



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