

## Historic Environment Scotland Archaeology Programme Open Access Procedure

### ***Open Access***

Open Access (OA) is fast becoming an integral feature of Archaeology Programme publication (see below).

OA refers to unrestricted digital access to peer-reviewed academic work. For a piece of work to be considered OA, it must be freely available (both in cost and in permissions) to anyone that wants to access it.

There are multiple levels of OA, the most frequently encountered being Green and Gold. The former refers to academic work which is made freely available in organisational repositories, in accordance with the policies of the publishers (which may include an embargo period), as operated by most universities, and some museums, for publications by their own staff. The latter refers to books and journal articles that are made freely available immediately on publication.<sup>1</sup>

Publically funded research (e.g. projects funded by Research Councils UK) now requires OA as a funding condition. In addition, all future (i.e. post 2014) Research Excellence Framework (REF) assessments will only include for consider publications which are OA compliant.

The OA requirements on research publications will not be static. Consequently, the Archaeology Programme must monitor its own OA procedures in the context of sector-wide evolving OA protocols.

### ***Archaeology Programme publications***

Publication grants are paid direct to publishers, in support of the dissemination of projects which have been funded through Historic Environment Scotland's Archaeology Programme. These grants aim to make the results of funded projects accessible to anyone that wishes to access them, ensuring that the publication takes place in the first instance, and that the books, in particular, are affordable to buy.

The Archaeology Programme first funded Open Access in the 2014-15 financial year, when both the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Glasgow Archaeological Society offered OA as an option for their respective journals<sup>2</sup>. At that time, and in promotion of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, it was agreed by the Archaeology Team at HES to fund OA on any Archaeology Programme supported article that was published in these, and subsequent, journals.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Suber, P (2012), *Open Access*, The MIT Press Essential Knowledge Series, p. 6; Eve, M. P. (2014), *Open Access and the Humanities*, Cambridge University Press, p. 8-12.

<sup>2</sup> Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (PSAS) & Scottish Archaeological Journal (SAJ)

<sup>3</sup> Note: for some publishers, the provision of OA is categorised as a service and thus subject to VAT

## ***Archaeology Programme & Open Access***

From 2015-16 financial year onwards the Archaeology Programme publications grant will fund Gold OA on journal articles for grant-aided projects.

The Archaeology Programme is also committed to exploring online alternatives to the printed monograph and are happy to discuss innovative approaches to publication with grant recipients. This is also applicable to previously funded, now out of print, books.

The types of Creative Commons licences offered by publishers can vary, but the preferred option for Archaeology Programme funded OA articles is [CC BY-NC-ND](#): this allows for the download and sharing of the work, but it must be credited, and the work cannot be changed or used commercially (see link below for other options). This is, however, open to discussion if either the author or publisher would prefer the use of a different licence.

Gold OA will bring the Archaeology Programme funding in line with other publically funded research policies. This procedure is also aligned with priorities identified in Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, which states *Encouraging open access (publication), open data (digital information and archive) and curated finds should expand the use and re-use of archaeological results...* This ensures that the results of publically funded archaeological projects are accessible to everyone.

## ***Useful links***

Below are links to some other Open Access & Open Data Policies, as well as Creative Commons licensing:

[AHRC](#)

[Research Councils UK](#)

[Research Excellence Framework](#)

[SG Policy on Open data](#)

[Creative Commons Licensing](#)

[Scotland's Archaeology Strategy](#)