

# 20 Years of Scotland's Historic City Management



## Aberdeen City Heritage Trust

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## Dundee Historic Environment Trust

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**Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust**  
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Scottish Charity No. SCO45925



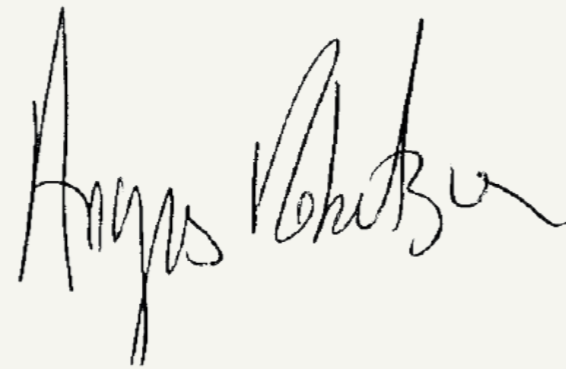
## MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

The historic environment is all around us. We can see it in the places we live, study, work, and play. Our built heritage therefore has a significant role to play in communicating climate change, supporting behavioural change and improving the wellbeing of communities across Scotland.

In order for Scotland to become a net zero nation, our historic environment should be seen as part of the climate change solution. We must sustain and enhance the unique historic environment of Scotland which shapes us and strengthens our national identity.

I am pleased that this publication recognises the importance of Scotland's seven City Heritage Trusts and highlights the essential work each of them continues to deliver, protecting and supporting heritage in their cities. By enabling the repair and maintenance of local built heritage, and fostering community engagement and participation, they are proving the vital contribution that the historic environment makes to the wellbeing of Scotland's people, as well as our journey to net zero.

Scotland is a recognised global leader in the pioneering action to combat the effects of climate change, and this publication demonstrates the breadth and magnitude of work being undertaken to safeguard our cultural identity and create a more resilient and sustainable heritage sector. I am confident that the City Heritage Trusts will continue to empower communities to take an active role in protecting their local heritage assets, and ensure heritage remains a central component of our lives today and in the future.



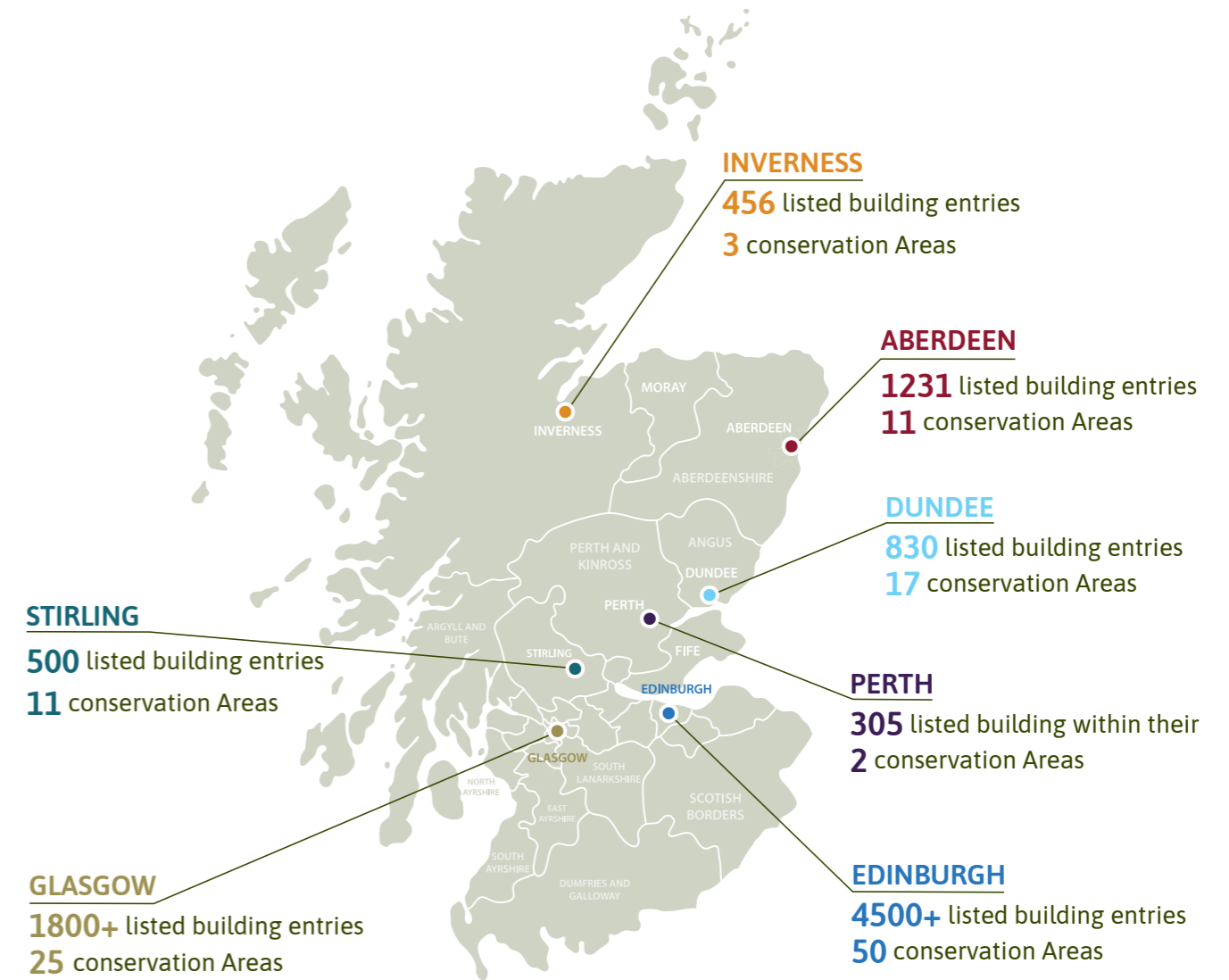
**Angus Robertson MSP**  
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

