

Scottish Historic Buildings
National Fire Database
Annual Report 2008 - 09



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COVER: Elphinstone Hall, Old Aberdeen, Aberdeen. Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with Historic Scotland recently hosted a major International conference 'Fire protection of the Built Heritage' in the magnificent Elphinstone Hall in Aberdeen.

1. Introduction

The Minute of Agreement between Historic Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for the development of The Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database (SHBNFD) continues to provide the structure to enable Scotland to remain a world leader in the protection of the built heritage from the devastating effects of fire.

Mike Coull of Grampian Fire and Rescue Service continues to serve in the role of Heritage Co-ordinator for the Scottish Fire Services. This post is considered crucial in not only delivering the key objectives set out in the Minute of Agreement, but also to enable further research developing strategies with the Fire Service that will contribute to the protection of the built heritage.

The current Minute of Agreement was signed in October 2007 and sets out a wider set of outcomes to reflect the fact that the SHBNFD is much more than a database, it is a project setting out objectives driving forward the protection of the built heritage. To meet those objectives it was vital to ensure effective partnership working, through this it has been possible to establish protocols with each of the eight Scottish fire and rescue services for the exchange of information on Category B-listed buildings.

This Annual Summary Report aims to demonstrate that significant progress has been made in many of the outcomes identified within the Minute of Agreement over the past twelve months. In addition to the agreed outcomes, two significant tasks have been undertaken; a major International conference on 'Fire Protection of the Built Heritage' was held at Elphinstone Hall, Aberdeen on 5th May 2009 and a research project involving a series of fire tests on historic doors. Further details of these two initiatives are included within this report.

2. Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database

The SHBNFD was established in 2002 to improve the effectiveness of the Scottish Fire Services' operations at Category A-listed buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency. The gathering and dissemination of information on Category A-listed properties was completed early in 2008. The Annual Summary Report for 2007-08 identified that three key elements must be considered before the Category A-listed properties can be fully completed:

Firstly is the development of procedures for updating the database, although it is not envisaged that the numbers involved would be sizeable. Secondly, whilst undertaking pilot research for a Category B-listed properties project, the researcher identified twenty Category A-listed properties that had not previously been identified in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Finally, there are still some properties in the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service area that need to be visited by fire personnel to verify the information. The Heritage Co-ordinator is working with this service to develop a strategy for the completion of this work.

Whilst some discussion has taken place on the development of procedures for updating the database, agreed procedures still have to be adopted. The properties in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park that had not previously been researched have now been completed.

A strategy for completing the Category A-listed properties within Highlands and Islands has now been agreed between the Heritage Co-ordinator and the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service.

2.1 Development of SHBNFD to B-listed properties

The 2007-08 Annual Summary report identified that a research project to consider the most appropriate methodology to be applied to Category B-listed properties in Scotland had been completed and was discussed with the Fire and Rescue Services at a meeting on 25 March 2008, to ensure that the methodology is applied in a manner that fully supports each service's Integrated Risk Management Planning process.

Whilst there was general agreement with the proposed methodology, the local nature of each Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) requires a degree of flexibility to ensure that this meets the needs of each service.

The Heritage Co-ordinator has met with each service to ensure that the most appropriate methodology is adopted, taking into account historical significance, vulnerability and firefighting special risks with a consistent approach. The agreed methodology can be built in to the priorities identified by each fire and rescue service and need not be an additional burden. Where basic information was required this is easily obtained from Historic Scotland's Listed Buildings database, whilst additional information will be provided through the Historic Buildings Researcher for higher risk premises. This will give scope to complete B-listed properties through the application of a property use, risk-based approach, with any properties where this information is not captured through this process being added in the future.

An overview of how this will be adopted within each area is provided below:

Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service

There are approximately 900 B-listed entries in the Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service area.

Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service are currently undertaking a review and update of their risk information and will be utilising the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Fire Safety Audit and IRMP Data Gathering Form. Central have also identified the priority risks that will be completed first and will look at properties that they are gathering information on and cross-reference this with the spreadsheet of listed buildings. Where there is a B-listed property, additional information on the heritage issues relating to the building will be requested from the Historic Buildings Researcher.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service

Dumfries and Galloway are currently updating their fire safety strategy and the Safety Commander will include a requirement to include the 1800 B-listed entries within the three-year period of the strategy.

Fife Fire and Rescue Service

There are approximately 2,200 B-listed entries in Fife and they consider that the methodology that was agreed in March 2008 can be applied within Fife with B-listed properties being identified as crews visit premises. Any additional information will be obtained from the Historic Buildings Researcher.

