

Academic & Heritage Sector Partnerships - Roundtable Funding

29 June 2026 | Heritage Alliance / University of Oxford

Session Overview:

Chair:

Peter Aiers (Charterhouse)

Panel:

Jamie Davies (AHRC)

Helena Channon-Wells (University of Oxford)

Laura Tompkins (Historic Royal Palaces)

Summary and key points discussed

Opening (Lizzie Glithero-West, Heritage Alliance)

This was the second in a series of Academic and Heritage Sector Partnership Roundtables, run in partnership with the University of Oxford as part of the Alliance's resilience project (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund). Key stats driving the project: 66% of heritage organisations report funding challenges; 43% of Alliance members want better academic matchmaking; 32% want more role-specific networks. Alongside academic matchmaking, the wider project includes regional events (starting with Black Country Living Museum), new specialist interest groups (chairs' network, fundraising, small organisations), and improved newsletter/signposting. This session on funding strategy, mechanics and ambition was chosen as the first deep-dive because it was the most urgently raised theme in the first roundtable. Four more sessions are planned: co-design/equitable partnerships, brokering/matchmaking, the politicisation of research funding, legacy/sustainability after projects end, and support for smaller under-resourced organisations (half of Alliance members turn over under £500k/year and are not IROs).

Chair: Peter Aires

Peter is Master and Chief Executive of the Charterhouse, ex-Church's Conservation Trust, Heritage Alliance ex-trustee.

Presentation 1: Dr Jamie Davis, AHRC

Davis is Head of International Partnerships and Engagement at the AHRC (part of UKRI). His talk covered both domestic and international funding routes.

- **UKRI's strategic framing:** three mission strands advancing knowledge, improving lives, driving growth. He repeatedly urged organisations to frame their work against these three, whatever they're applying for.
- **Funding Finder & transparency:** AHRC now publishes a forward pipeline of not-yet-announced opportunities (via its blog), to give organisations more lead time.
- **Scale of AHRC funding:** from small proof of concept and catalyst awards (for those with no research track record) up to £2–3m curiosity driven/"blue sky" grants, plus new impact acceleration and commercialisation funding.
- **Eligibility:** only universities or IROs can apply directly. The IRO list is growing (National Trust, Museum of London Archaeology, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust have joined), but non-IROs can still take part by partnering with a university or IRO.
- **RICHS** (Research Infrastructure and Conservation Heritage Science): an £80m UKRI infrastructure investment, delivered via a dedicated team, funding heritage science equipment across 31 UK locations. Crucially, it includes an **Access Fund** (up to £20k) that non-IROs can apply to directly to use that equipment/expertise the first round has just closed, with a further round in autumn.
- **Heritage Data Service:** funding (£15–25k) for archiving/depositing heritage data and building virtual research environments; open now, closing in September, light-touch application, restricted to GLAM sector organisations.
- **International/European links:** RICHS also plugs UK organisations into the European Research Infrastructure Consortium, giving access to European heritage science equipment (next call opens late July, closes October).
- **Community Led Heritage Research and Skills hub:** led by National Archives with Leeds Museums & Galleries, National Library of Wales, and Community Archives Heritage Group offering seedcorn grants, skills bursaries (rolling, up to £1,000) and project grants (next deadline 16 November).
- **EU funding:** much larger and more complex, but open to any legal entity (less restrictive than UKRI). He highlighted "Pillar 2" calls on culture/heritage/AI/circular economy/wellbeing/sustainable tourism (opening next May), and a forthcoming ~€200bn, 10-year EU–UK partnership on cultural heritage and climate change (AHRC working with DCMS, British Council, UNESCO UK). EU funding- [Horizon Europe Cluster 2 Feedback Survey](#)
- **Illustrative past projects:** Cotswold Institute/English Heritage's "Go Green," an AHRC-DFG UK-German medieval pottery project with Museum of London

Archaeology, Newport Ship's digitisation work, a Brooklyn's Museum-linked PhD studentship, and the Atlas of Hillforts and Mapping Museums projects.

- **Where to start:** contact IROs, university public engagement/research offices, or national/regional Arts and Humanities Alliances (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland) and the Association of Research Managers' Arts and Humanities group.

Presentation 2: Helena Channon Wells, University of Oxford — the academic partner's view

Helena is Innovation and Business Partnerships Manager for Oxford's Social Sciences Division. Her core reframe: don't approach universities primarily as a funding route approach them as partners to solve a shared challenge, because that's actually what unlocks funding. Funding panels can tell when a partnership has been "whipped together" versus genuinely built.

- **Why this matters to universities too:** both sectors are under financial pressure and can't tackle complex problems alone; working with practitioners also strengthens the real-world impact of academic research.
- **Many forms of partnership, not just research:** student placements, facilities/events access, professional and policy networks organisations often engage in several of these at once, and "your challenge will help you find the path."
- **Example:** an international company with a local Oxford branch wanted a low-risk way to build trust before bigger investment starting with student engagement, which grew into a larger regional-innovation collaboration (Equinox, part of the Oxford/Cambridge growth corridor).
- **How to start a challenge-led partnership:**
 1. Find a "broker" first, professional services staff with titles involving knowledge exchange, impact, engagement or innovation, rather than trying to identify the right academic yourself, since large universities are hard to navigate and academics have limited capacity (teaching + their own research).
 2. Define the challenge with an open mind, the tea-bag-packaging example: a company approached Oxford about a material science packaging problem, but conversation uncovered a much bigger regenerative-agriculture challenge; traditional grants didn't fit, so they used internal funding instead, leading to a long-term partnership.

