RESEARCH STRATEGY

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | **ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA**

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1. AIM

Our aim is to undertake and enable high-quality historic environment research, which gives us the evidence we need to make effective decisions, and to deliver tangible social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for the people of Scotland.

2. INTRODUCTION

Who we are

We are a charity and public body leading the way in protecting, understanding and sharing Scotland's historic environment, for today and for the future.

- We care for more than 300 sites of national importance all across the country and are the largest operator of paid visitor attractions in Scotland
- We look after internationally significant archives and artefacts
- We are at the forefront of investigating and researching the historic environment and addressing the impacts of climate change on its future
- We protect our historic places through designations and consents, promote their sustainable development, and provide millions of pounds each year to local communities to repair and look after their historic environment
- We provide advice and guidance about the historic environment, and offer a wide range of training and learning opportunities

In every aspect of our work we strive to follow our five organisational values – we are collaborative, professional, innovative, open and respectful.

Who this strategy is for

This Strategy is a document for researchers and funders of research at HES, and for researchers outside our organisation who might have an interest in partnering with us. It covers the period 2019-22, and lays out the vision, principles, priorities, and outcomes that will guide our research activity and research partnerships. It sets out:

- how we will work in partnership to set the agenda for historic environment research in Scotland
- how we will collaborate to deliver research
- how we will nurture, channel, and prioritise our research activity
- how we will make our research findings as accessible as possible

To support the delivery of the aims outlined in this document, annual research priority areas will be identified through our Annual Operating Plans and Directorate Plans.

What this Strategy aims to achieve

By 2022, we will have established more research partnerships, and undertaken new research that will contribute directly to the achievement of our Corporate Plan 2019-22 outcomes, and wider national policy agendas. We will have developed the networks and infrastructure necessary to share our research with as wide an audience as possible, and worked with a greater array of partners to undertake quality research.

Through research on areas such as climate change adaptation, the health and wellbeing benefits of involvement in heritage, or how AI and machine learning can be applied to work across the heritage sector, we will drive innovation and best practice in understanding, caring for, and sharing Scotland's historic environment.

Case Study - Automating Archaeology: Using AI for archaeological landscape interpretation

For many years the realm of science fiction, today Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a growing part of the modern world. It's in our homes, our cars, and increasingly our work. But how can we harness the power of AI and machine learning to support Scotland's historic environment? At HES, we have been exploring how AI and convolutional neural networks (CNN) can help us to analyse 3D landscape data, in order to draw out patterns relating to Scotland's historic environment that might be time-consuming for human interpreters to find, or even missed entirely by human eyes.

As befits a complex and innovative research area, our research has been developed through a number of strands, including extensive involvement in international networks. For instance, a grant from the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2016 supported our researchers to attend a number of international conferences, and this led directly to a research collaboration with the Norwegian Computing Center, who applied their CNN to our digital topographic data covering the island of Arran. This research helped us to understand how best to use this technology when mapping large areas, and in the future we hope to use these lessons to map the whole of Scotland using the same approach. The potential of using AI, big data, and machine learning in our work will be a major focus for HES over the next few years, as we look to harness new innovations to improve the way we work.

Definition of research

Research can be defined in many different ways, and at HES we undertake and enable a wide variety of research. For the purpose of this strategy we have defined research at HES as *any creative or systematic work undertaken to contribute to a body of knowledge or set of practices, or to devise new applications of available knowledge*[1]

3. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This Research Strategy is informed by *Our Place in Time 2014-24*: Scotland's Historic Environment Strategy (OPiT). Research is an integral component of OPiT, as outlined by the strategic priorities that:

- decision making is informed and that sound evidence-based information is available at all levels of decision making
- we will continue to develop knowledge and apply new technologies and techniques to what we know
- knowledge about the historic environment will be made as accessible and as useful as possible

This Research Strategy sits below HES's Corporate Plan 2019-22, and will align research activity to our strategic outcomes. These outcomes are:

1. The historic environment makes a real difference to more people's lives
2. The historic environment is looked after, protected and managed for generations to come
3. The historic environment makes a broader contribution to the economy of Scotland and its people
4. The historic environment inspires a creative and vibrant Scotland
5. The historic environment is cared for and championed by a high-performing organisation

In helping us to deliver HES's corporate objectives, this Research Strategy complements and feeds into other strategic documents, including our International, Digital, and People Strategies.