## ABOUT THE CITY HERITAGE TRUSTS

The City Heritage Trusts (CHTs) were established in 2004 by Historic Scotland (now Historic Environment Scotland) in partnership with local authorities in Stirling, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Inverness. The existing Edinburgh World Heritage Trust had been recommended as the model for new trusts for each of the other Scottish cities in the Scottish Government's Cities Review, in 2000. Glasgow followed in 2007 and the Perth City Heritage Fund (PCHF) in 2012 following the restoration of city status. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust was set up in 1988 focused on the whole county and hosts the PCHF.

All are unique and independent of each other but linked with the common goal of protecting and enhancing Scotland's heritage. All Trusts have charitable status and focus on dispersing grants, education and outreach. They are an invaluable source of local information and advice for owners of traditional buildings and help to inspire young people to take up a career in heritage.

Over their 20-year span, they have also helped to train and bring on many early career professionals who have then had successful careers within the historic environment.





## ABERDEEN CITY HERITAGE TRUST

Aberdeen City Heritage Trust was formally launched by Frank McAveety MSP in July 2004 at Aberdeen Townhouse and incorporated on 12 August 2004.

A Scottish Charity 036391 and Limited Company SC 271933, it was set up following collaboration between Historic Scotland and Aberdeen City Council. It continues to benefit from a close working relationship with both Historic Environment Scotland and the City. The Trust and its Project Officer are hosted by Aberdeen City Council which provides accommodation and other services to the Trust. The Trust has further benefitted from collaborations with Robert Gordon University and the University of Aberdeen, which have provided the Trust with volunteers and student placements.

The Trust's principal financial activity since 2005 has been providing Building Repair Grants and, more recently, Community Heritage Grants in support of the repair and interpretation of the historic built environment. Trust funding focus has complemented delivery of Aberdeen City Centre and Beach Masterplan.

Investment has supported skills, jobs, individuals and businesses and ensured that properties are better understood, in better condition and function more efficiently. Over 265 buildings across Aberdeen have been repaired to a conservation standard equating to approaching 500 individual owners supported.

Additionally, the Trust was instrumental in exploring and submitting successful funding bids leading to the £2.8M Green Townscape Heritage Initiative 2007-13 and more recently the £2.4M Union Street Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme of 2017-2024 in collaboration with Aberdeen City Council, which have each delivered further substantial property improvements in Aberdeen City Centre.

The Trust has supported Doors Open Day in Aberdeen, held exhibitions and lectures, provided CPD content for professionals, delivered contractor training, developed children's curriculum materials and organised walking tours allowing it to engage with a diverse audience, from primary school to care home.



