



SCOTLAND

A Survey of Thatched Buildings in Scotland

A project grant funded by



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

www.spab.org.uk
www.historicenvironment.scot

Zoë Herbert

[previously] Scotland Officer

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
and Technical Research Group at Historic Environment Scotland

A Survey of Thatched Buildings in Scotland

May 2014 and August 2015

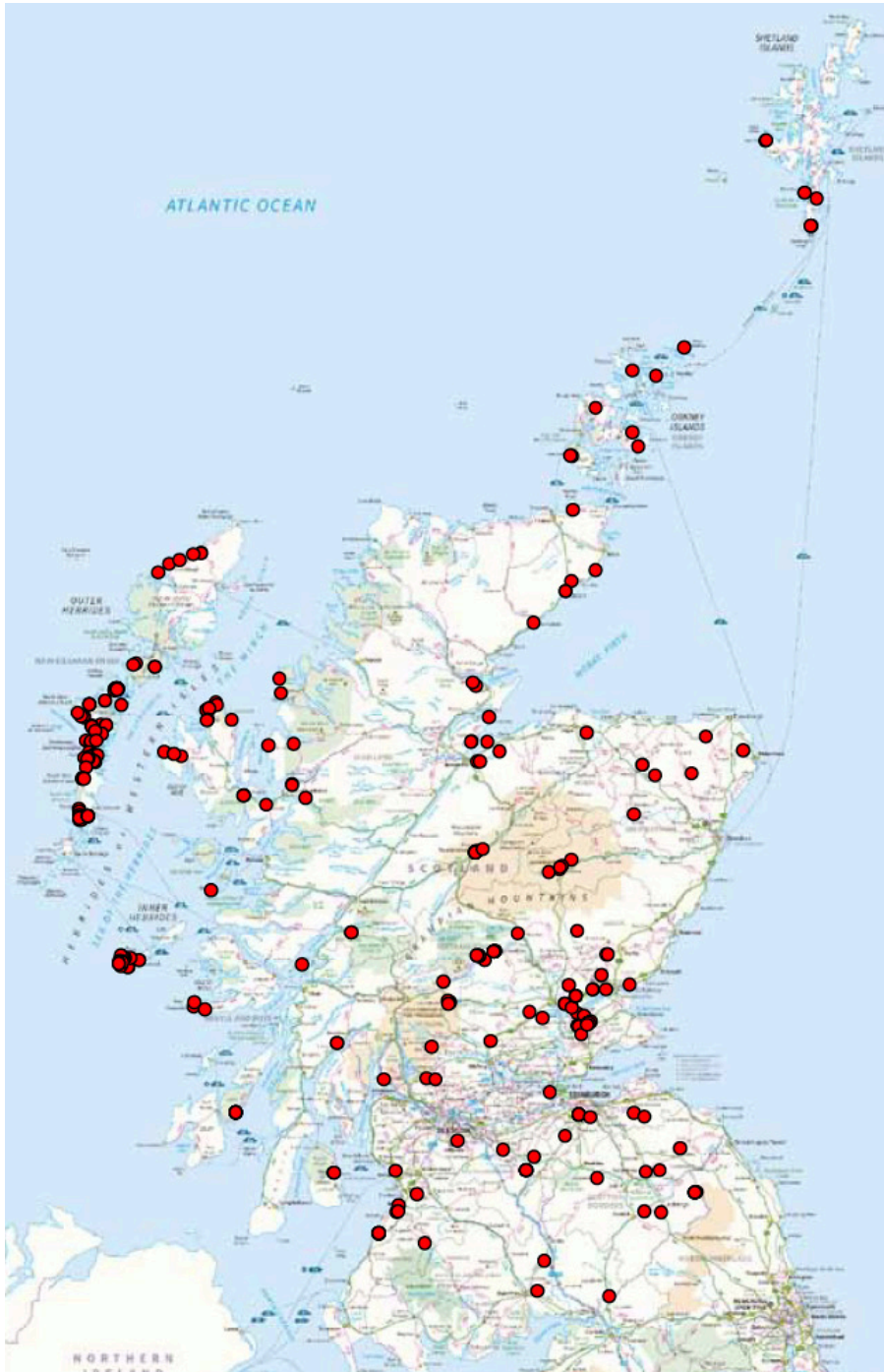
a joint project by



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA





Survey available at:

