SVQs and Modern Apprenticeships. Following our November 2003 meeting, three further meetings of the Group were held in the first five months of 2004.

From the outset, the Group's ability to grasp the extent of existing provision across the sector has been greatly helped by the body of work of the TCRE Group

within Historic Scotland. Drawing on TCRE's research and extensive network of contacts, the Group has met, during the period under review, with specialists from both within and outside the Agency. We also spent a day at the Scottish Lime Centre in Charlestown, Fife; discussion focussed on the existing provision of training, as well as possible future potential, and we enjoyed seeing, and learned from, the demonstrations of traditional processes.

We aim to continue this pattern of information gathering throughout the coming year and intend to take every advantage of current developments in the skills and materials sectors; two such examples are the Scottish Stone Liaison Group and the recently formed National Heritage Training Group. Our Group is fortunate in that there is a genuine increase in the level of interest and concern in maintaining and developing traditional skills, as well as sustaining professional conservation expertise. What is remarkable however, and timely so far as our Group's role is concerned, is that this interest is shared not only by associated professionals and by some within the construction industry but, crucially, by the demonstrable increase in public awareness and concern.

We have identified that there is a wealth of topical and relevant information available to us, but we take this opportunity to invite those interested in the remit of our Group to get in touch and draw our attention to any area we might otherwise overlook.

Clare Meredith, Working Group Chair

Properties in Care Working Group

The Working Group has met three times, to address the Minister's question as to what criteria should be used when considering taking buildings into State care. It has taken evidence from Historic Scotland and the Scottish Civic Trust's Buildings at Risk Officer. It has considered the legislative background, including scheduling. It has considered the award-winning Dutch maintenance scheme Monumentwacht as a means of inhibiting decay, and the processes relating to the assessment of properties to be considered for taking into care.

Current debates over the future of both Dumfries House and Abbotsford have given this question a particular edge, and the difficulties faced by Castle Tioram, Mavisbank, and the Alexander Thomson offices in Glasgow indicate that there is still urgency. What, in short, is the most appropriate way of safeguarding the built heritage that is still roofed, or has the potential for being re-occupied? It raises the question of the extent to which the State would require of a property in care that it pays its way as a visitor attraction.

The Group is currently in the process of drafting an outline paper for discussion. It has considered the validity of whether the State should seek to build up a representative portfolio of its built heritage, or whether State ownership should simply be a matter of last resort. It seems clear to the Group that a building being at risk is not an identical issue as to whether it should be taken into care. Many buildings are at risk which would never be considered for taking into care. There is also the question of what is the best use for safeguarding a building. Being taken into care may not always be the best solution.

It also appears to the Group that a reconsideration of both the properties already in care, and the properties protected by scheduling would be valuable. Equally, it appears to the Group that the quantity of buildings at risk ineligible for consideration for being taken into care is a national issue to be faced by HEACS, and that it is relevant to consider the means and mechanisms whereby buildings at risk might be safeguarded for future re-use.

Equally, it appears to the Group that different criteria should exist for ruins and monuments from buildings that are, or are potentially, reoccupiable.

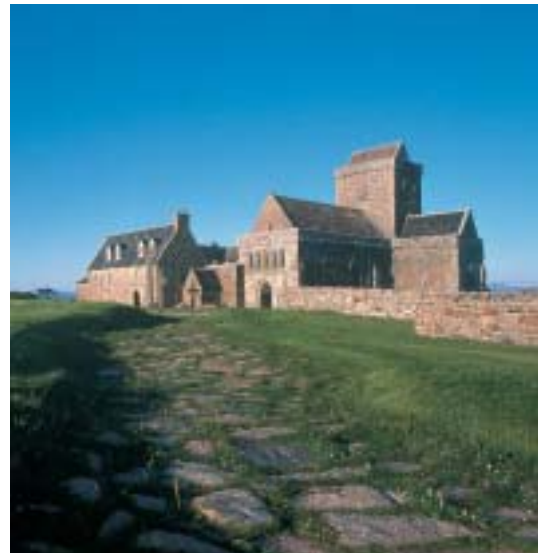
Charles McKean, Working Group Chair

Other issues

During the course of the year Council identified a number of topics outside the scope of what will be covered by the existing Working Groups. Council considered the list and agreed that the three which were of greatest priority for examination during our first term were:

- the economic importance of the historic environment;
- funding; and
- the infrastructure for the historic environment.

Council decided to set up Working Groups to examine these issues. An Infrastructure Working Group was established towards the end of the year.



Iona Abbey, Property in Care

Infrastructure Working Group

In our response to the Review of Historic Scotland, HEACS took the view that “infrastructure development is the key requirement of Government if the overall health of the Historic Environment is to be addressed.” The Working Group was established to review the infrastructure for the Historic Environment in Scotland, with a view to proposing a strategic approach to its continuing development.

We have had two exploratory meetings, and are agreed that the work should include:

- mapping and describing the infrastructure;
- identifying roles and purposes;
- identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps;
- making comparisons with other sectors, for example the natural environment, the voluntary sector, the child care sector;
- engaging in consultation; and
- making recommendations for the future development of the infrastructure.

Liz Burns, Working Group Chair

Notes of Meetings with the Minister

In November HEACS submitted a six-monthly report to the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Frank McAveety. Council met the Minister in February to discuss the Report of the Review of Historic Scotland.

Council also raised in correspondence with the Minister the position of Scotland's industrial museums and also conveyed to him its concerns over the procedure adopted for appointing a new Chief Executive of Historic Scotland.

Summary of Documents submitted

During the course of the year Council responded to a number of consultation exercises (copies are available on Council's website www.heacs.org.uk):

Review of Historic Scotland (first submission): September 2003

Review of Historic Scotland (second submission): October 2003

Scottish Executive consultation on Modernising Public Local Inquiries: November 2003

Scottish Executive Review of Treasure Trove Arrangements in Scotland: January 2004

Scottish Natural Heritage: Scotland's Future Landscapes: February 2004

Forestry Commission: Review of Land Managed by Forestry Commission Scotland: February 2004

Historic Scotland: Carved Stones: May 2004

Scottish Executive: CAP Reform: May 2004

Meetings with other agencies

A programme of meetings with key bodies and agencies in the field was commenced and will continue over the next year or so. During its first year Council met with the following organisations:

Association of Regional and Island Archaeologists (ARIA)

Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS)

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)

Royal Incorporation of Architects of Scotland (RIAS)

Council for Scottish Archaeology (CSA)

Historic Houses Association (HHA)

HEACS has also met with representatives of Historic Scotland on a number of occasions and Council has agreed to hold regular meetings with the agency. Members also attended meetings of other organisations, including Scottish Archaeological Link.

Governance

HEACS established a Chair's Group to function as an executive group dealing with urgent matters arising between meetings of Council, preparation of agendas and other related matters, and with any other matters as delegated by Council. The Group took a lead in meetings with other key bodies and with the Minister. The Group consisted of the Chair, two Vice-Chairs, and one other member of Council, this last was to serve for one year, to ensure wide participation over time of Council members. The membership for the year consisted of Liz Burns, Andrew Wright, Neil Galbraith and Martin Hulse.

Council also agreed standing orders, procedures for commissioning research, and drew up a Forward Plan.

Communications

Council recognised the importance of communications, as part of its commitment to openness. In particular, Council has developed a website as a means of communicating its work and progress to as wide a range of interested people as possible. The website includes details of Council's remit, membership, the minutes of Council meetings, and responses to consultation exercises. The site is intended to be concise, easy to access and capable of future development. The website received 6500 hits during the four month period February to May 2004, a measure of the wide interest in the work of HEACS. Website address www.heacs.org.uk

Council has also drafted a Publications Scheme under the Freedom of Information Act for submission to the Scottish Information Commissioner for approval.