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

There are over 3000 B-listed entries in Grampian.

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service will undertake a pilot project where they will randomly select Category B-listed properties for a sampling exercise, and then get one of the inspecting team to undertake an assessment of these properties to see how they score in relation to risk using the GFRS scoring system. Once this is completed there will be a need for further discussion to determine how to proceed with this project.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service

Highlands and Islands developed a risk-based approach for the completion of Category A-listed properties and this methodology will be applied in developing the database into the 2,500 B-listed entries, as resources permit.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service

There are approximately 5,500 B-listed entries in Lothian and Borders (2,700 within the city of Edinburgh and over 2,800 outwith the city).

Lothian and Borders FRS are currently undertaking fire safety audits. When completed forms are forwarded to Service Headquarters, these can be collated and those that are shown to be in B-listed properties forwarded to the Historic Buildings Researcher for additional information.

This pilot project commenced recently with Lothian and Borders and the Historic Buildings Researcher working closely together to ensure this methodology provides the necessary information and meets the requirements of providing operational information to fire crews attending incidents in B-listed properties.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

There are approximately 4,800 B-listed entries in Strathclyde (1,247 within the city of Glasgow and 3,623 outwith the city).

Work is progressing within Strathclyde Fire and Rescue that will inform future strategies for the gathering of risk information. Communities and Local Government (CLG) are currently progressing research on understanding risk. Once this is completed then it will be possible to develop a risk rating for properties throughout Strathclyde. This will determine the priorities for information gathering, with a tiered approach being adopted that will link the amount of information gathered, and consequently available to crews attending incidents, to the risk rating of the property.

A corporate gazetteer is being developed that will feed a new Vehicle Mounted Data System (VMDS). In the future, information will be linked through the National Gazetteer for Scotland. The National Gazetteer will provide a platform that will ensure common address details on properties in Scotland, available to all Scottish organisations.

The projected timeline for the developments within Strathclyde are:

Sept/Oct – CLG report on understanding risk and the roll-out of the new VMDS.

Autumn – Strathclyde Fire and Rescue will be looking at the interface with key partners, including Historic Scotland.

December 2010 – Development of a premises database for Strathclyde.

Tayside Fire and Rescue

There are approximately 3,100 B-listed entries in the Tayside Fire and Rescue area and they consider that the methodology that was agreed in March 2008 can be applied within Tayside with B-listed properties being identified as crews visit premises. Any additional information will be obtained from the Historic Buildings Researcher.

3. Reporting of Incidents

One of the aims of the project was to facilitate the improved reporting and gathering of statistics on fires in historic buildings. In order to achieve this a project mandate was produced to ‘develop and implement reporting procedures with the Scottish Fire Services for incidents within listed buildings.’

An interim reporting procedure has been established which has enabled, for the first time, the scale of fire incidents in heritage properties in Scotland to be identified. During the past year additional Fire and Rescue Services have been able to report, ensuring more accurate data is available on the scale of loss. The following table highlights the extent of reportable fires in listed properties in Scotland for the period 1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009:

Service	A-listed	B-listed	C(S)-listed	Total	Notes
Central	4	12	1	17	To end of March
D&G	2	8	2	12	To end of March
Fife	2	8	9	19	To end of March
Grampian	5	43	12	60	To end of March
H&I	2	11	6	19	To end of March
L&B	39	139	71	249	To end of March
Strathclyde					Currently unable to produce data due to on-going development of corporate gazetteer, see section 2 above
Tayside	8	23	11	42	To end of March
	62	244	112	418	

Table 1 – Reporting of Incidents in Listed Buildings 2008-09

An analysis of the causes of fires for all categories of listed buildings, provides the following details:

Cooking	120
Electrical appliances / Installation	119
Wilful	71
Smoking materials	36
Heating appliance	31
External source	12
Blow Torch/Hot work	10
Unknown/Undetermined	8
Candles	7
Chemical Reaction	4

Communities and Local Government are currently implementing an electronic Incident Reporting System for the collection of Incident Data from Local Authority fire and rescue services. This system will enable greater use of the statistics in identifying the scale of loss, identifying the main contributory factors to fires in historic buildings and provide a platform for identifying future research projects. The Heritage Co-ordinator will continue to work with the CLG through the Fire and Rescue Statistics Users Group to establish protocols for the collation of this information.

Seven of Scotland's fire and rescue services have either implemented or are in the process of implementing the Incident Reporting System and this will ensure accurate statistics relating to fires in historic buildings are available to meet one of the long term aims of the project; to facilitate the improved reporting and gathering of statistics on fires in historic buildings.