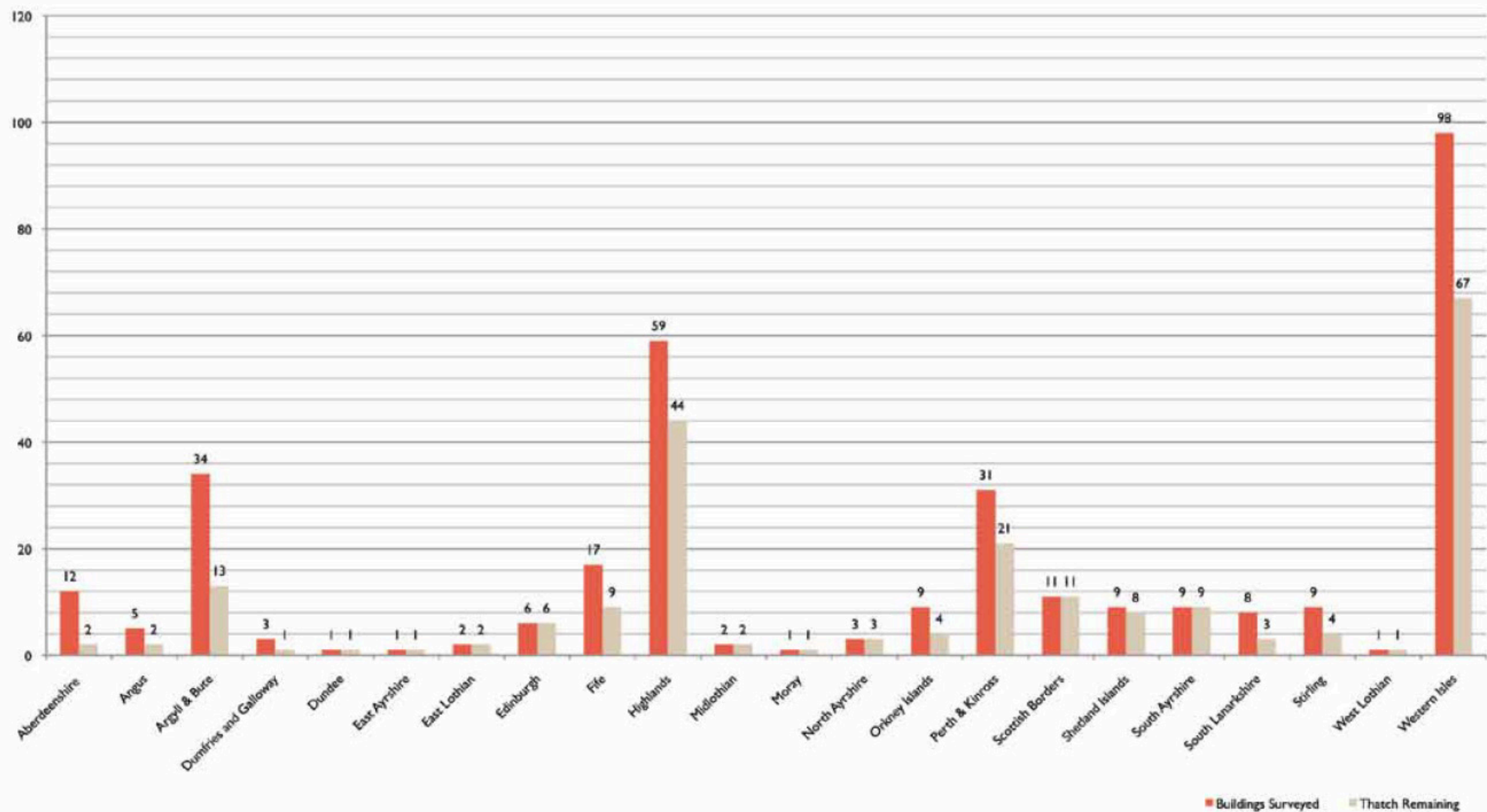
www.historicenvironment.scot
(type 'thatch survey' into search bar)

of the 331 buildings surveyed:

- 221 were categorised as Thatched
- 87 were categorised as Not thatched
- 23 were categorised as Unknown

Of those sites surveyed, 240 are Listed (37 at A, 153 at B, 50 at C) and 65 are not designated. Fifty three are on the buildings at risk register. Seven of the category A buildings were found to be ruinous.

