



Response to Historic England Draft Action Plan 2015-2018

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 UK organisations active in the field of heritage science. Through its membership NHSF brings together communities of practice, including 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 English Heritage of the Historic England Draft Action Plan for 2015-2018, and the opportunity to comment on it.

We support the five corporate plan aims and particularly welcome:

1. The planned objectives under aim 1, 'to Champion England's heritage' which focus on the importance of gathering evidence for the value of heritage and its dissemination, and the support for collaboration in the heritage sector through Heritage 2020.
2. The commitment under aim 4, objective 4.3 to ensure that heritage science delivers more effective approaches to understanding and protection and, as part of this, to participate in the National Heritage Science Forum, the registered charity that brings together heritage scientists and the users of heritage science research.

We suggest the following change to the associated bullet point:

- Participate in the National Heritage Science Forum, an independent charity that works to network heritage science nationally through implementation of the National Heritage Science Strategy.

23 January 2015

Notes:

1. The National Heritage Science Forum is a charity registered in England & Wales (no. 1154160). It has 17 members: Birmingham Museums Trust, British Museum, British Library, Cardiff University, English Heritage, Historic Royal Palaces, Historic Scotland, Icon, National Galleries Scotland, National Museum Wales, Oxford University (Bodleian Libraries), Royal Armouries, Tate, The National Archives, the National Trust, Natural History Museum, and University College London

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

i). 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.

ii). 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.

iii). 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

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