- **Range of Oxford partnership examples:** stone-failure prediction, social prescribing/wellbeing, heritage sustainability practice, analysing precious collections that can't leave site, technology-adoption hesitancy, inclusivity in schools, just transition to net zero, student entrepreneurship, policy engagement, and digital strategy partnerships — deliberately drawn from beyond heritage to show the breadth of what's possible.
- **Closing message:** ask "what challenge could we address together," not "how does partnership unlock funding."

Presentation 3: Dr Laura Tompkins, Historic Royal Palaces — the heritage practitioner's view

Laura is Research Lead at HRP, an independent charity (Tower of London, Hampton Court, Kensington Palace, Kew sites, Banqueting House, Hillsborough Castle) that receives no government or royal family funding, making research income especially important.

- **Joint MA in Heritage Management** with Queen Mary University of London (since 2018) genuinely joint, fees split equally, a full-time HRP-based MA director, extensive student placements.
- **Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships:** HRP has been part of the REACH CDP consortium (with National Trust, BFI, National Portrait Gallery, Royal Museums Greenwich) since 2018, co-supervising 7 doctorates, plus DTP-funded and internally-funded studentships and placement PhD students. This is an underused route any heritage organisation could pursue.
- **Research networks:** the Queer Heritage and Collection Network (founded with English Heritage, National Trust, Historic England) has moved through several funders (Art Fund → NLHF → since 2024, an Arts Council Lottery grant led by University of Leicester, who created a dedicated post to run it). She flagged the recurring problem of sustaining network funding — current round ends 2027.
- **Long-term Oxford collaboration example:** a project reinterpreting the Tower's "Prisoners and Punishment" exhibition began with a knowledge exchange fellowship, producing a research toolkit still used in the redevelopment. That led to internal Oxford "John Fell Fund" funding to develop the idea further, which is now being built into a full AHRC application on cultural imagination and the Tower's association with violence/torture — a clear example of funding "layering" over several years.
- **Heritage science:** a 2021 infrastructure investment (credited to Heritage Science Manager Konstantina) enabled a full lab revamp at Hampton Court, which became a stepping stone to further funding, including a successful

RICHES "Reveal" project and — announced just the week before this talk — two successful RICHES Access Fund applications (one non-IRO, one university). That heritage science base is now underpinning a major AHRC bid on Tower of London graffiti, itself seeded by private donor funding (including the Mark Fitch Fund) via HRP's development team.

- **Beyond curatorial/science work:** the Kensington Enrichment Project (led by HRP's schools/education team, building long-term relationships with schools in deprived parts of Kensington/Hammersmith) needed proper impact measurement — HRP's Leicester contacts referred them to UCL, and Dr Bing Gao now works as a research associate on it, currently funded internally, with academic funding being pursued.
- **Her practical advice for working with heritage partners:** contact early (HRP has long lead-in times); expect lots of internal coordination and authorisation on the heritage side; be aware the sector is under real strain (contracting tourism/visitor numbers over the past year, forcing harder prioritisation); build relationships gradually (masterclasses, guest lectures, small workshops) rather than always starting with a big bid; treat heritage partners as intellectual equals and potential co-leads, not just data sources; make public engagement integral to the research design, not a bolt-on; and don't assume in-kind contributions (she specifically flagged academics arriving late with expectations like "we'll put on an exhibition" without discussion).

Chaired Q&A with all three panellists

- **What makes a good partnership?** Helena: clear, honest expectations on both sides. Jamie: partnerships must be evidenced and costed (partners as paid subcontractors/consultants, or clear letters of support), never tokenistic — funding panels actively penalise this. Laura: early and sustained contact, avoiding academic "elitism" and unstated assumptions about what the heritage partner will contribute.
- **Ensuring mutual benefit in practice:** Jamie pointed to costing in lived-experience/technician roles, building public engagement into the work plan (flagging the Being Human Festival and National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement as resources), and the growing focus on commercialisation. Laura stressed giving heritage colleagues time to properly develop ideas together rather than academics dictating outputs. Helena emphasised contracts that articulate desired outcomes up front, understanding academic pressures (publication, academic freedom), and having early conversations about IP/ownership if a product, service or technology emerges.

Audience questions

Sterling MacKinnon (University of Oxford) and Jess Stitt (University of Oxford) facilitated the audience Q&A

Many heritage organisations rely on formal university placements, but volunteering often provides similar learning outcomes and community impact. How can funding frameworks and partnership models better recognise volunteer-based collaborations — for example, where community organisation any of our members host students or graduates in informal heritage roles?

- Laura noted HRP has long-running volunteer research projects (e.g., oral histories at Hampton Court) and argued volunteer time should be costed into bids rather than assumed as free in-kind contribution. Helena linked this to students who go into industry/heritage rather than academia, and to the risk of academics' own "spare time" contributions being exploited. Jamie pointed to citizen-science guidance on fair recompense and cited the Cardiff University-led Cairo Heritage Project as a strong example, plus AHRC's "Connected Creative Communities" work on community engagement models.

Many heritage organisations are dealing with urgent, practical challenges, while research funding often asks us to frame projects around future-facing innovation and new knowledge. How can we better align these two agendas so that research is both practically useful now and intellectually ambitious for the longer term?

