Historic Environment Scotland

We are the lead public body for Scotland’s historic environment: a charity dedicated to the advancement of heritage, culture, education and environmental protection.

Our books are telling the stories of Scotland. From landmark works of expert research to creative collaborations with internationally renowned authors, our aim is to explore ideas and start conversations about the past, present and future of our nation’s history and heritage.
Scotland’s History
Pocket HES
Fiona Watson

Who was St Columba? Why was Mary, Queen of Scots, executed? When were the Jacobite risings? Where was the new Scottish Parliament built?

Scotland’s vibrant and bloody past captures the imagination. But there is far more to Scottish history than murder and mayhem, tragedy and betrayal. In Scotland’s History, historian Fiona Watson looks back across thousands of years into the lives of the people of Scotland. She captures the critical moments and memorable personalities known throughout the world – from the Picts to Bonnie Prince Charlie, and from Macbeth to the Battle of Bannockburn – revealing the truth behind the myths.
Donald S Murray grew up under the gleam of the Butt of Lewis lighthouse, and lighthouses have remained a continual presence in his life. He is the author of non-fiction, fiction and poetry, with a particular focus on Scotland’s islands. His books include the acclaimed *As the Women Lay Dreaming*, *The Dark Stuff: Stories from the Peatlands* and *The Guga Hunters*.

*For the Safety of All* is a beautifully illustrated hardback celebrating these remarkable buildings, including previously unpublished drawings and photographs.

- a beautifully illustrated hardback celebrating these remarkable buildings, including previously unpublished drawings and photographs
- part of the Year of Coasts & Waters
- published in partnership with the Northern Lighthouse Board and in conjunction with work between HES and NLB to update listed buildings records.

For the Safety of All
A Story of Scotland’s Lighthouses
Donald S Murray

‘There have always been lighthouses in my life. There has been a closeness and steadiness to our relationship, as if they have kept pace and in close contact with me.’

Lighthouses punctuate Scotland’s coastline – a stoic presence on the edge of the landscape. Since the earliest of these hardy structures were raised, they have been a lifeline for seafarers at the mercy of treacherous weather and uncertain navigation. Today over 100 of Scotland’s lighthouses are listed buildings.

The lighthouse is now one of many maritime resources which act ‘for the safety of all’. But we are still drawn to the solitary life of the keeper, the beauty of the lens of the lamp and the calm reassurance of a flashing light on a distant shore.

Donald S Murray explores Scotland’s lighthouses through history, storytelling and the voices of the lightkeepers. From ancient beacons to the work of the Stevensons and the Northern Lighthouse Board, and from wartime strife to automation and preservation, lighthouses stand as a testament to the nation’s innate connection to the sea.
John R Hume is Scotland’s foremost expert on industrial heritage. John’s greatest passion was – and is – industry. Over the course of the 1960s, 70s and 80s, he took over 25,000 photographs of late-industrial and post-industrial Scotland. His collection is a remarkable portrait of a way of life that has now all but vanished. His drive to act as a witness to Scotland’s industrial empire, and its steady disintegration, took him to every corner of the country.

John’s photography produces an exhaustive and objective record. Yet it also reveals remarkable and poignant glimpses of domestic life – children playing in factory ruins, high-rises emerging on the city skylines, working men and women dwarfed by the incredible scale of an already crumbling industrial infrastructure.

In *A Life of Industry*, author Daniel Gray tells John’s story, and the story of what has been lost – and preserved.
Scottish Castles
Little Explorers
Illustrations by Louise Forshaw

£9.99
12pp
Board book
215 x 215mm
Colour Illustrations
Age range 1–4
Children’s novelty board book (YBGP/A3K79)
Scotland (1DBKS)
9781782505624

Lay siege to Stirling Castle, spot Nessie hiding at Urquhart Castle, have a feast with Mary, Queen of Scots, and escape Edinburgh Castle’s dungeons!

In this book, little explorers are introduced to Scotland’s history through its most famous castles. Moving parts let them pull up a portcullis, lower a drawbridge, tunnel out of the dungeons, blow up a tower and set off an amazing firework display.

Each page is inspired by a real Scottish castle. An ideal gift for visitors to Scotland, this large board book is chunky but lightweight with sturdy moving parts that are just the right size for little hands.

Skara Brae
Little Explorers
Illustrations by Louise Forshaw

£9.99
12pp
Board book
215 x 215mm
Colour Illustrations
Age range 1–4
Children’s novelty board book (YBGP/A3K79)
Scotland (1DBKS)
9781782506324

Discover the secrets of the Stone Age and travel back in time to see what life was like for the villagers of Skara Brae on Orkney.

