

To David Stewart MSP
M1.05
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH12 5TZ

From John A Lawson
Curator of Archaeology
Date 10th March 2011

Your
ref
Our BuidRepBill
ref

Dear Sir,

Buildings Repair (Scotland) Consultation

Further to your consultation on this draft Bill, I would like to make the following comments concerning in my personal capacity as regional archaeologist for the City of Edinburgh Council.

Q1- I believe that there is a gap in the current legislation that offers no protection for unlisted historic buildings (often 18th-19th century industrial or agricultural origins) occurring out with conservation areas. As such significant remedial works and or demolition can see their demolition without any archaeological recording. At present there is often no or little consultation with Local Authority Archaeologists to assess impact of demolition/ significant repair works to historic buildings and this needs to be addressed.

Q2 It is recognised that not all important historic buildings are listed and that these structures provide an important archaeological resource in Scotland. Therefore in line with the tenets of SHEP, Local Authority Archaeologists should be contacted to assess any implications in terms of preservation/ mitigation to record if needed as part of emergency repair works/demolitions thereby bringing this area in line with current Planning procedures as covered by Scottish Planning Policy (SPP).

Q3-5 these proposals would clarify the important role of archaeology in recording and protecting our built heritage and ability of LA to claim back costs of employing archaeological companies to record structures if required in the case of emergency demolitions e.g. Cowgate Fire Edinburgh 2002.

Q9 New proposals are welcomed in principal as they could provide a simplified process which would avoid confusion and set out the roles and responsibilities of all concerned.

JOHN A LAWSON
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I would be glad to contribute to any further consultation on this topic.

Yours sincerely

John A Lawson
Curator of Archaeology