

# Building Stones in BGS Scotland

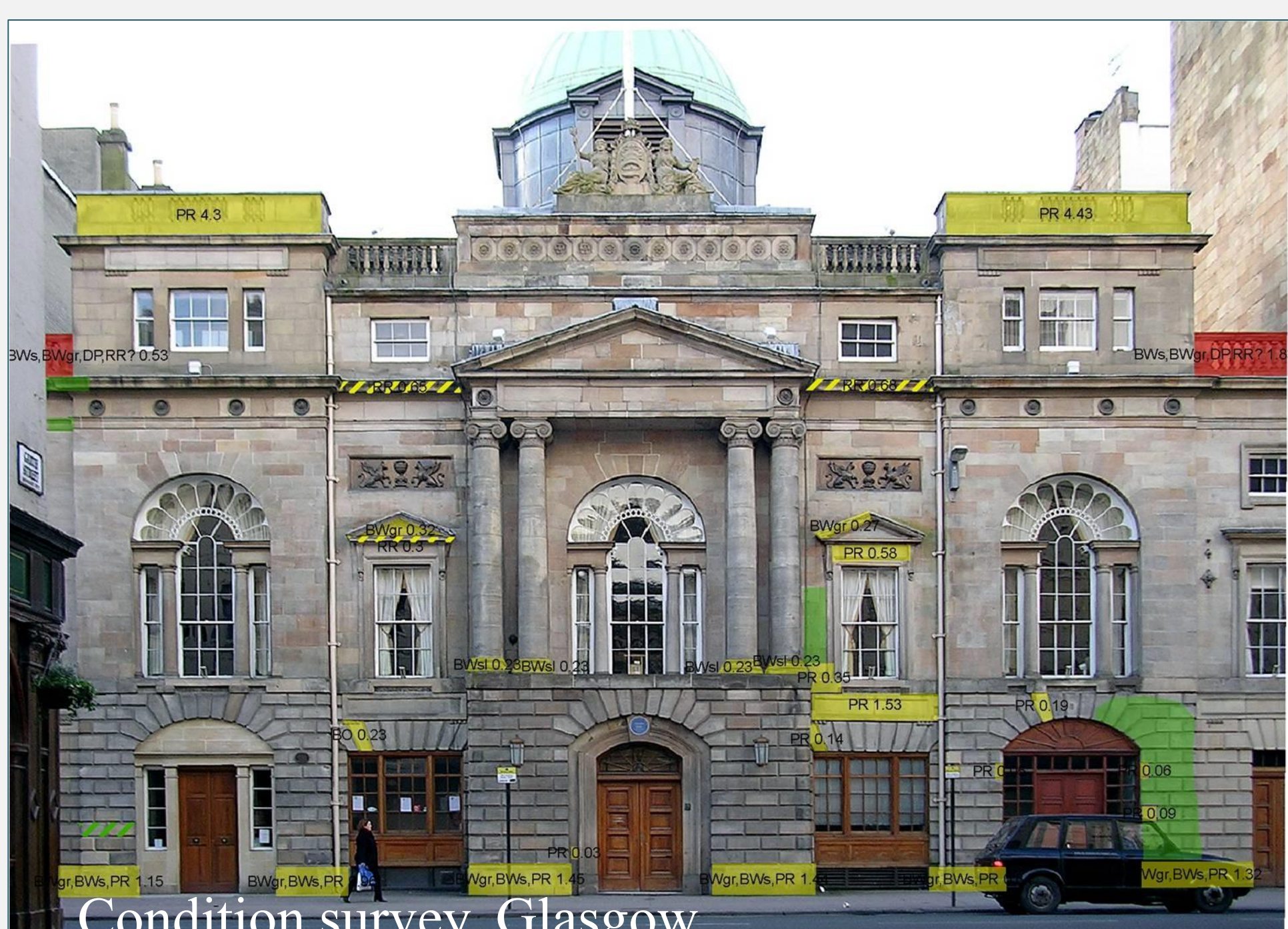
