CONSERVATION IN THE EXTREMES

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022
"ANTARCTICA IS A WILD AND UNFORGIVING PLACE, BUT IT IS MESMERISING. IT’S SCIENCE AND HISTORY MATTERS TO US ALL."

Sir Ranulph Fiennes
Explorer and Vice-Patron
WELCOME

Last year, we achieved more for Antarctica than we ever could have imagined. Despite the serious impacts of world events, heritage was conserved, children discovered and the charity grew out of its pandemic challenges. We are hugely grateful for the generosity of our stakeholders, partners and supporters who made this possible at a precarious time for all.

We were determined to fulfill as many of our obligations as we could. Once again we were unable to deploy full teams to the Antarctic Peninsula to open Port Lockroy and run a field conservation season. However, with the dedication and support from the Royal Navy and the company of HMS Protector, we were able to send a very small team to carry out vital conservation repairs which were postponed from 2020.

Closer to home, we invested in our digital offer so that we could continue to share stories, open up new perspectives on Antarctica and reach people across the world. Our commitment to growing a diverse audience for these incredible stories and to bring Antarctica a bit closer to everyone, lies at the heart of our strategy. We have grown our online audiences, increased our supporter base and instigated new initiatives for future programmes.

Engaging people with Antarctica in new ways is the lifeblood of the collaborations we seek to develop and it has been a source of pride that we have been able to continue to grow this.

Finally, this year has demonstrated once again how, when the going gets really tough, our partners and supporters are there for us, there to provide practical support, to provide funds to keep our critical work going and to provide encouragement that what we do and why we do it is important and hugely valued.

We look to the future with a renewed optimism and sense of purpose and strong in the belief that Antarctica matters and that heritage plays an important role in how we all value this extraordinary place and the legacy of the remarkable people who have gone before.

John Pye
Chair of the Trustees

Camilla Nichol
Chief Executive
THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS
THANKS TO YOU

10,000 people
received postcards from Port Lockroy’s newly reopened post office

60,000 people
explored Antarctica from home through our Antarctic In Sight programme of school resources, films and live webinars

£650,000+
raised thanks to you – our partners, stakeholders, members and donors

6 Antarctic sites
received heritage checks and remedial conservation, despite challenging conditions

New weather station
was installed at Port Lockroy, providing vital data on changing climatic conditions

Endurance was discovered
marking a major moment in Antarctica’s history. We were commissioned by the UK Government to advise on her conservation and protection

56,000 children & families
downloaded activities inspired by Port Lockroy’s penguin colony as part of British Science Week

11 partners
collaborated with us on science, creative and educational projects

Coverage in the year included BBC Breakfast, with features in media around the world

International collaboration on responsible tourism and conservation continued

Advocacy and expertise provided protection to Antarctica’s special sites and landscapes

6 Antarctic sites
received heritage checks and remedial conservation, despite challenging conditions

Endurance was discovered
marking a major moment in Antarctica’s history. We were commissioned by the UK Government to advise on her conservation and protection

New weather station
was installed at Port Lockroy, providing vital data on changing climatic conditions

Virtual 3D models
of our historic sites were developed and analysed
Webinars for all

Penguin monitoring resumed

Conservation assessments delivered

Endurance discovered by the Endurance22 Expedition organised by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust

The gentooh horizon

Conservation continued

School workshops

4,000 applicants for Port Lockroy

Visits to remote heritage

Artefact checking

New merchandise launched

Support from the Navy

THE YEAR IN PICTURES
We are the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust and our aim is to connect people with the wonder of Antarctica and its stories of human endeavour to help promote a greater understanding of this phenomenal place and the role we all have in protecting it.

We use remarkable stories to explore Antarctica and why it matters to us all, helping current and future generations discover, understand, value and protect this precious wilderness.

We conserve Antarctic heritage by looking after six designated Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs) on the Antarctic Peninsula and by working with Antarctic policy makers on heritage and conservation.