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[1]This definition is adapted from the OECD's *Frascati Manual 2015: Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development*. We use this definition every year for reporting to Government on our research and development activity.

4. HES RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Why we undertake research

The Historic Environment Scotland Act (2014) gives HES the function of understanding and interpreting the historic environment, and also requires us to educate others about it. The 2014 Act further commits us to managing our collections and archives as a national resource for reference, study, and research.

Research lies at the heart of understanding, caring for, and celebrating the historic environment. Research helps us to understand and manage the historic environment effectively, and to ensure that a well-informed evidence base underpins the decisions that are made about its care and promotion. This involves not just decisions that we at HES make about the properties we manage in care for Scottish ministers, but also decisions made by others that will have an impact on Scotland's historic environment. Research also allows us to promote innovation, drive change and improvements in the historic environment sector, and to forge links with industry and other sectors. It helps us to involve the public, and to give people opportunities to enjoy and benefit from their local and national heritage.

The research we undertake in Scotland also has an international reach, and supports culture, science, and policy across the world. But the research landscape is not a static one – new priorities emerge, new technologies and methodologies are constantly being devised, and new opportunities and challenges arise from changing political, economic, and environmental circumstances. Co-operation and collaboration in research is therefore vital if we are to address the challenges facing the historic environment sector, as is effective resource prioritisation.

Case Study – Scotland's Historic Environment Audit

Every year, HES's Corporate Analysis and Performance (CAP) team commission and undertake a range of socio-economic research and analysis to inform planning and decision making. Using this research, analysis of major national datasets, and inputs from key partners and stakeholders, the CAP team produce the annual Scotland's Historic Environment Audit (SHEA).

SHEA allows us to understand the key trends in the historic environment sector, and helps us to evaluate and demonstrate the benefits that the historic environment brings to Scotland. By helping us to understand the number of heritage assets across the nation, their condition and the resources we have to manage them, SHEA helps us to make informed choices about how we manage and conserve our nation's built heritage.

Types of research

Given the commitments outlined above, we undertake and enable a wide variety of research. Our main areas of research are:

- research that helps us to understand and value the significance of the historic environment, and the contribution it makes to wider society
- technical research that helps us and others to conserve and manage the historic environment
- research that helps us to protect and promote the historic environment

As a lead public body, our research supports policy formation, and helps to answer the big questions facing the historic environment sector. Our research also contributes to tackling wider policy agendas, such as climate change and emissions reduction.

Research is a core activity for many HES staff. Our staff conduct research, commission research from academics or commercial research companies, and fund research projects through grants. Our research activity thus spans a range of disciplines and topics. It includes work to demonstrate the economic and social value that the historic environment provides to Scotland, research into the best way of conserving historic buildings, and research to understand the cultural significance of historic buildings and archaeological sites. We also undertake research into applying new technologies and methodologies, including cutting-edge research into how digital technology can be used to record and survey heritage at risk. A fuller picture of the types of research we undertake at HES can be found in Appendix A.

As we look to the future, we will use our research to deliver the best possible outcomes for Scotland's people, and the nation's historic environment. Our research on tourism markets, climate change adaptation, digital documentation, and how heritage influences culture and the creative industries are all examples of where the research that we undertake will support HES's wider work to realise the full benefits of Scotland's heritage.