distribution of sites surveyed





Hugh Miller's Cottage - Highlands

Not for publication - internal use only

Scotland Thatch Survey 2014 -15

Survey Number 082



Address: _____ Hugh Miller's Cottage

_____ Church Street

_____ Cromarty

Local Council: _____ HIGHLANDS

Postcode: _____ IV11 8XA

Grid Reference: _____ NH 79002 67380

Date of Visit: _____ 12/07/2015

Listing Category: _____ A

Date Listed: _____ 25/03/1971

Listed Building Number: _____ 23588

Canmore ID: _____ 14437

Building Type: _____ Cottage

Use: _____ Museum

Occupancy: _____ Full

Buildings At Risk: _____ n/a

Thatch Type: _____ Reed

Ridge Type: _____ Thatched (Straw)

Condition of Thatch: _____ Good

Additional Notes: _____ Early 18th century two-storey cottage, made famous by being the birthplace of geologist

Hugh Miller. The cottage is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and is part of the Hugh Miller's Birthplace

Museum. The building was last re-thatched in 2010, in reed with a straw ridge, by Thatcher Graham Carter.

According to NTS literature on display in the building, the roof would have been thatched in turf topped with

straw, or in heather. The longevity of the reed is why they chose this material for its last thatching. The straw

ridge has been scobed with hazel spars, and extended decoratively below the chimney stack to the north.



On the south east (front) elevation the thatch

has been sculpted at the eaves above the three

first floor window openings, whilst on the north

west (rear) elevation there are two recessed

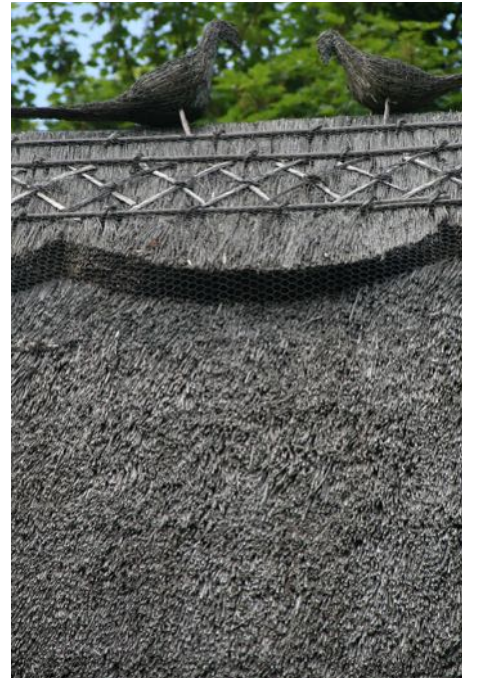
window openings within the thatch, below which

the roof has been slated to the eaves. The roof

has been netted along the ridge only, whilst

the rest of the thatch has been left uncovered.

Not for publication - internal use only













Oran na mara - Isle of Harris



modern use of thatch





HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Scotland's Thatched Buildings

Developing a plan for the future





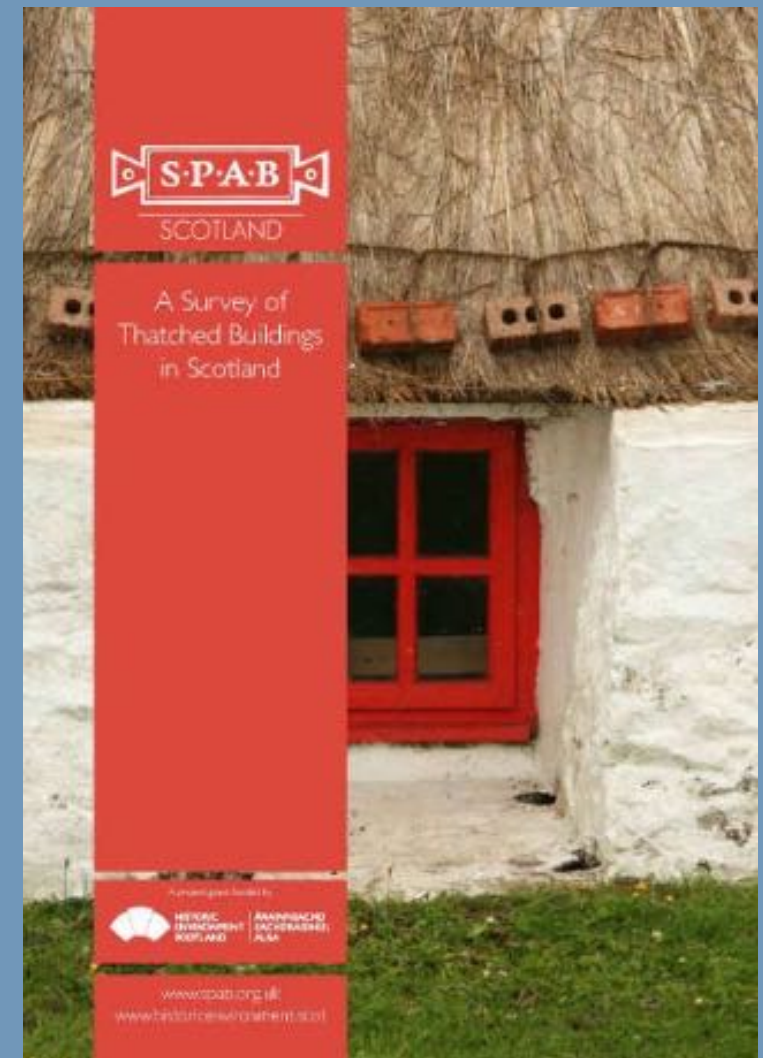
HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

