

## **Capturing Impact**

NHSF member meeting, 10.00-11.30, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## What are we trying to achieve?

### Strategic Framework for Heritage Science in the UK 2018-2023

#### **Goal: Demonstrable social and economic impact**

Heritage science generates social and economic value, for example through research that helps us to understand our place in the world, through techniques that preserve heritage assets, or through direct employment.

#### Challenge:

To understand and evidence the contribution that heritage science makes to society and the economy, and demonstrate the opportunities for increasing social and economic impact.

## Work to date:

### March 2020 – ‘Why’

- Exploration of why it's important to collect evidence of impact and what we 'lose' by not collecting evidence of impact.
- Review of different methodologies for measuring value and impact.

See [Member Meeting report online](#) (March 2020).

### April 2021 – ‘How’

- Identification of impact assessment methods that are already used by heritage scientists or could be used to collect evidence of impact.
- Discussion of steps needed to develop a toolkit to help people to collect evidence of impact.

See [Member Meeting report online](#) (April 2021)

The logo consists of four colored squares in a 2x2 grid: yellow (top-left), blue (top-right), green (bottom-left), and pink (bottom-right).

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## Next steps:

### May 2023 – ‘To whom’

- Identification of the priority audiences for evidence of impact.
- Collection of information on how people already capture impact and communicate it.
- Identification of skills gaps or support needed to help people to collect evidence and communicate it.

NHSF survey: [Heritage science impact data collection and use](#)

## Survey content:

Collects baseline information about how data used to evidence the impact of heritage science activities (research and its application) is currently **collected**.

Collects baseline information about how that data is **used**.

## About you and your organisation:

- Completed by individual researchers. Can be completed anonymously (though helpful if you add your name and organisation because analysis will be better).
- Information on which part of the heritage science sector.
- Information on geographical location.
- Main source of organisation's core funding.
- Whether or not organisation is eligible for UKRI funding.
- How heritage science research is funded within the organisation.
- Type of research carried out in the organisation.

## How research impact is captured, and skills needs:

- Whether benefits are identified at the point research is scoped out.
- Whether research includes specific deliverables on impact.
- Areas for which data is captured (e.g. publications, partnerships, public engagement).
- What shapes how research impact is captured (e.g. internal or external priorities or frameworks).
- Level of confidence and skills possessed to evaluate the impact of research.
- Whether have skills to translate impact data into evidence of wider benefit.

## Audiences for evidence of impact and methods of communication used to reach them:

- Identification of which audiences are presented with information on the impact of research.
- Which forms of communication are used for each audience.



## Understanding impact:

With reference to a specific research example and evaluation of its benefits:

- Description of the research (title or brief description).
- Societal benefit of the research (area and nature of benefit).
- Confidence in whether impact data provides evidence of societal benefit.
- Audiences you would like your research to reach.
- What you would need for your research to reach your desired audience.

## **Strategic Framework refresh:**

Identifying the strategic drivers for 2024-2027



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## ‘Drivers’ for 2018-2023 Framework (the changes since the 2010 strategy, and the major influences for 2018-2023):

- The AHRC and EPSRC-funded Science and Heritage programme; £8 million of investment running 2007-2014.
- The creation of the National Heritage Science Forum in 2013.
- The establishment of UK Research and Innovation, and associated changes within the Research Councils.
- The Government’s Industrial Strategy and the need to be explicit about the role of heritage science in economic growth, research and innovation, skills development, and the country’s productivity.
- Brexit and how to maintain the UK’s standing in the world by creating, retaining and spreading heritage science value through leadership in skills and expertise, collaborative research, funding, infrastructure and goods and services.
- The publication by the UK Government of the Culture White Paper and the Digital Strategy.
- The creation of Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland.
- The publication of the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) heritage strategy.
- The launch of the European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science, and its UK hub.
- The Mendoza review and the review of DCMS-sponsored museums.
- The forthcoming Culture Strategy for Scotland.
- Increased importance of ‘place’ and ‘wellbeing’ in cross-government policies.

## What's next for 2024-2027?

For example:

- Towards a National Collection
- Impact of covid-19 and increases in cost-of-living
- ERIHS-ERIC
- UKRI infrastructure mapping and development including RICHeS
- Climate emergency
- Workforce capacity issues (funding for posts; availability of skilled workforce...)

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**Q&As:**

## Working group co-convenors:

Each of the three strands of the Strategic Framework for Heritage Science in the UK 2018-2023 has an associated NHSF working group.

The working groups are made up of people from NHSF member organisations who collaborate to address the Framework goals (NHSF is not responsible for delivering all the outcomes, the framework is a tool for the sector).

The role of the co-convenors is to keep the group on-track, including:

- Develop the agenda for working group meetings (approx. 3 per year)
- Develop the agenda for Member Meeting (1 per year)
- Monitor progress towards goals of strategic framework strand

Meeting administration including note-taking is outsourced.