

CLANDAGE: Outer Hebrides Case Study

Building Climate Resilience through Communities, Landscapes and Cultural Heritage (**Clandage**) has been funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through the UK Climate Resilience program for 2 years. In partnership with Historic England it will investigate how landscapes, communities and people have historically and continue to experience, cope and adapt to climate change. The research will combine new and existing work on historical records, landscapes, archives and oral histories. There are three components; one focused on Staffordshire, a second on the Outer Hebrides and the third case study focussed around the River Eden (Cumbria). In each case study region, we will be exploring how communities have adapted to climate change to become more resilient, however the approach and focus will be tailored to the different environments.



In the Outer Hebrides, this project builds on a previous grant, 'Spaces of Experience and Horizons of Expectation: The Implications of Extreme Weather Events, Past, Present and Future'. The Extreme Weather Project developed a set of local and regional climate histories in order to identify periods of unusual weather and extreme events and investigate the scale of impact and nature of human responses. Archival research conducted during the previous project revealed that school logbooks contained detailed records of the impacts of the weather on island social life from the 1870s onwards. The CLANDAGE project will build on the finding of this project, producing an exhibition of some of this material and publishing results. The project will use under-researched archival source materials to help local people and visitors to the Outer Hebrides better appreciate the historic relations between weather and social life on the Isles, and in turn to encourage people to reflect on current and future weather events and climate changes and how they might have impacts on island life in the future. We will work with our project partner, the Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean Siar at Stornoway and Benbecula, to create a series of mobile, 'pop-up' museum exhibitions, in both English and Gaelic, about the impacts of the weather on the social life of the Outer Hebrides over the period 1872-1945. Public outreach and knowledge exchange talks will also be provided to coincide with the opening of the exhibition in Stornoway, Benbecula, Tarbert and Castlebay. The exhibition will facilitate local people's engagement with important aspects of their histories and historical geographies, while it will enable tourists and visitors to better understand the relationship between environment and society on the archipelago.