3.1 Case Studies – Incidents in A-listed Properties

Since its inception in 2002, the primary objective of the SHBNFD has been to improve the effectiveness of the Scottish Fire services' operations at Scottish Category A-listed historic buildings in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Whilst much research has been completed and guidance issued, the figures in Table 1 demonstrate that fire remains a major threat to the built heritage. The following case studies provide brief descriptions of fires that have occurred in Category A-listed buildings in the past year, and demonstrate that through information provided via the SHBNFD operational plans are developed that reduce the potential loss in the unfortunate event of a fire occurring.

Leslie House, Fife



On Thursday the 5th of February 2009, Fife Fire and Rescue Service attended its largest building fire for many years. At the height of the fire twelve pumping appliances, one Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) and the Command Support Unit were in operation. Fife Police, Fife Council Emergency Planning Unit, Fleet Services and the Scottish Ambulance Service all gave assistance as required.

The incident involved a large Category A-listed stately home which was under renovation. Crews were first alerted at 1905 hrs and the first attending Incident Commander immediately increased the resources to six pumping appliances as the 4th floor and roof space were well alight. It was quickly established that there were no persons involved and a defensive (external) fire fighting approach was adopted.

All efforts were put to establishing water supplies to feed the ALP and ground monitors. This continued throughout the night and following day.

Due to the building being under renovation the fire was able to spread quickly as many doors, floors and walls were missing. Operational intelligence, including information provided through the SHBNFD, ensured crews had access to adequate water supplies enabling parts of the building to be saved.

Fire in Kelburn Castle, Ayrshire

At approximately 0140 on Monday 16 February 2009, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue's Operations Support Centre received a call to a fire in Kelburn Castle at Fairlie in Ayrshire.

Fire crews from Largs and Ardrossan community fire stations were quickly mobilised to the scene. Upon arrival the incident commander committed firefighters who wore breathing apparatus and used a hosereel jet and a main jet to tackle the fire. Additional resources were ordered to the incident due to the potential of rapid fire spread.

The fire was in a room on the top floor of a three-storey section of the Category A-listed castle which dates from the 13th Century. The fire had broken through the ceiling and was spreading to the roof space.

Information on Kelburn Castle had been gathered through the SHBNFD and this information was available to attending crews through the Vehicle Mounted Data System. The fire was contained and prevented from spreading any further due to the prompt actions and hard work of the first attending crews. Salvage work was quickly undertaken to remove valuable possessions to a safe location and covers placed over items that could not be moved.

Raasay House, Isle of Raasay, Skye

About 0115 on the morning of Sunday 18th January 2009, Highlands and Islands Fire & Rescue Service were advised of a fire at Raasay House Outdoor Centre, on the Isle of Raasay, Skye, discovered by a neighbour.

Fire crews attended from Raasay, Kyle of Lochalsh, Broadford and Portree and tackled the blaze over the course of several hours, with the crews from the Skye mainland being ferried to Raasay by the local lifeboat crew.

The building, which was extensively damaged by the fire, was unoccupied and extensive renovations were nearing completion.

Raasay House is a Category A-listed building therefore information on the building had been made available through the SHBNFD.

4. Communication Between Project Partners

In a project involving three different public bodies, it is imperative to maintain good communication networks. Ongoing liaison between the partners secures effective communication and ensures that the project objectives are delivered. This section aims to demonstrate how effective communications links have been developed between the partners whilst highlighting work that is being undertaken by each partner to further enhance partnership working and support the objectives of the SHBNFD project:

4.1 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)

The RCAHMS continue to accommodate the Historic Buildings Researcher, Sharon Haire, and allow unrestricted access to their collections. The Researcher is overseen by the Survey and Recording Group. The Heritage Co-ordinator, the Researcher and Clare Sorensen timetable quarterly update meetings and the Researcher also provides short written quarterly reports to Neil Gregory, Head of Architecture, Industry and Maritime.

Whilst researching Category A-listed properties, the Researcher kept a spreadsheet detailing the degree of collection coverage for individual properties. This enabled the RCAHMS to identify gaps in their collections and effectively prioritise future survey and recording work. This will continue for those Category B-listed properties for which the fire Services request additional information. The format for the presentation of this information will be subject to further discussion between the Researcher and RCAHMS.

Through various outreach and education activities, the project and its various partners continue to be promoted. For example, the RCAHMS introductory leaflet was distributed at bi-annual presentations at the Scottish Fire Services College and was included in the delegates pack at the International conference, Fire Protection of the Built Heritage, hosted by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service in May 2009.

