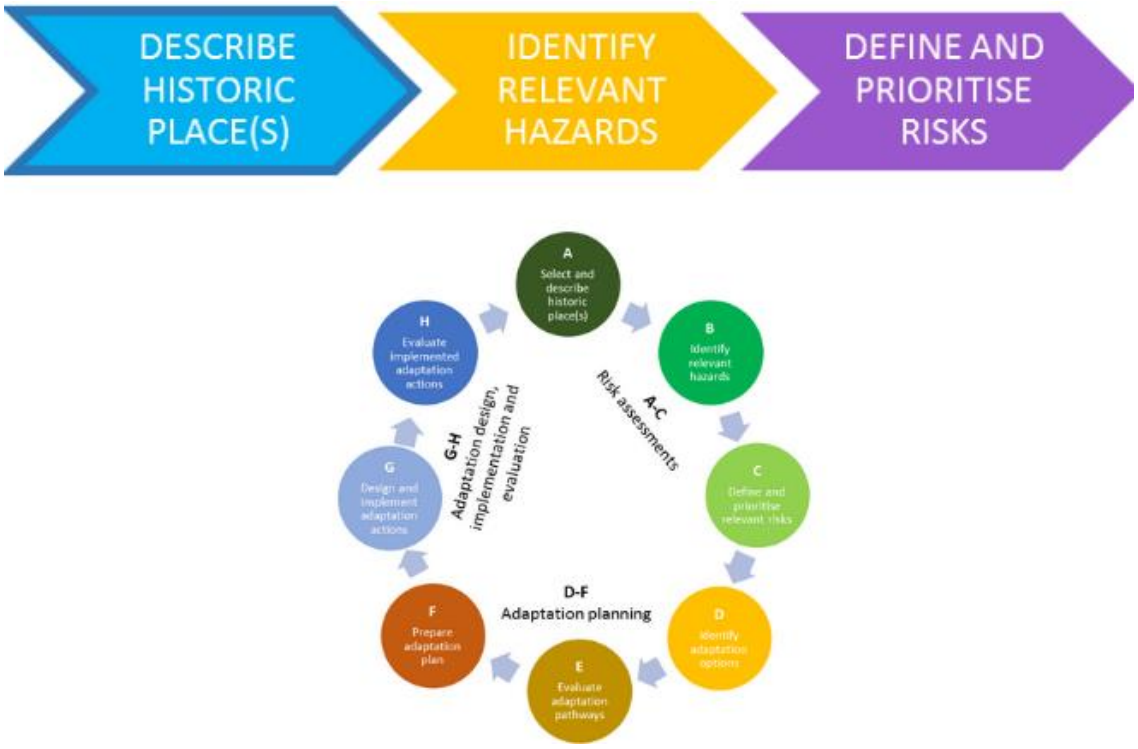
# Welcome to the newsletter from Adapt Northern Heritage


Near Jokkmokk, Sweden, reindeer are struggling this winter in feeding themselves, as, underneath the snow, an ice layer has formed which they cannot break through. The project partners visited and helped Sami reindeer herders, while holding a project meeting. (Image © Historic Environment Scotland, for project Adapt Northern Heritage)

Welcome to the third newsletter of the project Adapt Northern Heritage, supported by the European Union, Iceland and Norway, through the Interreg Programme of the Northern Periphery and Arctic. Over the past months, we have been busy summarising the results of our Associated Partners' seminar in October 2018 in Reykjavík, Iceland, to advance our project's guidance for the management of historic place in times of climate change from risk assessments to adaptation planning. We've travelled Jokkmokk, Sweden, for a project partner meeting in February 2019 to meet with Sami representatives, learn about Sami culture and reindeer herding and, of course, to visit Jokkmokk's annual market. Currently, we are finalising the prototype of our Adaptation Planning Guidance, which we will be testing this summer at nine extraordinary historic places across northern Europe, which our project is using as its case studies.