**22**

ABERDEEN HERITAGE LECTURES DELIVERED  
(640 ATTENDEES)



**£3 million**

GRANT FUNDING

**£7 million**

GRANT ELIGIBLE WORKS



**117**

WINDOW REPAIR PROJECTS

**29**

WINDOW REINSTATEMENT PROJECTS

**97**

ROOF REPAIR PROJECTS



**265**

BUILDINGS SUPPORTED

**257**

IN CONSERVATION AREAS

**6**

COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANTS



**177**

LISTED BUILDINGS SUPPORTED

4 CATEGORY A  
122 CATEGORY B  
51 CATEGORY C



**423**

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS SUPPORTED

37 DETACHED  
17 SEMI-DETACHED  
95 TERRACED PROPERTIES  
113 TENEMENTS



**67**

COMMERCIAL UNITS







## DUNDEE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Dundee Historic Environment Trust was incorporated on 8 June 2004 following 18 months of preparatory work. The Trustees are local and provide governance with valued experience and relevant skills. DHET's first office was at the emerging Central Waterfront and the Council's conservation officer was seconded to run operations. A formal launch was held on 4 September 2004 by Frank McAveety, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport. Shona Robison MSP enshrined DHET in the records of the Scottish Parliament.

DHET's name was chosen to avoid conflict with another heritage trust. Its logo revives the likening of the historic central plan of Dundee to a human figure.

Initial support included reallocation of Council budgets for façade grants and administering Doors Open Day. Both were progressed by the Trust whilst developing its principal scheme of repair grants for historic buildings, funded

through Historic Environment Scotland. DHET also arranged for Dundee to have a digitised Historic Environment Record and planning archaeology advisor. The grant scheme initially prioritised projects in conservation areas and now focusses on projects that target a range of objectives in the city centre and areas of need (such as Lochee). Over 280 project awards have been made since 2004.

Supported projects included many in partnership with other community-led organisations. Such as Magdalen Green bandstand repairs, roof structure at Maryfield Tram Depot, and encouraging 37 separate owners of Royal Apartments (as illustrated). Other important support was to phases of longer-term projects at Gardyne's Land, Verdant Works high mill, St David's Halls / Blair's Court, the historic dock surrounds of HMS Unicorn and (currently on site) repairs to enable the conversion of derelict jute warehouses in Lochee to social housing.

Other community partnership initiatives included joining with Dundee University and Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland in organising the Dundee Conservation Lectures; with the Tourist agency and later a Rotary Club in producing guided heritage walking trails; also leading walks and providing lectures; partnering with Dundee Civic Trust in a conservation awards scheme, and reviewing their 2003 City Closes project.

During lockdown DHET relocated their city centre office and reopened with improved meeting, drop-in and exhibition facilities. Their traditional skills event for schools was updated in March 2024, supported by Dundee City Council, Dundee & Angus College, Developing the Young Workforce and Historic Environment Scotland, as an annual event.



# 293

PROJECTS ASSESSED

- 80 COMMERCIAL
- 137 RESIDENTIAL
- 43 COMMUNITY/PUBLIC REALM



# 199

BUILDINGS REPAIRED

- 63 WINDOW PROJECTS
- 94 ROOF PROJECTS
- 70 MASONRY PROJECTS



# 5

DOORS OPEN DAYS ORGANISED (257 EVENTS)



# 325

DUNDEE CONSERVATION LECTURES (4500+ ATTENDEES)





## EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE TRUST

Edinburgh is a unique place – steeped in history, boasting iconic topography and stunning historic buildings and public spaces. In 1995, the ‘Old and New Towns of Edinburgh’ were inscribed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Edinburgh World Heritage was established in 1999, to promote and encourage, with its partners, the City Council and Historic Environment Scotland, the conservation, protection and improvement of the historic architectural and physical environment of the World Heritage Site for the benefit of the general public. We achieve this through:

**Conservation of a historic city:** through funding and facilitating conservation work on historic buildings and spaces we ensure that the historic fabric of the city is protected.

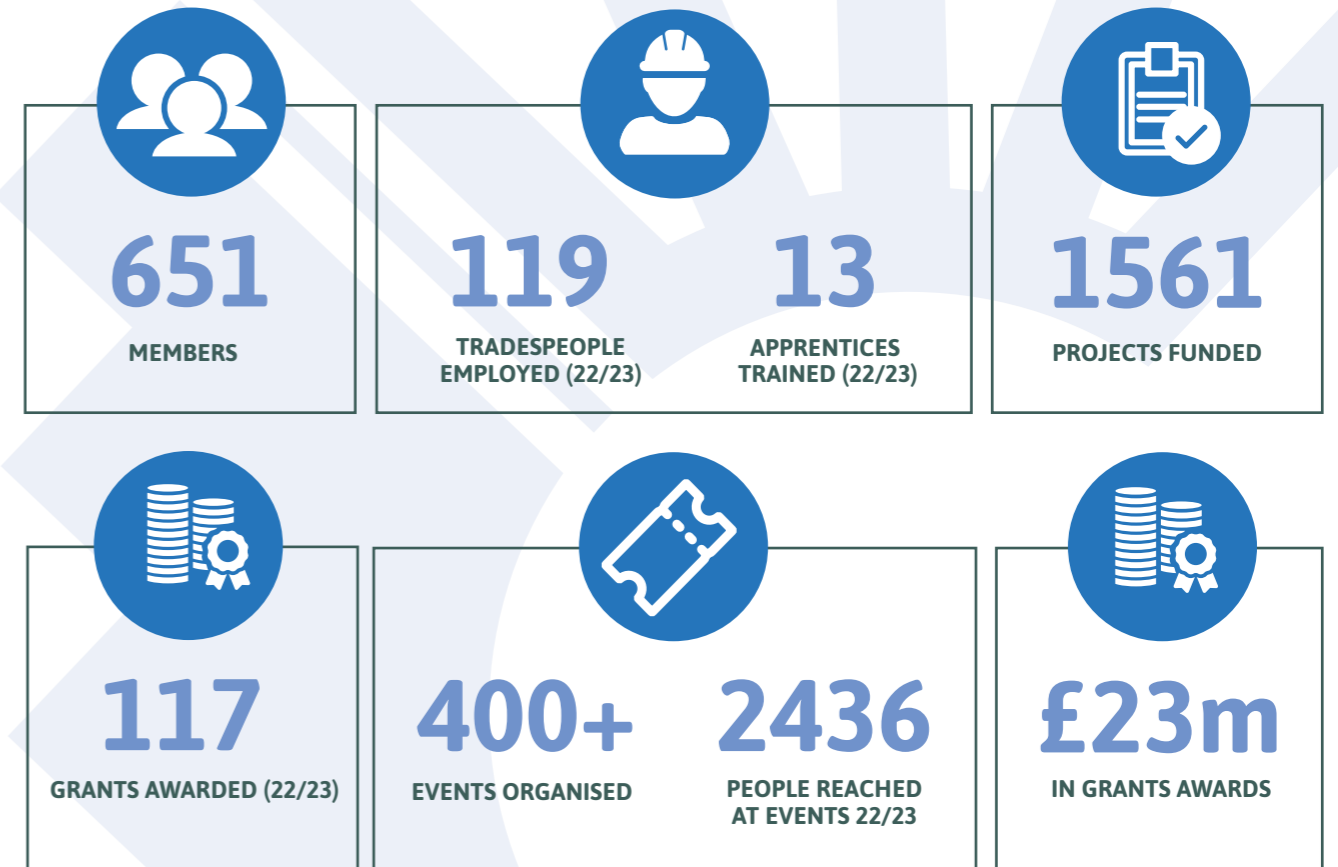
**Historic city management:** provide expert conservation advice, advocacy and strategy, and collaborate with our partners to produce the action-focused World Heritage Site Management Plan.

**Engaging communities:** workshops, talks and tours allow us to connect Edinburgh’s heritage and conservation work to wider audiences.

**Net Zero support:** through our energy efficiency retrofit work and Climate Emergency Grants we work to provide expert advice and create guidelines for those working in Edinburgh’s heritage sector.

Over the past 25 years we have supported:

- The Twelve Closes project in Edinburgh’s Old Town. The project placed communities who live and work in the area at the heart of improvements, transforming the closes through interventions the likes of creative lighting, interpretation and art commissions
- The Five World Heritage Site Graveyards project, which through interpretation and learning initiatives in the World Heritage Site’s graveyards, engages children and young people in the city’s heritage
- The restoration of Dean Village’s Well Court, reproducing the original paint colours and conserving using traditional materials
- The Canongate Housing Development, a listed post-war building designed by Sir Basil Spence, which required a combination of conservation and sustainability expertise





## GLASGOW CITY HERITAGE TRUST

Established in 2007, Glasgow City Heritage Trust champions the city's unique architecture and built heritage. We fund conservation building repair, heritage projects, deliver educational events, and promote the appreciation of Glasgow's historic buildings for the benefit of communities and visitors alike.

### Our work is guided by four core values:

**Passion:** We are passionate about Glasgow's historic built environment. Our hugely popular podcast series, "If Glasgow's Walls Could Talk," brings architectural history to life through community perspectives, igniting shared enthusiasm for our city's rich past.