In conjunction with the RCAHMS Survey, Photography and Graphics team illustrative boards detailing the project were produced for display in the RCAHMS reception area.

4.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Services

The Heritage Co-ordinator for the Scottish Fire Services has established links with each Fire and Rescue Service, with each service continuing to provide a liaison officer who is the first point of contact for the Co-ordinator. During the year some restructuring within the fire services has again meant some liaison officers have changed role and an updated list of liaison officers is provided in Appendix A.

During the year, the Heritage Co-ordinator has continued to hold regular meetings with the liaison officers to consider how the fire and rescue services can deliver on the outcomes detailed within the agreement.

Elsewhere in this report is evidence that each fire and rescue service in Scotland is supporting the Minute of Agreement through developing processes for Category B-listed properties and reporting of incidents in listed buildings.

During meetings with liaison officers, the Heritage Co-ordinator is advised of work being undertaken within fire and rescue services that contribute to the outcomes of the Minute of Agreement, and to the protection of the Built Heritage. Examples of this include:

- Grampian Fire and Rescue Service are undertaking a review of their special appliances and invited the Heritage Co-ordinator to contribute to the proposals for a new Damage Limitation Unit. To support this, a visit was undertaken to Wallington Hall in Northumbria to research the equipment provided on salvage trailers by the National Trust
- Tayside Fire and Rescue intend to include, within their fire safety plan for next year; to undertake a sample of historic buildings
- Dumfries and Galloway are currently updating their fire safety strategy and will include a requirement to include the 1800 B-listed properties within the three year period of the strategy
- Grampian Fire and Rescue Service hosted a major International conference 'Fire Protection of the Built Heritage' in Aberdeen on 5 May 2009. Details of the conference are contained within section 7 of this report

Exercises

Exercises are an important element of training within the fire service as they provide a practical opportunity to test procedures. Conducting exercises at historic properties will normally provide additional benefits in testing liaison between the fire and rescue service and the property owner/manager whilst also testing the properties response plan.

The Heritage Co-ordinator has been informed of the following exercises that have been completed in historic properties over the past year:

- Tayside Fire and Rescue held an exercise at Glamis Castle on 17 June, 2008 with the aims being:
 - Implement Tayside Fire and Rescue's search and casualty handling procedures
 - Undertake salvage operations
 - Enable fire fighters to gain experience in dealing with an incident in a historic building
- Dumfries & Galloway Fire & Rescue Service attended a fire exercise at Drumlanrig Castle on 18 June, 2008. Three fire and rescue tenders attended the exercise which involved a simulated fire and rescue of persons reported in the North Tower. The exercise also involved salvage of valuables from the property as the salvage plan was under review.

The Scottish Historic Building National Fire Database was utilised by personnel for pre planning the exercise and attending crews also made use of the information from this, via the Vehicle Mounted Data System in operation throughout Dumfries & Galloway.

- Tayside Fire and Rescue exercised at Blair Castle on 16 September with the exercise objectives being:
 - To confirm Breathing Apparatus procedures
 - To develop communications, co-ordination and control of salvage operations between the fire and rescue teams and the castle salvage team.
 - To confirm incident Command procedure
- Grampian Fire and Rescue Service have completed exercises at Crathes Castle near Banchory and Duff House, Banff. Both these exercises had the aim of testing the salvage procedures and both were attended by four pumping appliances and a height vehicle

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) maintains an overview of the work of the project through updates provided by the Heritage Co-ordinator to the CFOA (Scotland) Intervention Business Stream. The Heritage Co-ordinator attended the June 2008 meeting of this group to give a presentation on progress of the project.

4.3 Historic Scotland

The project is managed by the Technical Conservation Group (TCG), who is kept informed of progress through the Historic Buildings Researcher's management reporting structure and adhoc meetings with the Heritage Co-ordinator for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. Progress is also fed into the Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group (Section 5.1), which is convened and chaired by TCG.

With the introduction of interim reporting measures (Section 3), accurate incident statistics and causes will help to inform future TCG research priorities within the field of fire and the built heritage. For example, recently research into the fire performance of traditional doorsets has been undertaken (Section 6).

The Researcher and Heritage Co-ordinator continue to respond to technical fire-related enquiries received from both internal and external sources.

TCG assisted in the organisation of Grampian Fire and Rescue Service's International 'Fire Protection of the Built Heritage' conference in May 2009 and provided a display stand on the day.

Over the forthcoming year it is the intention to establish links with the listing team to initiate updating procedures, to ensure currency of the database information.

5. External Partnerships

The Heritage Co-ordinator represents the Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database project on a number of committees and through outreach work. Informal working partnerships have been developed with English Heritage and The National Trust and these continue to be of great value in the sharing of information and good practice.

