



Community Support

ANDREW BOWIE MP

Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Paul Macari
Head of Planning & Economy
Aberdeenshire Council
Westburn Road
Aberdeen
AB16 5GB

11 July 2023

Dear Paul,

I write to you today to express my support for the Mill of Benholm Enterprise (MoBE), in their endeavours to secure the future of the historic Benholm Mill in Kincardineshire.

It is my understanding that the group recently met with Council Officers in the Asset Transfer Steering group to advance their plans. I am pleased to hear that the group have now been invited to submit a formal application for the asset transfer.

With the Mill being the last fully working water-powered mill in South Aberdeenshire it would be a tragedy for this fantastic asset to be lost. This would not only serve as a significant blow for the small rural community but also a sad loss to our cultural heritage.

MoBE have already done so much to yet to the stage they are at it would be incredibly disappointing to see their endeavours fail to come to fruition. To avoid this and support the group I am giving them my full support and I urge council officers to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Andrew Bowie MP.

Andrew Bowie MP
Member of Parliament for West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Secretary
Mill of Benholm Enterprise (SCIO)
Burn House
Burn of Benholm
Benholm
DD10 0HT

Mairi Gougeon MSP
14-18 Swan Street
Brechin
Angus
DD9 6EF

Email: Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot
Tel: 01356 626 942

Date: 11/07/2023

To whom it may concern,

As the local MSP for Angus North and Mearns, I am delighted to write a letter in support of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise's application for the Community Asset Transfer of the Mill of Benholm site.

The Mill of Benholm is an A-listed 18th century rural water mill complex that used to mill oats. It has been described by Historic Environment Scotland as "an exceptional and rare survival". Following its renovation in 1996, the Mill of Benholm became a popular tourist attraction as people travelled from far and wide to witness one of Scotland's few remaining functional water-powered meal mills in action. However, in 2014 it was closed due to health and safety issues, and has remained shut since then. Its closure was a significant blow to the local community, as the site had become an important hub for community activities. The Mill of Benholm is owned by Aberdeenshire Council and since its closure the site has been mothballed, which has resulted in the Mill becoming inoperable due to damage to the water structure and harm caused by woodworm.

Since it was founded in 2017, the Mill of Benholm Enterprise has worked hard to develop a detailed plan to re-open the Mill of Benholm, halt any further deterioration, make the site accessible for the local community and visitors, and to preserve the Mill of Benholm for future generations. This Community Asset Transfer will help to open a new chapter in the



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mill's future, whilst also providing a boost to the local economy as tourists will return to Benholm to witness the historic Mill turn once again.

Yours Sincerely,



Mairi Gougeon MSP



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Office of Tess White MSP

M2.20

Edinburgh

EH99 1SP

Tess.White.MSP@parliament.scot

0131 348 6218

Tim Stephen
Area Manager
Aberdeenshire Council

10th August 2023

Dear Mr Stephen,

Letter of support for the Community Asset Transfer of the Mill of Benholm

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the North East Region.

I understand from representatives of the Mill of Benholm Enterprise (MoBE) that they are seeking to secure a Community Asset Transfer for the Grade A listed Mill from Aberdeenshire Council. I am delighted to offer my support for this proposal.

Following the Mill of Benholm's closure in 2014, the community has felt its loss and has been deeply saddened to see the deterioration of such a historic site. Located in a conservation hamlet near the coastal village of Johnshaven, the water mill complex is one of the very few water-powered meal mills in Scotland that has survived its long history in almost full working order.

Until it closed almost a decade ago, the Mill of Benholm was a thriving community hub. I believe its restoration and future operation will contribute enormously to the local area as a cultural asset, whether that be through tourism and growing visitor numbers, a boost to health and wellbeing through environmental improvements, or through educational initiatives that share the history of the site and help to cultivate outdoor skills. It will also create a sense of community connectedness for the surrounding towns and villages in a rural setting.

MoBE is motivated to restore the Mill of Benholm for the community's benefit and has thought carefully about how to achieve this while preserving the rich heritage of the site. While I know MoBE is finalising the details of the proposals, I have been consistently struck by the group's resolve and enthusiasm to return the Mill of Benholm to the hands of the community and to restore the site. They will be careful custodians of a rare local treasure.

