



UHI | **NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES**
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Research and Knowledge Exchange

Institutional development

Regional impact

Global connection

Report: November 2025 - January 2026



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INTRODUCTION

The **NWH Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) Quarterly Report** provides a regular update on research and KE activity across the institution. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to present a representative overview of the range and diversity of activity being undertaken, while highlighting key initiatives, outputs, and impacts where appropriate.

To ensure consistency and minimise the reporting burden, a single version of the report is prepared and circulated. This acts as a 'single point of truth' that can be shared with confidence across a range of groups and stakeholders, including:

- NWH Research and Knowledge Exchange staff
- NWH Communications Team
- NWH Executive Team
- NWH Board of Management
- UHI Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange

In addition, specific sections of the report align with the remit of particular NWH Board of Management Committees:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee (KPIs 8-10) – activity reports, outcomes, and outputs
- Learning, Teaching and Research Committee (KPIs 1-7) – research and knowledge exchange activity, outcomes, and impacts

The report will be produced on a quarterly basis according to the following schedule:

Period covered	Circulation
August - October	November
November – January	February
February - April	May
May- July	August

Key performance indicators (KPIs)

Our **ten KPIs** will be monitored by the **NWH Research and Management Group** and reported to the **Executive and to the Board of Management** through its Learning, Teaching and Research Committee. These will also align with UHI's broader evaluation frameworks. Except for REF 2029, all targets are set for a three-year time horizon, i.e. 2028. A core objective underpinning these KPIs is to contribute to the **long-term financial sustainability** of NWH through enhanced research income, strategic partnerships, and increased impact.

Two scenarios have been identified to guide targets for research and KE:

- **Scenario 1** reflects the current post-merger context, acknowledging the challenges of embedding, initiating, and expanding research and KE activity in a transitional environment. These challenges include constrained staff capacity, evolving institutional structures; increasing financial pressures across the university sector; growing competition for research and KE funding, and declining PGR funding. In this context, maintaining key performance indicators (KPIs) at 2023–24 levels is considered a 'stretch target'.

- **Scenario 2** assumes a more enabling environment, in which institutional conditions, support mechanisms, and organisational culture are more conducive to sustained growth in research and KE. This scenario also assumes modest growth in core university funding and increased availability of external grant funding.

For each scenario, a tailored set of KPIs and targets has been developed to reflect the specific opportunities and constraints of the respective context.

KPI DASHBOARD

KPI	Current data	Scenario 1: Transitional / Constrained Context Targets	Scenario 2: Enabling / Growth- Oriented Context Targets
1. Number of staff recognised as being 'research active'	To be updated following completion of staff survey for Research and KE	Maintain at 2023-4 staff survey levels (22)	Increase by 20% relative to 2023-4 staff survey levels (26)
2. Number of staff eligible for inclusion in REF 2029	17 staff (13.38 FTE)	New metric	New metric
3. Number of staff submitted to REF 2029	Pending: REF 2029 submissions underdevelopment across UHI	Attain (Headcount and Full Time Equivalent) REF 2021 levels (14/12.4)	Increase by 20% above REF 2021 levels (17 / 14.9)
4. PGR student enrolment	21	Secure funding for 15 PGRs	Secure funding for 19 PGRs
5. Number of staff involved in PGR supervision 2028	18	Maintain at 2023-4 staff survey levels (13)	Increase by 20% relative to 2023-4 staff survey levels (15)
6. Number of outputs published in international peer-reviewed journals	13	Maintain 2023–24 output levels (35)	Increase by 20% above 2023–24 output levels (42)
7. Number of Research and KE projects secured with regional and national partners	12 new (from July 2025)	Maintain 2023-4 levels (50)	Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (60)
8. Income from research	To be updated in May 2026 (staff recruitment underway)	Maintain at 2023-4 levels (£1.55 M)	Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (£1.86M)
9. Income from KE	To be updated in May 2026 (staff recruitment underway)	Maintain 2023-4 levels (£0.28 M)	Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (£0.35M)
10. Income from REF	£0.27	Not applicable (set until next REF cycle (£0.27 M))	Not applicable (set until next REF cycle (£0.27 M))

