



Response to draft Heritage2020 Framework

The National Heritage Science Forum (NHSF) has been set up to address the recommendations of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Inquiry on Science and Heritage and to implement the objectives of the National Heritage Science Strategy (NHSS).

NHSF's members are 17 leading organisations active in the field of heritage science. Through its membership NHSF brings together communities of practice, including both heritage scientists carrying out research and practitioners in the arts, humanities and sciences who apply research results to their own work.

The NHSF provides a platform to speak with one voice to inform Government, policy-makers and funders of the role of heritage science in delivering social impact, to provide equality of opportunity for public engagement with heritage science, and to disseminate improved understanding of cultural heritage underpinned by heritage science research.

NHSF welcomes the publication by the Historic Environment Forum of the draft Heritage2020 Framework and the opportunity to comment on it.

We support the five key themes of the Framework and recognise that these reflect the top three priorities for the Historic Environment identified by NHSF in its response to the 2014 consultation on the future of the National Heritage Protection Plan which were:

1. Supporting research aimed at understanding materials and environments.
2. Increasing collaboration and making better use of resources.
3. Building future capacity and capability.

We recognise that the number of strategic priorities identified by the Framework is extensive and applaud the Historic Environment Forum's intention to work collaboratively to deliver the priorities under the five strategic areas of: discovery, identification and understanding; constructive conservation and sustainable management; public engagement; capacity building; and helping things to happen.

Whilst heritage science activities can contribute to achieving priorities in each of the strategic areas, we particularly welcome the recognition afforded to the role of heritage science in achieving the goals of the strategic area of 'discovery, identification and understanding' as follows:

- Seeing compelling new discoveries and stories emerging from investigations in ways that are more readily accessible to the public.
- The extension and strengthening of joint working with the higher education sector.

- Recognition of understanding of the historic environment as a valuable and integral contribution to the growing knowledge economy.
- Greater understanding of the risks to the historic environment to inform approaches to preventative conservation.
- More people taking part in learning and discovery so that a wider range of communities will take responsibility for research and for sharing their knowledge.
- A shift in the level of public access to knowledge and information.

The National Heritage Science Forum is well placed to contribute to addressing the strategic priorities identified under this theme and would welcome the opportunity to join the working group on 'discovery, identification and understanding'.

For the other strategic areas we will map the NHSF strategic priorities onto those of the Framework to demonstrate the alignment that exists between the two and to enhance efforts to promote the understanding, protection, and enjoyment of the historic environment in England.

5 January 2015

Note:

In 2015 NHSF's activities will focus on delivery against three identified 'grand challenges':

1. Policy: delivering impact in the policy arena in recognition of the role that heritage science has in underpinning good curatorial and conservation practice, and in improving understanding and preservation of our shared heritage.
2. Partnerships: working with strategic partners to lay the foundation for a robust network that understands the need to build future capacity in heritage science and to turn the concept of citizen heritage scientists into a reality.
3. Resource sharing: sharing the outcomes of heritage science research across the wider community and promote the sharing of knowledge, data and skills among our members.

For further information, please contact Caroline Peach, NHSF Development Director, heritagescienceforum@outlook.com

www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk