



## **RESPONSE TO BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST STUDY**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Historic Scotland (HS) and the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) were pleased to be able to commission the study into building preservation trusts carried out by Ecotec in March, and are pleased with the final report. The study rightly highlights and celebrates the contribution made by the movement to Scotland's built heritage over the past 25 years.

Ecotec have made a number of recommendations about how this success might be built upon in the future. Some of these recommendations are directed at the building preservation trusts themselves and it would not be for us to make specific comments on these. We would however wish to see the movement making a full contribution to the heritage agenda and wider voluntary sector.

We think there is much more that trusts can do to share best practice and we see the Association of Preservation Trusts having a key role in this. Notwithstanding this, we believe that there may be a need, in the future, for further work to be done on the structure and make up of building preservation trusts as we feel that there are still unresolved issues relating to scale, coverage, sustainability etc.

Some of the recommendations are directed at the HLF, HS and AHF and we comment on these below.

The study makes a number of recommendations about additional funding. The pressure on public funding means that it is difficult for HS to provide additional support for the work of building preservation trusts. We will however try to protect existing funding that currently goes to support this work. HS will be reviewing its building repair grant scheme in the near future and we note the comments in the study about rural issues and emergency repair grant funding.

Similarly, there is no prospect of the HLF ring-fencing funds specifically for BPT projects. They will require to compete with other proposals for resources in an environment that we expect to continue to be competitive.

The HLF, HS and the AHF are committed to ongoing review of their administrative procedures including application forms to make sure they are fit for purpose. We will bear in mind the comments from the study when such reviews take place. We are happy to allow the costs (on a full cost recovery basis) that building preservation trusts incur as part of the eligible costs of a project.

Buildings at risk pose a significant challenge in Scotland. As the study shows, building preservation trusts have been at the forefront of dealing with them in the past. HS in conjunction with the Scottish Civic Trust has recently undertaken a review of Category A buildings and the Buildings At Risk Register. HS boosted funding to the Scottish Civic Trust to improve the coverage of the BARR for category A-list entries. Almost all of the A-list properties have been assessed and a robust baseline dataset has now been established. Currently 8.7% of the A-list buildings are on the BARR. This is the indicator for the historic environment in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

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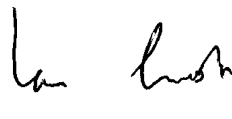
Historic Scotland has been exploring how existing approaches to managing buildings at risk in Scotland can be further developed and made more effective. As part of this, it has drawn together an external stakeholder group which includes representatives of the AHF and Association of Preservation Trusts. This group are supportive of the creation of a initiative relating to buildings at risk in Scotland ; which would meet some of the concerns expressed in the report about buildings at risk and would also provides new opportunities for future work for building preservation trusts. HS are in discussions with Ministers about this potential initiative.

Each of the funders will welcome good proposals for assessment against their published criteria.

The study has brought clarity to the understanding of how building preservation trusts work and the issues facing them, and the sponsors look forward to a continuing dialogue with the sector.



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