

Audrey Henshall Legacy Fund Grant Application Guidance

To give yourself the best chance of submitting a successful application, please carefully read this guidance before filling in your Grant Application Form.

Overview

Founded in 1780, the Society is an independent heritage charity – supported by our members (known as [Fellows](#)) – which supports high-quality research and publication relating to Scotland's past by making several grants and awards each year.

The closing date for receipt of all applications is 11:59pm (UK time) on **30 November 2026**. Late applications cannot be considered until the following closing date. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application no later than two months after the application deadline.

Please fill in each part of the application form. If you feel a section does not apply to your project, then please state why rather than leave it blank.

Applicants

Applicants **do not have to be [Fellows](#)** of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland **nor do they have to be British citizens**.

Society staff, members of Council and their close relatives and associates are not debarred from applying for research grants, however **conflicts of interest must be identified** to the Grants & Awards Committee Convener and individuals will be required to leave the room when decisions on such projects take place.

Project Details

Reflecting Audrey Henshall's wishes and research interests, the legacy stipulates that the funds '...shall be used for research or fieldwork on pre-Roman antiquities in Scotland and not for general excavation work, and that the said Society will publish the results of such research or fieldwork.'

We have determined that this includes artefactual and scientific studies, field survey and desk-based work as well as targeted research excavation for pre-Roman sites in Scotland.



The Society wishes to fund high-quality, impactful research into Scotland's past. When describing your project, it is important to outline the **key aims and objectives** of your project and what **impact your research** may have.

Why is the research important? What do you hope to learn? What wider impact might the research have?

Describe the **programme of work (timetable) and methodology**. What will the research involve (archival research, excavation, post-excavation, scientific analysis etc)? Are there any ethical considerations to the research?

Where funding for scientific analysis is being requested, please outline sampling methods. Any requests for funds relating to radiocarbon or other dating **must** include a **full description of the nature and context** of the samples to be dated in order to support their integrity. The [Historic England guidelines](#) should be consulted.

Please share a maximum of five references to publications or online resources that relate to your project.

Research Frameworks

How does **your project relate to relevant research frameworks** in your research field?

For archaeology projects please refer to the Society's [Scottish Archaeological Research Framework](#) (ScARF). Will the research help to answer any research questions posed in the frameworks or address a wider agenda?

For historical projects, consider if your work will relate to any wider questions posed in the Modern sections of ScARF or the [Scottish Network for Nineteenth Century Cultures](#). Does your research relate to any other research frameworks in your particular field or help to answer questions posed by other researchers?

Climate and Environmental Impact

The Society will consider how the projects relate to our own [vision, mission and values](#).

We would specifically like to hear how you have considered the climate and environmental impact of your project. For example, have you made steps to reduce the carbon footprint of the project by making sustainable travel choices? Does your research help to address any climate questions by using the

knowledge about climate change in the past to inform the future? [This article](#) on climate-friendly archaeology experiences may help consider how to consider mitigating the climate and environmental impacts of your fieldwork.

We understand that there are a variety of barriers to reducing climate and environmental impacts, but the Committee will wish to see this has been considered. An explanation should be given where necessary if there are no possible mitigations.

Opportunity

We affirm that everyone should be able to access, participate in and enjoy Scotland's past, ensuring equality of opportunity in the work that we do. We are committed to public engagement through coordinating innovative projects and making our resources and events free to access wherever possible.

Please tell us how you will demonstrate commitment to both opportunity whilst developing and delivering your project. For example, will you run free open days, publish Open Access reports, provide updates on social media or write blog posts?

Equality

We are also proud to be an actively anti-racist, pro-equality and pro-diversity heritage charity in Scotland. We believe that no one holds a monopoly on Scotland's history and that it should be shared by and for everyone; the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is committed to working towards equality and accessibility in the Scottish heritage sector and beyond.

Please tell us how you will demonstrate commitment to equality whilst developing and delivering your project. For example, will you work in partnership with communities which are underrepresented in the heritage sector or provide wheelchair access to your site.

Permissions for Research

When making an application it is recommended that all permissions are already in place. This may be Scheduled Monument consent, landowners' permission or an agreement in place with a museum to carry out research on collections.

Due to the short timescale of our grants (usually the research is expected to be completed within one year of a grant being awarded), it is important that these permissions are in place before applying for a grant.

For some projects (e.g. collecting oral histories), ethical research permission may be required. Has this been obtained? If you are awaiting a decision, you may still apply but please let us know when you will be expecting to have approval. A grant will not be paid without formal permissions in place.

Budget

Please provide a detailed and costed budget. The more detailed the better so that the assessors can see that all costs of a project have been considered.

Do not estimate your costs or round up figures. State where quotes have been obtained from including for transport and accommodation costs, as well as costs for research, excavations or post-excavations.

Please use [these rates](#) as a rough guidelines to calculate daily expenses.

Grants will not be awarded to directly pay the salary of persons holding existing appointments.

Double check that your budget adds up and the total amount from the Society requested matches the total in the first page of the application.

If part of a larger project and the Society funding is part of a wider funding tapestry, the Society will wish to know which specific parts of the project we will fund.

References

It is the **applicant's responsibility** to identify a referee with established expertise in the field and to **ensure that the referee is agreeable to their nomination and able to respond to enquiries from the Society**. The referee should not be:

- A member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland [Grants & Awards Committee](#)
- A member of the same institution as the applicant, unless they are a student applicant's supervisor
- A participant in, or associate of, the project for which funding is sought

Referees will only be contacted if the Grants & Awards Committee feels it is necessary to do so. This will usually occur if there is no member of the Committee who has specific expertise in the field, or if there is a particular question about the impact or relevance of the research.

Additional Information

Please sign and date the application (digital signatures are acceptable).

Further information about our grants and general advice on applying for a grant can be found on [YouTube](#) channel.

Additional Advice

The Society can give advice on a first draft of an application, especially if this is your first time applying for a grant. We encourage you to contact us if you are unsure about any area of your application and we can advise on which areas may need additional information or can be strengthened. Any advice from Society staff is not an indication of if a grant will be successful and decisions rest solely with the Grants and Awards Committee.

All communications and questions regarding Grants and Awards should be sent to Dr Helen Spencer FSAScot, Head of Research, by email to grants@socantscot.org, or in writing to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF.