



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

## Grants Funding Report 2024-25

On behalf of the Scottish Government, Historic Environment Scotland grant aids projects that promote and protect the historic environment, and relate to Scotland's tangible and intangible heritage.



We spent  
**£12.4m**



We were asked for  
**£17.8m**



We spent  
**£2.26** on  
heritage for each  
person in Scotland



**48.49%**  
of our funding  
goes towards  
area-based  
regeneration



**4.73%**  
of our funding  
goes towards  
churches



Every £1 of  
HES funding  
supports another  
**£5.24** of  
spending in Scotland's  
historic environment



**20.9%**  
of our grants  
were spent  
on projects  
in the most  
deprived  
SIMD quintile

We offered  
**£2.8m**  
for skills  
development



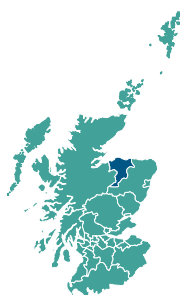
**40%** of  
applications  
had a climate  
change focus



**48%** of  
successful  
applications  
involved  
an A-listed  
building



In the first year  
of our HEG  
programme,  
we received **201**  
**Expressions of**  
**Interest** and **100**  
**applications**. Our  
application success  
rate is 40%.



**Moray** is our  
most-funded  
local authority



**69%**  
of our  
funding went  
to charities



We gave more  
to **theatres**  
than any other  
building type  
this year



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We spend our funding on a wide range of Scottish heritage, from bridges and brochs, to slate, thatch and stone. Below are some examples of where we have invested this year.



#### **Tam O'Shanter Inn, Ayr**

We funded Shanter Inns Ltd in August 2024 for the renewal of the reed thatch roof of the B-listed Tam O'Shanter Inn, Ayr High Street. We visited the site with HES' thatching experts to provide additional

support and advice. Unusually for a thatched building, it is an urban pub with significance locally through association with Robert Burns.



#### **'Rock, paper, chisels'.**

##### **A celebration of Luining's slate heritage past**

The project engaged the population of Luining, and surrounding areas, with the slate-quarrying heritage of the island, together with forward-looking plans to revive

this activity. The project raised awareness and appreciation of this industrial history through engagement activities, including guided tours, art demonstrations, multilingual song, and storytelling.



#### **Duncansby Head Lighthouse Centenary Celebrations**

Lyth Arts Centre delivered an engagement project to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the opening of the Duncansby Head

Lighthouse and the people that worked at the lighthouse and lived in the surrounding area. The celebration, which included live pop-up performances, exhibitions, and arts workshops, spanned February and March 2024 and reached over 1,200 people.



#### **Whithorn and the Machars Pilot Archaeology Field School**

A £13,104 grant to the Whithorn Trust was made towards a year-long pilot Archaeology Field

School, on the lands of Sinniness, Dumfries & Galloway. Circa 30 individual adult volunteers attended, and provided with skills training and skills training passports. 51 pupils and six staff attended from Whithorn Primary, who were engaged with excavating in one of the de-turfed areas.

## **Annual Theme: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in Scotland's Historic Environment**

This year, we asked our organisations that receive core funding to reflect on the actions in relation to improving EDI in the sector. We asked about the measures they had in place to encourage the diversity and inclusion of the people the organisations worked with, including in both decision-making and participation. We received a wide variety of responses – from organisations where this was a core focus of delivery, for example through the Make Your Mark volunteering campaign or through Women in Construction programmes, to smaller organisations, where EDI issues are regularly discussed at officer level and/or by the Board of Trustees.

We also asked if they provided training opportunities for staff and volunteers on EDI issues and were pleased to note the response was a resounding yes, at a scale relative to the size of the organisation.

We asked organisations if they collected data particularly relevant to this area, and the answer was more mixed. Some organisations collect quite detailed information, while others do not directly seek out EDI data. This is an area where there is a need for additional guidance and support, that could be scaled proportionate to the organisation.

Finally, we asked organisations what additional support would help their efforts in this area. Responses included:

- Funded training from experts with lived experience on how to engage with diverse communities
- Template policies and training videos for viewing from the HES website
- Support networking opportunities with interested EDI-focussed groups and historic environment sector organisations.

Overall, we noted a profound interest in improving the sector's response to EDI issues, and a will to work with others to develop a coherent approach. It is clear that there is significant scope for development in this area.