

# What are Business Archives?

Business archives are the historical records of for profit businesses, business-related bodies and businessmen and women.

## Why are they important?

As Scotland's businesses and industries were and are crucial in shaping its economic and social development, so business archives naturally have a wider value to society. They can be found in most archive repositories and many museum collections.



# Why have a strategy? What is our vision?

Business archives in Scotland will become even more valuable, representative of economic activity and innovation, accessible to all and supported and developed by strong networks and partnerships.

This will help to ensure the survival of the nation's important business records and industrial heritage.



# Background

1946: National Register of Archives for Scotland (NRAS) founded

1959: University of Glasgow start collecting the archives of Scottish business

1960: Business Archives Council of Scotland (BACS) formed

1970s: Significant decline in manufacturing and 'heavy' industry resulted the 'rescue' of many records of defunct companies

1977: Full time Surveying Officer appointed by the BACS

1980s: Growth in number of records professionals employed by businesses to manage current business records as well as archival collections

1988: The Ballast Trust established to aid the appraisal and cataloguing of technical businesses records, predominantly from heavy industries

2001: Elements towards a National Policy on Business Archives in Scotland published

2005: Capturing the Energy initiative launched to preserve records of the UK offshore oil and gas industry

2009: Launch of the National Strategy for Business Archives (England & Wales)

2011: National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland launched

# Development

## 2009

March – work begins on drafting a Scottish strategy by Ballast Trust Archivist and BACS Surveying Officer

May – consultation with key stakeholders

September – four focus groups held with Users, Academics, Heritage Professionals and Archivists & Records Managers

## 2010

April – public consultation on draft strategy document

August – strategy published

October – first implementation group meeting

## 2011

January – launch held at Museum on the Mound, Edinburgh

# Strategy Content

The five-year strategy has four defined **goals**:

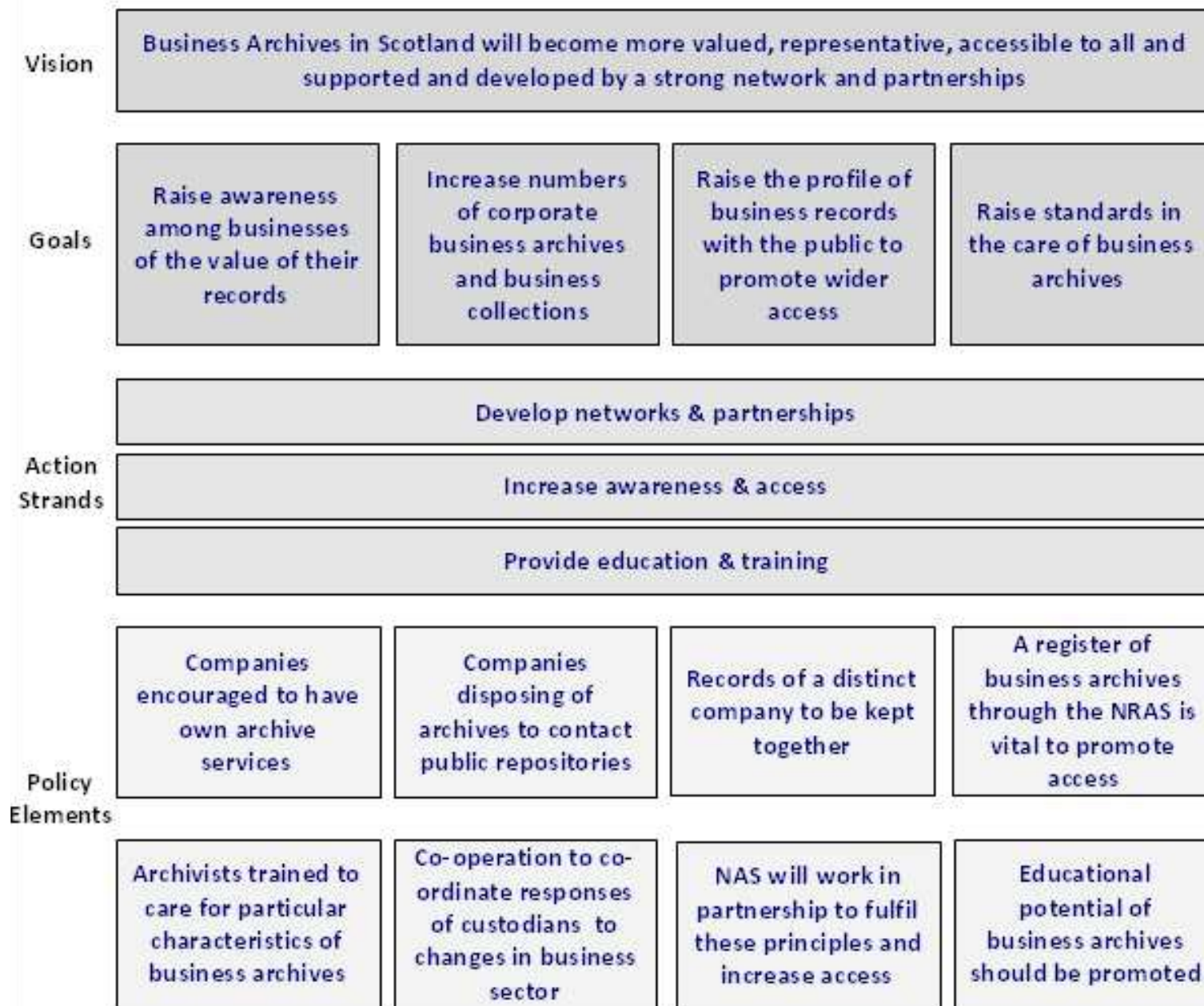
- I. To raise awareness amongst businesses of the value of archives and provide guidance and support.
- II. To increase the number of collections publicly accessible.
- III. To raise the profile of business archives with the public.
- IV. To raise standards in their care.

It also included information about:

- **Scope and Background** and relationship to English and Welsh strategy
- **Benefits** to business and society
- **Status Review** of business archives sector in Scotland
- **Risks** of non-implementation
- **Implementation** plans and action strands
- **Actions** (5 year plan)



# Strategy Structure



# Implementation

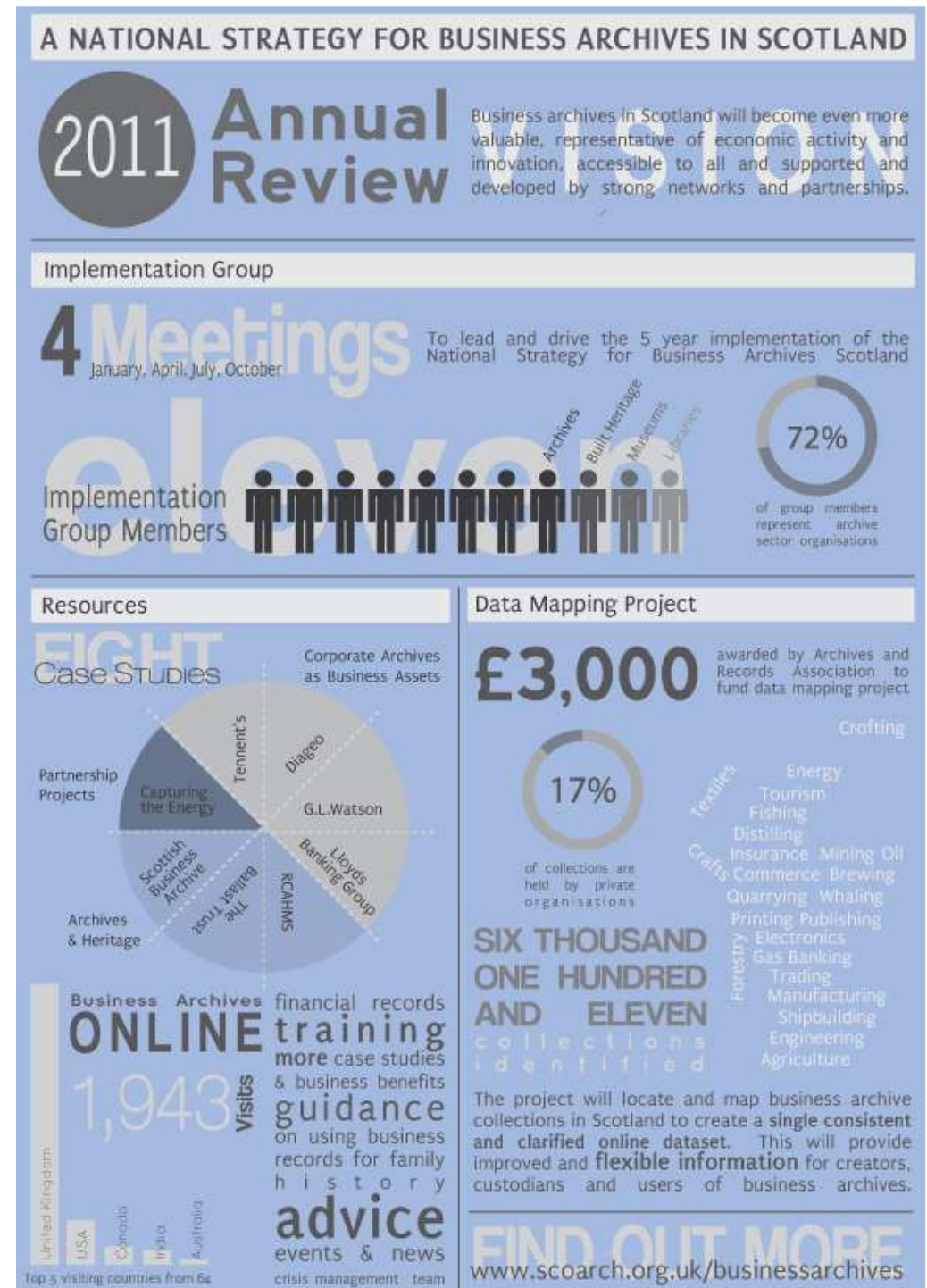
- Implementation group currently has 10 members representing key stakeholder organisations
- It meets 4 times a year
- Annual action plans drive the strategy forward and encourage us to review our progress
- Meeting papers are published regularly

[http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/projects/business\\_archives/implementation](http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/projects/business_archives/implementation)

# Year 1 Implementation

2011 was the first full year of implementation:

- Secured £3,000 of funding from the Archives & Records Association for a data mapping project
- Created more case studies to inspire businesses and archives to make the most of their collections
- Over 1500 visits to our blog





# Successful Implementation

CRUCIAL to have tangible outputs/resources from your strategy:

## Case studies

- Published 10 case studies promoting business archives as assets
- Link to other case studies and examples

## Guidance

- Leaflet on using business archives for family history research

## Events

- training day on financial records for archivists
- a 'meet the archivists' day for Phd students
- training day on technical records for archivists
- promoting archive awareness with a 'working archive' theme in 2013

# Capturing the Energy – *future proofing industry*

Aerial view of MCP-01 | 1984



©Iain Cameron/ University of Aberdeen

Business Archives  
Business Assets

A National Strategy for  
Business Archives in Scotland

“The North Sea oil and gas industry represents one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of the UK. The technical achievements of the past 30 years are awesome and deserve to be remembered, celebrated and learned from.”

*Brian Wilson*  
former energy minister and CtE patron



[www.capturing-the-energy.org.uk](http://www.capturing-the-energy.org.uk)

Find out how the Capturing the Energy project has promoted and preserved the history of the offshore UK oil and gas industry.

Read case studies demonstrating how to make the most of business archives at: [www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives](http://www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives)

# Tennents - *celebrating and marketing heritage*

Business Archives | A National Strategy for  
Business Assets | Business Archives in Scotland

“ The Tennent’s archive is one of our key assets and hosts a wealth of facts, figures and memorabilia spanning hundreds of years of the brewery’s history ... such records are of paramount importance to preserving the brand’s rich and colourful history. ”

*Mike Lees*  
*MD of Tennent’s Lager*



[www.tennents.com](http://www.tennents.com)

Find out more about how Tennent’s used its brand heritage to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Tennents Lager in 2010.

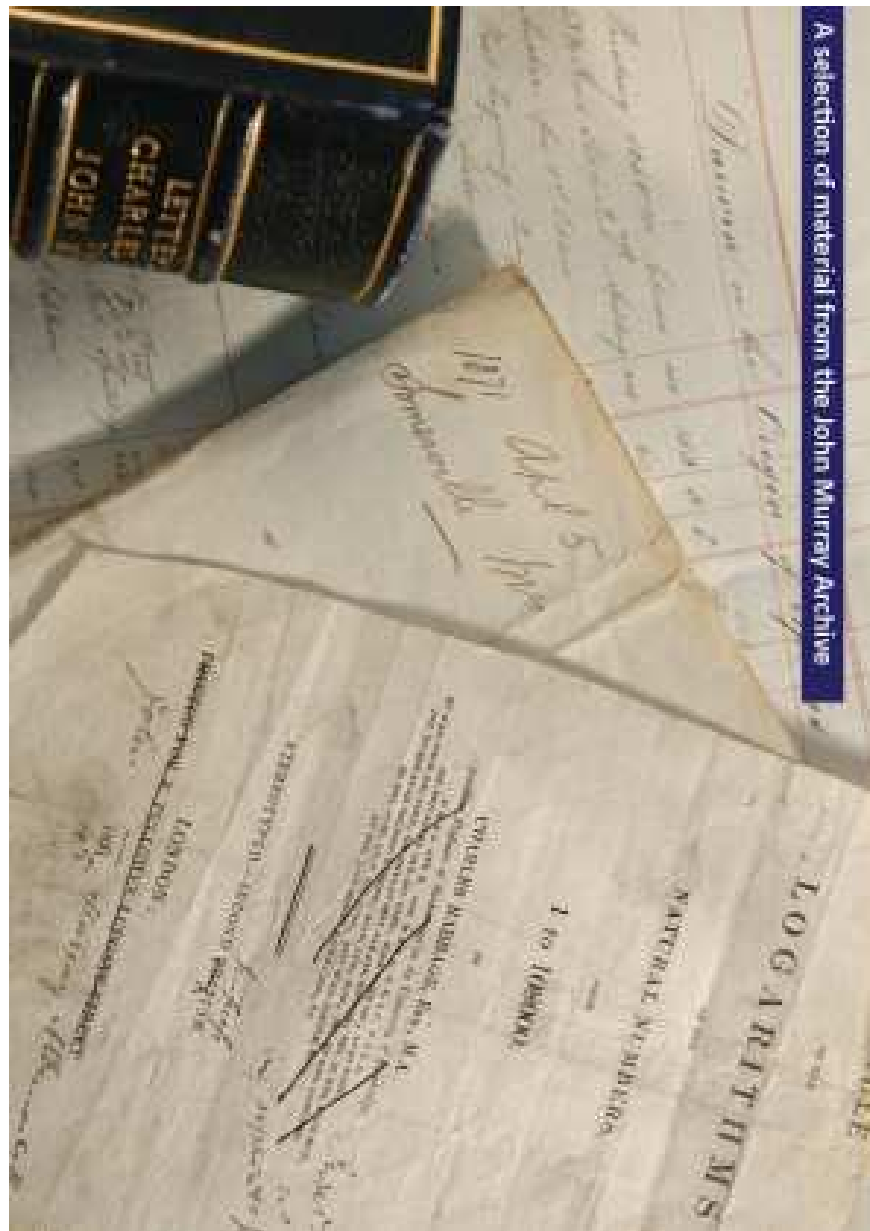
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© Tennent’s



Tennent’s Advertisement | 2010

# John Murray Archive – *celebrating the history of the book*



Business Archives  
Business Assets

A National Strategy for  
Business Archives in Scotland

“ The National Library of Scotland have it spot-on when they describe the John Murray Archive as containing the ideas that shaped the world. ”

*Ian Rankin*



<http://digital.nls.uk/jma>

To discover more about the remarkable publishing history of John Murray visit <http://digital.nls.uk/jma/>

Read case studies demonstrating how to make the most of business archives at: [www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives](http://www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives)

# UNESCO - *Business archives of national importance*

Illustrated frontispiece of the first minute book of the court of directors of the Company of Scotland | 1696



Business Archives  
Business Assets

A National Strategy for  
Business Archives in Scotland

“A unique resource for understanding this historic and controversial episode - vital to scholars but also of fundamental value more generally to the history and heritage of the Scottish nation.”

*Professor T M Devine,  
University of Edinburgh, on the archives  
of the Company of Scotland Trading to  
Africa & the Indies*



[www.rbs.com](http://www.rbs.com)



[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

Find out how business archives can tell  
stories of huge national importance.

Read case studies demonstrating how to make the most of  
business archives at: [www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives](http://www.scoarch.org.uk/businessarchives)



# Publicity

Talk about your strategy during its development

NSBAS has a blog and web pages on SCA site  
([www.scottisharchives.co.uk](http://www.scottisharchives.co.uk))

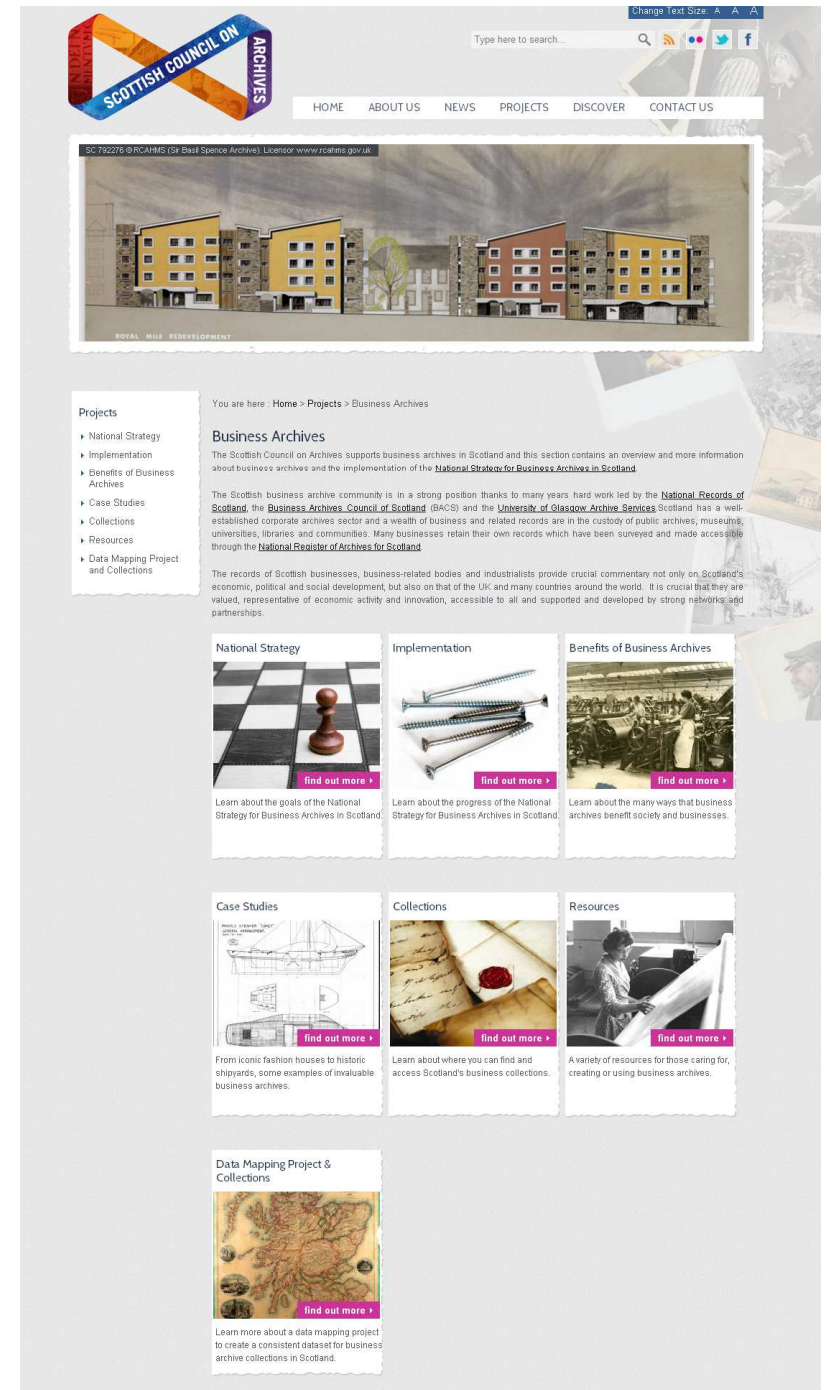
- Blog was started in June 2009 to document the development of the strategy
- It had 100% increase in visitors from 2010 to 2011
- It's now used to share business archive news and strategy updates and events/resources



Blog <http://businessarchivesscotland.blogspot.co.uk>

# Recommendations

- Identify your stakeholders
- Promote and publicise your strategy
- Engage with your user community
- Provide useful and tangible resources
- Look for partnerships





A photograph of a film set. A red carpet runs down the center of the frame. On the left, there is a large, complex scaffolding structure. On the right, there are several large, dark-colored storage containers or equipment racks. In the background, a sign with the words "FILM CHALLENGER" is visible. The overall scene is dimly lit, with some light coming from the background.

Thanks

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