



## **Distributed infrastructure: provision and use in practice**

A colloquium organised by the National Heritage Science Forum

### **Date and time**

25 January 2023, 10.00-16.00

### **Location**

In-person at: Institute of Physics, 37 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU

Online: via Zoom

Registration on Eventbrite (for in-person or online attendance):

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/distributed-infrastructure-provision-and-use-in-practice-tickets-493783819697>

### **Background**

The importance of infrastructure\* to heritage science is now recognised across the research and innovation ecosystem. Significant investments have already been made in EU-funded infrastructure (such as IPERION and E-RIHS) and more investment in UK infrastructure is planned by AHRC (subject to business case approval). As this new investment is being planned, what can we learn from history? Experience suggests that both providers and potential users of heritage science infrastructure face a range of practical issues, which present variously as opportunities and challenges. For example, heritage science infrastructure is currently unevenly distributed both geographically (including across the UK and internationally) and across multiple communities of practice (such as conservators and materials scientists).

### **About this event**

The event is intended to bring together ideas and opinions across the Heritage Science sector and to allow the NHSF to listen to its members and stakeholders. The outcomes from the day's discussions will help enable collaboration and operational planning for an enhanced UK heritage science research and innovation infrastructure. Participants will gain an up-to-date picture of the development of the proposed RICHeS (Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science) programme as well as a range of practical insights from infrastructure coordinators, providers and users based on experience to date. There will be frequent opportunities for discussion and engagement with speakers and other attendees, and a breakout session in the afternoon will enable participants to reflect on the plans for RICHeS, the benefits they anticipate and any issues that they feel should be addressed as they reflect on the infrastructure needs of the future. The Forum is particularly interested in participants' views on the development of networks, methods of engaging potential users and impact methodologies necessary for a successful access programme.

### **Programme**

10.00 Arrivals

10.15 Welcome and agreeing aims for the day – Prof Nigel Llewellyn, Chair of the National Heritage Science Forum

10.30 Keynote: **RICHeS (Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science): How the AHRC is planning to invest in Heritage Science infrastructure** - Dr Joanna Dunster, Senior Investment Manager, Heritage and International Research Infrastructures, Arts and Humanities Research Council

11.00 Q&A for participants to establish as clear a sense as possible of what the Research Council is planning

11.15 Keynote: **SYNTHEsys - an integrated European infrastructure for natural history collections** – Dr Kristina Gorman, Natural History Museum

11.45 Q&A to discuss lessons to be learned from a long-established infrastructure project in our sector.

12.00 Lunch (provided)

12.45 **National Heritage Science Forum AGM** (Members only) – pre-registration essential, please see Notice of 10<sup>th</sup> AGM which has been circulated separately to member organisation representatives and is available online here: <https://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/about/formal-documents>

Afternoon session. A series of 15-minute case studies.

13.00 Introduction – Prof Nigel Llewellyn, Chair of NHSF

13.05 **Access:** Banqueting House Whitehall Rubens ceiling paintings technical research – Molab experience. Dr Constantina Vlachou, Historic Royal Palaces

13.25 **Provision:** Starting from scratch – creating a framework for heritage science research access at The National Archives. Dr Lora Angelova, The National Archives

13.45 **Networks:** Developing the Cambridge Heritage Science Hub (CHERISH) Prof Erma Hermens, Hamilton Kerr Institute and Fitzwilliam Museum

14.05 **Digilab:** Plans for the digital component of IPERION HS and ERIHS IP. Marika Spring, National Gallery

14.20 Q&A

14.30 Tea break and networking

15.00 Breakout groups (in-person and online) addressing the key question: **What are the critical success factors for a distributed research and innovation infrastructure?**

Members of the breakout groups will be asked to reflect on the research infrastructure needs of themselves and of their organisation and consider what should be the priorities for the proposed RICHES investment.

To help formulate their answers, participant groups might consider aspects of the issue:

- Networks: how should these be formed? How should networks spread the benefits of the investment?
- User Needs: how should these be met?
- Information Capture: how can we capture knowledge about the benefits that the investment will deliver?
- Digital Systems: how can these be used to connect equipment, individuals and digital content?
- The NHSF: what role should the Forum play on behalf of the sector in promoting the new infrastructure and in supporting its work?

15.30 Reports – from in-person and online groups

15.50 Closing remarks including next steps – Prof Nigel Llewellyn, Chair of NHSF

16.00 End

**\* Research and innovation infrastructures are facilities, resources and services that are used by the research and innovation communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. Find out more on the [UKRI website](#).**