- Jamie again pointed to the three UKRI strands, noting some "curiosity-driven" projects only reveal their policy relevance years later (citing place-based innovation and arts-on-prescription work). Helena reframed "innovation" as not always meaning brand new — sometimes it's recombining older approaches (she cited the "three sisters" companion-planting method) — and stressed impact must stay grounded in what's achievable now. Laura advocated "layered" funding: smaller, faster grants for immediate pressures running alongside longer-term bids, and highlighted how a successful early-career fellowship application could bring HRP two years of capacity, mentoring and cross-organisation collaboration, offsetting redundancy/recruitment-freeze gaps.

Could you clarify what the new parameters for KTPs are? From what I gather, charities are no longer to apply for them. Is this correct?

- Jamie confirmed the scheme (delivered via Innovate UK) has recently changed and advised contacting local KTP advisors directly for current eligibility, or AHRC for arts and humanities-specific queries.

Is there any guidance on responsible collaboration on the preparation of outputs, including academic outputs?

- Helena pointed to Oxford's Responsible Knowledge Exchange, Impact and Engagement Framework, stressing partners should stay involved throughout output development (not receive a finished product at the end) given the historical power imbalance of universities "imposing" solutions.

Closing

Peter Aires summarised three takeaways: AHRC's "advance knowledge, improve lives, drive growth" framing; the importance of finding a university broker like Helena; and HRP's reminder that heritage organisations should collaborate more with each other, not only with academia — partnership as an evolving process rather than a fixed outcome. Guy (Heritage Alliance) closed by noting unanswered chat questions would be followed up, and promoted the Alliance's other ongoing groups (finance/funding/investment advocacy, skills/education, international) plus membership information for non-members.

Questions not answered offline:

Representing the Bedford Park Society and Brentham GS Trust, we submitted to be on the WHS tentative list as a third sector bid. Our feedback was that we needed evidence to show that Bedford Park Garden Village and Brentham Garden Suburb are of world cultural importance. But we have no idea how to commission the academic research to demonstrate this. Is it social science or town planning history or cultural research?

- Helena: I partly responded to this question in the session but to summarise, I think approaching an academic partnership to validate a particular outcome is difficult. Commissioning this kind of research directly is more of a consulting arrangement. This is possible to do with academics, and the best place to start might be the tech transfer offices as many of these can help network you to appropriate academic consultants. It may also be worth looking local as many universities are looking to engage and support local projects/place based initiatives. In this case, you could try Royal Holloway's [Institute of Social Purpose Innovation \(iSPI\)](#)
- Jamie: I would suggest they seek guidance from World Heritage UK, ICOMOS UK and UNESCO UK

How do we work on a research project with a university/universities when we will also have a number of independent contractors working on the project too (ie very complex governance arrangements)?

- Helena: This is not unusual for academic projects as we are used to working in teams with complex governance arrangements. The best approach is to be transparent during scoping sessions about partners/contractor relationships and ensure these details are captured in contracts. I would be cautious about funding parameters as some have clauses about financing contractors.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is a Nature Reserve and our work combines conservation, heritage and community. Are the panellists (or any participants) aware of funding streams and/or networks that explore the connections between nature conservation and heritage through interdisciplinary research?

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- AHRC or possibly NERC funding.
- Oxford based networks: the Heritage Innovation Laboratory Oxford ([HILO](#)) or Heritage Network ([About the Oxford University Heritage Network | Oxford University Heritage Network](#))
- Jamie: I would advise through the National Heritage Lottery Fund [National Lottery Heritage Grants £10,000 to £250,000 | The National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) or AHRC (working with a local university) [AHRC responsive mode: Curiosity Award – UKRI](#)

For Helena: Could you please explain a bit more about what the heritage sector could specifically learn about academic partnership from how it is done in other disciplines, industries, sectors etc?

- Helena: Be careful of generalisations, there is no one model of academic partnership per sector, there is a lot of variation depending on the need/nature of the projects. Assuming you have to engage in a certain way or with certain research groups because you are a certain sector could mean you miss opportunities.
- Many of our more strategic industry partners will have various engagements across the university, including research projects, but also links to students and careers. Reflects holistic approach to what it means for two institutions to partner.
- Worth recognising huge diversity within heritage as a sector itself. Common thread is that all partnerships tend to rely on similar foundations regardless of sector – transparency in expectations, good communication and trust.

Thanks all! Question for Jamie - What advice do you have to ensure heritage orgs are not penalised by reviewers for including 'business as usual' work in funding bids with academics?

- Jamie: Look at how they could be costed in as subcontractors or specialists [AHRC research funding guide for applicants – UKRI](#)

Thinking about Helena's teabag project example, what strategies can the panel suggest for staying agile and coping with changing project parameters?

- Helena: Start with the challenge, not just the solution. Share the wider context behind your enquiry to help identify opportunities beyond the initial brief.
- Be open to exploring adjacent areas of expertise. Some of the most valuable collaborations emerge from broadening the conversation rather than focusing on a single research question.
- Use a partnership broker or knowledge exchange professional where possible. They can help navigate the research landscape and connect you with the most appropriate academics.
- Recognise that different disciplines approach the same problem differently. Consider a range of perspectives before defining the project scope.
- Be clear about your priorities. If your project requires a very specific area of expertise, communicate this early, recognising that finding the right academic partner may take longer.
- Acknowledge mutual interests. Successful co-commissioning depends on aligning organisational needs with academics' research expertise and priorities.
- Agree project governance from the outset. Document how decisions will be made, how changes to scope will be managed, and whether the project will follow an agile or more structured approach.
- Build in flexibility where appropriate. Clear processes for reviewing and adapting project parameters help partnerships respond to new insights without losing focus.
- Jamie: I'd suggest they use the fail space resources <https://www.culturalvalue.org.uk/our-work/failspace/>

A practical question. Finance constraints. We've done a number of intergenerational Partnership projects with Universities. Constraints: elderly volunteers are given expenses payments recently a retired teacher experienced economic problems with his pension payments as a result & his sheltered housing . Terribly stressful. Also we are frequently paid ridiculously late & projects get rescheduled without consultation. We found there seemed to be a void between the department we were working with and the finance departments.