How we disseminate our research

We share our research through a variety of means, depending on the impacts that we want to achieve. We:

- publish freely-available technical advice, guidance notes, and open-access research reports
- contribute to peer-reviewed academic journals and monographs
- present at conferences, and run our own knowledge-sharing events
- update and improve the national records we hold
- share our work with the media, and via our social media channels
- produce publications that we sell commercially
- run training courses for professionals, and learning events for members of the public

Case Study - HES Refurbishment Case Studies

HES's Technical Research Unit collate research and best practice in looking after historic buildings and monuments, and share this knowledge with the public through a series of case studies and technical advice notes. This guidance is designed to help owners make informed decisions about all aspects of owning and managing historic properties, from full refurbishment to slate roof repairs, remedial mortaring, and managing damp.

In a recent technical research project, the Technical Research team worked in partnership with the Ridge, a social enterprise in Dunbar, to deliver training and upskilling for jobseekers through a research project on traditional mortars. Working with a local contractor, HES researchers and Ridge apprentices assessed how different mortaring materials and techniques supported reconstruction of a traditional boundary wall. The project helped to demonstrate the benefits of traditional quicklime based mortars, and the Ridge trainees were upskilled to allow them to undertake similar projects in and around Dunbar.

In 2019, HES's technical research projects will include reinstating or introducing passive ventilation to historic properties, reducing the use of plastics, and ways of enhancing biodiversity and ecology on historic sites. The full series of case studies, and more technical advice and guidance notes, can be accessed online.

Research funding

We fund our research through a variety of means. The majority of our research funding comes from our own budget: in 2017-18, we spent approximately £3.5m on research, or 3.6% of our total budget. Our research activity is also supported by funding awards from external sources. In 2017-18, our research activity was supported by external funding awards worth over £1.6m. We spent a further £1.6m in 2017-18 to support the dissemination and transfer of knowledge stemming from our research.

IRO Status

We are recognised as an Independent Research Organisation (IRO) by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). This gives us the ability to apply for funding - as a lead body, or in collaboration with universities - not just to the AHRC, but also to the following Research Councils:

- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Innovate UK
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
- Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

To maintain our IRO status we are required to lead at least one successful funding application in a five-year rolling period.

Research Council funding buys-out staff time to allow individuals to lead and undertake research. Funding covers almost all associated research costs, including those of international collaboration. It also funds PhD research, co-supervised by HES through the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership awards.

Case Study - Scotland's Rock Art

The Scotland's Rock Art Project (ScRAP), funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), is the first major research programme to focus on prehistoric carvings in Scotland. This five-year project (2017-2021), hosted by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), is run in collaboration with Edinburgh University's School of History, Classics and Archaeology, and Glasgow School of Art's School of Simulation and Visualisation. Our aim is to enhance understanding and awareness of Scotland's prehistoric rock art through community co-production and research.

Scotland possesses over 3,000 carved rocks dating back to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c.4000-2000 BC), representing a unique and enigmatic part o f our nation's heritage. The project is training and supporting local community teams to gather detailed information and 3D models of prehistoric carvings across Scotland, in order to safeguard our knowledge of these vulnerable relics. Through our research outputs, seminars, and conference, we will promote academic dialogue with British and European colleagues, empower communities to undertake their own research, inspire future projects, and improve long-term care of Scotland's rock art.

Our partners in research

Many of our research projects are undertaken in partnership. We work not just with academics and commercial research companies, but with third sector and community groups too. We also provide a variety of research training opportunities for those looking to develop the skills and capacity to carry out their own research projects. Further detail about who we work with can be found in Appendix B.

5. RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

Whenever we undertake research at HES – whether internally, or in collaboration with partners – we will be guided by a set of principles and by a written Code of Conduct, to which we expect all researchers involved in a project will adhere. We expect any research project that HES is involved with to be:

- **Quality** – our research will be rigorous, grounded in best practice, and of the highest quality possible

- **Practical** – our research will have a practical focus, and be designed with outcomes in mind.

- **Responsive** – our research will respond to needs, and will provide the evidence base both for our own work, and that of others.

- **Original** - our research will be innovative and original, and will be proactive in seeking to understand and adapt to emerging trends and opportunities, both for ourselves and for the historic environment sector.

- **Collaborative** – we recognise that we cannot find all the answers by ourselves. We will seek to work with others to enhance and sustain our research – both across and beyond our organisation.

- **Ambitious** – Our research will deliver positive impacts for the people of Scotland, and help us to contribute towards tackling global issues.

- **Accessible** – our research will be easy for others to find, understand, and use. We will consider end-users, and adapt our outputs to make our research accessible to as many audiences as possible.

- **Ethical** – honesty and integrity will lie at the heart of our research process. All of our research activity will be guided by a Code of Conduct, and will be accountable and transparent.

- **Proportionate** – our research activity will be appropriate to the need, and will deliver value for money.

6. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Our aim is to undertake and enable high-quality historic environment research, which gives us the evidence we need to make effective decisions, and to deliver tangible social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for the people of Scotland.

We have a key role to play in promoting and enabling research. As a sector champion, we also use, celebrate, and share research undertaken by others.

This Research Strategy sits under our Corporate Plan 2019-22, and will channel our research activity to support the delivery of the outcomes set out in that document. To ensure that our research helps us to achieve these outcomes, we have identified the following research areas as being of priority. These priorities will shape the research we undertake ourselves, and also our decisions to partner in, or support, external research projects.

By targeting our research in these areas, we will build the evidence base we and others need to make effective decisions about Scotland's historic environment. We will also gain a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities we are likely to face in future, and how we can adapt to future challenges or embrace new opportunities.

a) Heritage and society

We will seek to understand how the historic environment affects people's wellbeing, and promote best practice in creating positive outcomes for Scotland's people from the historic environment and its related work.

Research within this priority area will help us to widen opportunities for people to understand, enjoy, and connect with the historic environment, and will help us to build stronger and more sustainable communities. In undertaking research to meet these priorities, we might work with businesses and third sector groups to understand and promote commercial and charitable uses of historic buildings. Or we might work with charities, academics, and medical practitioners to understand and promote the health and wellbeing benefits that volunteering in the historic environment brings to people.

b) Heritage and the environment

We will improve our understanding of the historic environment, work collaboratively to grow and develop the data and records we hold about it, and use and share this knowledge to improve the way it is managed and conserved. By building an evidence base, and applying our research to practical outcomes, we will raise standards and provide examples of best practice to support the historic environment sector.

We will seek to understand the impacts of climate change, and how we can manage and mitigate its effects on Scotland's historic environment. We will also seek to understand how the historic environment, and the materials and building styles associated with it, can contribute to future efforts to reduce our nation's carbon emissions.

Research within this priority area will support everyone who cares for or manages Scotland's historic environment to find and adopt best practice, enabling us all to look after the assets in our care, enable sustainable change, and adapt to the challenges we face. Our research might involve work with communities, to understand how their places have been affected by climate change throughout history, and how they can use this knowledge to adapt to meet the challenges of the future. We might work with scientific and technical bodies to understand the impacts of rising sea levels and increased rainfall on the historic environment. Or we might work with our national partner agencies or cultural bodies to explore how we can use new technologies to improve and better link the national records we hold relating to Scotland's historic environment.

c) Heritage and the economy

We will improve our understanding of the benefits that the historic environment brings to our economy, and of the people who visit the historic environment. We will use this knowledge to improve the visitor experience at our sites, and the part played by the historic environment in local regeneration and sustainable growth initiatives across Scotland.

We will seek to understand the impact of the UK leaving the European Union, understand developing markets and emerging trends, and use this knowledge to support inclusive and sustainable growth across Scotland's historic environment sector.

Research under this theme will help us to encourage enterprise and investment in Scotland's historic environment, promote sustainable tourism, and increase the quality, availability, and demand for traditional materials and skills. Our research might involve collaboration with Scotland's enterprise agencies to understand how heritage can support sustainable local and regional development initiatives. Or it might see us work with national and regional tourism bodies to understand how heritage helps us to showcase Scotland to the world, and how we can improve the experiences we offer international visitors.

d) Heritage and creativity

We will examine how people engage and interact with the historic environment, and use this knowledge to develop better opportunities for people in Scotland to take part in cultural activity throughout their lives.

We will explore how heritage and the historic environment inspire and influence culture and creativity in Scotland, and use this knowledge to enhance the contribution made by the historic environment to our nation's cultural life.

Research under this priority theme will help us to understand and celebrate the cultural value of our nation's heritage, and help us to ensure that everyone can enjoy, learn from, and be inspired by our historic environment. Research that helps us to fulfil these aims might include work with creative industry partners to understand the myriad ways that heritage inspires culture. Or it might involve work with academics and third sector organisations, to understand how we can make the historic environment more accessible and inclusive, and how we can make the historic environment a central part of education and learning across Scotland.

e) Heritage and us

We will seek to anticipate and understand the challenges and opportunities for Scotland's historic environment sector in the future, and how we can use new technologies and new ways of working to adapt to these.

We will support researchers at HES to realise the full impacts of their work, and share the lessons learned from our research projects in order to inform and improve our future practice.

Research under this theme will help us to support the wider sector and build productive partnerships to tackle the big questions that face the historic environment sector. In undertaking research to help us deliver against these ambitions, we might work with academics to find ways of fully harnessing, utilising, and sharing the information we hold on Scotland's historic environment. Or we might collaborate with third sector and community organisations to share the lessons we have learned in caring for and sharing Scotland's historic environment, so that others can benefit from our knowledge.

7. DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Research is ingrained in our work, and forms a core part of how we deliver our every-day functions. We have a track record of leading and delivering large research projects, both in-house and in partnership. We will continue to support and nurture our existing research base, and will look to strengthen the relationships we have forged with academics and partner organisations.

Case Study – Climate Change Risk Assessment

Climate change is having a real impact on Scotland's built heritage: phenomena such as coastal erosion and increased rainfall can have significant impacts on historic monuments, and at HES we have been undertaking research to understand these impacts and prepare our sites to meet the emerging challenges. In January 2018, we published the initial results of our Climate Change Risk Assessment: research that helps us to understand impact that climate change could have on all 336 of our Properties in Care. Through this work we have been able to identify the sites most at risk from climate change, and prioritise maintenance and conversation work to increase their resilience.

This research project would not have been possible had we not worked in partnership throughout. We worked closely with the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) in the research phase, with BGS and SEPA providing datasets for us to analyse, and assistance and guidance on understanding and communicating natural hazards. Through our commitment to "Action on Climate Change" - a joint statement from HES, SEPA, the Forestry Commission, and Scottish Natural Heritage regarding our shared responsibilities around climate change – we were also able to benefit from the advice and expertise of partners around understanding and mitigating climate change risk. Because climate change affects us all, partnerships will be central to our ability to meet the challenges it poses in future. We are committed to finding and growing these kinds of partnerships, and to being part of initiatives like Adaptation Scotland's 'Adaptation Learning Exchange Risk Task Group'. In this way we can to bring together expertise from Scotland and beyond to help us understand and adapt to future challenges.

Partnerships and Collaboration

Our ability to plan, undertake, and deliver research in partnership will be central to our success, and to using our resources effectively. Wherever possible, we will look to lead or partner in collaborative research projects. We are also committed to broadening our range of audiences and partners, and to using our research findings to set standards and encourage best practice across the historic environment sector.

As many of the challenges we face are also felt at a global scale, international partnerships and working will be crucial to our ability to deliver high-quality, practical research. Research forms a central plank of HES's International Strategy, and our research activity will be aligned to the goals and ambitions outlined in that document.

We also recognise that, as the lead body for Scotland's historic environment, we play a key role in supporting and enabling research by others. We have a wealth of opportunities to encourage practical and useful research by others, for example through letters of support, involvement in advisory groups, and our Archaeology Grants. Wherever possible, we will use a mix of resources to achieve our intended research outcomes, and will look to leverage the best possible return on our investment.