Skara Brae introduces little explorers to Neolithic life through Scotland’s famous prehistoric village. The moving parts let them catch a fish for dinner, cook over an open fire, travel through tunnels to visit friends, raise a standing stone at Stenness, and even uncover the village thousands of years later!

The bright and exciting illustrations in this board book are full of historical detail, helping young children to learn as they play.
Edinburgh Castle for Kids
Fun Facts and Amazing Activities
Illustrations by Moreno Chiacchiera

£5.00
40pp
Paperback
240 x 195mm
Colour illustrations
Age range 6–10
Children’s history (WTMH/C4L79)
Scotland (IDBKS)
9781782505631

Explore Scotland’s most famous castle – home to kings and queens, the site of historic battles, and probably the best-known place in Scotland. This fun, fact-packed book includes everything you need to know about the castle’s 1,000-year history.

Conveying fascinating facts through simple words and historically accurate illustrations, each section includes a fun activity – mazes, doodling and colouring, spot the difference, untangle, search and find and join the dots.

The ultimate kids’ guide to Scotland’s most famous landmark – whether you’ve visited or not!

Awesome Scottish Castles
Sticker and Activity Book
Illustrations by Moreno Chiacchiera

£5.99
24pp
Paperback
276 x 215mm
Colour illustrations and stickers
Age range 3–6
Sticker and activity books (YBGS/BSL79)
Scotland (IDBKS)
9781782506317

Discover awesome Scottish castles in this sticker and activity book bursting with colouring, doodling, puzzles and more than 100 stickers!

Created in partnership with Floris Books, and based on Historic Environment Scotland’s portfolio of castle properties including Edinburgh Castle, Urquhart Castle, Stirling Castle and Caerlaverock Castle, this bright and lively activity book is packed with fun facts and thrilling historical detail to bring Scotland’s castles to life!

Published in partnership between Historic Environment Scotland and Floris Books
Sara Sheridan, named as one of the Saltire Society’s most influential Scottish women, past and present, is known for the Mirabelle Bevan mysteries, a series of historical novels based on Georgian and Victorian explorers, and has written non-fiction on the early days of Queen Victoria’s marriage and the historical background to Jane Austen’s novel *Sanditon*. With a fascination for uncovering forgotten women in history, she is an active campaigner, a feminist and co-founder of radical perfume brand REEK.

Jenny Proudfoot is an Edinburgh based illustrator and designer whose drawings bring life to the buildings, statues and monuments in the book.

Where are the Women?
A Guide to an Imagined Scotland
Sara Sheridan

For most of recorded history, women have been sidelined, if not silenced, by men who named the built environment after themselves. Now is the time to look unflinchingly at our heritage and bring those women who have been ignored to light. Where are the women? They’ve been here all along...

Can you imagine a different Scotland, a Scotland where women are commemorated in statues, streets and buildings – even in the hills and valleys?

This is a guidebook to that alternative nation, where the cave on Staffa is named after Malvina rather than Fingal, and Arthur’s Seat isn’t Arthur’s, it belongs to St Triduana. You arrive into Dundee at Slessor Station and the Victorian monument on Stirling’s Abbey Hill interprets national identity through the women who ran hospitals during the First World War. The West Highland Way ends at Fort Mary. The Old Lady of Hoy is a prominent Orkney landmark. And the plinths in central Glasgow proudly display statues of the suffragettes who fought until they won.

In this guide, streets, buildings, statues and monuments are dedicated to real women, telling their often unknown stories.

‘Charming or amusing though these imagined memorials are, the heart of the book is serious, the product of assiduous research, and extremely interesting. Treat it as a quasi-official gazetteer and it will deepen your knowledge of Scotland, even in many cases of your own city, town, village or countryside, and enrich your travels.’ Allan Massie, *The Scotsman*

‘provides a tantalising glimpse of an alternative universe where the female contribution is prized’ *The Herald*

£9.99
448 pages
Paperback
198 x 129mm
Social & cultural history (HBTB)
Feminism & feminist theory (JFFK)
Scotland (1DBKS)
ISBN 9781849173087
eISBN 9781849172745

Selected for the 2019 First Minister’s Summer Reading List
Scotland from the Sky
James Crawford

‘In this book, you will travel in both space and time, starting in the years around the First World War and moving all the way up to the present day. As you go, you will see just what our pioneering aviators saw as they stared out from their cockpits. And, more than that, you will explore what they were trying to find. Because, from above, Scotland can be many different things, depending on what you choose to look at – and who is doing the looking.’