**OUR VISION**

**STORIES OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR IN ANTARCTICA**

**FEED OUR IMAGINATIONS AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ANTARCTICA’S IMPACT ON OUR WORLD, OUR LIVES AND OUR FUTURE.**

**OUR MISSION**

**OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE A GREATER PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH ANTARCTICA, THROUGH HERITAGE CONSERVATION, STORYTELLING AND EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY.**

Below: Early scientific measurements and discoveries.

Right: A gentoo chick transitions to adulthood.

In these pages you’ll see examples of what, together, we were able to achieve over the past financial year (May 2021 – April 2022). If you would like to read our 2020-30 Strategy in more depth, you can access it online, or contact us to receive a printed copy.

THANK YOU

**OUR OBJECTIVES**

1. **DISCOVER**

   We will inspire an ever-widening range of people with the stories and legacy of science, exploration and human endeavour embedded in our Antarctic heritage.

2. **UNDERSTAND**

   Antarctica and its heritage will be better known and understood.

3. **VALUE**

   People will be inspired to take action for a sustainable future through learning about Antarctica and its heritage.

4. **PROTECT**

   Antarctic heritage sites, artefacts, stories and historic environment will be preserved into the future.

In these pages you’ll see examples of what, together, we were able to achieve over the past financial year (May 2021 – April 2022).
PROTECT 02
Securing the future of the physical heritage on the Antarctic Peninsula underpins everything we do. We take seriously our responsibility as custodians on behalf of future generations.

Peninsula heritage encapsulates the stories and legacy of pioneers of Antarctic science and exploration. It helps us understand what went before and why we are where we are now. This heritage marks the origins of the modern era of science and international collaboration which characterise Antarctica today.

Managing heritage in Antarctic conditions is perhaps our greatest challenge and our greatest responsibility.

CONSERVATION PLANNING AND PROTECTION

KEY POINTS:
- Port Lockroy’s windows were restored
- Six Antarctic heritage sites received conservation checks and work
- Port Lockroy successfully reopened
- First landing at Blaklock refuge
- We were commissioned to advise on the future protection of Endurance

This season we made the return to Antarctica, visiting six heritage sites with a small team of specialists. From atmospheric Horseshoe Island to remote Detaille, each historic building was carefully assessed for remedial work for the winter ahead. Despite the ongoing disruption caused by the pandemic, the season saw considerable progress for conservation.

The most striking achievement was UKAHT’s first landing at Blaklock. Blaklock is the emergency refuge for Base Y (Horseshoe) and, despite geographical separation, is designated as an integral part of that base. However, due to unpredictable ice conditions and unchartered waters, the site has proven difficult to reach. With limited time, the team able to re-felt the roof to prevent water ingress, and gather information that can be used to plan a full future field season.

In addition, emergency repairs and condition surveys were undertaken at five other sites in our care.

Port Lockroy was successfully reopened by a team of three who delivered a series of vital maintenance tasks including the restoration of seventeen windows, as well as sending postcards to 10,000 Antarctic enthusiasts around the world via a covid-safe method.

In March, the wreck of Endurance was discovered under the Weddell Sea, marking a major moment in Antarctica’s human story. Member states of the Antarctic Treaty declared the wreck, which lies at – 3,000m, Historic Site and Monument (HSM-93). UKAHT was subsequently commissioned to lead on a strategy to guide its ongoing protection.

Our relationship with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office department of the Polar Regions, HMS Protector and the Government of the British Antarctic Territory remain integral to the success of our operations. We are extremely grateful to all those involved in delivering a success season for Antarctica’s heritage, including the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust and UKAHT’s Heritage Advisory Panel.

PIONEERING VIRTUAL REALITY

KEY POINTS:
- 400 schools in Scotland are to have access to digital Antarctic teaching resources
- Virtual reality models of our bases are being piloted to make Antarctica more accessible.

Highly detailed and accurate interactive 3D models of two bases are now complete, enabling us to see and analyse the heritage structures and make conservation decisions in completely new ways.