During the course of the year a number of owners and managers of heritage properties have contacted the Heritage Co-ordinator and the Historic Buildings Researcher for advice on fire safety issues. Where possible, general guidance has been provided and the Heritage Co-ordinator has also visited a number of properties, including Darnaway Castle, Dumfries House, Trinity Hall, Provost Skene House and Ardgowan House to offer advice on the development of fire safety management plans.

As detailed within section 2.1 of this report, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue are progressing a project that will inform future strategies for the gathering of risk information. As part of the consultation process for this, the Heritage Co-ordinator and the Historic Buildings Researcher attended a data gathering workshop at Strathclyde's Headquarters.

5.1 Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group

The Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group continues to function as an excellent forum that brings together all those involved in protection of the built heritage from fire.

The group last met on 15th July 2008, when one of the main agenda topics was peer review of a draft of the forthcoming Practitioners Guide on Fire Safety Management in Traditional Buildings. Further review of this publication will again be a key item during the proposed September/October 2009 meeting. Assisting in the production and review of technical publications is one of the core functions of the group.

The group welcomed a new member in July, Brian McClintock from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS). Through liaison with the SHBFLG and the Heritage Co-ordinator, NIFRS have used the fire-related work in Scotland as a benchmark for establishing a working agreement between the fire service and the heritage agencies in Northern Ireland.

5.2 Historic Buildings Fire Research Co-ordinating Committee

This bi-annual committee is chaired by English Heritage and was established to foster the exchange of information on fire research relevant to historic buildings. The Heritage Co-ordinator and Historic Buildings Researcher attend meetings of this committee to provide information on progress of the Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database project whilst also receiving information on other research programmes that will assist in completing the outcomes identified within the Minute of Agreement.

5.3 Fire and Rescue Statistics User Group

The Heritage Co-ordinator attends meetings of this group at the Communities and Local Government (CLG) where he provides information on the statistics received through the Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database project.

Attendance at these meetings proved beneficial in obtaining support when the CLG consulted on the Incident Data to be collected from Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services following the implementation of the new reporting system. With the Incident Reporting System now being implemented, this group has a key role in reviewing the system and the information gathered. Continued attendance at these meetings provides the opportunity to ensure that statistics relating to incidents in historic buildings are collected.

5.4 Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE) Heritage Special Interest Group

A heritage special interest group has been established through the IFE and held their first meeting on 10 September 2008. The Heritage Co-ordinator is the secretary of this group which reports to the Technical, Strategy and Advisory Committee of the IFE. The main work of the group is:

- To provide a focus for IFE activities in relation to heritage
- To ensure that IFE members can be involved in these activities and that the Institution and its membership (as a whole) will benefit from the outcome of these activities
- To identify and monitor existing research and guidance available
- To develop strands of work related to the type and use of heritage and historic buildings that do not have the benefit of comprehensive guidance documents
- To establish an annual work plan, to be agreed by the Technical Strategy and Advisory Committee of the IFE, that identifies the work to be undertaken during the course of each year.
- To raise awareness of issues affecting fire safety in heritage and historic buildings and providing guidance that addresses these issues

The main areas of research that the group are currently working on are guidance for churches and guidance on thatch. Steve Emery of English Heritage is taking the lead on guidance for churches, whilst Simon Denney, a master Thatcher and firefighter, will lead on the production of guidance on thatch which will be aimed at property owners.

5.5 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), whilst predominately an American organisation develops codes and standards across a wide range of fire related issues, which are implemented worldwide. The NFPA Technical Committee on Cultural Resources is responsible for the production and review of two of these codes:

- NFPA 909: Code for the Protection of Cultural resource Properties— Museums, Libraries and Places of Worship.
- NFPA 914: Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures

In recognition of the work being undertaken through the SHBNFD project the Heritage Co-ordinator was invited to join the NFPA Technical Committee on Cultural Resources. During the past year the committee have been involved in reviewing NFPA 914 and this has been progressed through a meeting in May 2008 in Sienna, Italy and a further meeting in September 2008 in Nantucket, Massachusetts.

The Heritage Co-ordinator hosted the NFPA Cultural Resources Committee's Spring 2009 meeting in Aberdeen from 6th – 8th May. This provided an opportunity to complete the review of NFPA 914 and to demonstrate the work that is on-going in Scotland on the protection of the built heritage.

6. Assessing Fire Resistance of Timber Doorsets

The fire performance of existing doors is a common issue faced by building owners, managers and regulatory authorities. In view of this, the Technical Conservation Group of Historic Scotland undertook a small testing programme to assess the fire performance of traditionally constructed Scottish doors.

