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|  |  |  |  | Historic Environment Scotland logo |

**Building Stone Database for Scotland**

**Beta test of the web portal**

*Thank you for agreeing to take part in this* beta *test. Your feedback is much appreciated, and will help us to improve the product. Please take a few minutes to read the following information before you start.*

**Background**

British Geological Survey (BGS) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have worked together to create the *Building Stone Database for Scotland* (BSDS). This ambitious project aims to define and describe all of the **building stones** of Scotland, and for each one provide details of the **quarries** from which the stone was sourced, the **built sites** in which the stone has been used, and any **samples** of the stone held in publicly accessible reference collections.

The BSDS is the central component in a series of joint initiatives by HES and BGS that aim to raise awareness and appreciation of the richness of the building stone legacy in Scotland, and ultimately help to safeguard the long-term health of our stone-built heritage.

Target users of the BSDS include all those with an interest in the history, legacy and future prospects of Scotland’s remarkable stone-built heritage; they include conservation specialists, heritage specialists, architects, quarriers, and historians. However, the BSDS is not intended to replace the need for expert judgment where this is important, for example in identifying suitable stone to use in making a building repair.

The database design is completed, and population is ongoing; the database currently holds records for approximately 200 building stones, 4,400 quarries, 600 built sites and 1,000 samples.

An essential part of the project is to make the data held in the BSDS accessible to the public through a web portal. The database structure is relatively complex, and creating a portal that is easy to navigate for all users is challenging. Hence, a series of *beta* tests (where a cohort of intended users provides feedback on utility, functionality, glitches etc) is planned that will underpin efforts to improve the portal. On the basis of the first *beta* test, a ‘search by theme’ facility has been added to the portal that allows users to tailor searches more precisely than was previously possible.

**What you need to do!**

Clicking on [this link](http://webservices.bgs.ac.uk/buildingstone) will take you to the landing page of the BSDS web portal. Please spend some time using the portal, ideally both browsing and searching for specific pieces of information, then fill in the form on the back of this page and return it to [ali.davey@hes.scot](mailto:ali.davey@hes.scot).

Once again, thank you for taking part, your feedback is much appreciated.

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**Feedback Questionnaire**

(Please return to ali.davey@hes.scot)

1. Please tell us what type of device you are testing the website on today and which web browser you have used to access the website.

|  |
| --- |
| Device *(i.e. PC, laptop, tablet, smartphone*)  Web browser (*i.e. Chrome, Internet Explorer, Firefox etc*) |

1. Please tell us what your area of interest is.

(Please mark with an X)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Heritage specialist |
|  | Quarries and quarrying |
|  | Planning and policy |
|  | Education |
|  | Construction |
|  | Consultancy |
|  | Academic |
|  | General interest |
|  | Other (please specify) |

1. What type of information are you most interested in?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Building stones |
|  | Quarries |
|  | Built sites |
|  | Other (please specify) |

1. Did you find other information that was interesting?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. What mode of navigation did you use most often?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Maps |
|  | Word-based searches |
|  | Both |

1. Was it easy to explore the website?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1  *(Very difficult)* | 2  *(Difficult)* | 3  *(Neutral)* | 4  *(Easy)* | 5  *(Very easy)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| *Any additional comments?* | | | | |

1. Was it easy to find what you were looking for?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1  *(Very difficult)* | 2  *(Difficult)* | 3  *(Neutral)* | 4  *(Easy)* | 5  *(Very easy)* |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| *Any additional comments?* | | | | |

1. Are there any other ways you feel we could improve the website in terms of functionality?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. Are there any other ways you feel we could improve the website in terms of content?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

*THANK YOU!*

*Please return your questionnaire to* [*ali.davey@hes.scot*](mailto:ali.davey@hes.scot)