

DTAS Annual Conference 2026

Managing Traditional Buildings

Led by Community Ownership Support Service (COSS)
and Historic Environment Scotland (HES)



New Futures: Former Places of Worship programme
Audrey Dunn, Churches Advisor



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



Today's workshop – Managing Traditional Buildings

Delivered by the DTAS churches team and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).

- Relevant to any member looking to take on, or already managing older buildings of a traditional construction
- Q & A with our expert panellists
- A chance to ask any question relating to all types of traditional buildings.
- The session will provide insight, guidance and practical tips on various aspects of their management to help support their long-term future as a community and heritage asset.
- Provide your email address to receive notes and relevant links from our session



COSSS is a Scottish Government funded programme set up to:

- **Help community groups take ownership of assets for community benefit**
- **Support local authorities and other public agencies (relevant authorities) to transfer assets into community ownership**
- **Provide dedicated support to communities looking to take ownership of former places of worship (typically churches) through the New Futures: Former Places of Worship programme (funded by HES, NLHF and DTAS)**
- **Deliver a Facilities Management Advisory Service**

**Advisor-led
support**

**Across all 32
Local Authority
areas**

**Free to DTAS
members and
non-members**



COSS Team Advisors



**COSS Programme Lead and Advisor
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**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT –
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Pre- and –Post Acquisition Support**

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New Futures: Former Places of Worship Team



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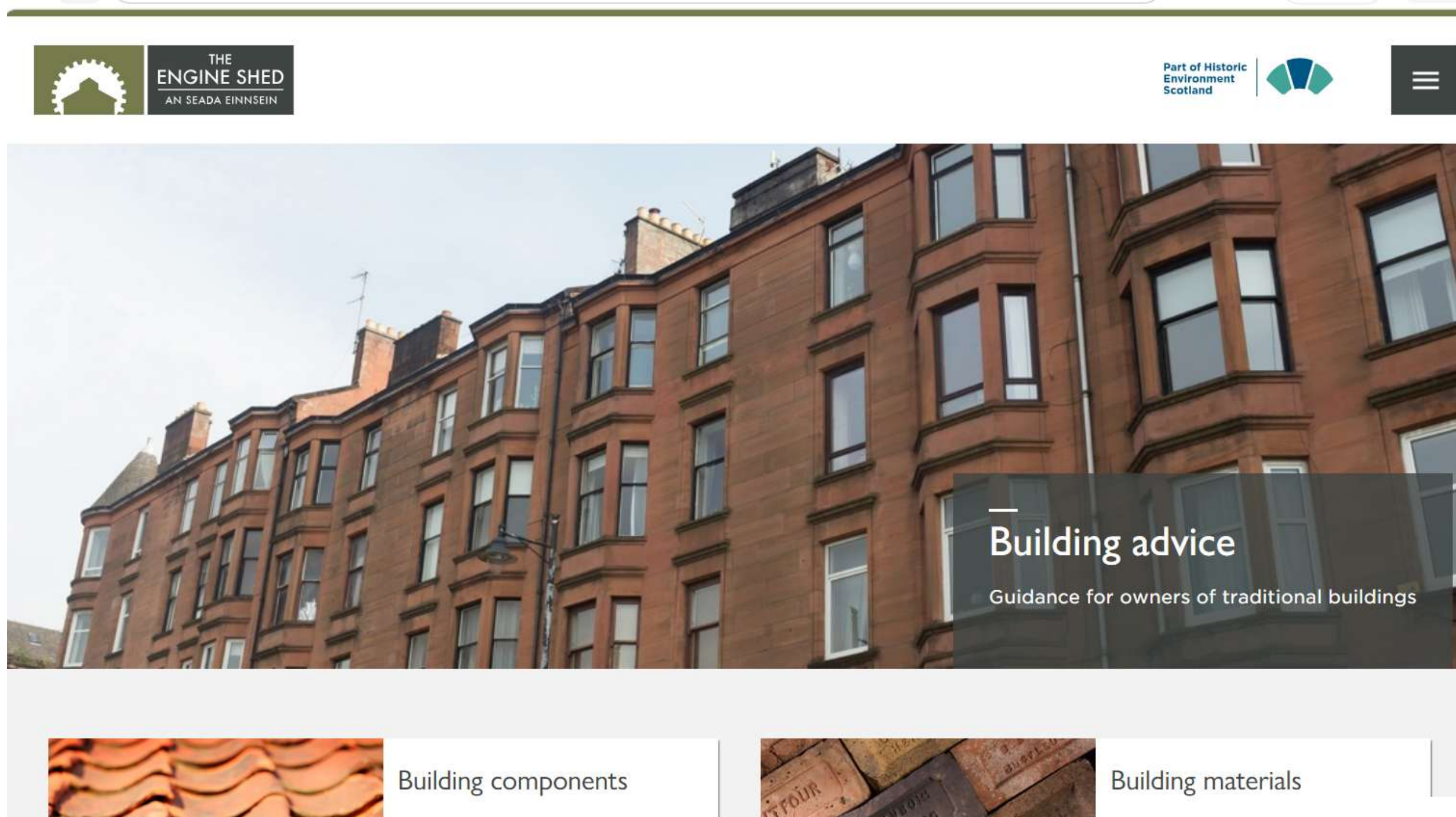
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All staff contact details are on our website: <https://dtascot.org.uk/our-team/>