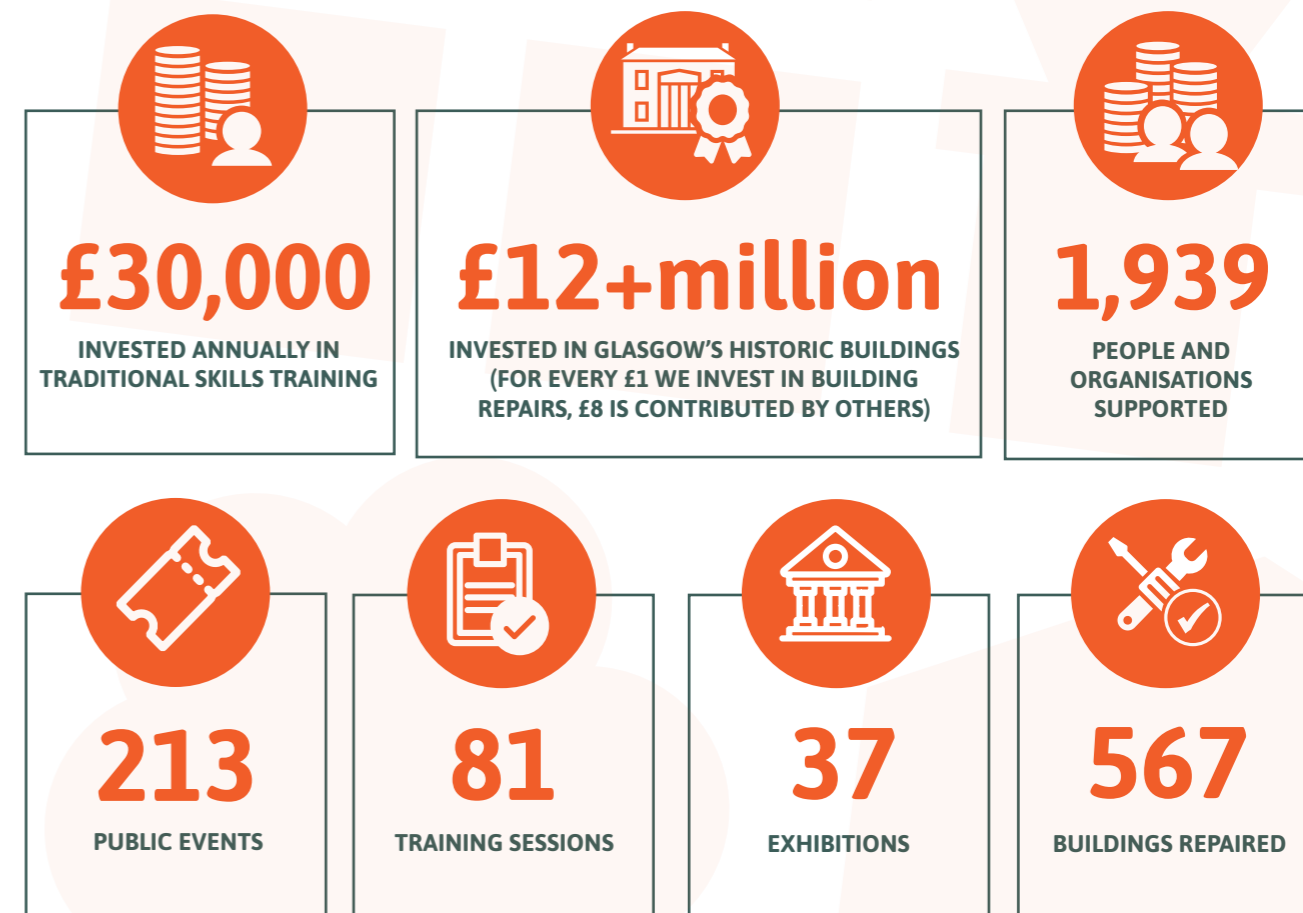
**Collaboration:** We work closely with local communities, architects, and heritage professionals. The restoration of Camphill Gate, a B-Listed building, exemplifies this approach. Working with 38 co-owners, we provided a £300,000 grant for comprehensive repairs, resulting in it being shortlisted for SPAB's inaugural 'Best Loved' building award in 2022.

**Innovation:** We are always looking for new and engaging ways to tell Glasgow's story. Our "Gallus Glasgow" digital resource and animation based on Thomas Sulman's 1864 Bird's Eye View of

Glasgow, achieved over 538,000 social media impressions in its first year and was shortlisted for a Scottish Design Award in 2022.

**Forward-looking:** We aim to create lasting positive impact. Our support for the restoration of landmark buildings in the city like The Willow Tearooms, a Category A-Listed Mackintosh building, The Anchor Line and The Grant Arms demonstrates our commitment to protecting and enhancing Glasgow's architectural legacy for future generations.