Yours sincerely,

Tess White MSP
MSP for North East Region

I am interested in the following volunteer work to support the Mill of Benholm

- Helping to raise funds
- Helping to tidy up at the Mill of Benholm
 - General gardening task, e.g. weeding, cutting grass, etc
 - Strimming
 - Hedge cutting, cutting back trees, etc
 - Removing clutter and rubbish
 - Other (Please specify)

waterways

Helping with general tasks at the Mill of Benholm

- Repairing fences, gates, etc
- Painting
- Landscaping
- Groundwork

Helping with other tasks

- Helping with catering when the mobile café is up
- Baking cakes, biscuits, etc
- Helping to show visitors around
- Selling merchandise

I would be able to contribute

- a few hours a month
- a few hours a week
- a day a week
- more than the above

My contact details are

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Mobile [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

My skills

BASIC
some dancing skills

Data Protection
The personal data on this form is being collected to build a volunteer database. Mill of Benholm Enterprise will not distribute your personal information to third parties unless we have your written permission or are required by law to do so. We comply with the Data Protection act 2018 and GDPR (May 2018) when handling your personal information. If you have any concerns about how we use your personal information, contact us at secretary@millofbenholm.co.uk. Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.co.uk for our Data Protection Policy. Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the ICO <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>



The Mill of Benholm needs your help

The Mill of Benholm is a rural water mill complex in the North East of Scotland, situated within the hamlet and conservation area of Benholm, near the fishing village of Johnshaven. The current mill originated in the 18th century and has been altered and rebuilt in 1817. Although, the origin of the Mill of Benholm goes probably back to the 12th century, a charter in 1492 gives further evidence of the mill and the first miller officially recorded was Archibald Brown in 1696. According to Historic Environment Scotland the Mill of Benholm is an exceptional and rare survival and the site received its category B listing in 1972, upgraded to a Category A listing in 2009.

Since 2014 the Mill of Benholm has been closed as a Community Hub and a visitor attraction. The closed café of the Mill of Benholm is missed by many.

The Mill of Benholm Enterprise was established in 2017 to revive the Mill of Benholm, bring it back to community ownership and find a long-term sustainable and viable solution for the Mill of Benholm to be enjoyed by the community and visitors for generations to come

I am interested in the following volunteer work to support the Mill of Benholm

Helping to raise funds

Helping to tidy up at the Mill of Benholm

General gardening task, e.g. weeding, cutting grass, etc

Strimming

Hedge cutting, cutting back trees, etc

Removing clutter and rubbish

Other (Please specify)

Helping with general tasks at the Mill of Benholm

Repairing fences, gates, etc

Painting

Landscaping

Groundwork

Helping with other tasks

Helping with catering when the mobile café is up

Baking cakes, biscuits, etc

Helping to show visitors around

Selling merchandise

I would be able to contribute

a few hours a month

a few hours a week

a day a week

more than the above

My contact details are

Name

[Redacted Name]

Address

[Redacted Address]

Mobile

[Redacted Mobile]

Email

[Redacted Email]

My skills

QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN

Data Protection
The personal data on this form is being collected to build a volunteer database. Mill of Benholm Enterprise will not distribute your personal information to third parties unless we have your written permission or are required by law to do so. We comply with the Data Protection act 2018 and GDPR (May 2018) when handling your personal information. If you have any concerns about how we use your personal information, contact us at secretary@millofbenholm.org. Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.org for our Data Protection Policy. Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the ICO <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>



The Mill of Benholm needs your help

The Mill of Benholm is a rural water mill complex in the North East of Scotland, situated within the hamlet and conservation area of Benholm, near the fishing village of Johnshaven. The current mill originated in the 18th century and has been altered and rebuilt in 1817. Although, the origin of the Mill of Benholm goes probably back to the 12th century, a charter in 1492 gives further evidence of the mill and the first miller officially recorded was Archibald Brown in 1696. According to Historic Environment Scotland the Mill of Benholm is an exceptional and rare survival and the site received its category B listing in 1972, upgraded to a Category A listing in 2009.

Since 2014 the Mill of Benholm has been closed as a Community Hub and a visitor attraction. The closed café of the Mill of Benholm is missed by many.