Knowledge Exchange

We recognise that effective knowledge exchange is not just about how we share our research with others, but about working with partners and stakeholders to identify and design research projects from the beginning. It is also about supporting non-HES researchers to enhance and develop the impacts of their work, where this can bring benefits to Scotland's historic environment. In this way we can ensure that research is always applied, and that we will maximise its contribution to improving positive economic, social, cultural, or environmental outcomes. We are committed to growing knowledge exchange, and this Strategy will help to support that ambition.

Whenever we begin a research project, we will:

- Consider the multiple ways in which our research could be used, and the different groups that will have an interest in our findings.

- Recognise that knowledge exchange involves secondments, placements, consultancy, and continuing personal development as well as formal research, and involves working with industry as well as academic or public and third sector partners.

- Encourage researchers to build time into their research plans to identify, and work with, their key stakeholders, thus opening up more opportunities for enhancing our networks and the funding and resources available for research.

- Think beyond traditional methods of publication and dissemination, to share our research in a timely manner, and in ways that are appropriate to the context and audiences we want to reach, and the impacts we want to make.

- Consider the intellectual property that might stem from our research, in order both to respect and safeguard the intellectual property of our partners, and to make the best use of our own intellectual property by developing new and innovative applications of our knowledge.

Implementation Plan

This Research Strategy is a key part of delivering our commitments towards Our Place in Time, and to achieving the outcomes laid out in our Corporate Plan 2019-22. To ensure that the Strategy delivers against these ambitions, we will create an implementation plan, and identify annual research priority areas that will be delivered through activity outlined in our Annual Operating Plans. The Implementation Plan will be a live document, capable of adapting to changing circumstances and evidence needs. To further support our ambitions moving forward, we will conduct a full audit of our research activity in the first year of this Strategy, and use the data gathered as a baseline upon which to build in future years.

Governance

To support the delivery of this Research Strategy, we will create a Research Forum. This group will consist of HES staff with an interest in championing research, and will be responsible for monitoring research activity at HES, and for producing annual reports on progress made against the priorities of this Strategy. The group will also help to set direction and identify gaps in our evidence base, will provide peer review of research reports and funding bids, and will help to build our capacity to undertake and resource research. This will include identifying and delivering training for research-active and research-capable staff at HES, and providing oversight and support to our PhD studentships. We will regularly review the group's membership, and after the first year of implementation we will explore options for bringing on board external members to provide impartial advice and expertise.
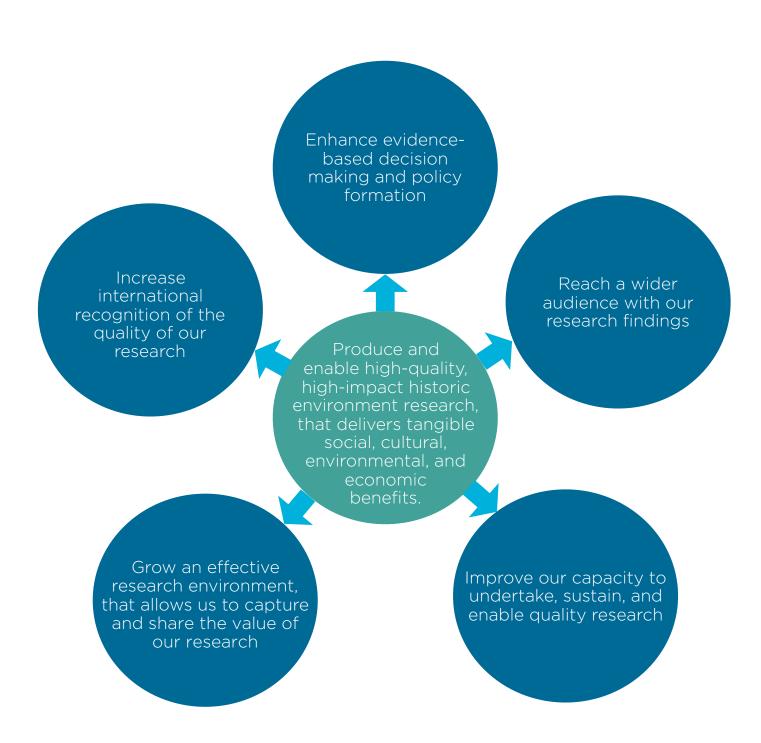
Communications

Communications will be central to the success of this strategy, both internal and external. Working with our Communications Directorate, we will work to improve the advice and guidance we provide to our researchers. And as we redevelop our website, we will look to improve our webpages about research, in order to make our research outputs more accessible to the public.

8. MEASURING SUCCESS

To measure the success of this Strategy we have identified some high-level key performance indicators (KPIs), which will help us to show how we are delivering against our priorities. These KPIs should not be seen to stand alone, as they each assist in delivering the strategic priorities of OPiT, our Corporate Plan outcomes, and our Annual Operating Plans. We will use a variety of methods to understand and report on our research activity, including qualitative case studies as well as quantitative data.

Our performance in delivering against our aims will be reviewed in 2022, at the end of the three year period covered by the Strategy. Through ongoing monitoring, the Research Forum will provide yearly updates on research activity at HES.

Enhance evidence-based decision making and policy formation

Increase international recognition of the quality of our research

Produce and enable high-quality, high-impact historic environment research, that delivers tangible social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits.

Reach a wider audience with our research findings

Grow an effective research environment, that allows us to capture and share the value of our research

Improve our capacity to undertake, sustain, and enable quality research

APPENDIX A

Research Activity at HES:

Archaeological and architectural investigation
We research to understand the nature and significance of Scotland's historic sites and monuments, and of the properties we hold in care, and use this knowledge to inform the decisions made about them

Audience research
Working with Visit Scotland and Visit Britain, we undertake research to understand tourism and visitor markets and trends, and use this to improve the visitor experience of Scotland's historic sites

Building our knowledge base and associated records
Building an accurate picture of the scale and significance of Scotland's historic environment is the bedrock upon decisions can be made about it

Climate change research
We research to understand and asses the impacts that climate change will have on the historic environment, and how we can adapt to meet these challenges

Conservation science research
We research to understand the best way to care for, monitor, and maintain the fabric of the historic environment, and utilise new technologies and techniques

Digital documentation and innovation
We research to understand how we can use digital technologies to document and conserve the historic environment, and how these technologies can drive innovation in the wider sector

Equalities and diversity
We research to understand how people engage and interact with the historic environment, and use this knowledge to create better opportunities for everyone in Scotland to experience and enjoy heritage and culture

Exhibitions, education, and interpretation
We undertake research to inform the way we present and interpret Scotland's historic environment, both domestically and internationally

Impact assessment and evaluation

In order to improve the way we work, we need to understand how we are performing as an organisation. This involves research to understand new technologies or processes, and how we might adopt them to improve our work

Language and intangible cultural heritage research

We undertake research to explore the associations between our historic sites and their linguistic and cultural setting, and use this knowledge to promote Scotland's multicultural heritage.

Research to inform policy and decision-making

We undertake research to provide the evidence we and others need to make informed decisions about the historic environment.

Social research

We undertake research into social trends, to understand their likely impact on the historic environment. We also research the health and wellbeing benefits of heritage, both to make the case for the benefits provided by the historic environment, and to ensure that heritage delivers the fullest possible array of these benefits to those involved

Technical research

We undertake research in order to understand the best way of caring for the historic environment, and ensuring it is fit for the future. We use this not only in our own practice, but to support others and set standards for Scotland's historic environment sector

APPENDIX B

Our partners in research include:

- Central and local government
- Academics, colleges, and universities
- Culture and heritage organisations
- Partner non-departmental public bodies
- Natural environment organisations
- National and regional tourism organisations
- Third sector organisations
- Professional organisations
- Commercial organisations and SMEs
- Communities and the general public
- Scientific and technical bodies

We are the lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.

We want to make sure Scotland's heritage is cherished, understood, shared and enjoyed with pride by everyone.