

## **RESPONDENT INFORMATION: HISTORIC SCOTLAND GUIDANCE NOTES – MANAGING CHANGE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

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1. Responding on behalf of ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL.
- 2a. Not applicable.
- 2b. Not applicable.
3. Yes.
4. Yes.

### **SECTION 4 – CONSULTATION QUESTIONS**

#### **BACKGROUND**

A member of the Planning, Policy and Environment Team with a responsibility for the management of the historic environment within Aberdeenshire.

#### **GUIDANCE NOTES**

Aberdeenshire Council consider the content of the notes to be an acceptable replacement for the Memorandum of Guidance and welcome the additional new advice on accessibility and micro renewables. However, it would appear that the target audience for these new publications is to go beyond architects, planners and other associated professionals and it may therefore be beneficial for a more consistent approach to illustrations and glossary of terms. Indeed, the photograph showing the key elements of a bridge in the 'Structures' document and the section drawing of a typical sash and case unit in the 'Windows' booklet should be replicated for the 'Shop-Fronts and Signs' and other documents relating to specific architectural elements.

It is appreciated that further documents are to be prepared which will hopefully include Conservation Areas but there was a concern by the lack of reference to this particular designation in the other publications. The local authority also believed that the documents would benefit from cross referencing with the relevant legislation along similar lines to that

used in the former Memorandum of Guidance. Furthermore, that the series of publications should be of a standard format and numbered to facilitate indexing so items can be easily identified when seeking to discuss or explain matters with outside parties.

A concern was raised about the images used in the booklet on demolition setting an unfavourable precedent with the majority of the buildings shown in the document already demolished. The guidance on windows was also considered somewhat weak and ambiguous which could potentially work against the principal objective and result in the loss of original fabric. Finally, it was highlighted that the term 'Historic Landscape Assessment' within the document on 'Setting' should be changed to 'Historic Land Use Assessment'.

Shaun Norman  
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