

Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

Meeting Note/Phone Call Note	Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee	
Date: 14 January 2016		
Meeting Location: Longmore House, Edinburgh		
<p>Present: Stephen Driscoll (SD) (<i>Chair</i>), Mike Elliot (ME) (<i>Minutes</i>), Chris Bowles (CB), Lisa Brown (LB), Simon Gilmour (SG), Mark Hall (MH), Peter Hinton (PH), Rebecca Jones (RHJ), Susan Kruse (SK), Alan Leslie (AL), Eila Macqueen (EM), Rod McCullagh (RM), Karen Milek (KM), Matthew Ritchie (MR), Simon Stronach (SS), Robin Turner (RT)</p>	<p>In attendance: Maya Hoole (MH), Richard Strachan (RS)</p>	<p>Apologies: George Dalglish (GD), Luke Wormald (LW)</p>
Note of Meeting/Discussion	Action Points:	
<p>1. Welcome and apologies: Apologies were received from George Dalglish (GD), Luke Wormald (LW)</p> <p>2. Minutes of the October meeting and matters arising: Christopher Bowles attendance information was incorrect.</p> <p>3. Communications: LB fed back on the preparation for the formal publication of the Strategy. APS (HES contract holder) have been approached to design and produce. They also produced the Historic Environment Strategy, so there can be similarities in the format. RHJ extended thanks to everyone who had submitted images for the publication, especially MR who had been particularly involved. LB and ME received a wide range of quotes from people welcoming or commenting on the Strategy from a variety of backgrounds and organisations and were fortunate to have obtained more quotes than needed. APS estimate it will take five to six weeks in getting the publication designed and printed. LB advised we will receive it in sections and it will be done within this financial year. We will be printing 2000 copies and it will be available to download from the website. Copies will be sent to people who participated in the workshops, Scottish Group ClfA members, information through SoAS mailings and Archaeology Scotland's mailing list. SD suggested putting in postcards in with the Strategy. MR volunteered to help. It was suggested that a new set of postcards depicting the front cover of the new version of the Strategy be produced to help publicise it.</p> <p>LB asked for feedback on the design of the pop-up stands to advertise the Strategy. We will be keeping one or two at LH, EM taking one for Archaeology Scotland, MR will take one for</p>	<p>ME to draw up some Doodle polls for May and October</p> <p>LB to circulate the sections of the Strategy to the Committee with a request for feedback, with a deadline</p> <p>Other offers of help to LB</p> <p>ME to order a fifth banner from Stand United</p>	

Forestry Commission, AL will take one for Northlight and Glasgow use. CB expressed an interest. There was a general discussion of the types of images to be used.

WORKSHOP

The meeting broke into breakout groups for the workshop to look at the delivery plan. Following the way in which the strategic aims were divided for the consultation version, RHJ suggested the groups as:

- Aim 1 SD and MH (with RS)
- Aim 2 SG and PH
- Aim 3 RM and CB, SS
- Aim 4 MR, SK, AL and EM
- Aim 5 RT and KM (with MH)
- RHJ will float between the groups

Feedback and discussion:

Aim 2: SG and PH proposed getting rid of the Research group. They have summarised the aim to nine activities. Felt there is a need to promote and encourage good practice, and existing frameworks in archaeology. AL suggested that we may need to come up with a framework to manage a research framework. CB advised that we need to work out a reporting mechanism too.

Aim 3: Initial thoughts were that the 'we will' section from the consultation version was woolly. Suggested an audit. The Strategy gives a firm basis for research and advocacy. The longer term aim would to discuss why some areas are lacking expert advice and others are not. KM asked if there was any thought given to small finds, though this is linked in another strategic aim. It was felt there were enough vehicles out there to enable people to participate without having to think up any more. SHED Strategy being pursued through its own programme board. Involvement of Museums and Galleries Scotland would be important.

Aim 4: Year of Archaeology 2017 – the success of DigIt2015 was noted and the continuation of this into 2017. It was suggested that best practice guidelines from successful projects be promoted. Proposed setting up an archaeology and learning working group, with an online portal for learning resources. KM advised that interrogation board at sites do not usually have enough to make it more accessible to children and visually impaired people. MR advised the Strategy is only mentioned once in the HES corporate plan, on the back page.

SG to type up the notes from his and PH's discussion

SS to type up notes and send to RM and CB

MR to type up the notes on aim 4.

Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

<p>Aim 5: Discussion fell into four different groups, followed by a general discussion on bringing in private sector money to fund / sponsor courses. Examples given were the Scottish Energy-sponsored Master in engineering, and the college founded by the HS2 company.</p> <p>Aim 1: It was suggested that SSAC consider a discussion with the RSE (potentially Prof I Ralston) about their treasure trove report. It was suggested that students doing dissertations could be encouraged to help finish and deliver backlog projects. Funding / bursaries for this may be able to come from a variety of sources. A potentially ring-fenced fund for international projects was suggested. A general discussion took place on accreditation and how it could help alleviate the backlog problem.</p> <p>Priorities: The Archaeology Programme has a small amount of funding for Strategy delivery in 2016-17 which could help push forward some of the priorities from April. The prioritisation of events in 2017 was highlighted - this will give the strategy something to piggyback on and greater visibility. SD advised that the Committee work out what to focus on. Awards for excellence was suggested; need for skills audit because of the potential loss of archaeologists to HS2. SSAC remit to be discussed at future meetings</p> <p>Next Steps: RHJ and SD to meet with David Middleton (HES CEO).</p>	<p>2017 as a standing item on the agenda for next couple of meetings</p> <p>Update: deferred due to D Middleton's retirement in April</p>
<p>Mike Elliot Archaeology Strategy Team</p>	<p>14 January 2016 0131 668 8811</p>

Note: use F11 to move between fields