

PROJECT FACT SHEET – HERITAGE PROFESSIONALS

Heritage and Science: Working Together in the CARE of Rock Art



BACKGROUND

This exciting new project aims to develop materials and research that will aid in the protection of threatened open-air rock art in Northumberland and beyond.

Rock art is an iconic part of the UK's prehistoric heritage, with at least 3500 panels still in existence that date from between 6000 and 3800 years ago. It is a common misconception that as this rock art has existed for so long it does not require conservation interventions.

Scientific appraisal of rock art in Northumberland has highlighted that due to factors, such as environmental change and local conditions, rock art may be deteriorating at a faster rate within the last 50 years than in any of the preceding 6000. Further research is being undertaken to investigate these initial observations, and to create a system for early detection of rock art deterioration to aid in their management.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

Rock art as a heritage resource has remained remarkably under studied. This project provides you an opportunity to be involved at the forefront of scientific research on stone weathering that could have wide implications for open-air heritage throughout the world.

The goal of the project is to co-produce a “toolkit” and “management how to” guide to enable quick and easily assessment of rock art by specialists and non-specialists alike. These materials should enable anyone to make an informed judgement on its condition as well as practical conservation measures.

This resource must be co-produced to ensure that it is the most effective resource possible. Harnessing the knowledge, skills, and experience of heritage professionals is vital to this task. Please contact us if you are interested in being involved. We have an online discussion forum hosted by the Knowledge Hub website - <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/group/scienceandheritageworkingtogetherinthecareofrockart>. Please register on the site, then search for rock art and join the group to take part.

PROJECT TEAM

[Dr Aron Mazel](#) – Principal Investigator

[Professor David Graham](#) – Co-Investigator

[Dr Patricia Warke](#) – Co-Investigator

[Dr Myra Giesen](#) – Research Leader

[Peter Lewis](#) – Research Assistant

CONTACT

Tel: 0191 222 5283 Email: heritagescience@ncl.ac.uk

Web: <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/heritagescience>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rockartoftheukandireland

PROJECT DURATION

February 2013-January 2014



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



Queen's University
Belfast



Newcastle
University



Science and Heritage
Programme