A future for thatch in Scotland: HES Action Plan

Focus on FIVE key areas:

- Survey and monitoring
- Research and dissemination
- Materials
- Skills
- Demand





Actions

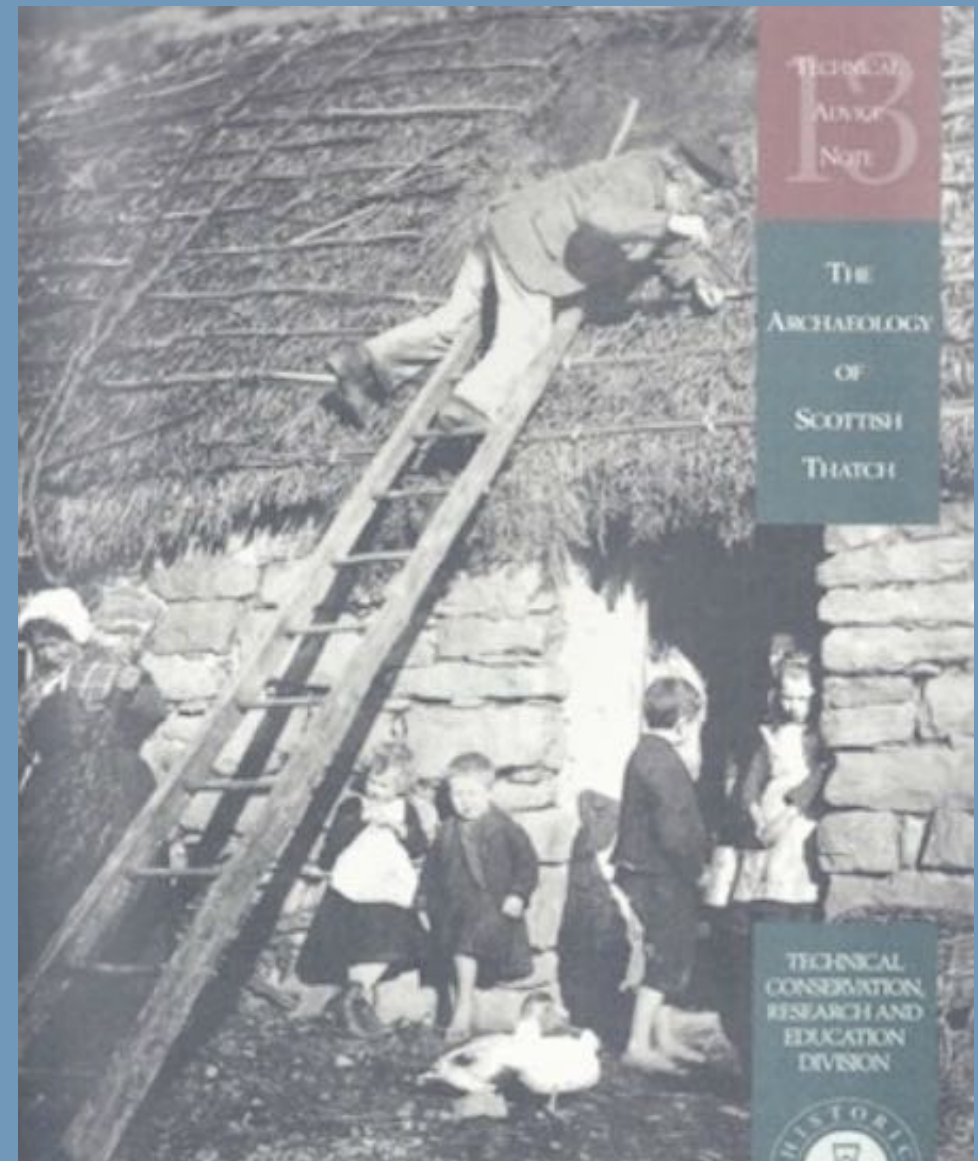
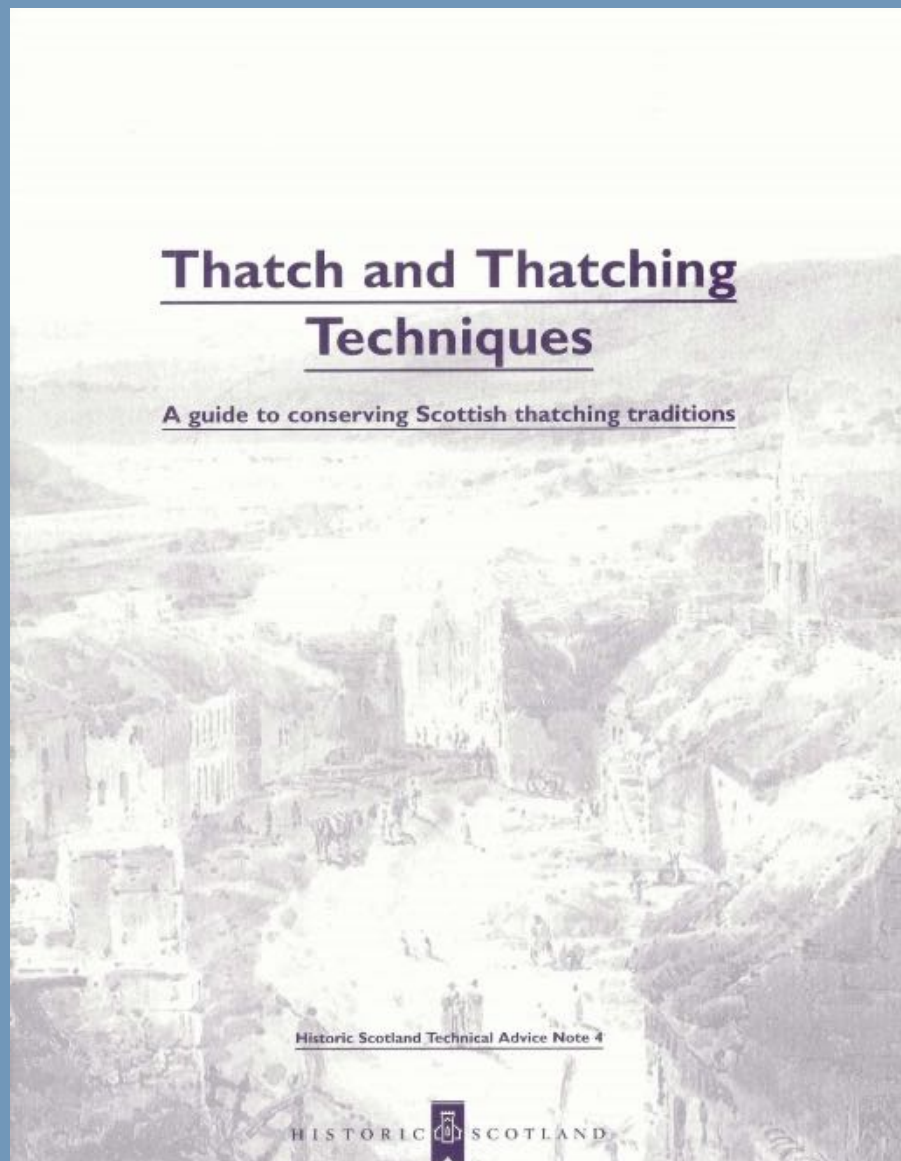
- Survey and designation review
- Identify best remaining examples and support / protect
- Monitor casework and liaise with local authorities on best practice
- Publish technical guidance for home-owners
- Identify and promote best practice - locally focussed
- Identify materials, manage these and make them accessible
- Engage with thatchers to understand skills and training needs
- Promote the Historic Environment Support Fund to building owners, allowing improved grant funding opportunities
- Raise awareness through outreach activities
- Actively seek collaboration with local community groups



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Further reading





HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Further information

Jessica Hunnisett-Snow

jessica.snow@hes.scot

0131 668 8726









Zoë Herbert

zoeseymourarchitecture@hotmail.com

THANK YOU



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



NATIONAL
TRUST *for*
SCOTLAND



*The
Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group*