The doors were not 'high-end' doors such as hardwood doors in a grand mansion, but the types of doors endemic in traditionally constructed homes across Scotland, both listed and non-listed. The doors were recycled and were all 4-panelled, made from soft wood and of mortise and tenon construction. Six doors were subjected to rigorous furnace tests, to BS 476, Pt 22, 1987, one left untreated and the remaining with varying degrees of upgrading, including intumescent varnish, paint and non-combustible boards.

The results are shortly to be analysed and the findings published on the Historic Scotland website. In addition, the results will feed into a Norwegian-led, pan-European project in which TCG are involved. This project aims to create an E-tool that will predict the fire resistance of historic timber doorsets in-situ.

7. 'Fire Protection of the Built Heritage' Conference

On Tuesday 05 May, 2009 Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with Historic Scotland, hosted a major International conference 'Fire protection of the Built Heritage' in Elphinstone Hall, Old Aberdeen.

This highly prestigious and international event attracted over 110 delegates and brought together much of the influences and global activity focussed on protecting our historical buildings. The conference was chaired by David Dalziel, Chief Fire Officer of Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and opened by Fergus Ewing MSP, the Community Safety Minister in the Scottish Government.

The main objectives of the conference were to further raise awareness of the devastating effect of fire on the built heritage and provide an understanding of preventative measures. In order to achieve this, the conference had three themed sessions:

Legislation and Guidance

This session commenced by considering the application of the Scottish Building Standards in the conversion of traditional buildings and the guidance available in Practitioners Guide 6. Fire Safety management in heritage buildings, the requirements of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and provision of available guidance for adopting alternative solutions was discussed before concluding this session by looking at the work of the NFPA Cultural Resources Committee in developing international codes.

By considering these elements together it was hoped to enlighten practitioners on the need to consider alternative solutions to the conflict that sometimes arises when applying functional standards in an existing traditional building.

Technical Solutions

This session concentrated on the introduction of new technologies into traditional buildings. Examples were provided of the application of existing and emerging technology being applied in a sympathetic manner in historic buildings. A case study (Sprinkler system installed at the National Library of Scotland) demonstrated the need for effective project management during the installation and maintenance of a fire engineering project.

Management Solutions

The application of effective management can have a major impact on fire safety and mitigating damage. This session demonstrated this through consideration of the development of a fire management plan, damage limitation (or contingency) planning, consideration of insurance matters and a practical example of fire safety management in a historic building, Schloss Schonbrunn, Vienna.



Conference speakers with CFO David Dalziel, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

8. Future Developments

A revised Minute of Agreement between Historic Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services for the development of the SHBNFD was signed in October 2007 and is in place until April 2012.

Whilst the SHBNFD is vital in providing information to enable crews attending a fire to deal effectively with the incident, the revised agreement recognises the role this project plays in developing prevention and protection measures alongside any intervention strategies. As a result, the agreement has been renamed to reflect this and is now entitled '*Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database and related historic building fire protection outreach and partnership activities*'.

A full list of the outcomes identified within the Minute of Agreement is shown at Appendix B. To ensure that the outcomes are achieved, and in response to reviews being undertaken by fire and rescue services, the following demonstrates some work areas that will be developed in the coming year:

- Stewart Kidd of the Loss Prevention Consultancy was commissioned by Historic Scotland to undertake a review of the existing fire related Technical Advice Notes (TANs 11, 14, 22 and 28) produced by Historic Scotland to consider their relevance following changes to fire legislation. With assistance from the Historic Buildings Researcher and Heritage Co-ordinator, a practitioners guide with the working title '**Protecting the Past: A Practitioner's Guide to Fire Safety Management in Traditional Buildings**' will be published by Historic Scotland later in 2009

- Following publication of the Practitioners Guide, the Heritage Co-ordinator will produce a short guide to property owners to provide practical advice on the development of a fire management plan including arrangements for liaison with the Fire and Rescue Service, undertaking fire risk assessments and developing emergency procedures. This will be produced early 2010.
- It has been a long standing objective of the Minute of Agreement to produce a firefighter development module to be incorporated into training of firefighters. The Heritage Co-ordinator recently met with the Scottish Fire Services College (SFSC) to discuss training on incidents in traditional buildings. As a result, the SFSC are planning to enhance the 'Building Construction' element of the foundation course and developing Command and Control training to incorporate incidents in traditional construction buildings. Training to Firefighters, Crew and Watch managers is driven locally and the SFSC has agreed to discuss with the Firefighter Development Group the inclusion of a development package that covers both traditional buildings and salvage. A project Officer is joining the SFSC and the Heritage Co-ordinator will work with them to progress all these training issues over the next year
- The Scottish fire and rescue services are reviewing IRMP and the Heritage Co-ordinator met with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Unit (SFRSAU) to provide an update of the project. The Chief Advisor of the SFRSAU is supportive of the work being undertaken through the project and has agreed to circulate this report to Chief Fire Officers and point them towards the IRMP guidance on Heritage Buildings and Structures, published by CLG.