ACTIVITY REPORTS

SEE APPENDIX FOR LOCATION OF STAFF and PGRs MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

Energy:

Environmental interaction and sustainable energy transitions

Highlights

- The Energy research theme welcomed **new member** to the team, Ellen White working on passive acoustic monitoring of environmental interactions of marine renewable energy.
- The UHI-organised **Environmental Interactions of Marine Renewables (EIMR) Conference** on 13-17 April 2026 in Oban abstract reviews were completed, with the programme being finalised. Benjamin Williamson continues to serve on the scientific committee.
- Chloe Turner-Dockery was **awarded second prize for her poster on ‘Validating next-generation biophysical and metocean monitoring techniques for offshore renewable energy’** at the Scottish Partnership in Energy and Engineering Research & Innovation (SPEERI) conference in Edinburgh, 26 November 2025.
- The previous **UHI and Ocean Science Consulting KTP** received a final grade of ‘Very Good’ from Innovate UK, with the KTP Associate now employed as Head of Research and Development.
- The **MASTS-NI Working Group** was approved, seeking to strengthen collaborations with Benjamin Williamson serving as a member.
- Eauclore Tidal Ltd received a Fisheries Act Authorization to deploy three Orbital Marine Power O2-X floating tidal turbines at the **Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy (FORCE)**. This is the first project approved under Canada’s adaptive, staged regulatory approach for tidal stream energy, and first array in Canada, building on research into environmental interactions with Benjamin Williamson.
- The **MARCIS project** (Elizabeth Masden) had the final online launch event for the [MARCIS tool](#), a decision support tool for assessing the cumulative impact of human marine industries on seabirds and migrating land birds in marine ecosystems.
- Elizabeth Masden and Norwegian colleagues produced a **policy brief** [A novel framework to assess the combined impacts of bycatch and offshore windfarms on seabirds](#) alongside a peer-reviewed publication.

Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) - examples

- Research into physics-to-ecosystem level effects of offshore wind in the **PELAgIO** project is in the final stages of paper production. UHI research into potential exposure of aquatic organisms to dynamic visual cues originating from aerial wind turbine blades was cited in the Ayre Offshore Windfarm EIA.
- Analysis from the **EQUIFY** project ‘Establishing a Framework for Quantifiable Evidence and Impact of Ecosystem Change Throughout the Lifecycle of UK Floating Offshore Wind Farms’ multi-ship, glider and mooring campaign around Kincardine floating wind farm has started, including passive and active acoustic data alongside oceanographic moorings. The results are being used to design the 2026 survey campaign.
- The **Energy Catalyst** project with INGEN Wave Energy Systems is in the final project stages focusing on legacy, with a publication accepted from stage 1 in the Journal of Ocean Engineering and Marine Energy.
- The 3-year **KTP** with the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) to advance techniques for environmental monitoring of marine renewable energy has started, with the KTP Associate Harry Simpson completing his first residential training module and beginning data familiarisation.
- The **Supergen** Offshore Renewable Energy Hub project to advance monitoring of floating tidal stream turbines has started data analysis and algorithm development, with an invited presentation at the 2025 Marine Renewables Canada conference in Nova Scotia to >700 delegates.
- Alasdair Macleod, Roy Bartle et al. are travelling to South Africa in March 2026 to engage in a collaborative sustainable energy project funded by the **British Council**.

Pollution:

Mitigating environmental contamination through innovative solutions

Highlights

- Dr Manuel Valdivia awarded his **PhD** titled “Nanomaterials and photonic solutions. Novel ‘at source’ approaches to stop hospital-derived priority substances reaching the sewer network”. The project was supervised by Prof. Megson, Dr Taggart, Dr Pap and Prof. Kean (LSIC).
- Szabolcs Pap has submitted a collaborative research project proposal with **Scottish Water** and **Carbogenics** to IBioIC, which has successfully passed the first assessment stage and has been invited to submit a full proposal to the **IBioIC Feasibility Fund** with a total project value of £100k.
- Szabolcs Pap was awarded the **Research to Value (SkillFluence) Enabling Fund**, securing £5k in cash and £5k in in-kind support to support the development of a UHI spin-out company.
- Following the departure of Barbara Bremner, Szabolcs Pap and Maider Guiu have joined the **UHI Agricultural HUB Steering Group**, strengthening its expertise and continuity.
- Neil James, Elizabeth Masden, and Lonneke Goddijn-Murphy submitted a proposal to the **ITOPF R&D Award** in collaboration with the **Norwegian Meteorological Institute**. The proposed project, SMART-SLICK, would, if successful, develop an operational prototype pipeline that turns satellite observations into rapid exposure forecasts for seabirds following marine oil spills in the northeast.
- Szabolcs Pap attended the **30th European Biosolids & Bioresources Conference and Exhibition** as a representative of the Environmental Biotechnology Network’s (EBNet) Biochars Working Group and IBioIC IB Champion. He participated in sessions on biochar applications in the water industry and delivered a presentation titled ‘Phosphorus Recovery from Wastewater with Biosolids Biochar’."

Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) - examples

- **“One Health approaches to the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive”** (Scottish Water funded, £55k, 12 months): Lydia Niemi and Stuart Gibb are continuing work with OHBP partners to assess whether pharmaceutical load reductions can be achieved through a One Health approach that integrates upstream interventions with wastewater treatment.
- The **CO-OP CIF2** project, in collaboration with SAMS and SRUC, was successfully completed in January. ERI developed innovative composite materials combining biochar and shell waste for phosphorus adsorption, which were trialled in plant growth experiments at SRUC during summer 2025. All project reports and financial claims were finalised during this reporting period.
- Szabolcs Pap and Darlene Russell are actively developing funding proposals and building strategic support for the UHI spin-out **CasioPeia**, including active engagement with **Scottish Enterprise** to progress entry into its **High Growth Spinout Programme**, with a clear focus on planning and delivering key milestones over the next 12 months.
- Szabolcs Pap with Thomas Thompson and Maider Guiu are continuing a collaborative research project with **Scottish Water** and **Carbogenics** to investigate the potential of alternative carbon-based materials for the removal of priority pollutants, alongside the development of analytical methods for pharmaceutical compounds.

Peatlands:

Studying peatland resilience across scales and discipline boundaries

Highlights

- Roxane Andersen's Research Leadership Awards comes to a close on the 26th of November, with all **reporting and claims completed on time**.
- Rob Hughes is the last NWH **PhD student** to successfully defend his thesis in 2025, completing the cohort of 6 successful completion, with John King, Callum Thompson and Sam Webber moving into peatland-related roles outside of academia and Rob McHenry relocating to Canada in search of a wildlife conservation role.
- Heather Johnstone becomes the new Associate for our **Knowledge Transfer Partnership** with RWE on the re-use of excavated peat and monitoring of restoration outcome in the context of onshore wind energy development
- Lilian Waddle starts a distance-based part-time **MRes** with Roxane Andersen as Director of Studies and Mike Daniels (UHI Perth) as co-supervisor in November, and Daniel Martin starts a full time **MRes** on Trade-off between biodiversity and carbon in peatland restoration with Mike Daniels (Director of Studies) and Roxane Andersen (co-supervisor) in January
- The ERI team (Roxane Andersen, Liam Godwin, Mascha Bischoff) joins forces with UHI Inverness (Cristian Navarro-Waggershauser) and UHI Perth (Mike Daniels) and gets awarded a **Peatland ACTION tender** to undertake a review of evidence of peatland restoration benefits in Scotland.
- Roxane Andersen and Mascha Bischoff are awarded a **NatureScot tender** to work on Peatland definition and biodiversity metric in the context of planning development on peat
- Roxane Andersen wins the **"Research & Innovation Award"** at the CDN 2025 Awards for the "For Peat's sake" short courses delivered in 2024-25.
- Roxane Andersen takes part in 3 separate events at the **Scottish Parliament** for the scrutiny of the new Climate Change Plan 2026-2040 as a "Scottish Peatland Expert", including as a witness for the Rural Affairs Committee on January 7th
- Lucy Mortlock was awarded funding from the **Scottish Arctic Network (ScAN) Arctic Travel and Partnerships fund** to travel to Iceland and build connections with researchers working on Common Scoter
- Eddy Graham, Angus Murray and Joan D'Arcy, based in Stornoway, completed a report on **Peatland Condition Mapping of the Lewis Peatlands for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar** (Western Isles council) through the UKRI Net Zero Living: Fast Followers programme. The project was a collaboration with Jame Hutton Institute and Peatland Action. The report is available on request.

Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) – examples

- **MOTHERSHIP** (NERC Large Grant, JHI Lead, £3M) - Project in year 4 of 5, Liam Godwin continues to support maintenance of flux tower and Roxane is contribution to 2 WP and developing papers for publication
- **Routemap for riparian woodland in the Flow COUNTRY** (Riverwood Development Grant, £19K, Liam Gowin lead) - project progressing with maps being developed and interaction with a range of key stakeholders underway, first claim completed
- **Dyke River monitoring** (Peatland ACTION monitoring grant, £28k, Liam Godwin lead) - project progressing with 12 completed sampling campaign and first claim completed
- **Review of wider benefits of peatland restoration** (Peatland ACTION tender, £26k, Roxane Andersen lead) - project underway
- **Definition and biodiversity metric** (NatureScot Tender, £9000) - project underway

Society: Connecting Environment, Economy and Wellbeing to environmental change
Highlights • Lydia Niemi and staff from UHI Inverness represented UHI at the Royal Society of Chemistry's Science & the Parliament event in Edinburgh. The theme "Environment, Climate Change, and Human Health" was well aligned with UHI's One Health research & partnership activity. • Lydia Niemi, Stuart Gibb and the One Health Breakthrough Partnership met with cross-sector Scottish Government teams (healthcare, environment, water, AMR) to raise awareness of the OHBP, discuss engagement with broader teams to facilitate expansion and continuity of the OHBP • Lydia Niemi undertook mobility to Uppsala University in December as part of the "Bridging Waters", funded through the Uppsala University Conflicts Nexus Research Centre (UUniCORN). Activity included publication development and engagement with healthcare stakeholders around sustainable healthcare. • Lydia Niemi developed and delivered a module focussed on sustainable pharmacy for the ECOSOLUTIONS DTP (University of Sheffield, York, JNCC, CEH) online course "Solutions to Chemical Pollution" • Lydia Niemi led the resubmission of the EcoMeds4U COST Action proposal, working with partners from 29 European countries, and oversees network engagement and meetings while waiting for the outcome (May 2026) • Lydia Niemi (Working Group lead) and Stuart Gibb co-authored the University of Exeter and Pharma Pollution Hub publication in the Lancet Planetary Health, following 2 years of workshops, systems mapping exercises, and analyses. • Hereward Proops (Stornoway) presented, 'We can be heroes. How the nature of co-constructed play in tabletop role-playing games build positive group relationships in physical and online spaces' at the UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference, Inverness, 2026. • Neil James delivered the NHIC Task Force Project Benefits and Opportunity Review session (December), led by NRS Dounreay, with participation from Stuart Gibb (UHI NWH), Focus North, HIE, Highland Council, North Highland Chamber of Commerce, to define project benefits, outcomes and priority opportunity areas for the next phase of scoping and represented NHIC at the Thurso Transformation Delivery Group (TTDG), contributing to shared area planning, providing NHIC timeline inputs and identifying interdependencies with wider regeneration and infrastructure projects.
Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) – examples • Stuart Gibb, Neil James progressed the North Highland Innovation Centre (NHIC) project (NDA/NRS Dounreay via Focus North), focusing on early scoping, partner alignment and business case preparation. This included coordination of Task Force partners, identification of shared organisational values, mapping to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, development of the project timeline and initial funding exploration. • Lydia Niemi and Stuart Gibb started the Recast UWWTD Directive & One Health project (Scottish Water, £60k) exploring if pharmaceutical load reductions in wastewater can be achieved through a combination of prescribing actions and wastewater treatment. Data analysis and stakeholder engagement ongoing. • Lydia Niemi and Stuart Gibb continued OHBP activity with SEPA, Scottish Water, NHS Highland, and the Centre of Expertise for Waters (Scottish Government Water team, £38k)

Tourism:
Cultural heritage and responsible tourism; Slow adventure and well-being and Tourism innovation and rural enterprise
Highlights
- Katie Murray and Kendra Turnbull secured tourism KE Challenge funding to work with Nether Lochaber Community Association to provide training and support community-led destination management. - Kendra Turnbull and Steve Taylor secured tourism KE Challenge funding to enable participation as associate partners in the NPA-funded RETURN - Regenerative Economic Transfers for Universal Resilience in the North. - Katie Murray secured tourism KE Challenge funding to carry out interviews with former Sri Lankan tea planters and work with the Highland Archive Service to archive these. This complements work being undertaken in an ongoing Brish Council-funded project. - Pete White co-presented a workshop with Dr Clare Dallat from Australia on ‘Developing and sharing safety knowledge in the outdoors’ at the Institute for Outdoor Learning’s International Conference in November. - Pete White led a workshop at PGL Liddington, Swindon, about Collective Knowledge and the Snapshot Survey 2026 for the Vertex Industry Event in January. - Steve Taylor attended a partner meeting in Joensuu Finland, as part of a transnational seed corn project to develop a €4.5m Horizon Europe application for 2027. - Steve Taylor, wearing his KE Tourism Chair hat, attended the Flow Country tourism event on November 13. - Steve Taylor attended a UHI Ceilidh Workshop in Inverness on November 12th, which has resulted in participation in a Wellcome Trust doctoral training centre application.
Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) – examples
Steve Taylor and Lalith Welamedage travelled to Cambodia in December, as part of their involvement in a \$54 m World Bank project to develop community based ecotourism initiatives with Oxfam and the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Other
Highlights
- Kara Smith, Editorial Board Member for the newly formed Tier 2 Journal of Multicultural Education and Student Affairs (MESA). - Education researchers Maria Bealby, Morag Forbes and Kerry Paul presented at the UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange conference in Inverness, 7-9 January, 2026. - Ewan Armstrong, UHI historian, launched the KE podcast, “The Sensory History” - Eddy Graham lectured for the Smithsonian Associates of the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC, USA) in Nov & Dec 2025 on “How Weather Works” and “Is Extreme Weather on the Increase?” - Eddy Graham’s book “Clouds” (Princeton University Press, 2026) was published in Arabic by the The Mohammed Bin Rashid Library (MBRL), Dubai, UAE (Jan 2026)
Current major projects/initiatives (select; with partners + funders) – examples
- Rebecca Smith and Netty Sopata (Stornoway) were successful in their (£2500) KE Land and Community Challenge Fund application to fully develop the research project with community research member CnES, entitled, ‘Sustainable Textiles – Outer Hebrides’. - Smith, K. (2026 in progress). ‘Cò iad? How initial creative travel writing and research assembles Hebridean lives.’ In, Lesley Mickel’s anthology (Ed.), <i>More than Human: Creative Practice in the Highlands and Islands</i>.