Working with partners Anglia Ruskin University and British Antarctic Survey, we progressed in making Antarctica more accessible to everyone at home through immersive technologies and archive storytelling. We collected tales from the history of Base E, and content from the archives to share, whilst testing different ways for this content to be interacted with through either a PC or a Virtual Reality headset.

Funding was received at the end of year to enable us to pilot a new resource in partnership with Education Scotland, available to 400 secondary schools across the country.
CLIMATE AND SPECIES MONITORING

KEY POINTS:
• New weather station installed
• Long-term penguin study restarted

A brand new weather station was installed at Port Lockroy to capture long-term data to help inform future heritage and environmental decisions. We would like to thank you to everyone who donated to our Big Give campaign last year to make this project possible.

With a team now back on site, we were able to revive the long-term survey of the gentoo penguin colony thanks to the support of our worldwide penguin adopters. This year 132 new adoptions brought our total to 216. We saw adoption gifts sent for birthday, anniversary and Christmas presents – connecting Antarctica to a younger audience.

This broader engagement with the environment and climate change at our sites and our contribution to the body of research benefits both the scientific community as well as how we make decisions about heritage conservation and protection of the natural environment. We are grateful for the support of colleagues at the British Antarctic Survey and Penguinwatch at the University of Oxford.

PARTNERSHIPS, ADVOCACY AND ADVICE

KEY POINTS:
• UKAHT appointed as a Antarctic Heritage advisor to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
• Advocated for the protection of Antarctic heritage through policy change

We have continued our role as expert advisor to the Government of the British Antarctic Territory on heritage matters. Plans to study and protect vulnerable heritage on King George Island were delivered and the groundwork was laid for a partnership project to better understand the impact of climate change on southern heritage. Contributions were made to the Heritage Advisory Panel for the Govt of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and we were privileged to headline an event for the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Polar Regions on Antarctic Conservation. Aimed as a briefing for parliamentarians and other interest parties on the range of conservation work across the region, it brought together the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust, South Georgia Heritage trust and ourselves to share our work, challenges and accomplishments.

We were honoured to attend our Patron HRH The Princess Royal’s charities forum.

“WHEN OUR CONSERVATION TEAM ARRIVED ON SITE IN JANUARY, THEY REPORTED THAT MANY OF THE WINDOWS WERE IN NEED OR URGENT CONSERVATION. PAINT HAD BEEN WEATHERED AWAY, MOISTURE WAS THREATENING TO ROT THE WOOD, AND ALGAE WAS GROWING ON SOME OF THE FRAMES. WHEN WE LAUNCHED OUR WINDOW CAMPAIGN, WE WERE FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR THEIR CONSERVATION.

WHEN IT COMES TO RESTORING WINDOWS IN ANTARCTICA, IT IS ALWAYS A RACE AGAINST THE ELEMENTS.”

Ruth Mullet
Head of Buildings and Conservation
It is possible to engage large numbers of people merely by presenting the wonder of Antarctica, but we want to go further, to enable a greater understanding of Antarctica as a protected wilderness, as the theatre of extraordinary human enterprise, its role in our planet climate system, the wildlife, biodiversity, history and position in global affairs. We believe it is important to combine science, nature, exploration, art, history and culture to help promote a deeper understanding of the complexity and significance of Antarctica and why it should matter to us all.

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT

KEY POINTS:

- 56,000 children & families accessed Antarctic resources
- Films & webinars engaged people around the world
- Worked with partners across many sectors

This year saw the continuation of Antarctica In Sight, our innovative arts, education and events programme connecting communities with Antarctica’s rich heritage to inspire a new generation to find meaning with this fascinating continent.

We developed projects with partners across the arts, heritage and science sectors with an aim to shine a light on the lesser known stories of Antarctic history and to give opportunities people to take action and play a part.