9. Conclusion

The Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database continues to have a very practical end purpose.

The agreement to develop the database into Category B-listed properties will ensure that the protection of the built heritage is a fundamental part of each fire and rescue service's Integrated Risk Management Plan. Whilst it has taken longer than anticipated to develop the database into B-listed properties, the work that has now commenced will ensure that this is developed in line with each fire and rescue service's IRMP while also ensuring that the process that has been developed is sustainable beyond the current Minute of Agreement.

One of the aims of the project was to facilitate the improved reporting and gathering of statistics on fires in historic buildings. Scottish fire and rescue services made use of the interim reporting arrangements established through this project, ensuring that more accurate statistics are available on the extent of fire loss in the built heritage. With the introduction of electronic Incident reporting System, accurate incident statistics and causes will help to inform future TCG research priorities within the field of fire and the built heritage.

Partnership working continues to be a major factor in the project. In addition to close liaison between the SHBNFD partners; Historic Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and RCAHMS, the Heritage Co-ordinator has developed working partnerships with English Heritage and The National Trust, and is a member of both the Historic Buildings Fire Research Co-ordinating Committee and the Fire and Rescue Statistics User Group. Along with the work undertaken within the IFE Heritage Special Interest group and the NFPA Committee on Cultural Resources this provides the basis on which to build guidance for property owners and fire services on fire safety management in historic properties.

The recent research into the fire performance of traditional doorsets undertaken by the Historic Buildings Researcher, along with the 'Fire Protection of the Built Heritage' conference and NFPA Cultural Resources Committee meeting in Aberdeen have further enhanced Scotland's position as a world leader in the protection of the built heritage.

CONTACT OFFICER IN EACH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Service	Name	Contact Details
Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service	Paul Hannan	Service Headquarters Main Street Maddiston Falkirk FK2 0LG Tel: 01324 710228 Paul.Hannan@centralscotlandfire.gov.uk
Dumfries & Galloway Fire Service	Jim Waugh	Service Headquarters Brooms Road Dumfries, DG1 2DZ Tel: 01387 252222 jim.waugh@dumgal.gov.uk
Fife Fire and Rescue Service	Alan Robertson	Service Headquarters Strathore Road Thornton Kirkcaldy Fife KY1 4DF Tel: 01592 778365 Alan.Robertson@fife.gov.uk
Grampian Fire and Rescue Service	Andy Coueslant	Service Headquarters 19 North Anderson Drive ABERDEEN AB15 6DW Tel: 01224 788731 Andy.Coueslant@GrampianFRS.org.uk
Highlands & Islands Fire and Rescue Service	Trevor Johnson	Service Headquarters 16 Harbour Road Longman West Inverness IV1 1TB Tel: 01463 227000 crm@hifrs.org
Lothian & Borders Fire Service	Pete Henderson	Community Safety Department Service Headquarters Lauriston Place Edinburgh, EH3 9DE Tel: 0131 659 7242 Peter.Henderson@lbfire.org.uk

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue	Des Kingston	Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Bothwell Road Hamilton Lanarkshire ML3 0EA Tel: 01698 338985 Des.Kingston@strathclydefire.org
Tayside Fire and Rescue	Graeme Brown	Head of Risk Management Operations Headquarters Macalpine Road Dundee Tel: 01382 825295 Graeme.brown@taysidefire.gov.uk

OUTCOMES IDENTIFIED WITHIN REVISED MINUTE OF AGREEMENT

Heritage Co-ordination work and other duties to be undertaken by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service under this Minute of Agreement will include the following tasks:

