

Dr Rebecca Jones



Dr Rebecca Jones is Head of Archaeology & World Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland and a Visiting Professor at Heriot-Watt University. A graduate of the Universities of Newcastle and Glasgow, her research focuses on Roman campaigns and she led the team undertaking the mapping of the Antonine Wall for its successful nomination as a World Heritage property in 2008.

She is currently co-Chair of the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies and on the Frontiers of the Roman Empire WH Inter Governmental Committee and Bratislava advisory group. She sits on the Steering Groups for WH properties in Scotland. Together with colleagues in Scotland and Australia, she co-authored the Climate Vulnerability Index report for the Heart of Neolithic Orkney WH property.

Rebecca's presentation is on the 'Climate Vulnerability Index', which is a relatively new tool for assessing Climate Change for World Heritage (and other Heritage) properties. First piloted at the Natural WH property of Shark Bay, Western Australia in 2018, its first application to a Cultural WH property took place in April 2019 at the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.

The CVI methodology was developed as a tool to assess climate risks that is applicable to all types of WH properties around the world. It is intended to be rapid, systematic, repeatable and flexible – and therefore adaptable to the wide array of properties. There has been significant interest in the CVI for both WH and other heritage properties. One key feature of the CVI is the assessment of the community associated with the site, thereby giving an assessment both of the vulnerability of the recognised site values to climate change and also the economic, social and cultural impacts.

The CVI process and Orkney results were presented by the ICOMOS Climate Change and Heritage Working Group to the World Heritage Committee in Azerbaijan in July 2019.

With applications now developing globally (see www.cvi-heritage.org), HES was successful in getting grant funding from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to develop more CVI applications for Scottish WH properties, starting with Edinburgh in May-June 2021.

This presentation will outline the results of the workshops for Orkney and Edinburgh and how we propose to embed the results in the on-going adaptive management of the sites.