

**Report of the Directors
of the Historic Rural Settlement Trust
(HRST)**

for the Year Ended 30th June 2005

Company Information

DIRECTORS:	Derek Alexander John Atkinson Steven Boyle Alex Morrison Richard Tipping Robin Turner
CHAIR:	Robin Turner
SECRETARY:	Richard Tipping
TREASURER:	Derek Alexander
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Greenbank House, Flenders Road, Clerkston, Glasgow

Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 30th June 2005

The Purposes of the Trust and its principal activities are three-fold:

- (a) to encourage better understanding of historic rural settlement in Scotland, by identifying priorities and encouraging actions to enhance this
- (b) assisting the conservation and management of this resource, seeking to build on acquired knowledge and applying this to the preparation of guidelines, whether at local, regional or national scales
- (c) raising awareness of the resource in the wider public.

Trustees

The Trust has six Directors, more than the minimum number of three but less than the maximum of 20. All became Trustees on the 1st July 2004. There have been no resignations and no re-appointments since then. The number of trustees has at no time in this period fallen below the quorum of two members. No trustee is an employee of the Trust.

Activities

The Trust has been active in all three principal activities. Trustees are developing a comprehensive programme of funding to sustain over the next several years the activities of local communities and individuals, and the closer liaison between professional and amateur, in improving the understanding and valuing of, and caring for, Scotland's historic rural settlements for the wide benefit of present and future generations. The Trust organised a weekend of activities at Killin, Perthshire in September 2004 by which representatives of local archaeological and historical societies were taught diverse techniques in the recording of historic buildings and landscapes. The Trust co-ordinated and held a public meeting at Braemar, Aberdeenshire in May 2005 to present the findings of recent research on the historic rural settlement resource in that region. Announcements concerning these activities and reports on them are presented on the web-site hosted by the Trust at molrs.org.uk.

1. *The Scotland's Rural Past Project*: Robin Turner: Convenor, SRP Project Group, June 2005

The *Scotland's Rural Past (SRP)* project is an initiative for widespread community involvement in the recording, research, management and presentation of medieval or later rural settlements in Scotland. The Project is being promoted through the Historic Rural Settlement Trust (HRST).

In June 2004 the Trust was successful in winning grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland to undertake a 'planning project' to look into the feasibility of and need for SRP. Over the past year a small Project Group has worked closely with consultants from AOC Archaeology (AOC Ltd) and Jura Consultants to produce three major pieces of work:

- *Project Context Review*: A study of other projects in the UK involving community participation, and an assessment of the best approaches and those to be avoided;
- *Audience Development Plan*: Looking at how to enhance the involvement of existing groups, and stimulate that of new audience. This document is based on a series of workshops with existing and potential community participants, and clearly demonstrates the demand for such an initiative;
- *Project Design*: Using an analysis of the results of previous research, including considering the effectiveness of a number of scenarios, the *Project Design* describes the preferred delivery mechanism.

Copies of these documents will be placed on the HRST website in due course. The Planning Project concluded that there was a clear need for such an initiative, and that there is demonstrable public support for the project, as well as strong support from professional bodies. A full HLF grant application is now being devised, for a 4-5 year project with one part-time and four full-time staff. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland have said in principle that they would be prepared to front the HLF bid, as Lead Body. We also have had expressions of interest from two other major funding partners – Historic Scotland and the NTS. We hope to submit our HLF application later this year, with the aim of starting SRP in September 2006.

2. *Best Recording Practice Weekend*: Killin - 11th and 12th September 2004

The weekend is one of a series in which representatives of archaeology and/or history societies from throughout Scotland apply to be instructed in the improved recognition of archaeological features of the historic landscapes and their best-practice recording. The 2004 event was undertaken on the National Trust for Scotland property of Ben Lawers, Perthshire. Twelve participants journeyed to Killin, at the foot of Ben Lawers, for the weekend. The event proved very popular and was over-subscribed. Priority was given to participants who had wanted to attend previous such weekends, and a 'waiting-list' is being maintained for events in the year 2005-2006 and following years. Participants paid a registration fee of £15.00 to cover printing and other costs. The weekend was organised and was ran by Steven Boyle with assistance from colleagues from the Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments (Scotland), and support during the weekend from John Atkinson and Richard Tipping.

The techniques demonstrated and practiced included the architectural drawing of standing buildings, the mapping, recording and sketching of field walls and enclosures, plane-tableing, the identification and interpretation of typical upland archaeological features. Participants were shown the results of archaeological excavations.

3. *Historic Rural Settlement in the Aberdeen Region* Conference and Field Excursion: Braemar - 14th May 2005

A one day conference was organised by Steven Boyle. This year's event was one of a continuing annual series, with previous conferences in Stirling, Biggar and Inveraray. The conference was attended by 26 people, most representing local societies. Participants paid a registration fee of £10.00 which included the hire of the conference facility and refreshments. In the morning, from 10.30 am to 1.00 pm, participants received talks on village desertion and settlement shift in the Don Valley, the archaeology and history of lime kilns in Aberdeenshire, the analysis of the archives of the Invercauld Estate, and coastal environmental change on the Solway coast. In the afternoon, on a beautifully sunny day, the party visited the abandoned farmstead complex of Auchtavan on the Invercauld Estate. The meeting finished at 5.00 pm.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held on the afternoon of the 24th May 2005 in the offices of Historic Scotland at Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh. The following trustees attended the meeting:

John Atkinson; Steven Boyle; Alex Morrison; Richard Tipping; Robin Turner.

Apologies were received from Derek Alexander. The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and ended at 5.00 pm.

Statement of Accounts

Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 30th June 2005

Balance from the MOLRS Working Group on inception of the HRST:
30th June 2004 = £781.69

Income 30th June 2004 to 30th June 2005:

30/9/04	Heritage Lottery Fund (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 4950.00
28/10/04	Killin Best Recording Practice Weekend	£ 55.00
11/11/04	Historic Scotland (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 1037.00
26/01/05	Heritage Lottery Fund (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 4455.00
03/02/05	Historic Scotland (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 5000.00
04/03/05	Historic Scotland (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 10.00
04/04/05	Historic Scotland (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 960.50
14/04/05	Historic Scotland (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 1000.00
09/06/05	Braemar Conference: Registration Fees	£ 115.40

Expenditure 30th June 2004 to 30th June 2005:

17/11/04	AOC Ltd (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 1424.10
22/11/04	Katinka Stentoft (web-site support)	£ 1037.00
21/02/05	AOC Ltd (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 9827.70
22/11/04	Katinka Stentoft (web-site support)	£ 150.00
18/04/05	AOC Ltd (for SRP Planning Project)	£ 4810.00

22/11/04	Katinka Stentoft (web-site support)	£	960.50
06/06/05	AOC Ltd (for SRP Planning Project)	£	23.95
16/06/05	AOC Ltd (for SRP Planning Project)	£	105.75

Balance at 30th June 2005 = £25.59