Accompanying the BBC documentary series Scotland from the Sky, this lavishly illustrated book draws on the vast collection of aerial photography held in the archives of Historic Environment Scotland. Historian and series presenter James Crawford opens an extraordinary window into our past to tell the remarkable story of a nation from above – taking readers back in time to show how our great cities have dramatically altered with the ebb and flow of history, while whole communities have vanished in the name of progress. The book shows how aerial imagery can reveal treasures from the ancient past, uncovering secrets buried right beneath our feet. And it demonstrates how the view from above has been at the heart of the post-war transformation of both our countryside and our urban landscapes.

This is a fascinating – and little known – story of war, innovation, adventure, cities, landscapes and people. This is the story of Scotland, from the sky.

‘Crawford is a genuine, risk-taking adventurer.’ Daily Express

‘Remarkable ... explores Scotland’s cities, coasts and countryside from the air and uses a century of aerial photography to show how rural and urban landscapes have changed.’ The Herald

‘Crawford uncovers the nation’s secrets from the sky.’ Daily Record

‘A stunning combination of aviation adventure and historical detective work’ Press and Journal

‘Opens up many secrets and surprises ... exhilarating’ Courier

£16.99
336 pages
Paperback
257 x 210mm
200 illustrations
Aerial photography (AJRK)
Places & peoples: pictorial (WTM)
Scotland (1DBKS)
History (HBJD1)
ISBN 9781849177375
Bloody Scotland

Lin Anderson, Gordon Brown, Chris Brookmyre, Ann Cleeves, Doug Johnstone, Stuart MacBride, Val McDermid, Denise Mina, Craig Robertson, Sara Sheridan, E S Thomson, Louise Welsh

In Bloody Scotland twelve of Scotland's best crime writers use the sinister side of the country's built heritage in stories that are by turns gripping, chilling and redemptive.

Stellar contributors Val McDermid, Chris Brookmyre, Denise Mina, Ann Cleeves, Louise Welsh, Lin Anderson, Gordon Brown, Doug Johnstone, Craig Robertson, E S Thomson, Sara Sheridan and Stuart MacBride explore the thrilling potential of Scotland's iconic sites and structures. From murder in an Iron Age Broch and a macabre tale of revenge among the furious clamour of an eighteenth century mill, to a dark psychological thriller set within the tourist throng of Edinburgh Castle and a rivalry turning fatal in the concrete galleries of an abandoned modernist ruin, this collection uncovers the intimate – and often deadly – connections between people and places.

Prepare for a dangerous journey into the dark shadows of our nation's buildings – where passion, fury, desire and death collide.

'This anthology delivers treat after treat ... A dozen great writers. A dozen great places. A killer combination.' The Scotsman

'A brilliant publication capturing the unstoppable Scottish crime fiction scene in all its murderous glory via twelve short stories from writers including Val McDermid, Louise Welsh and Denise Mina ... an astute publishing move' The Herald, Books of the Year

'This is an outstanding book that will broaden the horizons of its readers as it entertains them, in terms both of what Scotland has to offer visitors, and the breadth of its crime-writing talent.' Undiscovered Scotland

'The result is a collection both diverse and surprisingly cohesive ... In Bloody Scotland, geography, not biology, is destiny, and these twelve stories demonstrate that fate is not always kind. Here's hoping that Scotland boasts enough landmarks for an encore.' Kirkus Review

£8.99
288 pages
Paperback
198 x 129mm
Crime & mystery (FF)
ISBN 9781849176668
eISBN 9781849172448

Crime Writers' Association Dagger Winner 2018
‘What we build always reveals things that are deeply and innately human. Because all buildings are stories, one way or another.’

Kathleen Jamie, Alexander McCall Smith, Alistair Moffat, James Robertson and James Crawford travel across the country to tell the story of the nation, from abandoned islands and lonely glens to the heart of our modern cities.

Whether visiting Shetland’s Mousa Broch at midsummer, following in the footsteps of pilgrims to Iona Abbey, joining the tourist bustle at Edinburgh Castle, scaling the Forth Bridge or staying in an off-the-grid eco-bothy on Eigg, the authors unravel the stories of the places, people and passions that have had an enduring impact on the landscape and character of Scotland.

‘a fascinating alternative take on the country’s social, political and cultural histories’ ***** Scottish Field

‘The quality of the writing is uniformly high … This is a very good book; edifying and, at times, revelatory.’ The Herald

’a fine picture of our strange and varied country and its history’ The Scotsman

‘by turns inspiring and fascinating … a book that gives context to the Scotland we see around us today’ Undiscovered Scotland

Who Built Scotland
25 Journeys in Search of a Nation
Alexander McCall Smith, Alistair Moffat, James Crawford, James Robertson and Kathleen Jamie

£9.99
432 pages and two colour-plate sections
Paperback
198 x 129mm
Travel writing (WTL)
Social & cultural history (HBTB)
Scotland (1DBKS)
ISBN 9781849172721
eISBN 9781849172455

Alexander McCall Smith is one of the world’s most prolific and popular authors. His books include the No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series and the Scotland Street novels.

Alistair Moffat is an award-winning author of history books, and a former Director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

James Crawford was Publisher at HES for over ten years. He is the author of the Saltire-nominated Fallen Glory and the writer and presenter of the BBC series Scotland From the Sky.

James Robertson is a Booker-longlisted author of highly acclaimed novels. He is also a publisher of poetry and children’s books in Scots.

Kathleen Jamie is a writer of poetry and non-fiction. She was the winner of the Saltire Book of the Year 2016 and was awarded the 2012 Costa Poetry Prize for The Overhaul.
The Honours of Scotland
The Story of the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Destiny
Chris Tabraham

The Honours of Scotland tells the turbulent story of the Honours – Scotland’s crown jewels – and the equally dramatic tale of the Stone of Destiny.

Over the centuries, Scotland’s monarchy experienced relentless conflict and shifts in power. But throughout all of the struggles, there remained one stalwart reminder of the authority of the monarchy: the Honours of Scotland. For centuries, these priceless objects were entangled in the intrigues of Scottish noble and royal families. Hidden, stolen, mended, remade – and now taking pride of place on display in Edinburgh Castle – the Honours and their survival depended on the brave actions of many Scots.

Existing at the crossroads of myth and tradition, ceremony and legitimacy, the Honours and the Stone of Destiny transcended the sway of individual kings and queens to become proud symbols of Scottish identity and power.

£9.99
160 pages
Hardback
230 x 165 mm
200 Illustrations
Scotland (TDBKS)
British & Irish history (HBJD)
ISBN 9781849172752

Chris Tabraham is an archaeologist and historian. He worked for Historic Scotland for 40 years, first as Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments and retiring as Principal Historian in 2010.

‘a concise but detailed account … Intriguing and informative’
Scottish Field

‘beautifully-produced and presented … The book sets out to present the story of the Honours of Scotland to a popular audience … and it does it very well.’
Undiscovered Scotland
It is easy to overlook how much of our history is preserved all around us – the way the narrative of bygone days has been inscribed in fields, forests, hills and mountains, roads, railways, canals, lochs, buildings and settlements. Indeed, footprints of the past are to be found almost everywhere. The shapes of fields may reveal the brief presence of the Romans or the labours of medieval peasants, while great heaps of abandoned spoil or the remains of gargantuan holes in the ground mark the rapid decline of heavy industry in the recent past.

These evocative spaces provide unique evidence for the way this land with its wealth of resources has been lived in, worked on, ruined, abandoned, restored and celebrated – offering valuable clues that bring the past to life far more effectively than any written history.

A History of Scotland’s Landscapes explores the many ways that we have used, adapted and altered our environment over thousands of years. Full of maps, photographs and drawings, it offers a remarkable new perspective on Scotland – a unique guide to tracing memories, events and meanings in the forms and patterns of our surroundings.

‘a beautiful book, copiously illustrated with lovely old maps as well as paintings and photographs, not only of the various topographical features studied but also depicting early life and labour in Scotland’ The Herald

‘Some books are simply enjoyable. Others are a joy. A History of Scotland’s Landscapes is both … An outstanding book likely to be of immense value to anyone who takes an interest in the landscapes we see around us.’ Undiscovered Scotland

‘high-quality photography, accompanied by serious but accessible historical and archaeological prose … This is a book you’re really going to want on your coffee table.’ Bookseller
The ruin of St Peter’s College has sat on a wooded hilltop above the village of Cardross for more than three decades. Over that time, with altars crumbling, graffiti snaking across its walls and nature reclaiming its concrete, it has gained a mythical, cult-like status among architects, preservationists and artists.

St Peter’s only fulfilled its original role as a seminary for fourteen years, from 1966 to 1979. As its uncompromising design gave way to prolonged construction and problematic upkeep, the Catholic Church reassessed the role of seminaries, resolving to embed trainee priests not in seclusion, but in communities. Although briefly repurposed as a drug rehabilitation centre, the building was soon abandoned to decay and vandalism.

Ever since, people have argued and puzzled over the future and importance of St Peter’s. It has been called both Scotland’s best and worst twentieth century building. In 1992, it was listed category A. One of its architects suggested the idea of ‘everything being stripped away except the concrete itself – a purely romantic conception of the building as a beautiful ruin’.

In this landmark book, Diane Watters looks at the history of a structure that emerged out of an innovative phase of post-war Catholic church-building. She traces the story of an architectural failure which morphed into a tragic modernist myth: unappreciated architects betrayed by an unloving client, and abandoned by an uncaring society. This is a historian’s account of the real story of St Peter’s College: an exploration of how one of Scotland’s most singular buildings became one of its most troubled – and most celebrated.
The Small Isles
John Hunter

Some ten thousand years ago, hunter-gatherers moving through a landscape newly emerged from the grip of the last Ice Age reached four islands on the western seaboard. The shores they landed on were deserted. After making camp, they struck out to hunt and explore. We know this because the evidence of their presence has been preserved down the millennia – in traces of flint and quartz, in charred fragments of grain and animal bone, in great heaped piles of ancient shellfish. The islands were Rum, Eigg, Canna and Muck – four distinctive shapes rising from the waters of the Inner Hebrides between Ardnamurchan and Skye. Collectively, they are known as the Small Isles.

From those first moments on, people have been working these islands and using their resources, adapting each landscape to suit the changing needs of the communities they served. In this definitive new book, archaeologist John Hunter searches for the stories of the Small Isles in the evidence that survives – from the fragmentary physical remains of dwellings, defences, places of worship and monuments, to the records of early antiquarians, historians and travellers.

This is a journey to rediscover communities that were erased by the mass migrations of the nineteenth century, and the rise of the Victorian sporting estate. Within a few generations cultural identity on the islands disappeared and a new order developed. Placenames were changed, buildings and structures abandoned, and traditions forgotten. The Small Isles became islands without memories.

This comprehensive guide – illustrated with a wealth of photographs, maps and drawings – takes readers on a tour of both place and time. Crisscrossing the landscapes of four fascinating and evocative islands, it reveals traces of a forgotten past in everything that has been left behind.

John Hunter is Emeritus Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology at the University of Birmingham. He has undertaken extensive survey work in Scotland, with a particular focus on the Northern and Western Isles.

‘Lucidly written and beautifully produced – a wonderful introduction to this often-overlooked group of islands’

Current Archaeology

Shortlisted for Best Archaeological Book 2018
British Archaeological Awards
Best General Publication finalist 2017
ACE Best Product Awards

hundreds of maps, drawings and photographs highlight notable features and locations to explore on Rum, Eigg, Canna and Muck

provides a tour of both the past and the present of the Small Isles - an invaluable guide for visitors and walkers who would like to know more about the history of the islands
St Kilda
The Last and Outmost Isle
Angela Gannon and George Geddes

The paperback edition of the best-selling definitive history of St Kilda.

In 1527 Hector Boece, the first Principal of King’s College Aberdeen, wrote in his extensive History of the Scottish People of an island of rocky crags and prehistoric sheep, which could only be reached through extreme danger to life. It was, he explained, ‘the last and outmaist Ile’ of Scotland. It was St Kilda.

St Kilda breaks the waters of the Atlantic Ocean some 100 miles west of the mainland, and 40 miles west of the Outer Hebridean island of North Uist. On clear days it appears as a dark silhouette on a distant horizon. Approach it, and it resolves into seven shapes – the four islands of Hirta, Boreray, Soay and Dun, and three towering sea stacks. It is an enigmatic and awe-inspiring landscape, a starkly beautiful vision of ‘life on the edge’ which has fascinated everyone from travellers, antiquarians and conservationists to writers, film crews and tourists. And, perhaps as a result, it is one of the most mythologised and misunderstood places on earth.

Archaeologists Angela Gannon and George Geddes spent over nine months living and working on St Kilda, and have been part of a team which has been researching its complex and remarkable history for more than a decade. In this book they turn the popular perception of the archipelago on its head. St Kilda, they argue, has never existed in total isolation, but has always been linked to a network of communities scattered across the north-western seaboard and the Highlands of Scotland. St Kilda: The Last and Outmost Isle pulls St Kilda back from the ‘end of the world’ to tell a compelling story of triumph over geographical adversity. What makes these islands so special is not their distance from ‘civilisation’, but rather their enduring capacity to remain a living, connected part of Scotland over the course of some three thousand years.

Angela Gannon, a Historic Environment Scotland archaeologist, led the major field survey project on St Kilda in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, and is an expert on Scotland’s island landscapes.

George Geddes was the National Trust for Scotland’s St Kilda Archaeologist in 2008–9, living on the islands for six months. Now an archaeologist at HES, he specialises in the study of Scotland’s remote islands.

Shortlisted for History Book of the Year 2016
The Saltire Literary Awards

Shortlisted for Best Archaeological Book 2016
British Archaeological Awards

Nominated for Book of the Year 2017
Current Archaeology Awards

‘A fascinating book’
Press and Journal, Book of the Week

‘Debunks the romantic myth of an isolated, “uncivilised” community’
The Times

‘Ground-breaking’
The Herald

‘The definitive volume on St Kilda’
Oban Times

£16.99
Includes 760 x 480mm map showing all archaeological features and Village Bay
320 pages
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257 x 210mm
250 Illustrations
History (HBJD1)
Archaeology (HD)
Scotland (1DBKS)
ISBN 9781849172257
Edinburgh is a city of stories – a place that has witnessed everything from great historical upheavals to the individual lives of a remarkable cast of characters. Every spire, cobblestone, bridge, close and avenue has a tale to tell.

In this book, Alexander McCall Smith curates his own distinctive story of Edinburgh – combining his affectionate, incisive wit with a wealth of stunning imagery drawn from Scotland’s national collection of architecture and archaeology. Through a series of photographs, maps, drawings and paintings – many never before published – he takes the reader on a unique tour. Just like the city’s architecture, the book can move in an instant from sweeping views to secret, hidden vignettes. This is a story of famous landmarks and lost buildings; the people who made them; the people who lived in them.

A Work of Beauty, now published in paperback, is an intimate portrait of a city by one of Scotland’s greatest storytellers.
Above Scotland
The National Collection of Aerial Photography
David Cowley and James Crawford


The landscape of Scotland is full of dramatic contrasts. The high, rugged peaks of the Cairngorms look down on the rounded hills of the southern uplands. Wild moorlands run into fertile flood-plains. The coastline ranges from soft sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters to jagged cliffs battered by the fierce waves of the Atlantic.

Historic Environment Scotland holds the National Collection of Aerial Photography for Scotland with millions of images dating from the 1920s to the present day. These photographs – many of which have never been seen before by the public – tell the remarkable story of a changing nation, from stone circles, Roman remains and ruined castles, to the growth of villages, towns and cities, the rise and fall of heavy industry, the country at war and the proud engineering and architecture of the modern landscape.

For the first time in one volume, HES has brought together the finest images from its collection in a stunning illustration of Scotland’s past, present and future.

David Cowley is an archaeologist with 20 years of experience recording the Scottish landscape and runs the HES aerial survey programme.

James Crawford was the Publisher at HES. He is the author of Scotland from the Sky, Scotland’s Landscapes, Above Scotland – Cities, Victorian Scotland and Aerofilms: A History of Britain from the Sky, and has previously worked as a literary agent and journalist.

‘A wonderful illustration of Scotland’s past, present and future’
Scottish Field

‘See Scotland as you have never seen it’
The Scotsman

‘The finest aerial photographs of Scotland’
STV’s The Hour
Scotland’s Landscapes
The National Collection of Aerial Photography
James Crawford


As the glaciers of the last Ice Age receded, humans ventured into the far north, exploring a wild, fertile territory. Nomadic hunter-gatherers at first, they made the decision to stay for good – to farm and to build.

The landscapes they lived on were remarkable in their diversity. Vast forests of pine and birch ran through one of the world’s oldest mountain ranges – once as high as the Himalayas but over millennia scoured and compressed by sheets of ice a mile thick. On hundreds of islands around a saw-edged coastline, communities flourished, linked to each other and the wider world by the sea, the transport superhighway of ancient times.

It was a place of challenges and opportunity. A place we know today as Scotland.

Over the past 10,000 years, every inch of Scotland – whether remote hilltop, fertile flood-plain or storm-lashed coastline – has been shaped, changed and moulded by its people. Scotland’s Landscapes tells the enduring story of this interaction between man and his environment. Stunning imagery from the National Collection of Aerial Photography comes together to build up a picture of a dramatic terrain forged by thousands of years of incredible change. These are Scotland’s landscapes as you have never seen or understood them before.

