

**Heritage Science and Societal Challenges**

**Example case study to map initiatives to the societal challenges**

Between now and the end of June 2021 we would like your help to understand how heritage science research is already addressing the societal challenges, focusing on two initial areas:

* **Case studies of how heritage science addresses the challenges**

We are looking for case studies of how heritage science research and practice is addressing the five societal challenges in the paper *Heritage Science and Societal Challenges: a blueprint for action*.

* **Mapping institutional research strategies to the challenges**

How does your organisation’s research strategy, corporate strategy or teaching programme align to the societal challenges?

We would welcome examples of how individual organisations are already taking action to address the five challenges as well as statements from organisations who recognise a gap in their existing research strategy with respect to the societal challenges, and how they plan to use the challenges to incorporate a focus on wider societal issues.

The example below shows the type of information that we would like to collect. A blank copy of the table follows the example and can be used to submit your own case studies.

The first round of case studies will be collected until the end of June 2021 and we would like to feature examples on our website and as part of a blog series later in the year.

Please send completed case studies, or any questions, to Caroline Peach administrator@heritagescienceforum.org.uk

**Example:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Climate change and the historic environment <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/2082/1/2082.pdf> |
| Key words | Climate change, historic environment, buried archaeology, historic buildings, parks, gardens, heritage managers, scientists, policy makers, impact, recommendations, gaps, research |
| Type of initiative (research, policy, engagement, institutional research strategy, teaching programme) | Research (scoping study) |
| Short description (300 words) | The study aimed to make a contribution to the debate on the impact of climate change on the historic environment. The research method consisted of a critical bibliography, a questionnaire disseminated to heritage site managers, site visits and 2 regional workshops in the 2 selected study areas in England; the North West and East, chosen for their contrasting climates and impacts. The outputs consist of demonstration maps of climate change vulnerability, and a policy makers’ workshop which highlighted the implications for policy including the need to raise public awareness, professional preparedness and sector leadership. Investment in repair and maintenance and the impact of conflicting societal values, changes in society and demographics and in people’s behaviour were also identified as key concerns. Gaps in information and research were highlighted. The report concluded with recommendations for short and medium term actions. (139) |
| Partners (heritage, academy, industry, community) | Heritage, academy, industry, community |
| Societal Challenge 1 link *(if appropriate)* | **Sustainable Development**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 1 | *This study contributed in a minor way to tackling Societal Challenge 1 by focussed on developing a holistic understanding of the impact of climate change and on the long-term management of heritage as a global resource for the benefit of societies around the world.* |
| Societal Challenge 2 link *(if appropriate)* | **Climate Emergency**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 2 | *This study contributed in a major way for the first time to tackling Societal Challenge 4 by extending our understanding of the impact of a changing climate on heritage by using knowledge and observation derived from the study of heritage assets to address the climate emergency.* |
| Societal Challenge 3 link *(if appropriate)* | **Improved Wellbeing**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 3 | *Not applicable* |
| Societal Challenge 4 link *(if appropriate)* | **Equality and Inclusivity**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 4 | *Not applicable* |
| Societal Challenge 5 link *(if appropriate)* | **Digital Society**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 5 | *Not applicable* |
| Impact of initiative (150 words) | The report to English Heritage highlighted the risks that climate change poses to archaeological sites, historic buildings and contents and demonstrated the threats from a range of climate change parameters. It identified knowledge gaps which began to be addressed in an EPSRC-funded research project in which researchers from HEIs, IROs and industry collaborated. It led to the EU funded research project, Noah’s Ark, which published European risk maps and a vulnerability atlas and was awarded the Europa Nostra Grand Prix for Research (2009). It was influential in raising awareness within the UNESCO World Heritage Centre of the risks to world heritage sites from climate change. (105) |
| Beneficiaries of initiative (100 words) | The main beneficiary of the study were heritage site managers whose observations of the accelerating damage caused by climate change were systematically recorded for the first time and reported to English Heritage. Also benefiting were policy makers who were presented the results of the study and who had the opportunity to debate the findings at a policy makers’ workshop towards the end of the study. (65) |
| Date of project completion or publication |  |
| Image including caption and credit | To follow |
| Confirmation of permission to use by NHSF | Yes |

**Template for completion:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title |  |
| Key words |  |
| Type of initiative (research, policy, engagement, institutional research strategy, teaching programme) |  |
| Short description (up to 300 words) |  |
| Partners (heritage, academy, industry, community) |  |
| Societal Challenge 1 link *(if appropriate)* | **Sustainable Development**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 1 |  |
| Societal Challenge 2 link *(if appropriate)* | **Climate Emergency**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 2 |  |
|  |  |
| Societal Challenge 3 link *(if appropriate)* | **Improved Wellbeing**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 3 |  |
| Societal Challenge 4 link *(if appropriate)* | **Equality and Inclusivity**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 4 |  |
| Societal Challenge 5 link *(if appropriate)* | **Digital Society**  |
| Contribution to tackling the Societal Challenge 5 |  |
| Impact of initiative (up to 150 words) |  |
| Beneficiaries of initiative (up to 100 words) |  |
| Date of project completion or publication |  |
| Link to further information (URL) |  |
| Image including caption and credit |  |
| Confirmation of permission to use by NHSF |  |