

## HISTORIC SCOTLAND BOARD

26 FEBRUARY 2007, PERTH

### ITEM 14 : FORWARD LOOK - POSSIBLE HSB TOURS FOR 2008/09

#### Purpose

1. To agree the sequence of the below detailed suggestions for the Board's peripatetic meetings in 2008/09.

#### Priority

2. Routine.

#### Decisions/Actions required of Historic Scotland Board

3. The Board passed the below suggestions for 2008/09 meeting locations at its December meeting, stating a preferred visit to Edinburgh should take place in June. The Board is now invited to agree the further sequence.

#### Key information the Board will need to support its decisions/action

4. The three tours identified are (offered in no particular order of priority):

##### The Antonine Wall

The AW has been nominated for World Heritage status this year. Whether or not it succeeds, it offers an opportunity to look at a number of key issues for Historic Scotland including site management, partnership, issues of setting and context and casework. It is also a complex site in terms of the number of Local Authorities and stakeholders involved, including some of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the country. This would provide an opportunity to examine community and heritage issues from a different perspective. Other visits might include the Falkirk Wheel,

##### Dumfries House

Dumfries House is a country house standing in a designed landscape near Cumnock, East Ayrshire. It was designed and built between 1754-1759 by John, Robert and James Adam, with internal and external additions to the flanking wings and quadrants by Robert Weir Schultz for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess of Bute between 1895-1899. The house was built for William Dalrymple-Crichton, 4<sup>th</sup> earl of Dumfries and came into the possession by maternal succession of the earls of Bute. The house has been in continuous occupation since it was built.

In June this year, the First Minister agreed to support the Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust by contributing £5m towards the purchase price. The sale has

now taken place and the purchase of Dumfries House is also being supported by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund and the Monument Trust. It is a condition of grant that Friends of Historic Scotland receive a discount of 50% on entrance fees.

We believe the house will be open to the public in May 2008 and will close in September.

### Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle is situated at the heart of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site and is Historic Scotland's most visited property, attracting over 1.2m per year.

Properties in Care are in the process of completing a major project aimed at improving visitor reception. The project involves the creation of a new terrace and modern ticket office, a new website with integral ticket purchasing capabilities, a new Visitor Reception Team, and a sales and marketing strategy aimed at increasing income. It is part of a continuing programme of visitor improvements at Edinburgh Castle which included the recent completion of a new education facility, functions room and exhibition on the Prisoners of War. This project is aimed to be completed in late January 2008 and so will be suitable for a visit thereafter.

### **Conclusion**

5. These are suggested tour locations, once a sequence is decided we will work up outline programmes when we have a sense of the Board's preferences and priorities.

Lucy Blackburn  
Director of Policy  
12 February 2008