

Granton Waterfront Heritage Survey

You Said, We Did

Edinburgh Waterfront, Place Directorate

10.07.2024

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Heritage and Place Programme is an area-based funding programme that aims to contribute to the development of vibrant and sustainable places in Scotland through community-led regeneration of the built environment.
- 1.2 This process is supported by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) working in collaboration with the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), who have joined forces to jointly provide area-based funding, providing access to a larger pool of resources for heritage projects across Scotland.
- 1.3 The fund is separated into two phases: the Development phase and the Delivery phase. The principal output of the development phase is the production of the key project documents required for the delivery phase, including an Area Action Plan, detailed Cost Plans and Community Heritage Activities Plan.
- 1.4 In July 2023, the City of Edinburgh Council was successful in securing funding for the “Development Phase” of the Heritage and Place Programme-backed project “Linking and restoring the fragmented heritage of Granton Waterfront, Edinburgh”. The Development phase is due to complete at the end of July 2024.
- 1.5 In May 2024, the Council undertook a public engagement exercise to share the vision and proposals for Granton’s heritage assets. The proposals include capital works to four listed buildings and structures as part of the scheme: Granton Castle Walled Garden, Granton Lighthouse, the Granton Station Square Platforms and Madelvic House.
- 1.6 The public engagement exercise was hosted on the [City of Edinburgh Council's Consultation Hub](#) website for 4 weeks from the 1 - 29 May 2024, and an in-person drop in event was held at Granton Station on the 4 May 2024.
- 1.7 The consultation was advertised via the City of Edinburgh Council’s social media channels and on the Granton Waterfront newsletter which goes to over 600 people.
- 1.8 Overall, there were 88 respondents to the online survey, and around 75 people engaged at the in-person event.

2. Implications for Heritage Fund Bid

SECTION 1: YOUR VIEWS ON HERTIAGE

The majority of respondents had never attended any events at Madelvic House (73%). This indicates that more could be done to help promote activity at this venue.

For those who had visited, exhibitions were the most popular event mentioned.

Some concerns were raised about the proposal to install a partition between the archive room and event space (to increase capacity when required). This should be addressed with the Granton:Hub Trustees. Some comments indicate that the use of the building wasn't clear – i.e. who the tenants were and how it operates.

SECTION 3: LIGHTHOUSE

Respondents gave lots of ideas for uses of the building. Responses indicate that a café would be strongly well received in the area (92% answered yes to this question), as well as publicly available events space and a permanent history exhibition/panels for information.

Respondents indicated that “studios” would be the most in-demand type of workspace, however further market research would be required. “Other” responses indicated the need for retail units.

In response to the question of “what the area needs more of”, cafes, social spaces, shops and play spaces for children and young people were cited frequently. As well as improvements to make the area more attractive, safe and accessible (i.e. pedestrian and wheel friendly paths, cycling infrastructure and disabled parking). Respondents also commented that more toilets would be needed on the ground floor if a café was planned.

Responses indicate that the Lighthouse is a priority project for the local community.

SECTION 4: GRANTON CASTLE WALLED GARDEN

The majority of respondents had not visited the Granton Castle Walled Garden. This indicates that more could be done to help promote it to locals and visitors alike.

Of those who had visited the garden they suggested a picnic area/or space for light refreshments, as well as more organised events and workshops. They also commented on the lack of signage and wayfinding. The friendly volunteers received lots of positive comments.

Of those who hadn't visited the garden, they requested longer opening hours, more visibility and a more welcoming entrance.

Generally the respondents were positive about the work proposed to be undertaken and the opportunities this will enable.

SECTION 5: GRANTON STATION SQUARE PLATFORMS

The feedback indicates that the square has lots of potential but is currently underused and underutilised. Ideas for future use include a skate park, café, benches, and local markets.

In terms of the platforms, comments include a replica locomotive, planting, street art, seating areas, interpretation and play spaces for young people.

SECTION 6: PRIOTITIES

When asked which project means the most to them, the majority of respondents (59%) selected the Granton Lighthouse. The restoration of this building is a clear priority for the local community.

SECTION 7: DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of respondents (69%) lived in the area. There was a broad mix of those who had lived here a shorter time (17% between 1-3 years) and a longer time (22% over 10+ years). This indicates that we have reached a broad mix of new and existing residents.

There were marginally more female respondents (53%) but this was not significant. The majority of respondents were between 35-54, 67% of which are in fulltime or part time employment. Only 19% of respondents are retired. The majority of respondents were white, Scottish.

Museum and parks were the most popular cultural attractions (over 90% of respondents had attended in the past two years).

Over 95% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they would like to know more about the history of Granton. This indicates that there is a strong audience base for the Heritage and Place Programme.

3. Next Steps

This information has been fed back to influence the development of the Heritage and Place Programme funding bid.

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