

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2007**

CONSERVATION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. This short paper seeks to stimulate a debate in the Conservation Committee on conservation challenges and opportunities for NTS. It will help to inform our discussions at later meetings when the new Director of Conservation and Projects is in post.

Conserving heritage

2. There are many approaches to conservation: strict preservation to represent high point in past, conserve as acquired, restore to former glory, etc. No one approach is necessarily correct as all involve a degree of judgement.
3. Are we up to date in our knowledge of approaches to heritage conservation from other parts of the world?
4. How do we decide what is the most appropriate approach?

Creating new heritage

5. Should we be more imaginative in our conservation by creating future heritage as parts of our properties?
6. Do we always need to be historically accurate, whatever that means?

Displaying heritage

7. We have a great deal of material in store which is rarely exposed to the public. Should we have a more proactive approach to displaying this material in our own properties and in the outlets of other heritage conservation bodies?

Interpreting heritage

8. There seem to be two opposite trends in interpretation at site: large high tech visitor centres and low key fit with heritage surroundings approaches. We are doing the former at Culloden and will be for Burns. Is this the most appropriate approach? We are doing the latter at many countryside properties. Can we learn lessons from this approach?
9. Should we be doing more interpretation off site to minimise the impact at the heritage asset, for example through web based materials?

Engaging in heritage

10. We have engaged other stakeholders at our properties through Members Centres and Friends Groups. But this has all been rather ad hoc. Modern approaches to natural heritage conservation, at least, demand full engagement of stakeholders, especially the local communities in and around properties. Should we be doing more on this front?

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