Study Tour

HEACS agreed that Council should undertake an annual Study Tour to gain a clearer understanding of the range of strategic issues affecting the historic environment in different parts of the country and to meet local people with a interest in the historic environment. During the year preparations were made for a Study Tour to the Scottish Borders to be undertaken in June 2004.



Scott's View

First National Conference and Public Meeting

During the year preparations were made for Council's First National Conference and Public Meeting to take place on 22 September in Glasgow City Chambers.

Note of expenditure on behalf of Council

Expenditure on behalf of HEACS during the year amounted to £24,117. This expenditure covered: the Chair's salary, Member's travel and subsistence, meetings and accommodation expenses, stationery, and the setting up and maintenance of Council's website. Other expenses, such as the cost of the secretariat and incidental expenses such as postage and telephone charges, were met from Historic Scotland's general budgets.

Appendix

Membership of Working Groups and Lists of individuals and organisations Groups met with during the year

Legislation Working Group

Membership:

Andrew Wright, HEACS (Chair)

Mark Hopton, HEACS

Finlay Lockie, HEACS

Charles McKean, HEACS

Stuart Eydmann, Design and Conservation Officer, West Lothian Council

Terry Levinthal, Director, Scottish Civic Trust

Carol Swanson, Chair of ARIA

During the year the Group met with:

Sheenagh Adams, Director of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

David Breeze, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland

Richard Emerson, Chief Inspector of Historic Buildings, Historic Scotland

Susan Williamson, Head of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Graham Reed, Head of Listed Building Control, Historic Scotland

David Leven, Special Projects Manager Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Lily Linge, Heritage Planning Manager, Historic Scotland

Andrew Burrell, Burrell Company

Laura Norris, Cockburn Trust and Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

Alan Wallace, Cairn Properties

Neil Ingram, Planning Bill Team, Scottish Executive

Christopher Dingwall, Garden History Society Scotland

Audit Working Group

Membership:

Neil Galbraith, HEACS (Chair)

Peter Burman, HEACS

Ian Johnson, HEACS

During the year the Group met with:

Carol Swanson, Manager, West of Scotland Archaeology Service

David Leven, Special Projects Manager Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Lorna Main, ARIA

Ian Baxter, Glasgow Caledonian University

David Lynn, Lorna Main, Sean O'Reilly and Robin Turner representing HEAT

Terry Levinthal, Director Scottish Civic Trust

BEFS Scoping Groups (about 70 participants)

Local Authorities Working Group

Membership:

Martin Hulse, HEACS (Chair)

Ian Johnson, HEACS

Eleanor McAllister, HEACS

Charles Strang, Chair IHBC Scotland

Carol Swanson, Chair ARIA

During the year the Group met with:

David Leven, Special Projects Manager, Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Skills and Materials Working Group

Membership:

Clare Meredith, HEACS (Chair)

Peter Burman, HEACS

Ross Noble, HEACS

Liz Davidson, Glasgow Merchant City THI

Ingval Maxwell, Director TCRE Historic Scotland (Paul Russell as deputy).

During the year the Group met with:

Bill McCrudden, Area Manager Scotland East, CITB

Martin Fairley, Acting Head of Grants, Historic Scotland

Sarah Morris, Head of Conservation and Maintenance, Historic Scotland

Pat Gibbons, Director, Scottish Lime Centre Trust

Properties in Care Working Group

Membership:

Charles McKean, HEACS (Chair)

Mark Hopton, HEACS

Finlay Lockie, HEACS

During the year the Group met with:

Sheenagh Adams, Director of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Susan Williamson, Head of Heritage Policy, Historic Scotland

Doreen Grove, Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland

Sarah Morris, Head of Conservation and Maintenance, Historic Scotland

Jane Nelson, Buildings at Risk, Scottish Civic Trust

Infrastructure Working Group

Membership:

Liz Burns, HEACS (Chair)

Clare Meredith, HEACS

Ross Noble, HEACS

Frank McAveety MSP
Minister for Tourism, Culture & Sport
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

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June 2003

Mrs Liz Burns OBE
Chair
Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland
c/o International Association for Volunteer Effort
Tillicoultry Business Centre, Clock Mill, Upper Mill Street
Tillicoultry, FK13 6AX

It was a pleasure to meet you on Monday and I am looking forward to doing business with you and your colleagues in the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland once you are fully established.