- Helena: Responsible research practices should be adopted when considering appropriate engagement/renumeration options for participants. This should be explored early in project planning so risks of this nature are flagged. Likewise payment timelines/ how rescheduling is managed should be detailed in contracts. If problems arise, keep a clear email chain and reference terms.



Partnering with Universities

Helena Channon-Wells

Innovation & Business Partnership
Manager, Social Sciences Division,
University of Oxford





Partnerships unlock funding





**Executive
Education**

**Reports &
Consulting**

**Research
collaborations**

**Regional
partnerships**

Innovation

**Student
engagement**

**Policy &
public
Engagement**



How to find a partner?



FIND THE BROKERS
(KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE, BUSINESS
ENGAGEMENT,
RESEARCH IMPACT,
INNOVATION,
PARTNERSHIPS)



DEFINE YOUR
CHALLENGE AREA
KEEP AN OPEN MIND

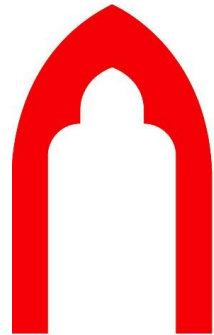




What challenge could we solve together?



**XL Insurance
Reinsurance**



**Churches
Conservation
Trust**



SAMSUNG





Thank you!

Email: helena.channon-wells@socsci.ox.ac.uk

[Business Engagement | Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford](#)



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funding and EU funding

Dr Jamie Davies

Head of International Partnerships and Engagement



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), part of United Kingdom Research and Innovation, funds world-leading research, innovation and talent across the full breadth of the arts and humanities.

Our work brings creative, diverse and vital perspectives to today's biggest challenges, delivering real value for people, communities and the economy.

UKRI mission to:

- advance knowledge
- improve lives
- drive growth



AHRC responsive mode: Curiosity Award

Flexible awards to fund fundamental research that leads to new research agendas, networking activity and idea generation, which enables the development of further research opportunities and new research agendas.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Maximum award:	£100,000
Publication date:	31 January 2025
Opening date:	31 January 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

Area of investment and support

UK-German funding initiative in the humanities

AHRC and the German Research Foundation (DFG) support collaborative humanities research between researchers in the UK and Germany. The programme funds international research projects across humanities subject areas where collaboration can help advance knowledge.

Budget: The average budget for each funding round in this programme is £6 million (matched by equivalent funding from DFG)

Duration: 2018 to 2035. Funding rounds occur once every two years.

Partners involved: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), DFG

Related content

⇒ UK-German Humanities

AHRC responsive mode: catalyst awards

AHRC awards to support researchers without prior experience of leading a significant research project to accelerate their trajectory as independent researchers, to unlock their potential and build leadership and convenor experience.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for AHRC funding.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Award range:	£100,000 - £300,000
Publication date:	31 January 2025
Opening date:	31 January 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	Open - no closing date

UKRI Translation: AHRC Proof of Concept

UKRI Translation: AHRC Proof of Concept supports arts and humanities activity that translate previously funded AHRC or UKRI projects into real world economic, societal, cultural or policy impact.

This opportunity was previously known as AHRC responsive mode: follow-on funding for impact and engagement.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Maximum award:	£150,000
Publication date:	27 January 2026
Opening date:	27 January 2026 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	Open - no closing date



UKRI Translation: Impact Acceleration Accounts 2027

Apply for UKRI impact acceleration accounts (IAAs) for institutional-level, flexible, early-stage funding that helps organisations accelerate research impact into real world benefits.

This funding opportunity harmonises IAA programmes across the following research councils:

- AHRC
- EPSRC
- MRC
- STFC

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) , Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) , Medical Research Council (MRC) , Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Co-funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Medical Research Council (MRC), Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Funding type:	Grant
Publication date:	16 June 2026
Opening date:	16 June 2026
Closing date:	15 September 2026 4:00pm UK time

AHRC large grants: outline stage

Apply for Large Grants funding to deliver novel, ambitious and transformative arts and humanities research projects at scale.

You must be based at a UK research organisation eligible for AHRC funding.

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
Funding type:	Grant
Award range:	£2,000,000 - £3,000,000
Publication date:	2 June 2026
Opening date:	3 June 2026 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	16 September 2026 4:00pm UK time

RICHeS Investment

RICHeS is a 5-year, **£80 million** UKRI Infrastructure Fund programme, delivered by AHRC strengthening the UK's capability and capacity in heritage science and conservation

RICHeS positions the UK as a global leader through:

- Dedicated **RICHeS IHQ**, based at Sci-Tech Daresbury
- **Two tranches** of competitive investment;
 - £37m invested (Tranche 1): 31 investments
 - £6m planned (Tranche 2)
- **Rolling Access Fund**, enabling community access to RICHeS infrastructure
- **Strategic positioning** through commissioned research and alignment with key national projects and infrastructure
- **UK National Node for E-RIHS**, strengthening international leadership and collaboration
- **Impact and process evaluation**, delivered by Human Economics
- **Networking and community development** to maximise effectiveness and excellence



RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
CONSERVATION AND
HERITAGE SCIENCE



E-RIHS.uk
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE

RICHes distributed infrastructure

RICHes delivers impact through a **national distributed network** connecting potential users to facilities, services, expertise and collections across all four nations of the UK

Currently, RICHes supports 31 investments, comprising of:

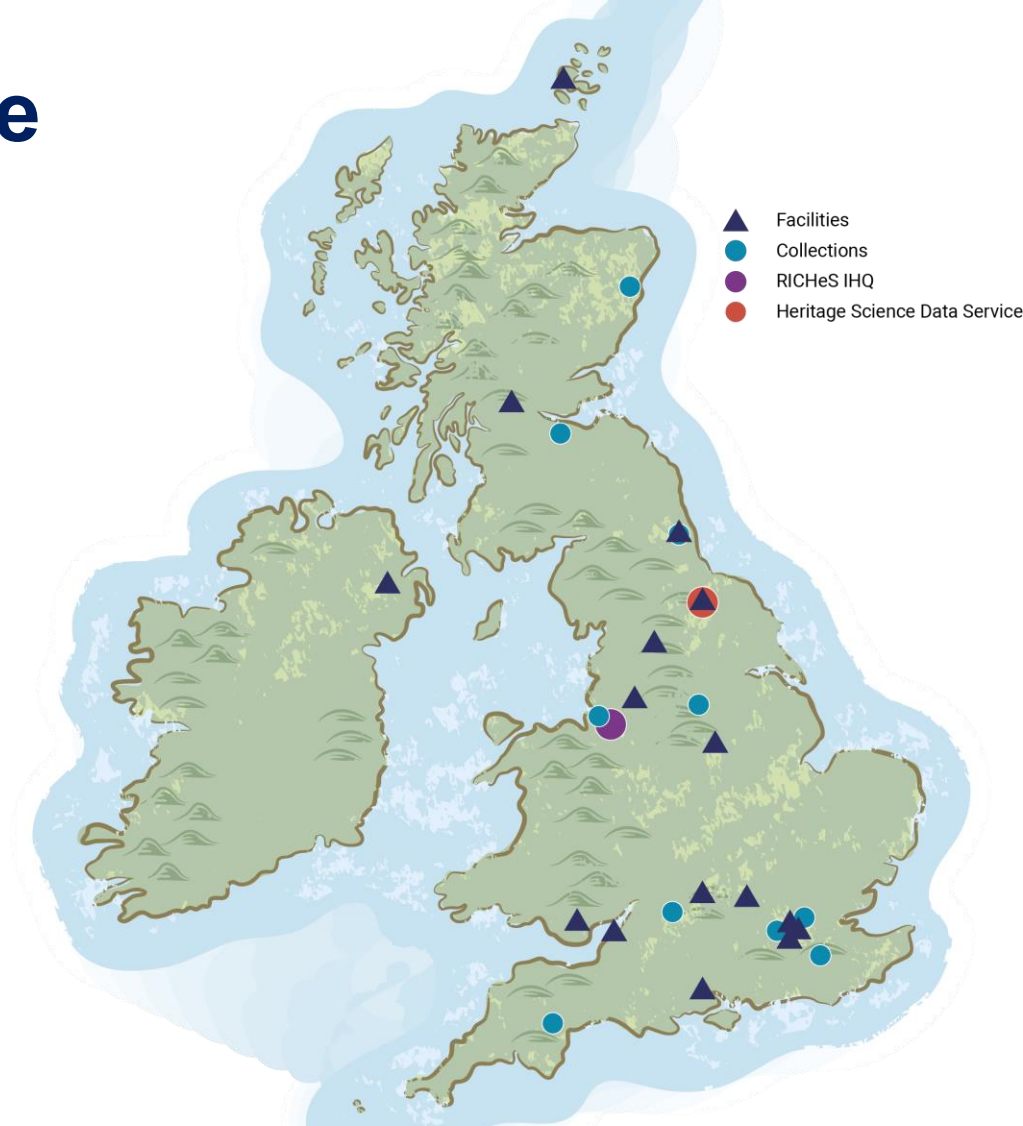
- 13 host collections
- 17 host facilities
- 1 host digital research service (HSDS)

What these investments deliver:

- Development of innovative fixed and mobile research facilities
- Improved access to world-class heritage science collections
- Dedicated support: 1.0 FTE funded for each investment to enable delivery, access and coordination

Heritage Science Data Service (HSDS):

- A national **virtual** platform enhancing data sharing and access
- Home to the **Catalogue of Services** and heritage science **Data Catalogues**



Heritage Science Data Service Grants

<https://hsds.ac.uk/deposit-data/hsds-grants/>

Deposit data with the Heritage Science Data Service

Prevent data loss, make your data more accessible, encourage re-use

£500–£25,000

Develop a Virtual Research Environment

Automate manual workflows, access high-performance computing, solve complex technical problem

Up to £15,000



Grant start date: between 1 April and 1 August 2027



Duration: up to 12 months



Email us: applications@hsds.ac.uk

✓ Must relate to **Heritage Science**
A bridge between science, technology and cultural heritage. Using scientific tools to learn about, protect and share stories of our heritage.