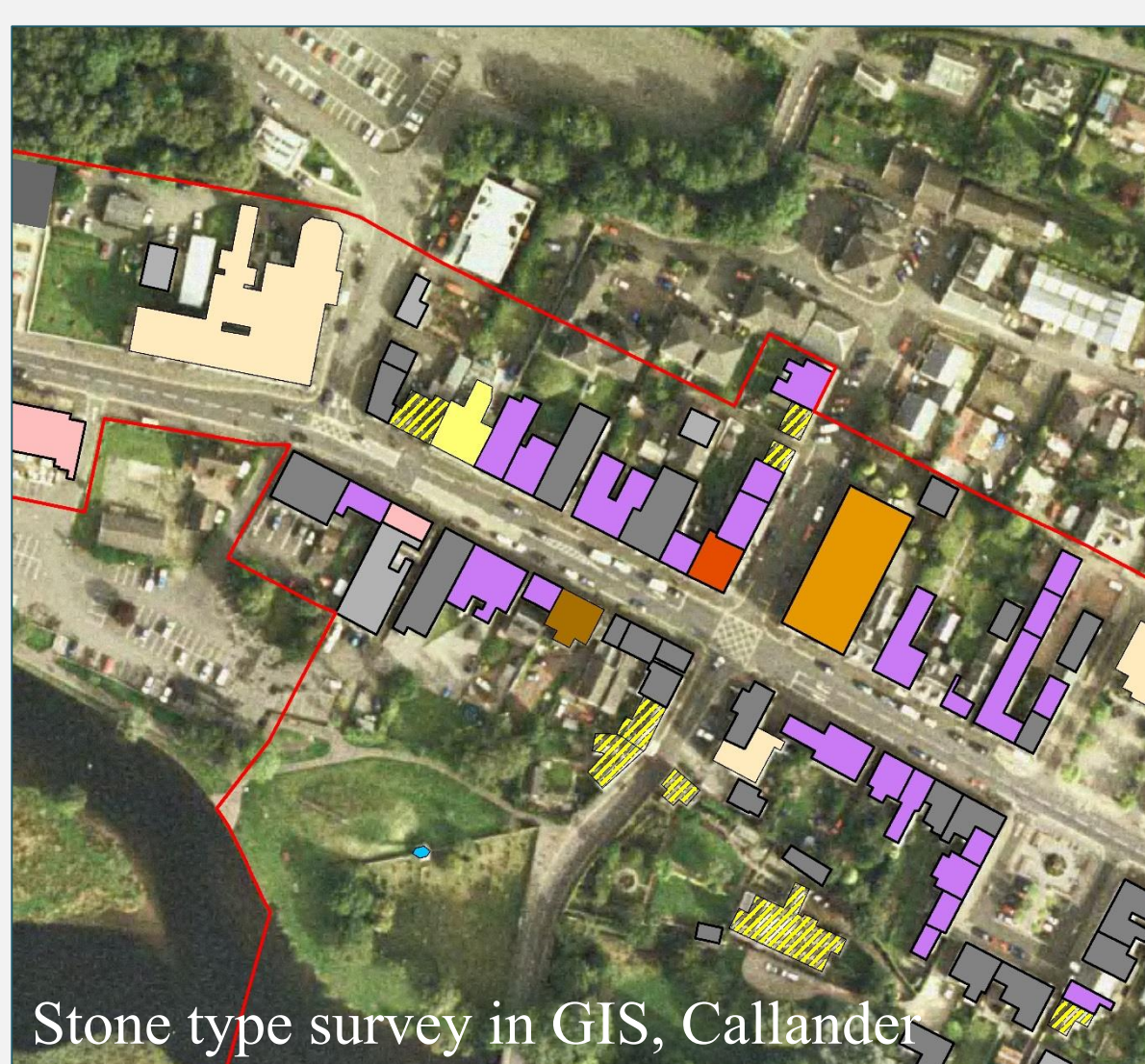
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## Did you know?