From hands-on building restoration to cutting-edge digital engagement, Glasgow City Heritage Trust plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the city's architectural heritage. Our work goes beyond conservation; we actively engage communities to ensure Glasgow's rich history remains accessible and relevant to all, contributing to the city's vitality, sustainability, and social wellbeing. While our city of glamour and grit may give the impression of solidity and permanence, it does require great care and careful conservation if it is to be passed on to future generations. The volume of requests for grant funding we continue to receive every year shows how much there is still to do across Glasgow to conserve, enhance and promote the unique built heritage of our city.





## INVERNESS CITY HERITAGE TRUST

Inverness is the hub of the Scottish Highlands, an area renowned for its spectacular landscape, proud history and vibrant culture. Situated on the banks of the River Ness the city centre provides retail, business, education, residential and entertainment facilities for its residents and the wider Highland Community.

The Inverness City Heritage Trust (ICHT) was incorporated in 2004 as a company limited by guarantee and is recognised as a Scottish Charity (No. SC036461). The Trust's vision is to work to protect, promote and enhance the social, environmental and economic benefits of the historic built environment of Inverness.

Since its inception, the Trust has established a profile within Inverness as a source of advice and funding for historic buildings and the charity's grant-assisted projects have contributed to initiatives to raise awareness of traditional building skills and materials amongst local contractors and property owners. The Trust has recently completed a Strategic Review and is in the process of recruiting a full-time Trust Manager who will join ICHT in 2024.

Our achievements over the past 20 years include;

- The Trust has been a key partner in several strategic projects within Inverness including, the flagship redevelopment of Eden Court, the repair of Dunbar's Hospital, the restoration of the observatory dome of Arkeen Tower and a major programme of streetscape improvements and public artworks in and around the city centre
- Carried out an Options Appraisal of the Midmills site which resulted in the development of the former Inverness Royal Academy building in partnership with Highland Council, WASPS and McCarthy Stone. Completed in 2022.
- The Trust's grant-assisted projects have contributed to initiatives to raise awareness of traditional building skills and materials amongst local contractors and property owners. We have helped to run Building Maintenance Days and produced a Building Maintenance Booklet that has been downloaded nearly 1,000 times. We have run four Traditional Skills Training courses for homeowners and professionals and contractors working within the heritage sector.



# 230

**PROJECTS SUPPORTED**  
**160 RESIDENTIAL**  
**51 COMMERCIAL**  
**19 OTHER BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES**



# £4.3 million

**ACADEMY STREET TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PROJECT DELIVERED**  
 (£1.75 MILLION IN GRANTS FROM NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND, HES AND THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL)



# £3.6 million

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND GRANT FUNDING**



# 8

**BLUE PLAQUES INSTALLED CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF WELL KNOWN FIGURES AND SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS IN THE CITY'S HISTORY**





## PERTH AND KINROSS HERITAGE TRUST

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust deliver the Perth City Heritage Fund (PCHF) on behalf of the Scottish Government through Historic Environment Scotland. PCHF was established in 2012 following Perth regaining its city status.

PCHF provides expert advice, grant aid and educational training and outreach within the boundaries of Perth Central and Kinnoull Conservation Areas.

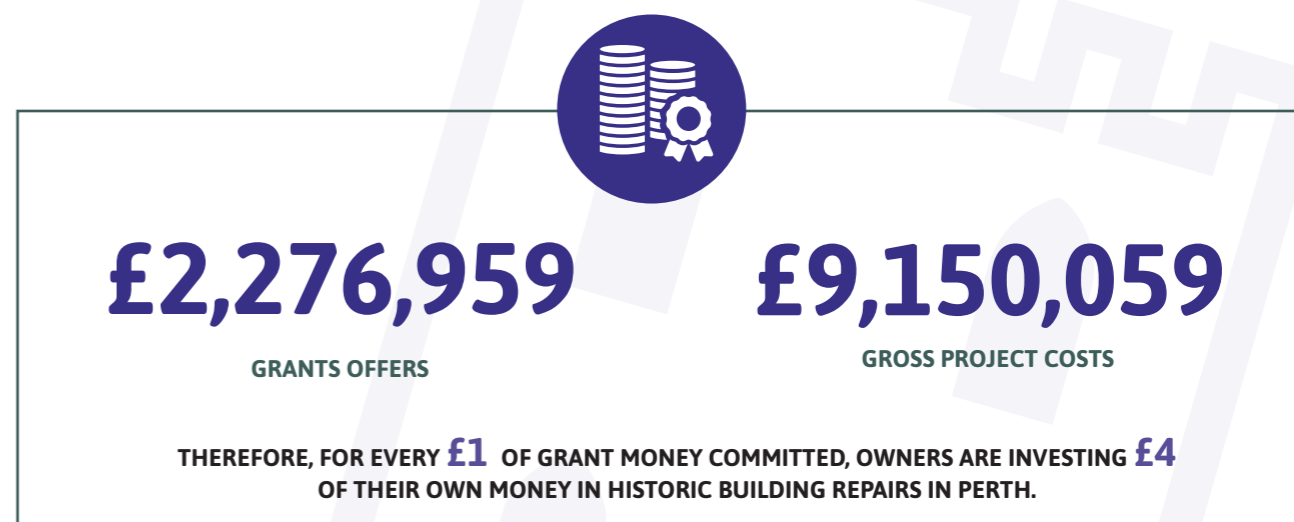
We work in partnership with Perth & Kinross Council, and closely with their Missing Shares Officer, Vacant Property Development Officer, Conservation Officers and Developing the Young Workforce Co-ordinator to enhance and develop projects.