✓ Applicants must be based at UK organisations (galleries, libraries, archives, museums, universities, UKRI IROs)

✓ Apply online ✓ 100% FEC covered

Call open now — closing date: 30 September 2026



Heritage Science
Data Service



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council



RICHeS

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HERITAGE SCIENCE

Access to RICHeS distributed infrastructure

The RICHeS national distributed infrastructure network is open **all year-round** providing access to:

- Equipment, Facilities, Collections, Expertise and Data

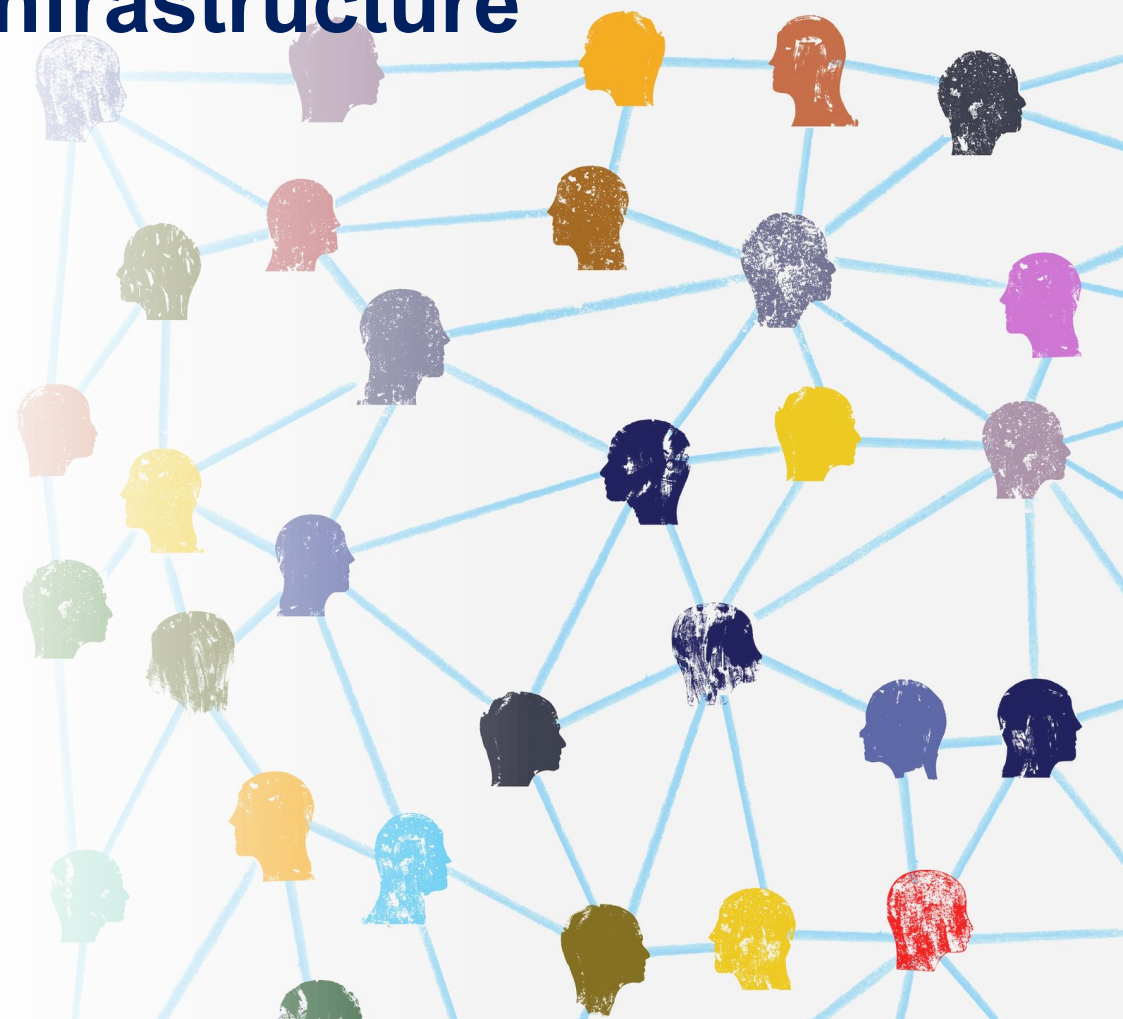
Each RICHeS service has a dedicated **Access Support Staff Member**. They help you access the facilities, equipment, collections and expertise you need

They support you to:

- Scope and shape your project
- Understand and select the right equipment and methods
- If needed, they will connect you to other providers across the RICHeS network

RICHeS Access Fund opens in Autumn 2026 with **Grants up to £20,000**

- Visit the [Access Fund section of the RICHeS website](#)



RICHeS as UK National Node for E-RIHS

In March 2025, the RICHeS was appointed as the UK National Coordinator for the [UK National Node](#) of E-RIHS, a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). This pivotal role strengthens the UK's leadership in conservation and heritage science and positions RICHeS IHQ as a strategic link between the UK and the wider European heritage science sector

UK Access Providers

The UK benefits from a strong network of Access Providers that offer facilities, collections, data and scientific expertise to E-RIHS. Together they form the operational backbone of the UK National Node:

- British Museum
- Historic England
- Nottingham Trent University
- The National Gallery
- University College London
- University of York, BioArCh and the HSDS

Transnational funding access call open between 30th July- 15th October 2026- [catalogue of services](#)