As you know, the Council has been established to provide Scottish Ministers with advice on issues affecting the historic environment (defined in statute as structures and places in Scotland of historical, archaeological, architectural interest or importance). I am aware that Mike Watson, my predecessor in this portfolio, had expanded on this and set out a broad remit for the Council that would require it to provide informed and independent advice on:

- the state of the historic environment;
- how we identify and protect the historic environment;
- how we present and promote the historic environment to foster public understanding, enjoyment and support;
- how the historic environment contributes to the wider context: e.g. education, the economy, tourism, arts and culture, leisure and the promotion of social justice; and
- how we ensure an adequate supply of skills, materials, and resources to safeguard the historic environment for future generations.

I shall be looking to you and the Council to provide strategic advice on matters affecting the historic environment and I would not expect you to become involved in casework in the way that previous NDPBs advising on the built heritage have done.

I thought it would be useful if I were to set out some of the priority policy areas that I would like HEACS to consider and to come to a view on in its first term. There are 5 in all.

The first is whether there is a need to review heritage protection legislation in Scotland:

- It is many years since the last review of the legislative provision for the protection of the historic environment in Scotland and the Scottish Parliament has not yet considered any built heritage legislation. A review of heritage protection legislation is currently underway in England and Wales. This review, and any changes ensuing from it, and the fact that Scotland shares some heritage protection legislation with England and Wales, will no doubt prompt calls for a review of the legislation in Scotland.

The second is to consider if there is a need for a “heritage audit” in Scotland and, if so, how to take it forward:

- Both Scottish Environment Link and the Built Environment Forum for Scotland have been calling for a heritage audit. My officials have had discussions with these bodies about this but a strategic position has yet to be agreed. The views of HEACS on this would be most useful. You will wish to note that English Heritage has begun to produce an annual series of “State of the Historic Environment Reports”, which look at the position in England both nationally and broken down by Government Regions.

The third is the role of local authorities in conserving the historic environment:

- Local authorities are in many instances the first line of defence in protecting and conserving the historic environment, for example through their planning powers and policies. We know that the performance of local authorities is mixed, with varying degrees of priority and resources being applied to their role in relation to the historic environment. Advice from HEACS on the role of local authorities and how the historic environment could best be considered in the context of community planning would be very useful.

The fourth is to address how we ensure the availability of adequate and appropriate traditional materials and professional and craft skills to meet the needs of the built heritage:

- The conservation, repair and maintenance work on any historic building, structure or object is dependent upon the availability, in equal measure, of appropriate knowledge, relevant traditional materials and craft skills. Conservation work can only be carried out effectively if both specifiers and practitioners are able to draw on an up-to-date understanding of traditional material technology, an effective broad craft skills base, and an awareness of an appropriate conservation philosophy. Without such an integrated combination the built heritage will inevitably suffer. Scotland is facing a crisis in the shortage of both the skills and the materials needed to conserve our historic environment. Advice is needed on how best to address these issues.

The fifth is the criteria that should be applied for taking historic properties into the care of the Scottish Ministers:

- Each year suggestions are made that one or more particular properties should be taken in to the care of the Scottish Ministers. Very few properties are actually ever taken in to care. There has been little public consideration in the past about the criteria that should be used to make the assessment needed as to which properties would be of such significant national importance that State care was the only solution. This is a policy area on which government would benefit from advice from HEACS in the medium term.

In considering these issues, and others that you identify yourself, please feel free to draw on the expertise and experience that exists within Historic Scotland and elsewhere in the Scottish Executive.

I would like to keep in touch with the work of the Council and I would therefore welcome regular updates/briefing on your work and on emerging conclusions. My office will keep in touch with your HS secretariat to arrange this.

FRANK McAVEETY