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is the lead public body responsible for protecting and promoting Scotland's historic environment

[Building Advice | Scotland's Dedicated Building Conservation Centre](#)





Our expert panellists

Andrew Aldous, Facilities Management Advisor, COSS

Andrew has been running the DTAS Facilities Management Service since 2024 and prior to that managed the Fordell Firs Outdoor Centre.

A qualified H&S professional with experience managing complex assets, Andrew has a focus on general Health and Safety, legal compliance and financial planning.





Our expert panellists

Dennis Gowans, Crail Community Partnership



Secretary of Crail Community Partnership, Chairman of Crail Preservation Society, Trustee of Crail Museum and work very actively in support of community initiatives such as Crail Festival, Crail Folk Club and Crail Kirk's Future (Also one of the green-keepers on Crail's Putting Green.



Our expert panellists

David Cook, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust (GBPT)

David Cook is Chief Executive of Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, a charity established in 1982 which redevelops and repurposes historic properties of all types in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

A Fellow of the Royal Institution of Charters Surveyors and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland, David has over 30 years' experience of developing and managing property for community, social enterprise, cultural and community uses.

Before joining GBPT, David lead Wasps Artists Studios for 23 years and later ran his own consultancy practice, working with clients in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

David was EY Social Entrepreneur for Scotland in 2014, and is currently co-Chair of the Glasgow Built Heritage Commission.





Our expert panellists

Willie Watt, conservation accredited architect



Willie Watt is a Scottish architect and Director of Nicoll Russell Studios in Dundee, with extensive experience in architecture, conservation and the sensitive adaptation of historic buildings.

A RIAS-accredited Conservation Architect and former President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, he has led award-winning projects involving listed buildings, churches, stations, cultural institutions, and community regeneration across Scotland.

He has a particular interest in vernacular buildings and architectural sketching. Through TheArchitectsSketchbook, he explores and documents vernacular architecture internationally. In 2026, he was awarded a Shackleton Scholarship to visit, draw and investigate the vernacular buildings of Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands.



Our expert panellists

Sarah Kettles, Heritage Consultant

Sarah Kettles is an independent heritage consultant operating across Scotland, supporting community-led organisations to develop, fund and deliver ambitious heritage capital projects. She brings specialist expertise in applying for funding, project development and delivery. As a full member of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, Sarah also supports groups to understand the specific requirements of dealing with listed buildings, what their limitations might be and achieving their potential.

With more than 25 years' experience in the built heritage sector, Sarah has worked on a wide range of grant-funded projects, from former merchants' houses to a traditional souter's workshop. She has a specific interest in churches, and is currently the project co-ordinator for the Lochwinnoch Community Development Trust's church redevelopment project.





Our expert panellists



Moses Jenkins, Project Manager, HES

Moses is a Project Manager with Historic Environment Scotland, with over 21 years experience providing guidance notes and sharing expertise on traditional buildings.

He has degrees in history from Stirling and Glasgow universities and has a PhD in Scottish Traditional Brickwork from the University of Dundee. He is a conservation accredited construction manager as a MCIOB.

David



Moses



Dennis



***Questions
Please!!!***



Sarah



Andrew



Willie



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