The Mill of Benholm Enterprise was established in 2017 to revive the Mill of Benholm, bring it back to community ownership and find a long-term sustainable and viable solution for the Mill of Benholm to be enjoyed by the community and visitors for generations to come

I am interested in the following volunteer work to support the Mill of Benholm

- Helping to raise funds
- Helping to tidy up at the Mill of Benholm
 - General gardening task, e.g. weeding, cutting grass, etc
 - Strimming
 - Hedge cutting, cutting back trees, etc
 - Removing clutter and rubbish
 - Other (Please specify)

.....
 Helping with general tasks at the Mill of Benholm

- Repairing fences, gates, etc
- Painting
- Landscaping
- Groundwork

Helping with other tasks

- Helping with catering when the mobile café is up
- Baking cakes, biscuits, etc
- Helping to show visitors around
- Selling merchandise

I would be able to contribute

- a few hours a month
- a few hours a week
- a day a week
- more than the above

My contact details are

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Mobile [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

My skills
*Communication
Teaching - organisation*

Data Protection
The personal data on this form is being collected to build a volunteer database. Mill of Benholm Enterprise will not distribute your personal information to third parties unless we have your written permission or are required by law to do so. We comply with the Data Protection act 2018 and GDPR (May 2018) when handling your personal information. If you have any concerns about how we use your personal information, contact us at secretary@millofbenholm.co.uk. Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.co.uk for our Data Protection Policy. Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the ICO <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>



The Mill of Benholm needs your help

The Mill of Benholm is a rural water mill complex in the North East of Scotland, situated within the hamlet and conservation area of Benholm, near the fishing village of Johnshaven. The current mill originated in the 18th century and has been altered and rebuilt in 1817. Although, the origin of the Mill of Benholm goes probably back to the 12th century, a charter in 1492 gives further evidence of the mill and the first miller officially recorded was Archibald Brown in 1696. According to Historic Environment Scotland the Mill of Benholm is an exceptional and rare survival and the site received its category B listing in 1972, upgraded to a Category A listing in 2009.

Since 2014 the Mill of Benholm has been closed as a Community Hub and a visitor attraction. The closed café of the Mill of Benholm is missed by many.

The Mill of Benholm Enterprise was established in 2017 to revive the Mill of Benholm, bring it back to community ownership and find a long-term sustainable and viable solution for the Mill of Benholm to be enjoyed by the community and visitors for generations to come

I am interested in the following volunteer work to support the Mill of Benholm

- Helping to raise funds
- Helping to tidy up at the Mill of Benholm
 - General gardening task, e.g. weeding, cutting grass, etc
 - Strimming
 - Hedge cutting, cutting back trees, etc
 - Removing clutter and rubbish
 - Other (Please specify)

Helping with general tasks at the Mill of Benholm

- Repairing fences, gates, etc
- Painting
- Landscaping
- Groundwork

Helping with other tasks

- Helping with catering when the mobile café is up
- Baking cakes, biscuits, etc
- Helping to show visitors around
- Selling merchandise

I would be able to contribute

- a few hours a month
- a few hours a week
- a day a week
- more than the above

My contact details are

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Mobile [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

My skills
Communication, gardening, teaching, problem solving

Data Protection
The personal data on this form is being collected to build a volunteer database. Mill of Benholm Enterprise will not distribute your personal information to third parties unless we have your written permission or are required by law to do so. We comply with the Data Protection act 2018 and GDPR (May 2018) when handling your personal information. If you have any concerns about how we use your personal information, contact us at benholm@millofbenholm.co.uk. Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.co.uk for our Data Protection Policy. Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the ICO <http://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/>



The Mill of Benholm needs your help

The Mill of Benholm is a rural water mill complex in the North East of Scotland, situated within the hamlet and conservation area of Benholm, near the fishing village of Johnshaven. The current mill originated in the 18th century and has been altered and rebuilt in 1817. Although, the origin of the Mill of Benholm goes probably back to the 12th century, a charter in 1492 gives further evidence of the mill and the first miller officially recorded was Archibald Brown in 1696. According to Historic Environment Scotland the Mill of Benholm is an exceptional and rare survival and the site received its category B listing in 1972, upgraded to a Category A listing in 2009.