1. Liaise with all Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to develop the *Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database* into Category B Listed properties in a manner that fully supports each service's IRMP process.
2. Liaise with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), where the central data gathering will take place.
3. Monitor progress of research being undertaken with Fire and Rescue Services and by the Historic Buildings Researcher in order to confirm progress is in line with the expected outcomes of the project. Progress of this is to be demonstrated in the Annual Summary Report produced by the Heritage Co-ordinator.
4. Manage Category B Listed properties short pilot projects to ensure the methodology to be applied considers significance, vulnerability and fire fighting special risks with a consistent approach. Produce a report for Historic Scotland to demonstrate how these elements have been captured.
5. Following the pilot projects, manage the Category B Listed properties roll out across the eight Scottish Fire and Rescue Services to ensure that information on all Category B listed properties is assimilated and input into the *Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database*.
6. Develop a sustainable mechanism for information exchange to enable database holdings to be updated to reflect changes to the Statutory List - as buildings are added, removed or their listing category is revised. This will involve developing a protocol for notification of updates by Historic Scotland, and data gathering, verification and assimilation work by the Historic Buildings Researcher and the respective Fire and Rescue Service.
7. Record Fire and Rescue Services' 'in kind' salary costs for Minute of Agreement activities which, over the five year period of the Agreement, are estimated to amount to circa £546,000.
8. Manage a research project to consider the most appropriate IT platform for the *Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database* to enable partners to access information and update entries - ensuring full compatibility with Vehicle Mounted Data Systems and other IT systems utilised by partners.
9. Explore opportunities through European or UK partners for any possible research funding bids identified as a result of this project to enable additional items of work to be undertaken.

- 10 Produce and submit by 1 May each year an Annual Summary Report of all Agreement activities for presentation to Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and the Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group. Copies in electronic and hard copy format will be lodged with Historic Scotland, RCAHMS and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, as representative of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.
- 11 Produce a Short Guide for Property Owners to provide practical advice on the development of a fire management plan including arrangements for liaison with the Fire and Rescue Services, undertaking Fire Risk Assessments and developing emergency procedures. The Short Guide shall be a Crown Copyright document suitable for publication by Historic Scotland with content to be endorsed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services and the Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group.
- 12 In conjunction with a commissioned author appointed by Historic Scotland, undertake as requested a review of the existing fire related Technical Advice Notes (TAN's 11, 14, 22 and 28) produced by Historic Scotland to consider their relevance following changes to fire legislation.
- 13 Undertake a research project to consider a regional approach to damage limitation in Scotland in conjunction with relevant bodies and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.
- 14 Undertake, on request, audits of Fire and Rescue Services' preparedness for incidents involving heritage properties.
- 15 Produce a written Project Research Report at the end of the project. Copies in electronic and hard copy format will be lodged with Historic Scotland, RCAHMS and Grampian Fire and Rescue Service, as representative of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services. The Report shall be a Crown Copyright document suitable for publication by Historic Scotland.
- 16 Keep abreast of research developments of RCAHMS' and the various Fire and Rescue Services' Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to facilitate the incorporation of relevant GIS links into the database to ensure its effectiveness.
- 17 Develop training and awareness programmes for fire fighters on fire safety and intervention strategies for historic buildings in conjunction with the Scottish Fire Services College and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.
- 18 In conjunction with partner organisations within the UK, develop training and awareness programmes for heritage agencies and property owners.
- 19 Ensure appropriate reporting of fire incidents in Scottish listed buildings, determining and agreeing means of delivering the statistics and data required by Historic Scotland.
- 20 Report on developments to the Scottish Historic Buildings Fire Liaison Group as required.
- 21 Liaise with relevant bodies and each of Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services to promote the fire safety of historic buildings and maintain knowledge of current trends in fire incidents in historic buildings and the causes of fire incidents.

- 22 Liaise with manufacturers of fire protection equipment to encourage manufacturers to develop equipment appropriate to the fire protection of historic buildings.
- 23 Arrange for seconded fire officers to verify and assimilate information on Category A listed buildings in those areas noted below for inclusion within the *Scottish Historic Buildings National Fire Database*:
 - Highlands and Islands - mainland area only
 - Lothian and Borders - City of Edinburgh area only
 - Strathclyde - City of Glasgow area only
- 24 Hold central project funds on account, accepting payment instalments at six monthly intervals in advance from Historic Scotland; drawing down to meet Heritage Co-ordination work salary costs, to make payments to individual Fire and Rescue Services in relation to the work by seconded fire officers, and to reimburse RCAHMS on an annual basis for software licence fees incurred. Maintain appropriate accounting records of these monies and transactions for inspection by Historic Scotland on request and audit purposes.
- 25 Notify Historic Scotland in advance of any forthcoming inflationary salary increase and any divergences from scheduled RCAHMS software licence fees in relation to the project by 1 November each year so as to enable these costs to be considered in the following financial year's funding contribution.
- 26 Note that project funds will remain the property of Historic Scotland and may be reclaimed in whole or part until such time as the work described in this Minute of Agreement has been fully carried out to Historic Scotland's satisfaction.