56,000 children & families across the UK downloaded an exciting educational resource for British Science Week, offering hands-on activities on Port Lockroy’s breeding penguin colony in partnership with the British Science Association.
DIGITAL DISCOVERY

KEY POINTS:
• Short film launched on BBC iPlayer
• 11,000 listeners downloaded our podcast
• 6 live webinars were broadcast
• World premiere of Shackleton’s Cabin

Artists Marc Rees and Simon Clode teamed up to make a short film marking 200 years since the discovery of Antarctica which launched on BBC iPlayer. The poetic film, ISOSTACY, voiced by Welsh singer Cerys Matthews, was inspired by the discovery of Antarctica and the current plight of the great white continent.

William Speirs Bruce, the Polar science ahead of his time who explored 4,000 miles of unchartered ocean and discovered 200 species, was commemorated through a new film in partnership with the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

The second season of our A Voyage to Antarctica podcast was downloaded by over 11,000 listeners in 98 countries. Host Alok Jha spoke to explorers Felicity Aston and Dwayne Fields, writer Philip Hoare and space scientist Suzie Imber.

6 live webinars featuring leading scientists, historians and thinkers were broadcast live on YouTube and watched 10,000 people in over 40 countries.

The world premiere of Shackleton’s Cabin was held in Dublin, charting the conservation of the deck cabin from the Quest in which Shackleton died which UKAHT supported.

DIVERSITY

We shared the diversity of Antarctica’s past and present through women-led digital content, LGBT+ archive stories and a new diversity Research Fellowship and research placement supported by the British Society of the History of Science.

Case study

Guinea pigs are all well and good but Oak class from St Mary’s CE Foundation school in Essex, UK upped the ante by adopting a couple of penguins as their class pets!

The Year 6 pupils, aged 10-11, were sponsored for giving up screen time, doing extra chores and running 180 miles – Scott’s final leg to the South Pole after supporting party turned back. Their superb fundraising efforts accompanied a Frozen Kingdoms topic covering Antarctic landscapes, exploration and climate change. A class vote resulted in their two adopted gentoo penguins being named Chips and Gravy! A big thanks to Miss Dowson and everyone involved.

“The penguin has been named Frederick. And the box is being used to hold Maya’s Christmas decorations.”

Nicola Ellis, mother of 9-year-old Maya-Grace
FINANCE OVERVIEW
Uukaht's work is mainly funded by donations, income from our Port Lockroy and online shops, legacies, and grants from charitable trusts and partners.

The impact of the pandemic and the greatly reduced Antarctic season significantly affected our finances and activity. However, we are confident that with your ongoing support, and the mitigating activities we have taken that we are heading for a positive future season.

Here’s a quick summary of our income and expenditure for the year. More information can be found in the full Accounts.

**The Support We Receive**

- **Trade**: The number of donations and gifts made in 2021 was similar to 2020.
- **Membership**: Support through our Friends of Antarctica has more than doubled this year, we are delighted to welcome more close supporters who wish to get involved in supporting Antarctica’s heritage.
- **Donations & Legacies**: The number of donations and gifts made in Wills remained high in this time of need. We are hugely grateful to all our donors and supporters; both longstanding and those new to us.
- **Trading**: Usually a significant primary source of revenue, our retail operation in Antarctica was abandoned, but we had a record year for online sales.
- **Grants**: We were successful in securing grants to enable projects and support our recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

**Expenditure**

- **Trade and Support Costs**: The Trust is able to carry out a full season in Antarctica next year, we expect trading and conservation costs to represent a greater proportion of total expenditure.

**Public Programme**: Antarctica in Sight delivered webinars, podcasts, films and digital content with and for new audiences across the world.

**Conservation**: A significant conservation season was delivered in Antarctica with visitations to a record number of sites.

**Fundraising**: To carry the charity through the pandemic we continued our investment in fundraising. For every £1 spent, we raised £1.70.

**Trading**: With no Antarctic season our trading activity was much reduced. However, investment in the future and developing new income streams was the opportunity we had to consolidate for the future.