Since 2014 the Mill of Benholm has been closed as a Community Hub and a visitor attraction. The closed café of the Mill of Benholm is missed by many.

The Mill of Benholm Enterprise was established in 2017 to revive the Mill of Benholm, bring it back to community ownership and find a long-term sustainable and viable solution for the Mill of Benholm to be enjoyed by the community and visitors for generations to come

I am interested in the following volunteer work to support the Mill of Benholm

Helping to raise funds

Helping to tidy up at the Mill of Benholm

General gardening task, e.g. weeding, cutting grass, etc

Strimming

Hedge cutting, cutting back trees, etc

Removing clutter and rubbish

Other (Please specify)

Helping with general tasks at the Mill of Benholm

Repairing fences, gates, etc

Painting

Landscaping

Groundwork

Helping with other tasks

Helping with catering when the mobile café is up

Baking cakes, biscuits, etc

Helping to show visitors around

Selling merchandise

I would be able to contribute

a few hours a month

a few hours a week

a day a week

more than the above

My contact details are

Name

.....

Address

.....
.....
.....

Mobile

.....

Email

.....

My skills

.....

.....

Data Protection
The personal data on this form is being collected to build a volunteer database. Mill of Benholm Enterprise will not distribute your personal information to third parties unless we have your written permission or are required by law to do so. We comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR (May 2018) when handling your personal information. If you have any concerns about how we use your personal information, contact us at info@millofbenholm.org. Or visit our website www.millofbenholm.org for our Data Protection Policy. Alternatively, you have the right to complain to the ICO <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>



The Mill of Benholm needs your help

The Mill of Benholm is a rural water mill complex in the North East of Scotland, situated within the hamlet and conservation area of Benholm, near the fishing village of Johnshaven. The current mill originated in the 18th century and has been altered and rebuilt in 1817. Although, the origin of the Mill of Benholm goes probably back to the 12th century, a charter in 1492 gives further evidence of the mill and the first miller officially recorded was Archibald Brown in 1696. According to Historic Environment Scotland the Mill of Benholm is an exceptional and rare survival and the site received its category B listing in 1972, upgraded to a Category A listing in 2009.

Since 2014 the Mill of Benholm has been closed as a Community Hub and a visitor attraction. The closed café of the Mill of Benholm is missed by many.

The Mill of Benholm Enterprise was established in 2017 to revive the Mill of Benholm, bring it back to community ownership and find a long-term sustainable and viable solution for the Mill of Benholm to be enjoyed by the community and visitors for generations to come

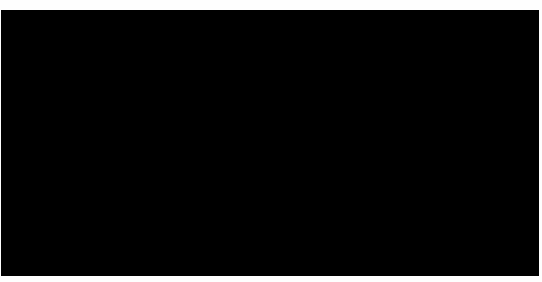
Welcome to The Mill of Benholm



Please let us know what you would like to see happening at the Mill of Benholm

(Write your wishes, ideas, thoughts below, if you are happy to leave your name and contact details, please do so, but you don't have to)

Reopening of cafe and grounds



Welcome to The Mill of Benholm



- 1 Mill
- 2 Mill Race
- 3 Mill Pond
- 4 Mill Race
- 5 Mill Race
- 6 Mill Race
- 7 Mill Race
- 8 Mill Race
- 9 Mill Race
- 10 Mill Race

Mill of Benholm is a registered charity and is a member of the Scottish Charities Foundation. It is a registered charity and is a member of the Scottish Charities Foundation. It is a registered charity and is a member of the Scottish Charities Foundation.

