

Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee

Meeting Note	Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee	
Date: 02 June 2014	Council Area: n/a	
Meeting Location: Longmore House, Edinburgh	Designation: n/a	
Key External Contact (if applicable): n/a	File Reference: «Insert File Reference Number»	
Present: Stephen Driscoll (SD) (Chair), Mike Elliot (ME) (Mins), Chris Bowles (CB), Simon Gilmour (SG), Mark Hall (MH), Peter Hinton (PH), Rebecca Jones (RJ), Susan Kruse (SK), Alan Leslie (AL), Eila Macqueen (EM), Rod McCullagh (RM), Matthew Ritchie (MR), Simon Stronach (SS) (until 2b), Robin Turner (RT) (until 2d), Luke Wormald (LW). Apologies: Karen Milek (KM)	Purpose: Third meeting of the Committee	
Note of Meeting/Discussion	Action Points:	
<p>1. Welcome and apologies.</p> <p>2. Background & Introduction RJ reported that the aim of the following discussions was to update the Strategy in advance of its wider circulation over the Summer.</p> <p><i>Presentations and discussion</i></p> <p>a. Improving skills: SS gave an outline of these objectives. Changes were highlighted. They proposed a new objective for Formal Education - up for discussion. RM suggested that examples could look to foreign examples for relevant, similar objectives. EM advised we should be more aware of our audience. It was agreed that there needs to be a more strategic approach to get schools and teachers to engage with archaeology under Formal Education and this can be looked at in the implementation phase. CB suggested that the social side of archaeology could be focused on. There is the opportunity to embed archaeology in the Curriculum for Excellence. CB advised that we should approach one of the teaching colleges and ask them how we could fit archaeology in with schools, as we are not educators. MH suggested getting teaching assistants at museums on board as many of them have backgrounds in archaeology. SG advised that although this is a long term strategy, Scotland will soon be facing a shortage of people skilled in archaeology and we need to think about how we will tackle that. CB also suggested land management courses with the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>b. Enhancing understanding: SG and PH gave a brief overview of these aims and objectives. PH added significantly to the objectives, broadening across other strategic priority areas, some of which hide greater issues that will each need to be considered and discussed. SG advised that the PowerPoint presentation would be circulated. Under Market Failure, PH advised that archaeology must have a wider serving remit, as there is the danger of it reverting to a self-serving</p>	<p>ALL who have contacts with teachers & education officers who may be interested to pass on their contact details to RJ as these could be contacted to comment on the draft strategy.</p>	

entity. RM posed the question whose understanding is it trying to enhance.

c. Protection and management: CB and RM gave a brief overview of these aims and objectives. Both stressed that it is important to define what it is that we are doing, and what our future plan and outcome should be. SD suggested that the objectives could be in a different order. AL advised that we do not talk about the "natural environment", as the phrase taps into various agendas that work against us and cautioned that we should use another phrase such as "cultural landscape". RM advised that Protection and Management is about understanding significance.

d. Championing our past: SK and MR gave a brief overview of these aims and objectives. SK advised that they focused on presentation, e.g. through magazines/ journals and conferences. MR gave an overview of Archaeology Scotland's hands-on investigation kits as an example of how teachers can deliver multi-disciplinary learning within different areas of the Curriculum for Excellence. SK gave an overview of a digital presentation of Wemyss Caves. SG cautioned that we should focus on examples that actually stand up and champion archaeology and our past, rather than those which celebrate our past. RJ posed the question of instead of championing as the high level we should perhaps think about value in line with the SHES. RM and SK advised that championing archaeology makes it more mainstream. It was agreed we should focus on championing archaeology rather than championing our past, as that is the role of the Historic Environment Strategy and the wider Strategy.

e. Encouraging greater engagement: AL and LW gave a brief overview of this section's aims and objectives. Their presentation will be circulated to the group. AL cautioned that we have not yet agreed the vision and need to set out what it is we are trying to do. AL stressed the need to inspire. We need to reach out a lot further and that will come by inspiring and catalysing more people. We need to change the language and be less academic so that people without PhDs and Master degrees can tap in. AL suggested some ideas for a way forward. MR advised that the main purpose is to make archaeology matter.

f. Innovation: EM gave an overview of the aims and objectives she had worked on with KM. Focused on modern technology and social media as a way of enabling piece to engage with information, using Swedish and Welsh models as examples. The option of removing Innovation was discussed but it was **agreed** to leave it in for now.

g. Improving the knowledge cycle: SD and MH gave an overview of this section's aims and objectives. SD advised that the knowledge cycle presented here is not the full cycle; at present it is a project cycle. We need to get archaeology out of the ground and into people's consciousness. SD advised we need to get more of our information online for people to access and engage with, as this is now the primary method that is used to access information. AL highlighted the need to engage with the local environment.

RJ to liaise with AL and LW and circulate their presentation.

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<p>3. Minutes of March meeting - matters arising: RJ has previously sent an email reporting on progress against the matters arising from the March meeting. A note on the Committee was put into the IfA Conference Pack.</p> <p>4. Communications: RJ will be putting a note of this meeting up on the ScARF website and will also post the minutes up there too. RJ will also be creating a page for SSAC on the HS website. Everyone was content with that.</p> <p>5. Timetables and next steps: RJ advised the need for a detailed and broad-based strategy. RJ has advised the HS Chief Executive that the strategy will be ready for wider circulation over the summer, with formal consultation in the Autumn and launch in 2015. RJ will circulate it among her contacts, e.g. Colleagues at HS, RCAHMS, ALGAO, Universities, IfA, etc. RJ also requested that everyone else circulate it wider as wide a possible as this will allow more people to engage with it.</p> <p>The next meeting will be in the last two weeks in September.</p> <p>There were no further matters to be discussed. SD thanked everyone for their contributions and moved the meeting to a close.</p> <p><i>Meeting closed: 15:30.</i></p>	<p>RJ will circulate the text for the SSAC web page to the Committee before it is put online.</p> <p>ME to draw up a Doodle poll for dates.</p>
<p>Mike Elliot Archaeology Strategy Team</p>	<p>02 June 2014 0131 668 8811</p>

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