**Support costs**: Include professional fees (including accounting), overheads, remuneration and advertising. When the Trust is able to carry out a full season in Antarctica next year, we expect trading and conservation costs to represent a greater proportion of total expenditure.
The ambitions of our ten-year strategy Antarctic Heritage for the Future are ever more relevant and our appetite to deliver to those goals undiminished. If anything, our ambitions are ever greater.

**FUTURE PLANS**

**A RETURN TO ANTARCTICA**

As Antarctic operations more generally return after a two year hiatus, we look forward to resuming operations at Port Lockroy. We will be sending a full team to live and work at Base A, conduct the penguin study, welcome visitors to the museum, operate the Post Office and repairs.

**CONSERVING A PRECIOUS HERITAGE**

In our new strategy for heritage conservation we describe our ambition to ensure that now and in the future, people will be able to discover the remarkable stories of the six historic sites in our care. We will be sending a full team to live and work at Base A, conduct the penguin study, welcome visitors to the museum, operate the Post Office and repairs.

**COMMUNITY**

We will continue our successful collaboration with the British Science Association and commission a UK-wide programme of community projects and education resources to reach new audiences and will also collaborate with UK science festivals across the UK.

**IMMERSIVE ANTARCTICA**

We will be continuing the collaborative project with Anglia Ruskin University funded by InnovateUK to create a VR experience based on our historic sites. Funded by the Association for Independent Museums New Stories New Audiences programme, we will bring this work into schools across Scotland through a collaboration with Education Scotland. Alongside this we will be preparing the digital experience for distribution more widely.

**DIgitAl**

This coming year we will commission a third series of our popular podcast A Voyage to Antarctica, bringing insights from a range of high profile experts direct from the ice. We will also launch a second series of our online panel discussions to invite a deeper dive into new facets of our Antarctic past.

**CREATIVE ANTARCTICA**

We will reach out across the sector to bring together arts, culture and educational partners to promote cross-sector collaborations inspired by Antarctic heritage and science and seek to commission projects to test new approaches and reach different and more diverse UK audiences.

**PROTECTING ENDURANCE**

As statutory advisor to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on Antarctic Heritage we have been commissioned to draw up the conservation management plan for Endurance. This two-year project begins in the coming year.

**ADVISING GOVERNMENT**

We will continue to provide expert advice to the UK Government, the Government of the British Antarctic Territory and that of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands on all matters concerned with Antarctic Heritage and continue to participate in international forums to champion best practice for heritage in the Polar Regions.

**30 YEARS OF PROTECTING ANTARCTIC HERITAGE**

2023 marks the 30th anniversary of our foundation. It brings with it an opportunity to reflect on three decades of work to secure the future of British heritage in Antarctica, including the explorers' huts in the Ross Sea as well as the heritage on the Antarctic Peninsula. It is also an opportunity to look to the future and set our ambitions for the next thirty years and we will be looking to launch a new campaign to support our heritage conservation programme.

**30**
This year we welcomed new members and supporters to our community united by a interest in Antarctica.

We are extremely grateful, in particular to the FCDO, NERC and to the following organisations, companies, trusts and individuals for supporting the Trust and helping to enable our work in 2020/21. Without your donations, membership, shopping, night walking, home rowing, penguin adoptions, webinar attendance, podcast listens, film viewings and all those messages of support and encouragement, much of the work you read about in this report would not have been possible.

MAJOR PARTNERS
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
National Environmental Research Council
Government of the British Antarctic Territory

PORT LOCKROY PATRONS
Jane Arthur
Andy and Fleur Lucas
Susannah McGuinness
Victoria Snowden
Jim Wheeler
Brian Yates

WINDOW CONSERVATION DONORS
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Emily Waters
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Dr David Wilson

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Thank you to all of those who donated and fundraised to enable our projects throughout the year.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO
Our Members, Adopters and Friends of Antarctica
All those who donated and fundraised to enable our projects throughout the year.

AND THOSE WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS