



Managing Europe's Archaeological heritage

22nd HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

"Climate Change and Archaeology"

Online Symposium

1-2 July 2021

ABSTRACTS

DAY 1 - Thursday 1st July 2021 (12:00 – 16:00 UK time; 13:00-17:00 CET; 14:00-18:00 EET)

Session 1: The impact of the climate crisis on the conservation of archaeological sites

Polyxeni ADAM-VELENI

Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Greece

Climate Change vs Archaeological Sites and Monuments: An unequal battle

Risks from natural disasters always have been a major concern and challenge for the world community because they can cause extensive damage to Natural and Cultural Heritage throughout the world. This is particularly so today because many natural disasters are brought about, or increased, by climate change.

Disasters are the consequences of uncontrolled human activity and poor environmental management, bringing damage to Heritage monuments inevitably exposed to these dangers. The extreme weather conditions cause drought, fires, flooding from rivers and lakes and affect the natural and cultural environments in Greece.

The forest fires in the area of **Ancient Olympia in 2007**, the rock falls after heavy rainfall in the archaeological site of **Ancient Siphai (Aliko) in Viotia** in Central Greece, the uncontrolled rise of lake's level which covers the fortification of **Dispilio settlement** (copper age) in **Kastoria**, on the Prefecture of West Macedonia, the flooded, after heavy rainfall, **Archaeological Museum of Karditsa** on the Prefecture of Thessaly, the strong seismic vibration of the coast of **Samos** island on the North Aegean and the fire in the **archaeological site of Mycenae** in 2020 are some of the most important examples that are going to be presented.

Humans, cannot rule nature, but we are able to limit the consequences that disastrous natural events have upon us and the natural and human environment. Some examples of human efforts to prevent problems caused by extreme natural events are the steps taken by archeologists today in Greece. These are going to be under consideration of the symposium.

Petri HALINEN, Marianna NIUKKANEN, Sirkka-Liisa SEPPALA & Helena TASKINEN

Department Cultural Environment Protection, Finland

How is climate change affecting the Finnish archaeological cultural heritage

The distance between the southern- and northern-most points of Finland is long, over 1,000 km. The south has lot of forests, and factors that impact windiness are on the rise, thereby affecting our archaeological cultural heritage as well. Storms are becoming more common, which causes damage – occasionally extensive – in Finnish forests: due to storms, thousands of trees may fall in both localised and larger areas causing widespread harm. One recent example is from a few years ago from the archipelago of Åland. Trees torn up by their roots during storms resulted in damage to several ancient relics, including Stone Age dwelling sites and Iron Age burial mounds.

Climate change is affecting temperatures, humidity and wind conditions. These changes are made evident by the fact that glaciers – areas covered by snow and permafrost – have shrunk in the Arctic regions, and the average temperatures throughout the whole of Finland have risen. In Northern Lapland, both palsas (permanently frozen peat) and the snow-covered fells and permafrost areas have reduced in size, or even disappeared. In the high mountains of Scandinavia, the snow-covered areas have diminished considerably, revealing objects made from organic material, some of which date back several thousand years. The snowy areas of Finland have also shrunk, but as snow never formed particularly wide or thick blankets, this is not the first time that the snow cover has been melting since, for example, the Stone Age. In fact, the snows on the Finnish fells probably melted during the warm period coinciding with the Viking Age. Unfortunately, any objects made from organic materials and uncovered back then would have been destroyed by the Middle Ages at the latest.

As harsh winds are becoming more prevalent and causing trees to fall on power lines, Finnish legislation has been changed in order to have overhead lines replaced with underground ones. This in turn means that harm may come to ancient relics due to the thousands of kilometres of new power cable trenches being dug. As a result, relics may accidentally be damaged. However, it also means that more archaeological sites get studied, which increases our knowledge of our archaeological cultural heritage.

Archaeologists are hardly able to stop climate change or prevent its impact on ancient relics. We can, however, try to verify and monitor the damage that it has caused. The Finnish Heritage Agency is about to launch a project that aims to use automated functions (algorithms specifically written for this purpose) to detect ancient relics from LiDAR material, whose resolution is higher than that of other materials'. Alongside these algorithms, the aim is to develop a monitoring method, based on the same approach, in order to detect both natural (e.g. caused by climate change) and human-induced changes, damage and harm to ancient relic sites. This method could help us detect these changes and tangibly verify the effects of climate change, and, instead of guesswork, it would allow us to rely on research.

Fergus McCORMICK, Melissa NICOLAS

Senior Architect Heritage Services – Conservation, The Office of Public Works, Ireland

Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Archaeological Sites in County Kerry, Ireland

Dunbeg Promontory Fort is located on a sheer cliff overlooking the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry, Ireland. It is a National Monument site in state guardianship and is one of the Wild Atlantic Way coastal touring sites. A local family privately owns the access path to the site. The fort contains four outer defensive banks of stone and earth. Inside the fort are the remains of a drystone Clochán (beehive hut) and a souterrain. The location of Dunbeg Fort is making it vulnerable to natural weather events and is threatening the site's existence. The fort suffered from extensive coastal erosion in the early 19th century, and in the 1977 OPW carried out an archaeological excavation to record the site and its history before any further damage could occur. A considerable part of the cliff collapsed into the sea in recent years due to the increased frequency and severity of storms and precipitation. This has led to significant loss of the historic fabric and archaeological elements. The site is particularly vulnerable during the winter season between December and February due to its exposed location. A storm in January 2014 caused a portion of the cliff to collapse into the sea. Between 2017 and 2018, severe weather caused further damage and a significant part of the historic fabric including the entranceway was lost into the sea. OPW has adopted a policy of managed retreat for the site. The aim was to adapt to the present climate effects and to provide safe access for visitors. After the dramatic 2017 cliff collapse, the OPW applied for a Ministerial Consent from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) to erect a boundary fence that kept visitors and tourists away from the dangerous parts of the site. Access could not be allowed until a safety risk assessment was carried out and a report was issued. OPW commissioned consultant engineers to carry out a geo-physical survey of the site. The site will now be continuously monitored to ensure visitors safety. Dunbeg Fort was reopened in 2019 to allow the visitors to visit the site and benefit the local tourist economy. However, the drainage repairs carried out in 2019 were insufficient to keep away flooding from the site. As a result, the OPW have installed new culvert drainage pipework to mitigate the risk of flooding. The OPW and DHLGH will install interpretation signage on site that will include a brief history of the site and educational information on climate change. The aim is to raise awareness of the visitors about the impact and challenges caused by climate change on the site.

Pernille Denise FREDERIKSEN

Agency for Culture and Palaces, Department for Ancient Monuments and Sites, Denmark

Scheduled Monuments and Sites at Risk of Coastal Erosion: Heritage Legislation and Actions

Denmark is a lowland country with a coastline of more than 7000 km. The Danish coastal zone contains a rich archaeological heritage, which is vital for understanding the development of the Southwestern Scandinavian area, and its changing prehistoric and historic communities. However, the ongoing climate change and its environmental consequences poses a threat towards some of the country's 32.000 scheduled monuments and sites. Prognoses made by the Danish Coastal Authority show that sea level rises and extreme weather conditions in the future will result in a great risk of severe coastal erosion. In order to monitor the decay, the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces has mapped all scheduled monuments at risk of

coastal erosion. The mapping shows that 711 scheduled monuments are in risk of coastal erosion, and that 92 of these monuments are already decaying due to erosion damage. The prognoses urgently call for new strategies in terms of saving valuable tangible cultural heritage before it is too late. Future actions therefore need to be applied according to the national strategy, and a strict heritage law.

Keywords: *Cultural heritage, Archaeology, Climate change, Heritage administration, Coastal erosion*

Franco NICOLIS

Director of the Archaeological Heritage Office of the Province of Trento, Italy

The hidden memory of the glaciers. Glacial archaeology in First World War contexts in the Trentino Alps.

In the Trentino region (Northern Italy), which was part of the Austrian-Hungarian empire until 1918, the so called "White War" took place. This peculiar aspect of WWI was fought at very high altitudes and even in the glacial environment. Nowadays the consequences of global warming also include the increasingly frequent emergence of traces left by the impact of the White War on alpine environments.

The Punta Linke Project

The site of Punta Linke (3629 metres a.s.l.) is characterised by the presence of a two cableways and a 30-metres-long tunnel. The Project consisted in the comprehensive investigation, documentation and recovery of an entire context of a military installation. All the material found during the research has been relocated inside the transit station and the tunnel.

Corpses of soldiers

During the last years the Archaeological Heritage Office of the Province of Trento has intervened on numerous occasions for recovering corpses of soldiers of the two armies in conflict.

In 2017 the corpse of an Italian soldier was recovered in the Adamello Mountains. Some paper documents were identified inside his jacket, on which his name appeared, Rodolfo Beretta. He died on 8 November 1916 because he was buried under an avalanche while transporting provisions.

Global warming is affecting alpine territories. Archaeology has a major role to prevent that cultural, historical, memorial, personal heritage still trapped inside the alpine glaciers get destroyed. It is a moral duty that the Archaeological Heritage Office of the Province of Trento has taken on in the last few years.

Keywords: *First World War, White War, Alps, glacial archaeology, corpses of soldiers, hidden memory, Punta Linke.*

Rebecca JONES

Head of Archaeology and World Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland, UK

with Mairi DAVIES (Historic Environment Scotland), Jon Day and Scott Heron (James Cook University, Australia)

Developing Climate Risk Assessments for World Heritage: the Climate Vulnerability Index

Climate change is recognised as the fastest growing threat to World Heritage (WH) properties by ICOMOS and the IUCN. The Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) was first piloted at the Natural WH property of Shark Bay, Western Australia in 2018; the first application to a Cultural WH property took place in April 2019 at the Heart of Neolithic Orkney in Scotland.

The CVI methodology was developed as a tool to assess climate risks that is applicable to all types of WH properties around the world. It is intended to be rapid, systematic, repeatable and flexible – and therefore adaptable to the wide array of properties. There has been significant interest in the CVI for both WH and other heritage properties. One key feature of the CVI is the assessment of the community associated with the site, thereby giving an assessment both of the vulnerability of the recognised site values to climate change and also the economic, social and cultural impacts.

With applications now developing globally (see www.cvi-heritage.org), HES was successful in getting grant funding from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to develop more CVI applications for Scottish WH properties, starting with Edinburgh in May/June 2021.

In this presentation, we will outline the results of the workshops for Orkney and Edinburgh and how we propose to embed the results in the on-going adaptive management of the sites.

Keywords

Climate Heritage; World Heritage; Scotland; CVI: Climate Vulnerability Index

DAY 2 - Friday, 2nd July 2021 (9:00 – 16:30 UK time; 10:00-17:30 CET; 11:00-18:30 EET)

Session 2 – Archaeology, carbon mitigation and climate adaptation (9:00 – 12:00)

Monica K. DUTTING, Jolanda BOS

The Netherlands

Energy for the past

Climate change and its future effects has prompted governments to take giant strides in order to harness new sources of energy and advancing the use of 'green energy'.

The Netherlands, together with 195 other countries, signed the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015. In the years following, a National Climate Agreement was negotiated and signed by a wide variety of actors in the public, economic, environmental, energy, construction and social sector. Over 600 major and minor rules and regulations were agreed upon, concerning mobility, energy resources, industrial production, environment, farming, and construction.

In order to implement the agreements on greener energy resources, regional energy deals have been struck, bringing together the energy demand and the possibilities of energy production of non-fossil fuels on a regional scale. In most of these regional energy deals, civil organisations and/or the public have been engaged. While constructing these deals civil organisations and environmental activists have worked towards minimizing the effects on inhabitants, landscape, and nature of the regions.

Until now cultural heritage, and especially archaeology, has been largely absent from these deals.

We argue that this is partly caused by insufficient technical know-how by both policy makers and archaeologists of the construction and transport of new energy. This has prevented a full understanding of the impact of new energy on archaeological and historical sites and structures, and limited adequate protective action.

This lecture seeks to bridge this knowledge gap by presenting technical aspects of solar, wind and (geo)thermal energy and explore the way these developments impact the archaeological record.

We will also look into possible strategies for preserving the past and advancing a greener future.

Keywords:

energy deals, technical know-how, constructions, impact on archaeology, policies, preservation strategies

Ángel José VILLA GONZALEZ

Archeology Department, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Spain

The Guadalperal dolmen (Cáceres, Spain). Archaeological and heritage protection interventions when an artificially submerged archaeological site resurfaces due to climatic factors

In 2019, the Iberian Peninsula suffered the worst drought in recent decades. The lack of rain and the water shedding to feed the rivers meant a clear reduction in water levels at Spanish reservoirs. This situation allowed flooded lands to emerge on the surface, and in many cases, they were accessible on foot like it happened at the Valdecañas reservoir (Cáceres).

Several heritage and archaeological sites such as the Roman city of Augustóbriga and the protohistoric dolmen of Guadalperal were completely submerged in 1963 because of the reservoir built in this area. The Dolmen of Guadalperal due to its spectacular nature (it was made of approximately 150 orthostats) aroused great expectation and attracted several curious and the media, who understood that it was a unique opportunity to visit it. The responsible administrations therefore needed to act by protecting and archaeologically studying the site.

Karl CORDEMANS, Emmet BYRNES, Vince HOLYOAK

Belgium, Ireland, UK

The impact of EU climate policy on archaeology – Making choices

To mitigate the impact of climate change, the European Commission has launched the Green Deal. One of the key elements herein that was adopted in May 2020 is the Biodiversity Strategy. This strategy contains several measures, to be achieved by 2030 and includes the planting of 3 billion trees in the 27 Member States. Since afforestation is considered a rather cost-effective method to capture carbon, there is little doubt that this target will be met.

But planting 3 billion additional trees in Europe is unlikely in the framework of forest management and afforestation sectors. Foresters replant the logged sites anyway, as part of good forestry practices. Most of agricultural land stays stably under cultivation due to CAP measures. Furthermore, large parts of marginal, abandoned, or degraded lands have already been covered by forests, largely due to EU-supported measures. The question thus remains where the planting will take place.

Another aspect is the impact of different methods of afforestation and forest management on archaeological sites and features. This paper will explore, compare and contrast the tension between archaeology and climate. It will discuss the challenges for sustaining the heritage and the historic character with regard to forestry and woodland, and the differing national approaches to doing so.

Keywords: Policy, Climate, LULUCF, Green Deal, Archaeological heritage

Hristo PRESHLENOV

National Archaeological Institute with Museum – Sofia, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

Postglacial Black Sea level rising, urban development and adaption of historic places (the case-study of the city-peninsula of Nesebar/Bulgaria)

The city, as a material environment reflecting the social living conditions in development, necessarily requires the construction of architectural types, ensembles and facilities that are able to provide conditions for the realization of its functions and give a unique physiognomy and monumentality to the urban environment. Its spatial development on Nesebar peninsula is dependent on the dynamics of negative geodynamic processes of endogenous (modern movements of the earth's crust, earthquakes) and exogenous (abrasion, erosion, collapses) nature, the activation of which is accelerated by the eustatic fluctuations at sea level. These geological benchmarks, conditioning/but also conditioned by the postglacial climate changes; the necessity of their correlation with the archaeological database (fortifications, infrastructure (port aquatory and territory, communication approaches), sacred and profane constructions in the coastal zone); their impact on the spatial development of the urban structures of the peninsula and on the modern coastal protection of the city-peninsula of Nesebar (UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983), which confirm/follow the optimal choice of the ancient and medieval builders, are actual even today, two and a half millennia after the foundation of Mesambrian polis.

Keywords: Sea level fluctuations and abrasion; urban spatial changes and recovery; geomorphological, archaeological and historical mapping; Unesco's "city-museum" of Nesebar

Ellen VREENEGOOR, Menne KOSIAN

Cultural Heritage Agency of The Netherlands

Using cultural heritage and historical analyses for current and future problems with too much and too less water

The Netherlands is part of the Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt delta. Most of the country is low lying and thus prone to flooding. That is the reason why the Netherlands has a long tradition of water management.

The National Public Works Agency of road and water management (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water) and the water boards try to create extra space for the rivers and streams, but also try to get rid of too much water as soon as possible. That means that along the rivers all trees and shrubberies have to move to lead the water through. And in smaller streams all remains of watermills, locks and shacks have to be removed for the same purpose. Sand and clay distraction along the riverside and in old riverbeds disturb the historic landscapes as well as the covered archaeological landscapes with the promises to make new nature and make the area safer for flooding.

If we look closer to the sites where the (pre)historical people used to live along the rivers or streams we can see how they used the water systems and usually choose the best places to stay. We study the possibilities to re-use that systems and elements for storing water in periods of too much water (flooding) so we can re-use it in dry periods. We make analyses using historical maps to understand the water system and the changes made through the centuries. With this historical knowledge we can find new solutions for current and future problems caused by climate change.

