



Strategic Skills Partnership Agreement

Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw)

Cadw is working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales. It also creates opportunities to show how culture and heritage can contribute to wider Welsh Government social and economic aims, including the development of skills and employment opportunities.

Historic England

Historic England is the public body that looks after England's historic environment, providing expert advice, helping people protect and care for it, and helping the public to understand and enjoy it.

Historic Environment Scotland

Historic Environment Scotland is the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. It provides guidance, training and technical research into Scotland's built environment, and promotes community and individual learning engagement with Scotland's heritage.

CITB

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) is the Industry Training Board. It aims to create a fully qualified and professional construction industry through a range of collaborative agreements

between employers, training providers and Government. Identifying the skills needs, supporting training provision and maximising the impact of the levy/grant system and any other initiatives that promotes training, are all areas of strategic importance to CITB.

Context & Terms of Agreement

Traditional (pre 1919) buildings represent a significant part of the construction industry in Great Britain and form a substantial source of demand for work for contractors. CITB research shows:

- There are 6.5 million traditional (pre-1919) buildings in England, Scotland and Wales
- Repair and maintenance(housing and non-housing) is the single largest category of construction, accounting for 39% of construction industry output in the UK in 2014
- 44% of contractors intend to increase their work on traditional (pre-1919) buildings

Cadw, CITB, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland will work together, in a strategic partnership, to address the identified skills and vocational training needs of the Construction Industry in Great Britain in respect of the conservation, repair and maintenance of traditional buildings and structures; and appropriate works of improvement to them, including energy efficiency

measures, using sustainable methods of construction.

This Agreement will support future sustainable economic growth of England, Scotland & Wales by ensuring that the GB Construction Industry is equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure the continued use of the traditional building stock, for the benefit of communities across the home nations.

Actions under this Agreement will seek to identify and address areas of common concern at a GB level, but will also seek to share innovation, best practice and ideas from each home country to maximise the benefits to the Construction Industry in Great Britain.

Outcomes linked to this Strategic Partnership Agreement will be delivered through an annual Action Plans. There will be a GB Action Plan covering all the Home Countries. The intention is to develop individual national Action Plans between CITB and Cadw, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland in 2018 and 2019. These will take account of different approaches and priorities to skills training, education and economic development across the home nations.

This Agreement covers the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2019. In the last quarter of the final year of this Agreement (2019) a review



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meeting between the parties will assess and evaluate the working procedures, achievements of the aims and objectives of this agreement, consider new or emerging areas of strategic interest and determine new joint initiatives for a further Agreement. This Agreement can be terminated by any party subject to no less than three months written notice to the other partners.

Meetings, Communication and Review

A Strategic Partnership Meeting will be held every six months; attended by the lead CITB Strategic Partnership Director for heritage and the appropriate senior officials from the heritage agencies. Other staff from partner organisations will be invited as appropriate.

Partners will engage in regular dialogue and communication in between formal meetings, as appropriate. Additional meetings may take place as and when required to progress projects or actions.

Status

Notwithstanding the terms of any other provisions of this Agreement, the Agreement is not legally binding and nothing contained therein shall impose any legal obligations on any of the parties whatsoever. This Agreement may be amended by agreement with Cadw, CITB, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland.

Areas of Strategic Interest & Co-operation

For the purposes of this Agreement the following areas have been identified and agreed by the parties as being of common interest and of strategic importance.

Cadw, CITB, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland will work together to;

- Work towards knowledge and skills for working on traditional (pre-1919) buildings being integrated into mainstream construction training.
- Support the reform of Further Education and apprenticeships to meet the needs of the heritage construction sector and boost apprenticeship numbers in the heritage sector.
- Promote the economic benefits of a skilled, qualified workforce, with proof of their training and qualifications to work on traditional (pre-1919) buildings, to government, clients and employers.
- Increase the uptake of training relating to traditional (pre-1919) buildings leading to qualifications and CSCS cards, or equivalent, to match the individual's level of skill

- Promote the need for the right knowledge and skills for energy efficiency retrofit and climate change adaptation of traditional (pre-1919) buildings.
- Support employers to attract and retain people by setting out opportunities and entry routes that exist within the heritage construction sector
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive evidence-base on current and future GB skills needs, to inform joint activities and target training provision.
- Improve communication to employers, contractors and trade organisations to demonstrate the relevance of conservation, repair and maintenance of traditional buildings and traditional skills to the wider construction industry.

Signatories on behalf of the Partner Organisations

Mark Noonan Industry Relations Director CITB

Jason Thomas Deputy Director, Historic Environment Service (Cadw)

Chris Smith Director of Planning Historic England

Dr David Mitchell Director of Conservation, Historic Environment Scotland