OUTPUTS

All themes and activity

Peer-reviewed publications Citation with NWH authors in bold. Please indicate DOI	Journal Impact Factor
Chambers, R.L., Munoz-Duque, S., Roberts, A., Phion, S. and Jones, A.L. (2025) Interactions between an Irrawaddy dolphins Orcaella brevirostris mother-calf pair and Indo-Pacific humpback Sousa chinensis in southern Cambodia. <i>Cambodian Journal of Natural History</i> , 2025(2).	1.2
McIlvenny, J, Williamson, B.J. (2026) Methodology for wave power estimation at remote sites with satellite altimeter validation applied to Indonesia. <i>Journal of Ocean Engineering and Marine Energy</i> https://doi.org/10.1007/s40722-025-00455-0	2.8
MacManaway JL , Cook SJ, Cutler ME (2026) Monitoring glacier evolution and assessing glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) susceptibility in the Bolivian Andes. <i>Journal of Glaciology</i> 72, e1, 1–19.	2.8
Lüthje, M., & Turnbull, K. (2025). Counter-narrative place-making. <i>Tourism Geographies</i> , 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2025.2593978	4.7
Rydgren, K., Andersen, R. , Halvorsen, R., Hancock, M.H., Hughes, R.D. , Martin-Walker, A., Töpper, J.P. and Cowie, N., 2025. Restoration of formerly afforested blanket bog: Estimating time for vegetation recovery. <i>Ecological Applications</i> , 35(8), p.e70138.	4.3
Mena-Rivera, L., Dean, J.F., Garnett, M.H., Holt, A.D., Pickard, A.E., Andersen, R., Graham, E. , Bishop, J., Spencer, R.G., Evans, C.D. and Hilton, R.G., 2025. Wildfires impact the thermal stability and molecular composition but not the age of dissolved organic carbon exported by northern streams. <i>Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences</i> , 130(11), p.e2025JG009083.	3.5
Walker, R.Z., Boyd, D.S., Andersen, R. and Large, D.J., 2025. InSAR Coherence Linked to Soil Moisture, Water Level and Precipitation on a Blanket Peatland in Scotland. <i>Remote Sensing</i> , 17(21), p.3507. 10.3390/rs17213507	4.8
Pharmaceutical pollution from health care: a systems-based strategy for mitigating risks to public and environmental health. Thornber, Kelly et al. <i>The Lancet Planetary Health</i> , Volume 10, Issue 1 101404 January 2026; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanplh.2025.101404	21.6
Buckingham, L., Masden, E.A. , Layton-Matthews, K., Bringsvor, I.S., Bråthen, V.S., Dehnhard, N., Fauchald, P., Lorentsen, S.-H., Reiertsen, T.K., Searle, K.R., Tarroux, A., Christensen-Dalsgaard, S., 2026. An individual-based model to quantify the non-breeding season impact of wind farms on seabirds. <i>Ecological Solutions and Evidence</i> 7, e70196. https://doi.org/10.1002/2688-8319.70196	2.6
Johnston, D.T., Masden, E.A. , Booth Jones, K.A., Humphreys, E.M., 2025. Combining temperature-depth recorder and GPS data improves identification of foraging habitat in diving seabirds. <i>Mar Biol</i> 172, 172. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00227-025-04742-0	2.5
Shingler, H. (2026) Beyond crisis management: ethical principles and trauma-informed care in outdoor learning and outdoor adventure therapies, <i>Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning</i> , 10.1080/14729679.2026.2618227.	1.6
de Jong, A., Humbracht, M., Sjölander-Lindqvist, A., Taylor, S. , Figueora-Domecq, C., & Cortes-Romero, N. (2025) Justice in tourism geographies. <i>Tourism Geographies</i> , 1–23. https://doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2025.2594713	4.7
Zhang, H., Gibb, S.W., James, N.A. , Boyd, K.G., Pap, S. (2025) Removal of Copper and Lead Ions from Water Using Dopamine-Modified Waste Marine Plastic. <i>Environ. Process.</i> 12, 64 (2025). https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40710-025-00804-z	4.0

Book chapters

Smith, K. (2026). Is the Gàidhealtachd using Gàidhlig? In, Zajda, J. & S. Majhanovich (Eds.), *Globalisation and Educational Practice for Social Justice*, Series 55. Pp.137-143. <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-08041-7>

Conference/event presentations	Poster / podium / invited
Kendra Turnbull co-presented (with Dr Sophie Price, MTU) "Tourism and Community Regeneration: Cases from Rural Ireland and Scotland" at the Tourism & Hospitality Research in Ireland Conference (THRIC), Dublin.	Podium
Bealby, Maria. 'Collaborative and compassionate leadership: approaches for enhancing global online faculty's professional growth.' UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference, Inverness, 2026.	Podium
Forbes, Morag. 'Experiences of LGBTQ+ undergraduate student nurses and midwives in the UK.' UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference, Inverness, 2026.	Podium
Paul, Kerry. 'Reported keys to successful student engagement in the online classroom: insights from professional practice'. UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference, Inverness, 2026.	Podium
Proops, Hereward. 'We can be heroes. How the nature of co-constructed play in tabletop role-playing games build positive group relationships in physical and online spaces' at the UHI ENGAGE Research and Knowledge Exchange CMurraonference, Inverness, 2026.	Podium
Szabolcs Pap. 30th European Biosolids & Bioresources Conference and Exhibition 'Phosphorus Recovery from Wastewater with Biosolids Biochar', Old Trafford, Manchester, 11-12. November 2025.	Podium
Benjamin Williamson, Validating environmental monitoring systems for floating tidal turbines – characterising imaging sonar performance, Marine Renewables Canada, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 12-14 November 2025.	Invited
Chloe Turner-Dockery, Validating next-generation biophysical and metocean monitoring techniques for offshore renewable energy, Scottish Partnership in Energy and Engineering Research & Innovation (SPEERI), Edinburgh, 26 November 2025	Poster