James Crawford was the Publisher at Historic Environment Scotland. He is the author of Above Scotland; Above Scotland - Cities, Victorian Scotland and Aerofilms: A History of Britain from Above, and has previously worked as a literary agent and journalist.

‘Scotland’s Landscapes is full to bursting with truly breathtaking scenes from the country’s every corner.’

The Scotsman

‘This is a visually stunning book from the team which brought us Victorian Scotland, Above Scotland and Above Scotland – Cities ... A must have for those who would like to know Scotland better!’

Scottish Field

‘Aerial photographs ... can be absolutely heartstopping. There is a photograph from the sky of Vatersay in Scotland’s Landscapes. I would almost sooner look at this photo than be there.’

Roger Hutchinson, author of Calum’s Road

£14.99
224 pages
Paperback
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200 Illustrations
Aerial Photography (AJRK)
History (HBJD1)
Scotland (1DBKS)
ISBN 9781902419893
Building Knowledge
An Architectural History of the University of Edinburgh
Nick Haynes and Clive B Fenton

£25
256 pages
Hardback
290 x 235mm
200 illustrations
ISBN 9781849172462

Edinburgh is a city renowned for critical thinking, cutting edge breakthroughs and unique creativity. At the heart of these enlightened ideals lies the University of Edinburgh, which has influenced life in the capital since it was founded in the late sixteenth century. Building Knowledge: An Architectural History of the University of Edinburgh reveals how the structural fabric of the University has often reflected the changing priorities of Edinburgh scholars. Buildings which emerged from the initial mishmash of the Old Town were to become iconic Scottish landmarks – from the classical magnificence of Robert Adams’ purpose-built Old College, to more controversial modernist developments, like Basil Spence’s monumental central library.

Combining beautiful new photography with rare archive material, Building Knowledge explores the evolution of the University through its celebrated architecture. Many leading figures have graced the University’s halls, laboratories and lecture theatres, from David Hume and Emeritus Professor Higgs, to Robert Louis Stevenson and Dolly the Sheep. Its buildings will continue to inspire the education of students for generations to come.

Building Knowledge
An Architectural History of the University of Glasgow
Nick Haynes

£19.95
216 pages
Paperback
290 x 235mm
200 illustrations
ISBN 9781849171144

For over 560 years the University of Glasgow has acted as a remarkable patron of architecture. Each generation has sought to maintain and adapt the University’s buildings to the ever-changing needs of a world-class teaching and research institution. Often the University has turned to the finest architects, designers and craftsmen to realise its ambitions.

Recent survey work undertaken by Historic Environment Scotland in collaboration with the University has unearthed an extraordinary record of these partnerships. Now, for the first time, the story of the University and its buildings can be told through a wealth of never-before-published archive material, ranging from photographs, plans and drawings, to contracts, accounts and personal letters. Building Knowledge traces the development of the institution from its foundation in 1451 right up until the present day. The University’s fascinating buildings – which continue to inspire thousands of students, residents and visitors – have much to tell us about Scotland’s enduring role as a centre of learning and culture in both Europe and the wider world.
The Drosten stone – one of Scotland’s premier monuments – came to light during restoration work at St Vigeans Church, near Arbroath, in the 1870s. A rare example of Pictish writing, the Drosten stone is just one in an astounding collection of exquisitely preserved Pictish sculptures discovered in and around the church.

These carved stones revel in Pictish inventiveness, teeming with lively animals, monsters and people, as well as Pictish symbols and everyday objects. The sculptures’ iconography also draws on Christian and classical literature, witness to a highly literate and cosmopolitan society.

This definitive study of St Vigeans’ Pictish stones, illustrated with plates of the full collection, begins in the recent past, when the sculptures began to emerge as a remarkable historic entity. The background of the sculptures is then explored, including an analysis of the carvings, the geology of the stones and attempts to extract meaning and context for this unique stone collection as part of a powerful ecclesiastical landscape.

Jane Geddes studied History at Cambridge and History of Art at the Courtauld Institute, London. She worked as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage before joining Aberdeen University, where she is now professor of History of Art. She has published widely in the field of medieval art and served as an academic advisor to Historic Scotland for the museum of Pictish sculpture at St Vigeans.
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Dominating the city from its volcanic rock, Edinburgh Castle is one of the oldest fortified places in Europe. This natural stronghold has been occupied for thousands of years, shifting its shape as it was adapted for new uses and against new threats.

The castle has long been a royal residence and a focus for national pride – a place of strength where kings and queens could enjoy relative safety in turbulent times, and national treasures could be securely stored.

