

Press release: 13 April 2017

Gold dust – first free publication through National Heritage Science Forum grant

The first Gold Open Access publication to be fully funded by the National Heritage Science Forum's Gold Open Access grant is now [accessible online](#).

The research paper, published in the *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, is authored by Dr Helen Wilson and Sarah VanSnick of The National Archives. It evaluates current preventive conservation practices in the National Archives' collections, focusing on "the effectiveness of dust mitigation and cleaning strategies".

The NHSF is delighted to be supporting open access to heritage science research. The Forum seeks to maximise the impact and public benefit of heritage science by increasing the visibility of current research within and outside of the heritage sector.

NHSF Chairman, Alastair McCapra said: *"Enabling immediate online access, the NHSF ensures the results of heritage science research can be used more fully for the benefit of society and the economy. It is fantastic to be able to share the findings of an organisation at the forefront of heritage science research both quickly and widely, so that it can inform the work of archives and libraries everywhere."*

Sarah VanSnick, Senior Conservation Manager at The National Archives said: "This research had some very practical outcomes and direct application to conservation practice. We hope it will support those in the archive and library sector advocating for preventive measures or wanting to improve them."

The Gold Open Access Grant, available to NHSF member organisations and their employees, aims to support the delivery of the National Heritage Science Strategy by enabling full access to current research free of charge, to everyone, immediately on publication.

Publication information:

Wilson, H. and VanSnick, S., 2017. The effectiveness of dust mitigation and cleaning strategies at The National Archives, UK. *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 24, 100-107. Available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1296207416302072> ; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.culher.2016.09.004>

Notes to editors:

1. 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 \(NHSS\)](#).

2. The Forum provides a platform to support the policy, research and professional needs of institutions engaged in heritage science. The NHSF brings together many disciplines under the wide-ranging, interdisciplinary heritage science umbrella. Through working together, Forum members address the research and practice needs of institutions interested in or engaged with heritage science.

3. The Forum supports Open Access to heritage science research through its grants for Gold Open Access publication and through a programme of work with Wikimedia UK to enhance heritage science content on Wikimedia platforms.

<http://www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/what-we-do/open-access>

4. NHSF has twenty members:

- Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery
- British Library
- Cardiff University
- English Heritage
- Historic England
- Historic Royal Palaces
- Historic Environment Scotland
- Imperial College London
- Institute of Conservation
- National Galleries Scotland
- National Museums Wales
- National Trust
- Natural History Museum
- Oxford University
- Tate
- The British Museum
- [The National Archives](#)
- University College London
- University of Cambridge Museums and Botanical Garden
- Wellcome Library

Find out more at: www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk/

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The National Archives is one of the world's most valuable resources for research and an independent research organisation in its own right. As the official archive and publisher for the UK government, and England and Wales they are the guardians of some of the UK's most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years. Their role is to collect and secure the future of the government record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible and available as possible. The National Archives brings together the skills and specialisms needed to conserve some of the oldest historic documents as well as leading digital archive practices to manage and preserve government information past, present and future.

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