

Dr Mairi Davies



Dr Mairi Davies is Climate Policy Manager at Historic Environment Scotland, supporting the organisation in its leadership on climate change. An archaeologist, she is a graduate of Edinburgh and Durham Universities with a particular interest in the relationship between human activity and environmental change. Mairi is on the Steering Groups for *Dynamic Coast: Scotland's National Coastal Change Assessment* and several other climate change risk and adaptation projects. She was on the project team for the pilot *Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI)* project in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site and is on the Steering Groups for CVI Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site and CVI Africa. She is one of the principal authors of a major report published in 2018 on climate change risk assessment on the Historic Environment Scotland Estate. She is a co-author of the 2019 scientific review for the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership of the impacts of climate change on cultural heritage in the UK marine and coastal zone. Her most recent publication is a paper on the landscape at the time of construction of the Antonine Wall, for a festschrift for Prof. Lawrence Keppie.

Mairi's presentation is 'Resistance, adaptation, acceptance: managing climate change risk to cultural heritage in Scotland'. As a large public body, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has duties under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 that require it to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to act sustainably. The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies a range of risks and opportunities that climate change may present. Our approach to climate change impacts, risk and adaptation of the historic environment has been shaped by working in partnership with other organisations. By working collaboratively, we have been able to ensure the historic environment is fully considered in pioneering projects such as *Dynamic Coast: Scotland's Coastal Change Assessment*, which includes a case study on the Bay of Skail, site of Skara Brae, part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. On the HES Estate, we have collaborated with partners to collate datasets detailing current risk from natural hazards such as flooding and coastal erosion and have used these as indicators of susceptibility to climate change. This informs development, conservation and maintenance, increasing the inherent resilience of our estate to cope with the changing climate, helping to safeguard it for future generations.