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## Celebrating Turf Traditions

The Engine Shed, Stirling Wednesday 5th September 2018



Turf is the Cinderella of earth building in the UK, long forgotten and almost vanished, but it was a historically a key construction material until the 19th century. Recently there has been a surge in recording on archaeological sites, renewed interest in the skills and diversity of this tradition, and recognition of its wider bio-regional context.

EBUKI is holding a day of wide-ranging presentations sharing recent experience of turf building from practitioners in Scotland, Ireland. There will be group discussions on focused themes to inform future partnership activities. Join us for a day relevant to heritage professionals and enthusiasts engaged with vernacular culture.

- **Turf Archaeology** *how can we make sense of what we find – recent projects in Glenshee and Glen Coe*
- **Turf Landscapes** *what are the bioregional & local patterns – Iceland, Ireland, Lewis and Longforgan*
- **Skills Training** *what do we need, can a national strategy & European partnerships have a growing role?*
- **Sharing Knowledge** *what outreach activities succeed – The Sheiling Project, Tay Landscape Partnership*
- **Sheiling Culture** *is the last traditional turf sheiling still out there?*
- **Sustaining Historic Turf** *what repair materials & techniques work – Huntly, St Kilda & Culloden*
- **The value of Reconstructions** *what can we learn by replication – Newtonmore & the Netherlands*
- **Contemporary Turf Building** *– is a living tradition possible – Scotland and Iceland*

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

#### 9.30 – 10.00 REGISTRATION & TEA / COFFEE

- 10.00 – 10.05 **Introduction** Tom Morton, EBUKI
- 10.05 - 10.20 **Roman Turf Building** Ben Russell, University of Edinburgh
- 10.20 – 10.35 **Discovering Iron Age Glenshee** David Sneddon, Northlight Heritage
- 10.35 – 10.50 **Glencoe's Turf Settlements** Daniel Rhodes, National Trust for Scotland
- 10.50 – 11.05 **Stirlingshire Turf** John Harrison, Scottish Vernacular Building Working Group UNCONFIRMED
- 11.05 – 11.20 **The Urban Turf Buildings of Longforgan** Tom Morton, Tay Landscape Partnership
- 11.20 – 11.40 **Understanding the Cleits on St Kilda** Dr. Kevin Grant, Historic Environment Scotland
- 11.40 – 12.00 **Cuishader – a Sheiling Settlement** Ally Morrison or Tom Morton
- 12.00 – 12.30 **Discussion**

#### 12.30 – 13.15 LUNCH

- 13.15 – 13.30 **Reconstructing Turf Houses in the Netherlands** Daniel Postma
- 13.30 – 13.45 **Turf Buildings as a Visitor Attraction Highland Building Museum?** UNCONFIRMED
- 13.30 – 13.45 **Contemplating a Turf Dyke Landscape** Bob Clark, Auchindrain Township
- 13.45 – 14.00 **Learning Through Turf: The Sheiling Project** Sam Harrison? UNCONFIRMED

**14.00 – 14.05 Building A Turf Lime Kiln** Becky Little

**14.05 – 14.20 Contemporary Turf Walling: The Blair House** Joel Franklyn or Tom Morton

**14.20 – 14.25 Comrie Croft: A Turf Bunkhouse** James Fussell UNCONFIRMED

**14.25 – 14.35 6 Years of Iceland Mobilities** Libby Urquhart, The Archnet

**14.35 – 14.45 The European Earth Training Network** Tom Morton or Becky Little

**14.45 – 15.15 TEA / COFFEE**

**15.15 – 15.45 Turf Building In Ireland** – Dr. Fidelma Mullane

**15.45 – 16.15 Turf In Iceland** – Bryndís & Guðný Zoëga, Sigríður & Helgi Sigurðardóttir, Skagafjörður Heritage Museum

**16.15 – 16.45 Discussion**

**Cost** - £50 EBUKI is keen to enable wide participation and bursaries are available on application to [tom@ebuki.co](mailto:tom@ebuki.co)

## Directions

[Book at Eventbrite](#)

[EBUKI in Scotland](#)

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