

PROJECT FACT SHEET

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



BACKGROUND

This valuable 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 have deteriorated at a faster rate in the last 50 years than in any of the preceding 6000. Further research will be undertaken through this project in order to add to this scientific understanding.

It is vital that a joint approach between heritage and science be undertaken in order to ensure rock art is not lost. CARE aims to co-produce a user-friendly toolkit and management "how to guide" for the use of specialists and non-specialists alike to gather information essential for the long term preservation of open-air rock art. This work will be a co-production with these stakeholders through utilising focus groups and pilot studies.

COLLABORATION

This project is a collaboration between the International Centre for Culture and Heritage Studies (Dr Aron Mazel, Dr Myra Giesen, Mr Peter Lewis) and the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences (Professor David Graham, Professor David Manning) both from Newcastle University and the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology at Queen's University, Belfast (Dr Patricia Warke).

The project is steered and advised by English Heritage (Ms Kate Wilson), Northumberland County Council (Dr Christopher Burgess), Northumberland National Park Authority (Mr Christopher Jones) and the University of the West of Scotland (Dr John Hughes).

PROJECT TEAM

[Dr Aron Mazel](#) – Principal Investigator
[Professor David Graham](#) – Co-Investigator
[Dr Patricia Warke](#) – Co-Investigator

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PROJECT DURATION

February 2013-January 2014



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