Media coverage

Professor Roxane Andersen win at CDN Awards

- [Thurso peatland science professor wins overall prize for 'Innovation and Research' at College Development Network awards](#) John O'Groat Journal
- [News - UHI North, West and Hebrides triumphs at the 2025 CDN College Awards](#) UHI North, West and Hebrides

Flow Country Research Conference

- [News - A sold-out success for the Flow Country Research Conference](#) UHI North, West and Hebrides

RESEARCH AND KE FUNDING APPLICATIONS

A summary of applications contributing to the NWH Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) **pipeline** is provided in the table below.

Notes:

- New proposals submitted during this reporting period are listed from line 515 onwards.
- The status of pending proposals is **dynamic**; the tables reflect the position as of 31/01/2026.
- Proposals under negotiation, or those subject to resubmission, may be subject to changes in value.
- Proposals valued at less than £5k are not included.
- Intervention rates vary by project, as does the monthly euro conversion rate applied to EU projects.

Number	Proposal	Theme	Overall project value	NWH component	% likelihood of success	Duration	Funder	Status
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Updates

applications submitted June 2025 to October 2025								
495	Challenge fund One Health	SOCIETY	9,710.00	4,855.00	100	1	KE Water Challenge	secured
496	Tourism in Cambodia	TOURISM	57,000.00	57,000.00	50	18	Oxfam Cambodia	secured
497	Bressay Heritage Centre	TOURISM	27,500.00	9,052.00	100	17	Interface IV	awaiting outcome
498	Tea Plantations In Sri Lanka	TOURISM	9,744.00	4,872.00	50	12	British Council	secured
499	Woodlands in flow country peatlands	PEATLANDS	22,000.00	19,609.00	20	18	Riverwoods development grant	secured
500	One Health, Pharma and rUWWTD	SOCIETY	57,753.00	57,753.00	50	12	Scottish Water	secured
501	Reactive media for P removal	POLLUTION	75,000.00	75,000.00	25	12	scottish enterprise	first stage
502	Sewage sludge to biochar fellowship	POLLUTION	1,750,000.00	1,750,000.00	10	60	ERC Europe	unsuccessful
503	Regional ecosystem monitoring	ENERGY	315,000.00	75,000.00	50	6	DEFRA	awaiting outcome
504	Stories of the sea	TOURISM	1,500,000.00	377,000.00	10	36	AHRC responsive mode	under development
505	Offshore wind environmental monitoring	ENERGY	4,500,000.00	620,000.00	10	48	Horizon Europe	first stage
506	A FiresNET	PEATLANDS	3,000,000.00	130,000.00	10	48	Horizon Europe	unsuccessful
507	Marine train	ENERGY	480,000.00	80,000.00	10	48	EPSRC	not submitted
508	Viking PhD	ENERGY	150,000.00	150,000.00	50	48	Industry	under development
509	One health and antibiotics_cross border	SOCIETY	1,500,000.00	40,000.00	10	60	UKRI transdisciplinary	unsuccessful
510	Legacy of Tea Plantations_additional funding	TOURISM	52,300.00	52,300.00	25	24	TUI storytelling theatre	awaiting outcome
511	Advancing peatland geotech collaboration	PEATLANDS	5,000.00	750.00	10	3	RSC small grant	unsuccessful
512	Birds as vectors of plastic	POLLUTION	130,000.00	130,000.00	25	42	Ecowild	awaiting outcome
513	Peatland evolution	PEATLANDS	10,000.00	7,500.00	10	24	RSE research collaboration	unsuccessful
514	Eco hydro effects of pine spread	PEATLANDS	130,000.00	130,000.00	25	42	Ecowild Doctoral Programme	awaiting outcome