Keywords: heritage; adaptation strategies; historical maps; water systems

Session 3: The role archaeologist can play in communicating and engaging with climate change (13:00 – 16:30)

Réka VIRAGOS

Programme Specialist, Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre

Let's all sit down at a table and discuss (Could protecting World Heritage sites and the renewable energy transition go hand in hand?)

Adaptation to climate change and mitigating potential negative impacts is a challenging task for heritage managers. UNESCO's pilot project to develop a guidance tool focusing on wind energy projects started from the assumption that appropriate guidance could help avoiding conflicts between the inevitable need for shifting the energy production to renewable sources and protecting the World cultural and natural Heritage. For this reason, the target audience of the planned document are both site managers, national focal points and national/regional/local

level decision making authorities for project applications, and the wind energy specialist (planners, developers, national level decision makers in renewable energy policies).

One of the challenges of the project lies in the fact that the protection and management of World Heritage properties are guided both by many diversified international textual resources, and the national legal frameworks. Development projects should all be authorised based on the national/regional application frameworks, on the one hand States Parties should ensure that if the planned or proposed projects relate to a World Heritage property than the World Heritage Convention is equally respected.

The objective of the guidance is to provide both sides with easy to understand and easy to use information (both on wind energy processes and needs and World Heritage protection and management) and highlight challenging points. The guidance provides tools that relate to processes to be followed during planning specific wind energy projects (like walking through steps on how to assess potential impacts), but also possibilities for providing protection by proactive conservation actions.

Keywords: adaptation to climate change, renewable energy transition, wind energy development, cultural and natural World Heritage, protection and management, dialogue, sharing information and knowledge

Kerstin KOWARIK, Hans RESCHREITER

Department of Prehistory, Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria

Researching Change – Understanding Change – Facing Change. 3500 years of human-environment relations in the Hallstatt/Dachstein region

The Hallstatt High Valley represents one of Europe's oldest cultural and industrial landscapes. For millennia this remote alpine valley was the demographic and economic center of a wide region. In this landscape the venture of large-scale underground salt mining spans from present back to the Bronze Age. The oldest secure evidence for large scale underground salt mining dates to the 14th cent. BC. But various indicators point towards a much older tradition of salt production, reaching far into Neolithic times. The extraordinary preservation conditions in the salt mines and the variety of archaeological, historical and environmental sources allow for unique insights into prehistoric technology, raw material management, working processes and human-environment relations.

The Hallstatt/Dachstein region represents an alpine environment, where the evolution of human-environment relations can be tracked over a long time period. Recent research has focused on the impact of natural extreme events of these highly sophisticated socioeconomic systems. Through this research it was possible to document the high degree of resilience of Bronze Age and Iron Age communities in face of devastating natural extreme events such as mass movements and substantial climate change.

In this talk we propose to address through this case study themes 2 (understanding past adaptation strategies and facing future challenges) and 3 (operationalizing archaeological skills for mitigation strategies) and also to explore theme 4 (role of archaeologists) based on our longstanding experiences in public relations and citizen science work in the Hallstatt region.

Keywords:

Human-environment relation, extreme events, Alpine archaeology, resilience, societal change

Elena KOUNTOURI , Constantina BENISSI and Sofia SPYROPOULOU
Greece

Integrating Climate Change into Protection Policies in Greece

The emerging need to secure the long-term preservation of archaeological sites and monuments of Greece against the growing threats of climate change is considered a pressing issue for the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports. The impacts of climate and weather related risks (extreme weather events associated with floods and intense and gusty winds, forest fires, drought-erosion-landslides, raise of the sea-level, etc.) have been recognized as emerging threats that compromise the integrity and values of the cultural and natural environment.

A systematic and targeted national effort is being implemented during the last years towards the resilience of cultural sites to climate change by planning and implementing central and regional policies that address heritage needs and provide methodology and technical tools to identify, measure, evaluate and counter the impacts of climate change to cultural heritage on a medium and long-term basis. Under this perspective the climate change parameter is taken into consideration within projects and plans carried out currently by the Ministry. The pilot character of these projects will provide the appropriate basis for the integration into management policies of the climate-related aspects that need to be addressed in a coordinated manner in order to achieve the national goals regarding the preservation and adaptation of cultural heritage to the effects of climate change.

