

Ack by letter 18/01/05

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11 January 2005

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James Boyle
Chairman
Cultural Commission
Broughton High School
Carrington Road
Edinburgh
EH4 1EG

Dear Mr Boyle

Heritage Education Officers Group

Interest in learning from Scotland's cultural heritage has never been stronger. In response to this growing interest, the Heritage Education Officers Group (HEOG) was initiated by the chief executives of the national organisations that care for Scotland's heritage. Through shared expertise, initiatives and programmes, HEOG works to provide access to cultural heritage and to provide the raw material to inspire cultural responses and participation with our buildings, sites, collections and archives. In addition HEOG tackles broad themes such as partnership working and funding arrangements, as well as more detailed matters like training opportunities for Cultural Coordinators and issues relating to out of school visits to heritage sites and collections.

The national heritage organisations recognise that by working with teachers and others who influence the curriculum and its delivery, they have a role in developing young, caring citizens. Furthermore, we recognise that heritage learning can reach beyond those in formal education and can benefit learners of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. In perhaps a more stimulating and effective way than any other, the environment offered by Scotland's heritage organisations allows parents, children and others to learn together - not just about their history, but also how their own cultural activity fits into a rich and diverse heritage. Well constructed learning programmes that enable people to investigate objects, archives, images, made and natural sites, and explore their making and meaning, arouse curiosity and engage creativity across a range of learning needs and styles.

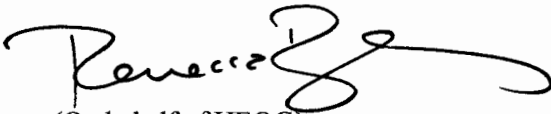
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
(National Monuments Record of Scotland)

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In September 2003, the Heritage Education Officers Group worked with the Scottish Museums Council to launch *Lasting Impressions*. This landmark publication aims to promote better use of Scotland's heritage as a tool for effective learning and to equip Cultural Coordinators and teachers with creative ideas, advice and knowledge on how to link Scottish heritage with the Scottish school curriculum. HEOG is also working with the Scottish Museums Council to provide training (through workshops, the *Diverse Elements* event, and proposed placements programme), to Cultural Coordinators, teachers and heritage educators.

HEOG wishes to bring its work to the attention of the Cultural Commission as a positive example of strong and practical partnership working between the education departments of the government agencies and national charities who care for Scotland's buildings, sites, landscapes, collections and archives.

Yours sincerely



(On behalf of HEOG)

Rebecca M Bailey

Head of Education and Outreach

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Membership of HEOG

Council for Scottish Archaeology

Historic Scotland

National Archives of Scotland

National Galleries of Scotland

National Library of Scotland

National Museums of Scotland

National Trust for Scotland

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

Scottish Museums Council

Scottish Natural Heritage