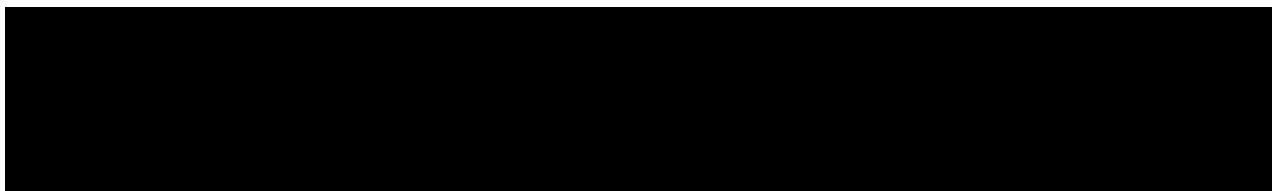
Please let us know what you would like to see happening at the Mill of Benholm

(Write your wishes, ideas, thoughts below, if you are happy to leave your name and contact details, please do so, but you don't have to)

Café

** Working Mill*

Community Gardens/Arboretum



Welcome to The Mill of Benholm



Please let us know what you would like to see happening at the Mill of Benholm

(Write your wishes, ideas, thoughts below, if you are happy to leave your name and contact details, please do so, but you don't have to)

NOT SURE EXACTLY HOW IT FUNCTIONED WHEN IT WAS OPEN BUT WE VISITED IT AS A NEDS OPEN DAY AND IT WAS LOVELY.

CAFE

ARTS & CRAFT DISPLAYS / COURSES
RURAL CRAFTS SKILLS W/SHOPS

HISTORICAL EVENTS - POSSIBLY REGULAR WITH GUIDES IN HISTORICAL COSTUME.

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL

AS A BASE/VENUE FOR OTHER 'LOVELY' RELATED EVENTS AS AN ADDITIONAL 'EARNER/FUND-RISER'. - e.g. meeting place, etc. Weddings,

“It is vitally important that the Mill is not allowed to deteriorate any further. The best way of ensuring this is to take the Mill into community ownership so it is run by the community for the community.”



The Mill of Benholm is a magical place of historical significance and future potential. Under community ownership, it would be cared for and developed to bring about significant benefits to the people and businesses of this area. It can be a rich and valuable resource for education and leisure and, with the right investment, can act as a social enterprise employing local people and supporting other local businesses by attracting people to visit and stay in the area.

On this quiet and rural stretch of coastline, the Mill of Benholm can give local people a much needed focal point that strengthens our sense of identity and pride as well as a charming and beautiful setting to enjoy. It is a place that my family and I loved to visit when our kids were young and it can do the same for future generations if given the chance. I urge Aberdeenshire Council to take on board the strength of feeling locally and give the fantastic group of volunteers who make up the Mill of Benholm Enterprise the chance to breathe life into this special place. The opportunity to transfer the Mill to community ownership is one that must not be missed.



From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mill of Benholm
Date: 24 August 2023 at 20:57
To: secretary@millofbenholm.scot



Good evening,

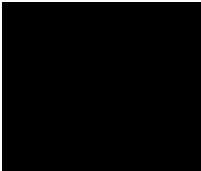
I have been informed that a group of like minded people are looking to take over and manage the mill at Benholm from Aberdeenshire council. I think this is a wonderful idea and a real opportunity to stop this lovely building and surrounding area becoming just another council fatality, through lack of financial input. It is a fabulous remanent of the history of our parish which we should do everything we can to save. It is of course of an era where natural resources were harnessed to produce an end product when no oil or gas were used to power the equipment.

There would be many benefits to the community should this plan come to fruition and can be a local visitors focal point for those who come to our wonderful area.

I fully support what your team are trying to achieve and hopefully the council do too.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



By E-mail

Mill of Benholm Enterprise
Benholm
Montrose

F.A.O. The Mill of Benholm Enterprise Secretary

25th August 2023

Dear 

Re-opening of Benholm Mill

I am writing to you in your capacity as the Mill of Benholm Enterprise Secretary regarding the re-opening of Benholm Mill.

I have lived in Benholm for almost 16 years, which includes a number of years when Benholm Mill was still open. At the time, my children were very young and we visited it frequently for them to learn about the local wildlife, the purpose of such a mill and the importance of adults with extra needs having a place to work in both the café and the surrounding land.

We saw the building of the "donkey path", the introduction of better fruit and vegetable growing, Allyson's memorial garden, the opening of the shop and we attended various open days (Halloween treasure hunt, a demonstration of the wheel in action, and a woodwork demonstration).

