

PRESS RELEASE

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A National
Strategy for
Business
Archives
in Scotland



Ballasttrust
Understanding Technical Archives



National Records of
Scotland

Celebrating Scotland's Extraordinary Working Archives

The Working Archive is a year-long archive awareness campaign for Scotland.

Championed by the Scottish Council on Archives, to support the ongoing National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland, the campaign aims to encourage archives, their users and the public at large to celebrate the unique stories behind individual Scottish businesses; the records of products that were produced or manufactured in Scotland and exported around the world; and the archival legacy of working Scots of all kinds - whether in business, farming, healthcare, education, the church or government.

Business records and the stories they tell of Scotland's working past demonstrate just how crucial businesses and industries have been in shaping Scotland's economic and social development. Every business is unique, with its own story of achievement, organisational culture, reputation, products and importantly people. Annabel Goldie MSP has said that:

"Business archives provide a fascinating perspective not just on the technical skills of that period but of the social activity of employees and the wider community."

The Working Archive campaign will celebrate the people behind the records - whether the workers and staff of businesses, the communities within which businesses are based or trade or the archivists and curators who work to preserve these records today.

For this reason, the campaign is about more than highlighting the records of business and of working lives. It is also about opening a window on how archives and archivists work. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of the special role that archivists play and of how hard archives often work for the communities and organisations that created or care for them and the people who use them. Many well known Scottish brands and business have contributed to the National Strategy's case study series to share how their archive works for them. Mike Lees, MD of Tennent's Lager has said previously that:

"The Tennent's archive is one of our key assets and hosts a wealth of facts, figures and memorabilia spanning hundreds of years of the brewery's history."

The Working Archive campaign is in this way also a celebration of Scotland's extraordinary 'working archives'. We hope every archive in Scotland, whether large or small, private or public, will support the campaign in some way, by contributing imagery or stories to the website or by undertaking awareness initiatives under The Working Archive banner.

WEBSITE: www.scottisharchives.org.uk/workingarchive

TWITTER: [@WorkingArchive](https://twitter.com/WorkingArchive)

For more information, contact the Scottish Council on Archives on 0131 535 1362 or at contact@scottisharchives.org.uk

THE WORKING ARCHIVE

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Notes for Editors

Business Archives are the records created or received by businesses in any format that may no longer be required for operational, regulatory or legal reasons but which tell the story of that business and should be permanently preserved for historical reasons.

The Scottish Council on Archives

www.scottisharchives.org.uk/ The Scottish Council on Archives is the lead body for the advocacy and development of archive services in Scotland. It supports and promotes archive services across Scotland and their users through a range of advocacy, marketing and development activities.

The National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland

www.scottisharchives.org.uk/businessarchives The Strategy was developed by the Business Archives Council of Scotland and the Ballast Trust, with the support of the National Archives of Scotland and the Scottish Council on Archives. Launched in 2011, it aims to make business archives in Scotland valued, representative of economic activity and innovation and accessible to all in order to ensure the survival of the nation's important business records and industrial heritage.

Scottish working archive facts

- There are over 250 archive repositories in Scotland with thousands of great business archive collections.
- A recent data mapping survey has numbered these collections at 6,122 and they range from small single volume collections of farm estates and shopkeepers to huge shipbuilding collections that are 100s of metres in size.
- The Bank of Scotland was the first business in Scotland to appoint a professional archivist in 1986.
- The largest collection of business records in the UK is held by the University of Glasgow's Archive Service which holds the Scottish Business Archive. This has over 400 collections of business records that cover the whole of Scotland and beyond dating from the 18th century to the present. These collections reflect the contribution and breadth of activity that Scotland's business, industry and enterprise has made, and continues to make, to the world economy.
- The National Strategy for Business Archives in Scotland has published 12 case studies that showcase how business archives can work for companies such as Tennent's, Diageo, G L Watson Ltd and Lloyds Banking Group as well as others that highlight the contribution business archives make to education and communities featuring collections from The Royal Bank of Scotland, Sir Basil Spence Archive at RCAHMS and Dundee Whaling project.

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