RICHeS

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E-RIHS.uk

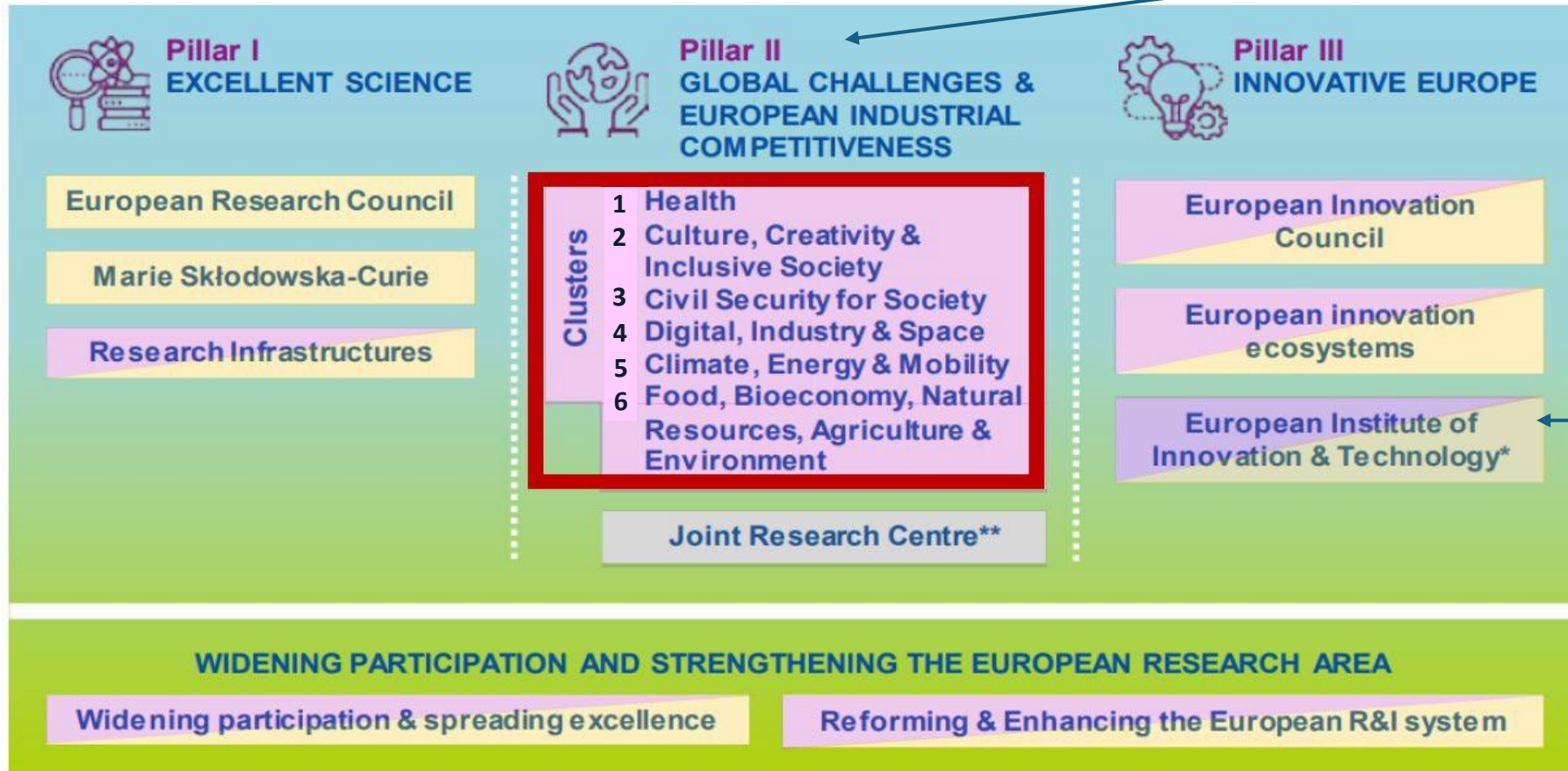
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR HERITAGE SCIENCE

Community-led Heritage Research and Skills Hub

- **‘Spaces, Places and Belonging’** is The National Archives’ vision for a truly inclusive, national and sustainable hub for community-led research in the UK. It will answer the longstanding question of how to make innovation and learning from community-facing projects transferable and reusable, by bringing together resources, networks and knowhow from across the GLAM sector. It will create a repository and digital gathering place for community-led research that becomes a permanent resource.
- Based at **The National Archives**, with co-leads from **Leeds Museums and Galleries**, **National Library of Wales** and **Community Archives and Heritage Group**
- [Seed Corn Grants \(closed\)](#), [Skills Bursaries \(£1K, rolling deadline\)](#), [Project Grants \(£30K, 16th November\)](#).



Horizon Europe



Missions:

- Climate Change
- Cancer
- Oceans and Water
- Smart Cities
- Soil
- [New European Bauhaus](#)

European Partnerships:

Cluster 2 – Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH)

Knowledge Innovation Community (KIC):

- *[Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries](#)*

**[UPDATED Jan 2026*](#): [SSH Opportunities across Horizon Europe](#)*

Key:

- Open to all research and innovation fields
- Challenge driven – must solve the problem posed – not bottom-up idea driven

Destination 2: Cultural Heritage & Cultural and Creative Industries

	Type of Action	Budget per project M€	Expected # of projects
1. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-01: Towards a consolidated culture and creativity driven European innovation ecosystem	CSA	4.5-5	1
2. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-02: AI4Creatives Support Platform: embracing a fair AI revolution	CSA	4.5-5	1
3. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-03: Crafting routes to a circular economy	RIA	3-3.5	3
4. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-04: Culture, heritage and creative industries for health and well-being	RIA	3-4	4
5. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-05: Re imagining the creative economy: the interplay between the cultural and creative sectors and industries and the social economy	RIA	3-3.5	3
6. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-06: Future-proofing sustainable cultural tourism	RIA	4-4.8	3
7. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-07: Societal impact of cultural heritage	RIA	2.5-3	5
8. HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-08: Safeguarding & transmission of intangible cultural heritage	RIA	3-4	3

European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage

[Home](#) → [European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage](#)

What is a European Partnership?