## From assessing risks to planning adaptation




Based on conventional risk management approaches, the project partners are currently developing tools to help evaluate hoodie m historic places and plan for their adaptation. (Image © Project partners of Adapt Northern Heritage)

Over the course of 2018, the project partners of Adapt Northern Heritage have met with local stakeholders and experts to identify how climate change and associated natural hazards are already affecting the project's nine case study places and how this process is likely to develop into the future. For this, we developed a Risk Assessment Guide, which we've tested together with our Associated Partners at eight of the project's nine case study places. Understanding and evaluating the risks to a historic place is a good first step towards successful risk management. Yet, it is only a first step. The next step is to plan for adaptation.

This past winter, we have worked on an Adaptation Planning Guide, which, taking as its basis the results of the risks assessments, will guide managers and owners of historic places through a structured process to identify, evaluate and prioritise adaptation measures for the places in their care. The development of the Adaptation Planning Guide started in October 2018, with a workshop session on this topic at the project's Associated Partner seminar in Reykjavík, in the west of Iceland, hosted by our project partner Minjastofnun Íslands. Here, the majority of our Associated Partners and other external experts tested initial ideas of the adaptation of historic places, trying to understand the usefulness of adaptation pathways, evaluating uncertainties and time horizons. The guide was further developed at the meeting of the Project Partner in February 2019 in Dálvvadis /

Jåhkåmåhkke / Jokkmokk, in northern Sweden, which also included a stakeholder session with representatives of the Sami, the indigenous people of northern Fennoscandia. See article below for more information.

The Adaptation Planning Guide is currently being advanced into a prototype for use this summer at the case study sites. Starting with a visit of Historic Environment Scotland and the Norsk insittut for kulturminneforskning (Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research) to our Russian case study site, the UNESCO World Heritage site Solovetsky Islands. This is our project's first visit to the Russian Federation and we are looking forward to meeting again with our Russian Associated Partner, the Northern (Arctic) Federal University, with whom we are organising student and stakeholder events in the city of Arkhangelsk and on the Solovetsky Islands. Workshops for our other case study places see article below will follow from June to September, before we will evaluate and review the guide at our next Associated Partner seminar in Trondheim, Norway.

## Visiting Sami people, reindeer and Jokkmokk's annual market

Speaking with locals, especially from Sami communities, involved in looking after heritage was an important part of the project partner meeting in Jokkmokk in February 2019. (Image © Historic Environment Scotland, for project Adapt Northern Heritage)

The fourth project partner meeting took place in the midst of February, from the 4th to 8th, in the north-Swedish town of Jokkmokk, also called, in Sami, Dálvvadis and Jåhkåmåhkke. We've timed our meeting to coincide the 414th Jokkmokk annual market, which took place

from the 7th to 9th, at wintery temperatures of around -25 °C. We chose this meeting location to learn about the culture and life of the Sami people, many of whom visit the market, and meet with local representatives concerned with Sami cultural heritage.

At hotel Akerlund, we held a stakeholder workshop on 5th February attended by representatives of the World Heritage site Laponian Area, a Sami cultural landscape, of Sámediggi, the Sami Parliament of Sweden, and of Jokkmokks kommun, the local district government. The discussion about the appreciation, perception and maintenance of historic places of Sami heritage, was particularly interesting, since the Sami cultural has a stronger focus on natural cycles of renewal that exist today in many other European culture. Sami historic places often relate to reindeer herding, such as our project's Swedish case study place, Bartjan, a camp site near Östersund, in mid-Sweden, use by the Sami when their reindeer are grazing in summertime see article below. The discussion here had revealed that the maintenance of the fragile seasonal shelters at this place would be difficult if the reindeer were starting to choose other grazing locations further north, due to the increasing temperatures caused by climate change. Assessing the climate-related risks for such a historic place and planning its adaptation to make it more resilient is particularly challenging see article above.

On a field trip, in the morning of this day, we had already visited a Sami family, observing – and helping with – the feeding of their reindeer herd. Unusually this winter, many herds were gathered into enclosures, despite the risk of increased risk of spreading of diseases. The winter weather was such that an ice layer had formed on the ground, before it got covered in the snow. Reindeer are used to shifting snow to reach the ground to feed on lichen, but the ice layer was difficult for the animals to break. Reindeer herders chose either to gather animals and feed them, despite the added cost, or to drive their herds southwards to places less affected by ice. The question to what degree such winter conditions are becoming more frequent due to climate change remained unanswered. We are still investigating.

