<u>Economy Secretary welcomes report on</u> <u>heritage services in Wales</u>

The Cabinet Secretary is responding to a report entitled "Historic Wales – A roadmap towards Success, Resilience and Sustainability for the Heritage of Wales" which he commissioned last year.

The report was produced by a steering group established to consider the future of heritage services in Wales which is chaired by Justin Albert, Director of the National Trust Wales, and made up of representatives from Wales' national heritage institutions and trade unions.

It was submitted to the Economy Secretary in February for his consideration.

Ken Skates said:

"I was delighted to receive this report on the future of heritage services in Wales and have considered its content with great interest.

"I would like to record my thanks to the Chair of the group and the representatives of our heritage institutions and trade unions involved and commend them on producing such a measured and well considered report that has secured the agreement and consensus of all organisations involved.

"I am genuinely excited by the opportunities the report's recommendations will create for the sector as a whole. Cadw in particular is performing exceptionally well at the moment and I believe these proposals will enable us to sustain and build on those successes, and cascade them across the wider sector.

"As I have said previously I am determined we will work together to strengthen the success and resilience of our heritage services. That means our national institutions fulfilling their commercial potential through greater collaboration and partnership working which the proposal for a strategic partnership absolutely supports.

"I have written to Justin Albert today to welcome the steering group recommendations subject to a number of caveats which I have set out in my letter.

"I remain absolutely committed to enabling our heritage institutions to maximise the economic benefits that they bring to the people of Wales, and look forward to working with our heritage services to achieve this."