New proposals in this reporting period

applications submitted Nov 2025 to Jan 2025								
515	Regenerative Economic Transfers for Universal Resilience in the North (RETURN)	TOURISM	1,600,000.00	3,565.00	80	44	Knowledge Exchange Tourism Challenge Fund	secured
516	The legacy of Scottish entrepreneurship on the tea plantations of Sri Lanka	TOURISM	3,420.00	3,420.00	70	6	Knowledge Exchange Tourism Challenge Fund	secured
517	Keeping Nether Lochaber 'on the map': facilitating community-led destination management	TOURISM	2,511.00	2,511.00	90	5	Knowledge Exchange Tourism Challenge Fund	secured
518	Achieving resilience for storm petrels in the Summer Isles	ENERGY	250,000.00	13,997.97	10	24	Scottish Marine Environmental Enhancement Fund (SMEEF)	not submitted
519	SMART-SLUCK: Rapid AI + Multi-Sensor Remote Sensing and Drift Forecasting for Seabird Exposure Risk	POLLUTION	60,000.00	45,000.00	20	24	R&D Award - ITOFF	awaiting outcome
520	Peatland ACTION - Reviewing the wider benefits of restored peatlands in Scotland	PEATLANDS	28,595.00	15,675.00	25	5	Peatland ACTION	secured
521	Youth Futures	SOCIETY	6984	3,274.00	TBC	5	KE Challenge calls for Community and Land and Net Zero	under development
522	Feasibility study for pharmaceutical removal with FilaChar from water	POLLUTION	85,000.00	50,000.00	40	6	IBoIC	second stage
523	Remote tracking of seabirds at sea (Phases 4 & 5)	ENERGY	1,915,375.00	159,761.00	10	36	OWEC	awaiting outcome
524	Africa-UK physics partnership collaborative projects: Astronomy in East Africa	SOCIETY	300,000.00	13,911.00	25	24	UKRI	secured
525	Research to Value Enabling Fund for CassioPeia	POLLUTION	5,000.00	5,000.00	70	2	Skillfluence	secured
526	POINT AND SANDWICK ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION PROJECT	TOURISM	37,500.00	37,500.00	50	3	Point and Sandwick Trust; The Innovation Voucher Scheme	awaiting outcome
527	NatureScot Tender: Active peatland and peatland condition	PEATLANDS	10,000.00	8,300.00	25	3	NatureScot Tender. Direct invitation to tender	secured

APPENDIX: CONTRIBUTING STAFF AND PGRS BY LOCATION

Staff Contributor	Location
Andersen, Roxane	Thurso
Armstrong, Murray	Stornoway
Bartle, Roy	Stornoway
Bischoff, Mascha	Thurso
D'Arcy, Joan	Stornoway
Gibb, Stuart	Thurso
Goddijn-Murphy, Lonneke	Thurso
Godwin, Liam	Thurso
Graham, Eddy	Stornoway
Guiu, Maider	Thurso
James, Neil	Thurso
Johnstone, Heather	Thurso
Macleod, Alasdair	Stornoway
MacManaway, Jamie	Fort William
Masden, Elizabeth	Thurso
McIlvenny, Jason	Thurso
Megson, Ian	Inverness
Murray, Angus	Stornoway
Murray, Katie	Fort William
Niemi, Lydia	Thurso
Pap, Szabolcs	Thurso
Paul, Kerry	Thurso (Halkirk)
Proops, Hereward	Stornoway
Shingler, Heidi	Fort William
Simpson, Harry	Thurso (Orkney)
Smith, Kara	Stornoway
Smith, Rebecca	Stornoway
Sopata, Netty	Stornoway
Taggart, Mark	Thurso
Taylor, Steve	Fort William
Thompson, Thomas	Thurso
Turnbull, Kendra	Fort William
Waddle, Lilian	Thurso
Webber, Sam	Thurso
Welamedage, Lalith	Fort William
White, Ellen	Thurso
White, Pete	Fort William
Williamson, Benjamin	Thurso

PGR Contributor	Location
Bealby, Maria	Stornoway
Forbes, Morag	Inverness
Hughes, Rob	Thurso
Jones, Amy	Thurso
King, John	Thurso
McHenry, Rob	Thurso
Mortlock, Lucy	Thurso
Thompson, Callum	Thurso
Turner-Dockery, Chloe	Thurso