## Nine historic places in Northern Europe

The historic town of Inveraray lies near the head of Loch Fyne, a sea water inlet in the council area of Argyll & Bute, in western Scotland. Most of the historic town is designated today as cultural heritage, in the form of an conservation areas, singular built structuresand a cultural landscape. (Image © Visit Scotland / Photographer: Paul Tomkins)

Our nine historic places being used as demonstration sites are all unique and remarkable. They are found across 6 different countries and include different forms of heritage, from cultural landscapes and historic buildings to underground remains and non-building structures. While they are all different, an important factor unites them: they are already being affected by climate change. This is why they were chosen as our demonstration sites and have been used since the project began to inform the project's assessment and guidance tools. Now, going into the summer, we will be testing our Adaptation Planning Guidance at these sites.

Kroktjärnsvallen, or, as it is called in southern Sami, Bartjan, has long been the Summer Camp of Sami in Tåssåsen's Community and is still in use today. It is also the subject of the above article. The mountains location of the site means it is seeing increased affects from climate change which threaten the predominantly wooden buildings. Our Icelandic sites have a similar mountainous terrain, as both natural heritage landscapes house volcanic masses. They also both relate to the country's National Parks, with Skaftártunga on the outskirts of the Vatnajökull park the South and Snæfellsjökull National Park in the West. In Skaftártunga, the combination of glacial melting and volcanic activity is leading to challenging environments, causing substantial erosion of its banks and endangering cultural heritage, including underground remains and standing structures. Snæfellsjökull has the same volcanic consideration as well as an added element of the nearby coastal line which may come to affect archaeological sites included in the landscape with the threat of rising sea levels in the North Atlantic. Moving east, the Artic and White sea area

of Russia is the UNESCO World Heritage site Solovetsky Islands. This demonstration site is also vulnerable to rising sea levels due to its 6-island structure. It also falls prey to general temperature increases, which are affecting the whole of northern Russia.

Some of our chosen sites are still home to important historic buildings, despite them no longer being in use. This is true of both of our Norwegian sites. The Hiorthhamn mining area in Svalbard once held communities in the 20th century Today several houses and remains of the cableway and railroads are left. The climate is changing rapidly in the area. More rain, less frozen ground and more erosion due to less ice in the fjords during the winter gives increased degradation and more damages. In the west, Aurlandsdalen (Aurlands valley) was once an important route to head eastwards. Today no one lives here, but the valley and the trail are visited by many hikers and is one of Norway's national historical hiking routes. Land slide and rock fall and other hazards require repairs and security work to be carried out annually to keep the path open for traffic.

Two out of three of our sites in Scotland and Ireland are historic buildings that are being adversely affected by water. Threave Castle and Estate, in the southwest of Scotland, is noticeably impacted by the surrounding River Dee. We are working to understand better the environmental impacts of climate change on the estate, including flooding impacts on the castle and on the mansion due to increasing precipitation levels. Equally, the castle, church and graveyard at Ballinskelligs, in the south west of the Republic of Ireland, has battled with its coastline location for much of its history. Now, rising sea levels and severe storms, are leaving not only the site itself exposed, it is also caused the degrading of a sea wall that was used to combat similar issues back in the 1930s. Our other Scotland site is the historic town of Inveraray, a cultural and historic landscape located in the west. The coastal inlet nature of the town mean that is it also vulnerable to rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

## Let us know what you think

Please feel free to contact us if you have any comments or questions about the project so far and one of our project partners will get back to you! In the meantime, please help us spread the word by *liking us* on Facebook and *following us* on Twitter for regular updates and shared content. Also feel free to check out our website and forward this email to those who you think might be interested in *signing up* to our free newsletter.

## Adapt Northern Heritage

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## Principal Funder


## Project partners