Grants are available for eligible conservation works to historic buildings within these designated areas, targeting the reuse of redundant or underused buildings, shopfront improvements, and tenements with multiple occupations. Often a forgotten building stock when it comes to repairs, but whose location on our high streets creates such an important sense of place and cultural identity.

Our grants also target the public realm areas around our projects, enhancing their setting and addressing often forgotten areas. This financial assistance aims to foster economic regeneration throughout the city centre.

Beyond our grant scheme, we showcase heritage skills and building materials through our education and outreach program. Our traditional building skills roadshow for schools has increased in popularity and we now aim to deliver it annually. We also deliver short traditional skills training courses which follow the roadshow, for those who wish to learn more. For conservation professionals and students, we run an annual online CPD lecture programme bringing informative case studies and subject matters to the length and breadth of Scotland.

This scheme makes a significant contribution to the historic built environment, bridging the conservation deficit to improve its condition and ensuring better future management through the formation of owners' associations and instilling knowledge of skills and materials needed to maintain our historic assets.





## STIRLING CITY HERITAGE TRUST

The Trust was officially formed in December 2004 with a launch event at Argyll's Lodgings in May 2005 with Provost Colin O'Brien and Trust Chairman, Philip Cleghorn. Originally based within Stirling Council offices, the Trust moved to separate offices in 2014. This coincided with the setting up of the Traditional Buildings Health Check (TBHC). A further move was made to the charity hub at the Barracks on Forthside Way in 2019.

SCHT is an independent company limited by guarantee (SC277033) and a registered Scottish Charity (SC037888) funded by Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Council. When set up in 2004, there was a single Trust Manager and now there are seven members of staff. A Board of eleven hard-working volunteer Trustees oversee the Trust at strategic level.

SCHT invests in historic environment projects which contribute to the economic regeneration and resilience of Stirling's city centre and make Stirling City a better place to live, visit and invest.

There is a strong focus on promoting understanding and appreciation of Stirling City's historic built environment together with identifying skills gaps and supporting initiatives to tackle this.

Delivery of repair grants, advice and supporting education through an array of outreach events has been central to the work of SCHAT. The Trust is proud of its partnership working with other groups in the Stirling area to protect Stirling's rich heritage. Over the past 20 years, projects have included everything from a fountain in King's Park to the Stirling War Memorial and major tenements in King Street.

The unique TBHC service has been a tremendous success with 488 members in 10 years and over 319 buildings inspected. Every year this service provides expert advice on how to undertake repairs and this is the core of what the Trust does; supporting people to care for their traditional buildings.



**247**

**BUILDINGS SUPPORTED WITH GRANT FUNDING**  
1 CATEGORY A  
74 CATEGORY B  
89 CATEGORY C



**319**

**TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS INSPECTED**



**287**

**BUILDING REPAIR PROJECTS**



**565**

**TRADITIONAL PROPERTY OWNERS SUPPORTED SINCE 2004**



**£8.2 million**

**TOTAL PROJECT COSTS**

**£2.9 million**  
**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND GRANT FUNDING**

**£3.5 million**

**GRANT FUNDING**

**£500 k**  
**STIRLING COUNCIL FUNDING**

**£4.6 million**  
**OWNER INVESTMENT**



**145**

**PUPILS ATTENDED WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION EVENTS**





## SUMMARY

Over two decades, Scotland's seven City Heritage Trusts have made a significant contribution to the historic environment through distribution of funding for building repairs, outreach and education. They have become an integral part of the Scottish heritage sector, recognised for their local knowledge and expertise and their ability to be creative and innovative, using public funds wisely to deliver on projects which make a difference to the cities where they operate. At their heart, is the care and conservation of buildings in the seven Scottish cities, along with a strong emphasis on education opportunities for both professionals and enthusiastic homeowners as well as for high school pupils.