The re-opening of Benholm Mill would allow many other families to enjoy these same educational experiences that my children did. I also see numerous walking groups out enjoying the coastal path between Inverbervie and Johnshaven and visiting the church in Benholm. Many have asked if the Mill is open as they are looking for somewhere to stop for a rest and some refreshments, or they are intrigued about its history.

I appreciate all that you are doing to try to re-open the Mill and am happy for this letter along with my name to be used as support in achieving this goal.

Yours sincerely,



From: Mill of Benholm Enterprise noreply@millofbenholm.scot
Subject: Mill of Benholm Enterprise "Volunteer"
Date: 10 June 2023 at 20:50
To: secretary@millofbenholm.scot



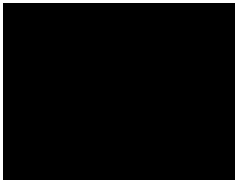
From: [REDACTED]
Subject: volunteer

Message Body:
Happy to help out when not away with work. Mobile [REDACTED]

--
This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Mill of Benholm Enterprise (<https://millofbenholm.scot>)

Mill of Benholm

I have lived in Benholm for over 33 years. During that time there have existed various projects at the Mill of Benholm in all which I took an interest and volunteered with some of them. And what I noticed over the years is that the Mill of Benholm holds a special place in many people's hearts. The last project, which lasted some 7 years offered placements for very special adults who learned and developed new skills in different work settings. It was a joy to see these folk grow in confidence and fill a role in the local community which wholely embraced and valued them. They were even the instigators for a bus stop and bus shelter being erected at the road end from which many have subsequently benefitted. Prior to that we sat on the wall of the bridge and hoped that the bus driver would see us and stop. In those last 7 years until the project came to an end, it felt as if the Mill of Benholm was fulfilling the role that mills have held from time immemorial as a social hub for the whole community. I hope that the Mill will yet again take on that role and it will surely have the support of the whole community.



June 19th 2023



Dear 

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter, to support the community asset transfer of the Mill of Benholm from the ownership of Aberdeenshire council to The Mill of Benholm Enterprise. This transfer would enable this historic mill to be managed by the community for the community.

I was disappointed when the mill was closed and have observed the deterioration of the site with sadness. I have filled a volunteer form with the hope that should the transfer be succesful I can play a part in the restoration of the Mill and grounds.

Yours sincerely





JOINT STATEMENT BY HISTORIC CHURCHES SCOTLAND AND MILL OF BENHOLM ENTERPRISE

Historic Churches Scotland and Mill of Benholm Enterprise undertake to work together in partnership to further the preservation and promotion of Benholm Kirk and the Mill of Benholm: two Category A listed historic buildings of national importance. Our organisations will also work together to promote and enhance the built and natural environment of Benholm and the surrounding area for the benefit of the community, visitors, and the nation.

We recognise that Benholm Kirk and the Mill of Benholm are highly significant in their own right, and are also part of a grouping of buildings forming the Benholm Conservation Area. The hamlet of Benholm is an important survival of a historic farming community with its manse, smiddy, schoolhouse, cottages, mill, kirk and graveyard, which embodies a past rural way of life. Historic Churches Scotland and Mill of Benholm Enterprise also recognise the importance of the natural environment surrounding the hamlet, with its ancient woodland, open farmland, and picturesque burns. This natural environment is itself of significance and includes a number of designated sites.

Historic Churches Scotland and Mill of Benholm Enterprise undertake to collaborate in a variety of ways including holding joint events and exhibitions, volunteering, funding applications, and in the sharing of facilities. We want our work together to benefit both people and place.

Historic Churches Scotland and Mill of Benholm Enterprise share the aims of safeguarding built and natural heritage, supporting and growing the local economy, and of contributing to people's health and wellbeing. Through our joint working we plan to physically reconnect Benholm Kirk and Mill of Benholm through reinstating the woodland paths which once linked the two sites, allowing people to enjoy and learn from the historic buildings and the walk between them. Together we will explore opportunities to partner with others and to develop a network of local paths including the potential to connect to other established routes such as the Coastal Path.

We recognise that as a local and a national charity respectively, each organisation brings to our partnership particular skills, knowledge, and expertise. By combining our efforts and working together we believe we can achieve more for the Benholm community and the wider area.

Historic Churches Scotland
SC024407

Mill of Benholm Enterprise
SC047943

February 2023