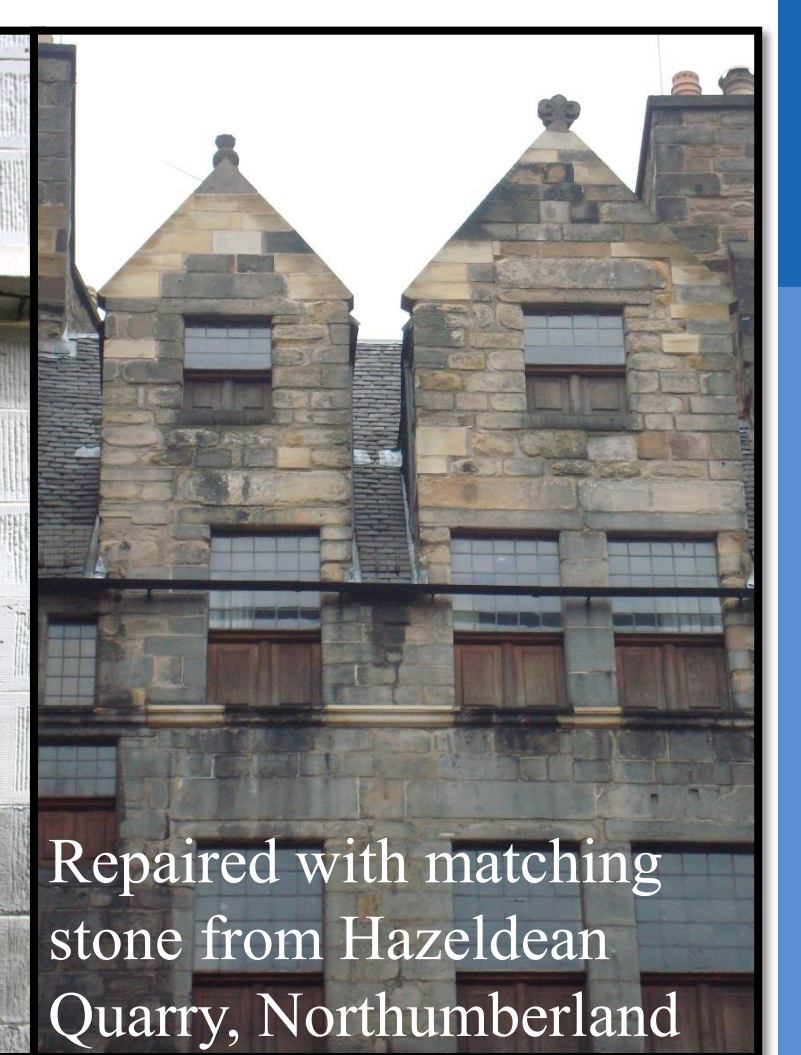
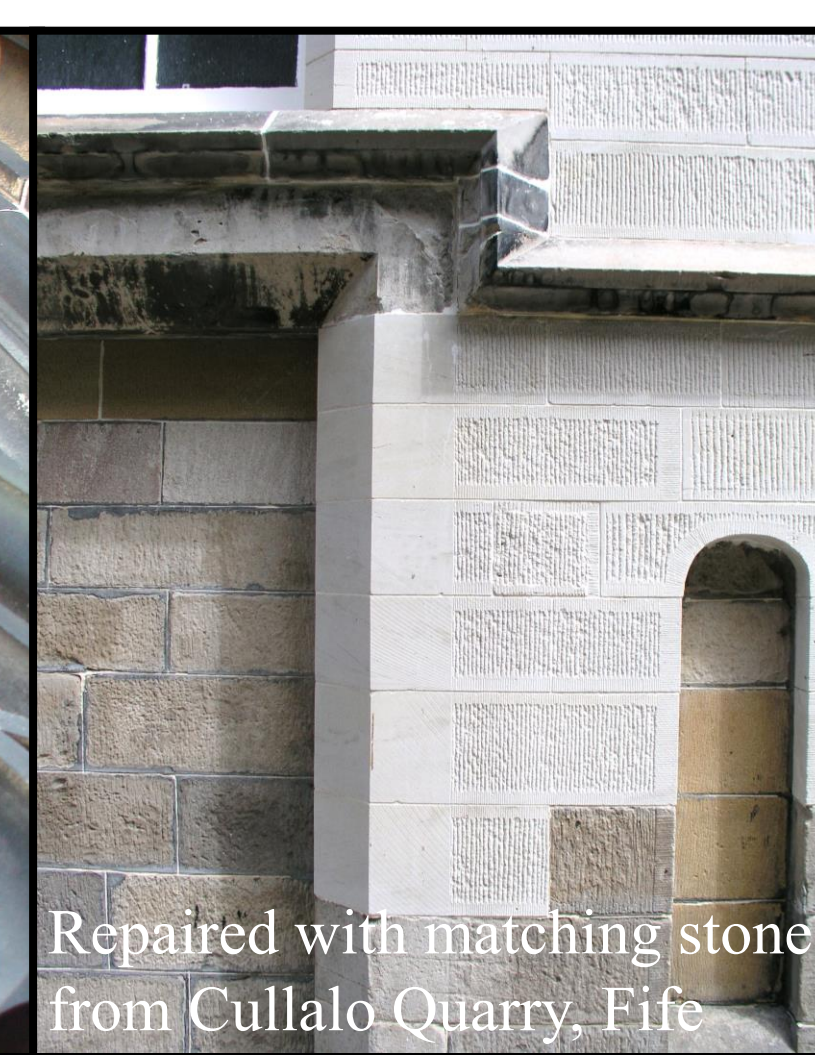
In the early days of BGS, one of our main purposes was to survey and assess the stone resources we needed to build our country. Still here 175 years later, we are now working to help conserve the very same built heritage.

Our stone-built heritage costs many millions of pounds a year to repair and maintain. Through our range of building stone services we use geological understanding to provide advice to clients in the conservation industry on a range of issues.

- **Stone type and condition surveys:** we examine stone types, their decay mechanisms, diagnose building pathologies, and describe the risks these pose, to help inform maintenance and repair strategies. Ranging from a block-by-block to townscape scale, we gather and provide survey data using a GIS / relational database.



- **Stone analysis and matching:** petrographic techniques and our extensive collection of quarry samples and thin sections help us identify and source the closest-matching stone types to achieve a compatible, long lasting repair.



- **Quarry assessments:** we advise quarry developers by evaluating the geological and technical issues affecting quarrying potential.



- **Provenance studies:** where did that stone come from?

## Ongoing projects and research:

- Researching the potential for **Hand-Held-XRF analysis** as a non-destructive tool for distinguishing stone types in historic structures.
- Designing and compiling the **Scottish Building Stones Database**, to catalogue and link data for Quarries, Collection samples and Buildings.