It has been at the heart of Scotland’s major events, fought over, held and recaptured time after time. In fact, it is the most besieged place in Great Britain, and remained in military use well into the past century.

Over the years Edinburgh Castle has attracted countless visitors with an interest in Scotland’s dramatic history. This book invites visitors to explore the castle, learn about its extraordinary history and discover some of its fascinating secrets.

Stirling Castle
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The volcanic crag that dominates Stirling was probably fortified from ancient times, but the importance of Stirling Castle as a royal residence peaked in the sixteenth century. Around 1500, James IV added new buildings including the vast Great Hall. The elegant Chapel Royal was built by James VI in 1594. But the heart of Stirling Castle is the spectacular Palace, commissioned by James V in the 1530s. Its exuberant design drew on the fashions of the European Renaissance to express James’s power and sophistication. Following a major programme of research, Historic Scotland re-presented the Palace interiors as they might have looked when James V’s grand scheme was completed.

This book also includes a guide to Argyll’s Lodging and Mar’s Wark, grand residences occupied by major nobles near castle.

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Scotland’s earliest sporting buildings often originated on grand estates, developing as a result of the strong link between the nobility and recreational pursuits. At the same time, however, many of Scotland’s traditional sports can be traced to more popular and anarchic gameplaying, with early versions of golf, shinty and football typically played in streets and public commons.

Athletics, bowling, cricket, curling, football, golf, Highland games, horse-racing, swimming and tennis are just some of the sports that saw a huge groundswell of popular interest and participation in the late nineteenth century, accompanied by feverish building of stadia, grandstands, clubhouses, pavilions, huts and swimming pools. Using stunning photography Scotland’s Sporting Buildings brings the special interest of these sites and structures to life. With a focus on listed buildings, it celebrates the diverse range and outstanding quality of historic purpose-built sporting architecture that exists across the country.

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This book focuses on the people and places on Scotland’s home front, illustrated with wartime plans, historical imagery and modern photography. Using new research, it covers the well-known sites such as Scapa Flow, but also highlights some lesser known aspects, including the Edinburgh counter-invasion plans.

There are no longer any living men or women who played a part in the First World War – it has passed from personal experience into the pages of history. Yet there is still a physical legacy of the Great War to be found in Scotland, although often faded by time. Scotland’s First World War uses the architectural remains – along with letters, diaries and poems – to tell the untold story of the nation in one of history’s most devastating conflicts.
Monuments of Orkney
A Visitor’s Guide
Caroline Wickham-Jones

An Inventory for the Nation
The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

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From the Early Neolithic farm at Knap of Howar to the flamboyant chapel built by Italian prisoners of war in the 1940s, the Orkney Islands are amazingly rich in historic and prehistoric sites.

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In this extensively illustrated guide, Orkney-based archaeologist Caroline Wickham-Jones introduces more than 60 monuments in concise and accessible terms, set in context by a brief history of the islands.

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On 2 August 1908, Alexander Ormiston Curle, a 41-year-old solicitor and antiquarian, set off by bicycle from the Borders on a mission to inspect all the ancient monuments of Scotland. Three months later, he announced that his first survey, of the County of Berwickshire, was complete. ‘I have inspected over 200 objects’ he wrote ‘and written up notes on them … The number of miles I have tramped by moorland and meadow I have no reckoning of but they are many. It has never been anything but the most intense pleasure to me.’

Curle was the first Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, tasked with making an ‘inventory’ of sites ‘connected with or illustrative of the culture of the people of Scotland from earliest times’. It was decided that the only way to create this inventory was for staff to go out into the field to see the nation’s ancient structures. It is a task that is still ongoing today.

This is the remarkable story of the pursuit of that vision, following the Royal Commission over the course of a century. It shows how a task which was first pursued by one man on a bicycle has become, over 100 years later, the permanent and enduring work of a national institution.

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The Picts were a sophisticated and powerful people who dominated much of what is now Scotland for hundreds of years, before uniting with the Gaels to form the nation of Alba. Their language has all but disappeared, but their cultural heritage survives – above all in the form of hundreds of incised and carved stones, many marked with their distinctive symbols.

Pictish symbols have provoked much curiosity and prompted many interpretations – some more fanciful than others. They are still the subject of debate among experts.

This extensively illustrated book explores all the available information on the Picts in an appealing, accessible and authoritative way. It also includes full guides to the important collections of Pictish carved stones at St Vigeans in Angus and Meigle in Perth & Kinross.

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