-  **AWARDED OVER £50 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING**
-  **INSPIRED PUPILS ACROSS SCOTLAND TO CONSIDER A CAREER IN TRADITIONAL SKILLS**
-  **SUPPORTED THE REPAIR OF OVER 2000 TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS**
-  **OFFERED EDUCATION AT HUNDREDS OF PUBLIC EVENTS, MANY LOW COST OR FREE TO ACCESS, INCLUDING DOORS OPEN DAYS AND NATIONAL MAINTENANCE WEEK**
-  **PROVIDED WORK OPPORTUNITIES ON BUILDING REPAIR PROJECTS FOR HUNDREDS OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS INCLUDING STONEMASONS, SLATERS AND JOINERY FIRMS**
-  **REACHED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THROUGH LECTURES, EXHIBITIONS, ADVICE AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**
-  **SUPPORTED MANY COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WITH FUNDING FOR LOCALLY IMPORTANT PROJECTS**
-  **PUBLISHED EXHIBITIONS, BOOKS AND TRAILS TO APPEAL TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND TOURISTS**
-  **INFLUENCED POLICY AND DECISION MAKING THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WORK WITH LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS INCLUDING HES AND THE SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL BUILDING FORUM**
-  **WORKED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO ALSO OFFER FUNDING AND IN-KIND SUPPORT TO SOME TRUSTS**
-  **COLLABORATED WITH A VARIETY OF UNIVERSITIES ON RESEARCH PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS**

### All the Trusts are overseen by Boards of volunteer Trustees.

These hard-working individuals deal with the strategic governance of the CHTs and their valuable contribution is an important part of the success of these organisations.



*"Granite makes a profound contribution to the quality of Aberdeen's built environment. With its track record over the past two decades, Aberdeen City Heritage Trust is well placed to collaborate and contribute towards the continued celebration and care of Aberdeen's unique heritage."*

CRAIG WILSON  
Chair of Aberdeen City Heritage Trust



*"Inverness City Heritage Trust is an independent charity based in Inverness. The Trust's main aim is to take a strategic view of the repair and maintenance needs of the buildings forming the historic core of the city and to co-ordinate a programme of conservation work funded by grant assistance. It also gives advice to building owners, produces publications and helps to organise events and exhibitions for people interested in the history of buildings and architecture in Inverness."*

JEAN RAMSAY SMITH  
Chair of Inverness City Heritage Trust



*"For twenty years, Stirling City Heritage Trust has been at the forefront of developing innovative heritage projects such as the Traditional Buildings Health Check scheme. The city can be proud of the difference SCHT has made over the past two decades and the expertise and knowledge that the Trust has brought to Stirling."*

JIM THOMSON  
Chair of Stirling City Heritage Trust



*"Since city status return in 2012, this scheme has resulted in over £9M of investment into the conservation key historic properties in Perth. It contributes significantly to regeneration of the city centre, bringing social and economic benefits for residents and enhancing the experience of visitors."*

MAGGIE WILKINS  
Chair of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust



*"Together with our World Heritage partners at Edinburgh City Council and Historic Environment Scotland, Edinburgh World Heritage has protected and promoted the city's outstanding heritage for 25 years. We have engaged with community groups, creating space for heritage conservation to sit alongside local development and cutting-edge climate solutions. Each project, event and outreach programme underlines the wide-reaching importance of the UNESCO World Heritage site status to Edinburgh's residents, businesses and visitors alike."*

DOUGLAS BROTHERSTON  
Chair of the Board of Trustees,  
Edinburgh World Heritage



*"Dundee is rich in heritage and protecting and maintaining its historic buildings is essential to the enjoyment of the city for residents, businesses and visitors. DHET is proud to play a part in this objective and to ensure that future generations continue to be able to appreciate these wonderful buildings."*

GORDON MACDOUGALL  
Chair of Dundee Historic  
Environment Trust



*"Glasgow City Heritage Trust has driven the preservation and celebration of the city's invaluable built heritage and associated stories since its inception in 2007. We are proud to work with Glasgow's diverse communities and our rich heritage to promote civic pride, acknowledging the city's complex past, while ensuring that Glasgow's unique historic environment is protected for future generations."*

JOE TRAYNOR  
Chair of Glasgow City Heritage Trust