



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Science and Heritage
Programme

EPSRC

Engineering and Physical Sciences
Research Council

AHRC/EPSCRC SCIENCE AND HERITAGE PROGRAMME

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Programme Director

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Why Science and Heritage?

2005-06

House of Lords Science and Technology Select
Committee Inquiry into Science and Heritage

‘9.10. We recommend that the AHRC, in conjunction with the other Research Councils and the heritage sector, bring forward proposals for a time-limited directed programme of research in heritage science, with the aim both of re-generating this area of research and of attracting younger scientists to enter it. (6.46)’

‘4.1heritage science is not a single discipline.’

‘4.1 Input from university science departments is essential.’

‘4.3 Thus heritage science is by its nature collaborative.’



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2007-2012

5 year strategically directed research programme

Joint funding by AHRC and EPSRC

Budget: £8.1 million

Input into the cross-Council programme '*Living with Environmental Change*' and leveraging support from the new Technology Strategy Board



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Aims of the Programme

To increase understanding and resilience of material culture in the face of 21stC challenges

Focussing on whole objects – historic buildings, collections, material culture in the landscape - and their meaning, value, conservation and use



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Objectives of the Programme

- To engage a broad spectrum of museums, galleries, libraries, archives, heritage organizations, universities
- To bring together heritage science across arts and humanities, science, engineering and technology
- To address significant research challenges beyond narrow institutional interest
- To build capacity through interdisciplinary research projects and by training young researchers



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Competitions so far...

Autumn 2007:

Collaborative Research Studentships (PhDs)

25 proposals received; 10 awards

June 2008:

Research Clusters

Closing date 4th September 2008



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation

-How do we judge received values against material change?

-How do we relate the (unknown) impact of intervention (eg. refurbishment, conservation) to society's need to appreciate the aesthetic?



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation

2. Authenticity, authentication and security

-How can a common protocol be developed to allow electronic catalogues, data archives and scientific data relating to works of art/artifacts to be interrogated?

-What solutions do we need to manage the threat of displacement and loss of cultural heritage from global conflict and organised crime?



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation

2. Authenticity, authentication and security

3. Interpretation and representation

-How can emerging hard, soft and virtual technologies and approaches assist an awareness of artistic values?

-How can linking artistic and scientific approaches help widen appreciation of cultural heritage?



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation
2. Authenticity, authentication and security
3. Interpretation and representation
- 4. Cultural encounters and explorations**
 - *Where does the balance between maintaining historic integrity and sustainable use lie?*
 - *What is the cultural and scientific relationship between heritage and tourism?*



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation
2. Authenticity, authentication and security
3. Interpretation and representation
4. Cultural encounters and explorations

5. Human and machine interfaces

-How can technology inform and enhance the experience of a cultural object?

-How might multiple audiences use technology to gain full sensory access to a vulnerable object, building or site remotely?



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation
2. Authenticity, authentication and security
3. Interpretation and representation
4. Cultural encounters and explorations
5. Human and machine interfaces
- 6. Resilience and adaptation**

-How do we adapt conservation techniques to make cultural heritage resilient to future environmental change?

- What are the standards and tolerances that we should accept for the protection of objects?



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Research Cluster Themes

1. Nature of transformation
2. Authenticity, authentication and security
3. Interpretation and representation
4. Cultural encounters and explorations
5. Human and machine interfaces
6. Resilience and adaptation



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Case for Support (1)

1. The purpose of the Research Cluster
2. How an intellectual step change will be achieved
3. The key areas to be discussed
4. A timetable for the planned events
5. The initial core members, who should be leaders in the area
6. Plans for management and coordination, including the membership of any proposed advisory group/steering committee
7. The potential participants, why they are the most appropriate and the range of disciplines they represent



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Case for Support (2)

8. How events will be marketed to ensure that the best people get involved
9. The proportion of Cluster resources (time, money) intended for collaboration with other Research Clusters funded in the same Call
10. The plans for dissemination and exploitation of the outcomes
11. What plans there are to extend collaboration once the Research Cluster has ended



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Questions I have been asked...

1. *What does interdisciplinarity mean in this Call?*

Clusters need to represent the remits of both AHRC and EPSRC

2. *Is this Call only about conservation?*

Conservation is only one of many fields covered by this Call. However it is important to be clear about the cultural and scientific research questions/issues to be addressed.

3. *My idea could fit under more than one research theme.*

It is better to identify the main research theme and indicate any other that your cluster could touch upon



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Next steps...

September 2008:

Publication of full Programme Specification and future funding competitions

Up to date information at: www.heritagescience.ac.uk

To contribute and exchange research ideas, questions and information click onto 'Forum' and register

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