

# STICK

*Cultural Heritage Policy and its  
impact on industrial and  
transport heritage*

Conference Review

Autumn 2012



# STICK

The Scottish Transport and Industry Collections and Knowledge network aims to promote care and enjoyment of these collections. Through research, stewardship and advocacy, STICK encourages wider engagement with technological and industrial history collections across Scotland.

Transport and industry collections provide a vital insight into Scotland's social and economic history. This tangible heritage links us to the millions whose lives have been shaped by technological improvement over the past three centuries. Our industrial and transport collection represent the success of Scottish innovation in the field and have left an incredible legacy for the nation in the movement of its peoples, the shape of the landscape and Scotland's reputation worldwide.

Find out more about STICK, how to get involved and access our resources at [www.stickssn.org](http://www.stickssn.org) and follow us on twitter for latest news  @stickssn

## Introduction

The 5th Annual STICK conference took the form of a discussion thinktank and was held on Saturday 20th October 2013 at Riverside Museum, Glasgow.

The theme was Cultural Heritage Policy and its impact on industrial and transport heritage. This round table discussion covered heritage policy and its impact on the industrial and transport historic environment, museums, archives and survey with special reference to Scotland. The event was chaired by Professor John Hume OBE. The speakers included:

- Sir Neil Cossons (leading authority on the industrial heritage and currently Pro-Provost and Chairman of the Council of the Royal College of Art)
- Dr Robin Chesters (Director, Almond Valley Heritage/Industrial Museums Scotland)
- Andrew Fleming (Director of Policy and Legislation, Historic Scotland)
- Kiara King (Implementation Group, National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland)

This publication provides a review of the day's discussion, the speakers main points with links to relevant online resources, transcriptions of some talks and the slides from the day.

# Opening Remarks

Professor John Hume

“ the past is the same country which we traverse in different ways ”

## Impact of our collections

The collection of industrial and business archives, photographs, artefacts and the preservation and surveying of buildings allows us to try and paint a picture or series of pictures about the past. Not for its own sake but because they represent products of human ingenuity and they were all products which affected the lives of many, many people.

These objects whether they be archives or photographs or machines or buildings are capable of so many different levels of use and interpretation.

Our subject area is concerned with items which relate to the broadest possible of human experiences. In terms of the products and impact of what went on in factories and workshops but also the communities that developed in places of work and around places of work and their experiences.

## Industrial heritage in Scotland

The pattern of the preservation of industrial heritage in Scotland has been remarkable clear and effective. Now we need to look at what can we do to fill gaps and what we can do in relation to information sharing.

## Why?

We need to concentrate on why we want to do these things? What are they for and what do they mean to us and our contemporaries? Consider in particular what we want to hand onto the next generations.

## Potential outcomes

- A set of guiding principles.
- An online portal related to family history (where people can find out where their ancestors worked and what it was like to work in that place)
- Using objects of all kinds to deliver a whole series of outcomes.

# Heritage Policy

## Sir Neil Cossons

“ Need to have a forum which can talk with real authority not just about historical value but about the practical issues of funding and management and make comparative studies. STICK might be this forum. ”



### Scotland's industrial heritage

Scotland is a haven of enlightenment when it comes to attitudes towards and progress in preservation of the transport and industrial heritage. There seems to be a very vital and vivid sense that the industrial revolution - the Scottish industrial revolution - is a part of national identity and that this is being expressed with increasing fervour and enthusiasm.

### Our collections

Our material relates to the broadest possible range of human experiences. It includes the built heritage, objects and artefacts and behind this a vast bibliographical and archival record. Yet at the same time it is hardly known, not widely recognised and invisible to the public.

### Our sector

The transport and industrial preservation and museum sector might on the face of it appear relatively small. But, if we add up the numbers of people active in it in terms of professional and employed curatorial staff in museums, and those working on independent preservation projects, and the even larger number behind them who work as volunteers, there are actually quite a lot of people involved. These people have the potential – as yet unrealised – to be a strong body of knowledge and opinion and a foundation for promoting the idea and in particular for advocacy.

- What impact does transport and industrial heritage have on policy?
- Industrial revolution is a part of national identity.
- Yet our collections are invisible in many cases
- Voluntary sector's work needs to be recognised and valued.
- A campaigning form of advocacy is essential.
- Share our best practice and knowledge.

“ advocacy it seems to me is one of the crucial requirements to get what is the most dramatic of stories, the most vivid of experiences and of opportunities to get some idea of what happened during these crucially transformative years, this great inflection in the long arc of history. ”

## Advocacy

There is still the need for advocacy, a forum to promote a cause. STICK might be this forum, the glue that holds the arguments together but also a body that can express in a coherent form the value of this stuff and be a powerful advocate on behalf of those projects that need some form of authoritative support from people who know what they are talking about and can articulate the fundamental importance of this stuff in a wider context than a group of enthusiasts or the local community, at a national and indeed international level.

## Voluntary sector

Many sites in the voluntary sector are run to high professional standards and offer vivid opportunities for the public to understand them. In the voluntary sector the innovative approaches to management and funding afford astonishing value for money. When you come to cultural heritage policy and its impact on industrial and transport history the voluntary sector needs to be recognised, valued as a national asset and then backed by forthright policies.

## Learn from our own past

Some of the issues that we are facing today were highlighted by people working in this field fifty and more years ago. Can we learn from those founding principles and see if some might still be relevant and guide how we proceed over the next few years.

## Learn from each other

There is a lot of good readily available information setting out sound principles. We can address our isolation, learn from one another and create a forum which can talk with real authority not just about historical value but about the practical issues of funding and management and offer the benefit and experience of comparative studies.

# Working Together

## Dr Robin Chesters

### Past

An informal, un-constituted grouping of industrial museums - the hunter-gatherers of the sector! Sharing a common purpose and passion for our subject.

AIIMHSS\* was a forum to provide a voice, exchange knowledge, advocate for funding, recognition and survival...

### Present

IMS\* established to promote sustainability.  
Key achievements:

- Volunteer coordinator intern
- Joint reporting
- Shared collections management software
- IMS Coordinator

Great variations and diversity in objectives, governance, sources of income, and the scale of challenges facing IMS organisations.

### Future

How to work together to ensure survival of collections, the specialist knowledge and skills and maintain public interest in defunct industries and past ways of life?

#### Vision:

A coordinated network of vigorous community based industrial museums operating as effective businesses.

Find out more at: [www.industrialmuseumsscotland.co.uk](http://www.industrialmuseumsscotland.co.uk)



\*Association of Independent Industrial Museums and Heritage Sites in Scotland

\*Industrial Museums Scotland

# Business Archives

## Kiara King

The vision of the National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland:  
*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 vision requires a dynamic and active implementation of the strategy which has been achieved through the creation of annual action plans. These annual plans have been key to monitoring our progress. Recommendations for STICK to consider when implementing a heritage strategy:

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

Find out more at: [www.scottisharchives.org.uk/businessarchives](http://www.scottisharchives.org.uk/businessarchives)



Year 2 Review

# Policy Review

## Andrew Fleming

“ Scottish ministers are well aware of the rich legacy that we have - the diversity, the richness in architecture, archaeology and industrial heritage and the need to treasure and look after that but they also recognise the power that it carries in its ability to education and to enhance our lives. ”

### Opportunities:

- Politicians are deeply connected to our heritage.
- Fantastic historic assets
- Many skilled and highly enthusiastic people.
- International reputation for our contribution to heritage.
- Technology provides opportunities to tell the story in connected and accessible ways to different generations and in different ways.

### Challenges:

- Resources are increasingly scarce and there is a need to justify what we spend on the historic environment.
- Public expectations.
- Wide remit as the historic environment is inclusive and broad and achieves much.
- It is broad sector and needs a strategy to guide and unite us.

### Historic Scotland and Industrial Heritage

Historic Scotland has a dedicated Industrial Heritage team and are developing an industrial heritage strategy.

They are keen that the vision for the Historic Environment is inclusive of all types of heritage and peoples interests.

Historic Scotland are actively engaging in an open way and welcome input.

Find out more at: [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)



# Discussion

**“** We all have to promote, defend our industrial heritage in a language that other people will understand and the commonality about what we are trying to achieve. **”**

## Vision

We need a bold vision, what should it be and who will take it forward?

## Issues

Passive cosumption today creates a general lack of respect for materials and how the are manufactured.

We must promote and defend industrial heritage in a language that other people will understand and articulate the commonality about this material which 'relates to the broadest possible range of human experiences'.

How to assess and identify the gaps in those museum collections which illustrating Scotland's industrial development? How to record those live industries now?

## Actions

- We need to record the people who articulate what the value of the material is.
- We need to persuade the non-believers, not preach to the converted.
- We need to list and audit to understand the totality of the material evidence of the industrial past.



*Heritage bodies  
working with industry*

*an "Inventive Scotland" campaign  
from Government that encompassing  
engineering and manufacturing*

*making those international  
links and telling the global  
story of industrialisation*

*Capturing the enthusiasm  
of all involved*

*"If I had a Hammer" – hands on skills  
development for schools, practical skills*