European Partnerships are initiatives in which the European Commission and private and/or public partners commit themselves to jointly support the development and implementation of a research and innovation program. The aim is to solve big societal problems that no single country could solve on its own, through transnational research projects involving not only researchers, but also professionals, public administration, civil society, etc., so that the results of the research are disseminated and useful on as wide a scale as possible. A European Partnership is primarily funded through Member States contributions, with supplementary funding from the European Commission.

The European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage

The European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage (RCH) is a European Commission proposal for a European Partnership under the Research and Innovation Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society. The bid will be submitted to HORIZON-CL2-2025-03-HERITAGE-01 by the deadline of 16 September 2025 and if successful will start in 2026.

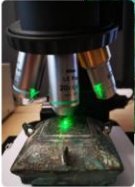
[Read the full draft proposal](#) →



GO GREEN PROJECT

GoGreen develops and promotes preventive and remedial conservation practices based on green principles to spearhead the green revolution within conservation in alignment with the Green Deal.

Know more





SHIP SHAPE: Newport's medieval ship – 10 years on



An atlas of hillforts in Britain and Ireland

Lead Research Organisation: [University of Edinburgh](#)
Department Name: Archaeology

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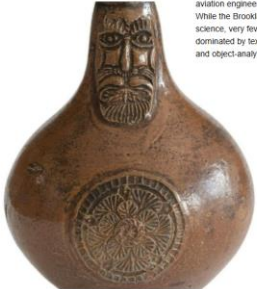
[University of Edinburgh](#) (Lead Research Organisation)
[Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland](#) (Collaboration)
[Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales](#) (Collaboration)
[English Heritage](#) (Collaboration)
[Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers](#) (Collaboration)
[Government of Northern Ireland](#) (Collaboration)
[Dept of Environment Northern Ireland](#) (Project Partner)
[University College Cork](#) (Project Partner)
[Historic Environment Scotland](#) (Project Partner)
[Royal Commission Monuments Wales RCAHWM](#) (Project Partner)
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Introducing Bartmann Goes Global.

Nigel Jeffries | 19.02.2024



Introducing 'Bartmann Goes Global' - the cultural impact of an iconic object in the early modern period – our new Anglo-German research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The iconic Bartmann jugs were made in Germany, and they have been found at archaeological sites across the globe. Over the next three years, our ceramics specialists Jacqui Pearce, Nigel Jeffries and Ilyn Blackmore are collaborating with [Professor Natascha Mehlert](#) at [Tübingen University](#) and Professor Michael Schmauder at the [VIR-LandesMuseum Bonn](#) to explore the lives of these globe-trotting jugs.

Fashion at Speed: Spectacular Histories of Fashion, Flying and Motorsport From the Twentieth Century Collections of Brooklands Museum 1907-1939.

Lead Research Organisation: [Kingston University](#)
Department Name: Sch of Critical Studies, Creative Ind

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Abstract

Developments in motoring and aviation in the early 20th Century had a radical and wide-ranging impact on British society. This research project proposes to utilise understudied archives and textile collections in the development of a fully networked and continually-coded history of the fashion and spectacle of motorsport. Based at one of the world's most important locations in racing history - Brooklands race track and aerodrome, now a living museum - the project focuses on items of costume from the museum's collections within wider histories of fashion, technology and international media spectacle. Brooklands Museum preserves the world's first purpose-built motor-racing circuit, one of Britain's first air fields and its earliest flying school. The collections span over a century of design for bodies encountering extremes of speed and altitude which represent the cutting-edge of available technologies in their period, and integrate costume with vehicle technology and the historic architecture of racing spectatorship. Media spectacle attracted huge crowds to "the Ascot of Motorsport", creating modern celebrities including Hilda Hewlett (first British woman to own a pilot's license), Malcolm Campbell (breaker of land and water-speed records), Percy Lambert (who first achieved 100 mph) and Kay Petre (multiple lap record holder of the 1930s). Three land-speed records were achieved at Brooklands and numerous firsts in flight and aviation engineering. High-speed fashion propelled bodies across far-flung territories becoming part of the armoury of modern war. While the Brooklands archive and collections have supported much previous research into histories of transport, engineering and science, very few studies have examined fashion, design history and fashion media in this context. Existing research has been dominated by textual approaches, but the large body of visual media, ephemera and textiles at Brooklands would benefit from visual and object-analysis methodologies and create vital interdisciplinary connections between archives, objects, vehicles and architecture.

Student:
[Rosamagh Maddock](#)

Period of Study:
Sept 20 - Dec 24

Funder:
AHRC

Project Status:
Closed

Project Category:
Studentship

Project Reference:
2491780

Mapping Museums: The history and geography of the UK independent sector 1960-2020

Lead Research Organisation: [Birkbeck, University of London](#)
Department Name: History of Art

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[Birkbeck, University of London](#) (Lead Research Organisation)
[Bishopsgate Institute](#) (Collaboration, Project Partner)
[Association of Independent Museums](#) (Project Partner)
[Arts Council England](#) (Project Partner)