The aim of this paper is to present emerging reflections and perspectives in view of coping with the climate change impacts and of attempting to prevent and mitigate the specific dangers for all Greek cultural monuments and archaeological sites.

Keywords:

climate change impact, management plans, mitigation and prevention

Ulla KADAKAS

National Heritage Board, Estonia

Archaeological heritage as a sustainer of biodiversity

In Estonia during the last 3,000 years, the landscape has been changed as a result of agricultural practices. Villages are surrounded by intensively farmed fields. The Stone Age sites and early agricultural landscapes have been preserved on grasslands, pastures and forests. These areas have maintained their rich biodiversity as grasslands for thousands of years due to usage cattle breeding. The wooded meadows and alvars are especially rich in biological species.

The industrial turn of the 20th century transformed agriculture and forestry into large-scale industry. The melioration has produced monoculture fields and forests as well as other problems (erosion, carbon emissions etc), which all pose a threat to biodiversity. Due to large-scale fields, for example, meadow flora and fauna have significantly decreased in Estonia during last century.

Estonian natural scientists have conducted a map application where everyone can measure the rate of biodiversity on their plot and get suggestions on what to do to improve it

(<https://shiny.botany.ut.ee/rohemeeter/>). It appears that archaeological sites situated in the middle of intensely farmed fields, are clearly highlighted as places of biodiversity.

In the presentation, I show that archaeological heritage can provide more than a sense of identity and humanitarian knowledge of human origins and activities in the landscape. Archaeological sites provide habitats for open-air flora and fauna within modern monoculture agricultural lands and economical forests, it is important not to manage the forest with methods of regeneration felling, but rather with methods of continuous cover forestry, which sustains both heritage and old biomes.

Keywords

Estonia, archaeological heritage management, biodiversity, landscape archaeology, history of agriculture

Harald STADLER, Thomas BACHNETZER

Austria

Climate Change and Winners. Latest News on Glacier Archaeology in Western Austria

In Austria, the retreat of glaciers is still in progress. Aside from Ötzi, quite a lot of finds and features like weapons and depots from the Neolithic Period, up to WW I trenches and military aircraft of WW II, have been presented in various lectures and publications. The intention of this paper is to give an overview of latest news about archaeological sites and findings in Western Austria that were blocked up by glaciers and became free of snow during the last ten years. Wooden objects from the 7th century BC to medieval ones from the 13th century will be presented, in addition to remains of early alpine climbing like bodies, equipment, or garbage from early mountain huts, but also bird migration accidents and their impact on environment archaeology. The paper deals with the huge information vaults on this topic, but also with the troubles occurring during scientific investigation, the problem of looting and the current situation of Glacier Archaeology in this Alpine Region.

Rob WOODSIDE

Conservation & Estates Director (English Heritage) and Chair, Historic Environment Forum COP26 working group, United Kingdom

COP26 and beyond – communicating positive action on climate change

This year (Covid allowing) delegates from around the world will be descending on Glasgow (Scotland) for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties – better known as COP26. Hosted this year by the UK in partnership with Italy, it is thought to be the most significant event since the signing of the Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015 where 195 governments around the world committed to keeping global warming within 1.5 degrees centigrade. Expect a lot of media coverage, high-handed pledges and concrete actions (well, we'll see....).

What opportunities might the focus on COP26 offer us as archaeologists and heritage managers in highlighting the potential risks of climate change to policy makers, the media, the public and indeed, each other? How can we use the inevitable attention the event will bring to flag up the positive actions we can take to mitigate and adapt to climate change? Could this offer a means of presenting the learnings we take from the past in order to help inform the future?

These are some of the questions raised by the Historic Environment Forum, a network of UK heritage bodies working together to bring shared approaches to the challenges we face in the sector. Having established a task and finish working group, our job now is to develop approaches to communicating why climate change matters to the heritage sector – and importantly, how we can present the sector as part of the solution, not a contribution to the problem.

This paper will explore how we are approaching the challenge of how different organisations across the sector can work together in developing a shared communications strategy. It will discuss how we aim to highlight potential risks and actions we are – and can – take to make a difference. It will also flag up the difficulties in defining the right audiences, voice and identity in an already crowded field whilst complementing the work of others, notably the Climate Heritage Network.

The paper will draw on a number of case studies that demonstrate the breadth and depth of our work across the UK heritage sector – and which we want to use in our communications as good examples of both the issues we face and the positive actions we can take.