

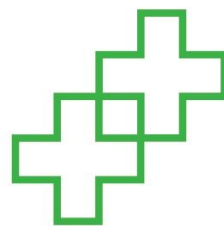


UHI | **NORTH, WEST AND HEBRIDES**
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Research and Knowledge Exchange

Institutional development
Regional impact
Global connection

Report: June - October 2025



NWH Research and Knowledge Exchange

Institutional development - Regional impact – Global connection

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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 NWH Board of Management Committees:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee (KPIs 8-10) – activity reports, outcomes, and outputs
- Learning, Teaching & Research Committee (KPIs 1-7) – research and KE 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** for Research and KE 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. The dashboard below specifies these targets and current status.

KPI	Current data	<i>Scenario 1: Transitional / Constrained Context Targets</i>	<i>Scenario 2: Enabling / Growth- Oriented Context Targets</i>
1. Number of staff recognised as being ‘research active’	Research and KE staff survey to be completed for 2024-25 by December 2025	<i>Maintain at 2023-4 staff survey levels (22)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% relative to 2023-4 staff survey levels (26)</i>
2. Number of staff eligible for inclusion in REF 2029	National REF process delayed: Awaiting guidance on criteria for inclusion (Significant Responsibility for Research and Research Independence - expected Dec. 2025)	<i>New metric</i>	<i>New metric</i>
3. Number of staff submitted to REF 2029	Pending	<i>Attain (Headcount and Full Time Equivalent) REF 2021 levels (14/12.4)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% above REF 2021 levels (17 / 14.9)</i>
4. PGR student enrolment	23 (UHI Virtual Research Environment data)	<i>Secure funding for 15 PGRs</i>	<i>Secure funding for 19 PGRs</i>
5. Number of staff involved in PGR supervision 2028	18	<i>Maintain at 2023-4 staff survey levels (13)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% relative to 2023-4 staff survey levels (15)</i>
6. Number of outputs published in international peer-reviewed journals	17 to date	<i>Maintain 2023–24 output levels (35)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% above 2023–24 output levels (42)</i>
7. Number of Research and KE projects secured with regional and national partners	54 current	<i>Maintain at 2023-4 levels (50)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (60)</i>
8. Income from research	2024-25 £1,02M	<i>Maintain at 2023-4 levels (£1.55 M)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (£1.86M)</i>
9. Income from KE	2024-25 £0.28M	<i>Maintain at 2023-4 levels (£0.28 M)</i>	<i>Increase by 20% above 2023-4 levels (£0.35M)</i>
10. Income from REF	2024-25 £0.27M	<i>Not applicable (set until next REF cycle (£0.27 M))</i>	<i>Not applicable (set until next REF cycle (£0.27 M))</i>

ACTIVITY REPORTS

SEE APPENDIX FOR LOCATRION OF STAFF MENTIONED IN THE REPORT

Energy:

Environmental interactions and sustainable energy transitions

Highlights

- The Energy research theme welcomed two **new members** to the team, Dannielle Eager working on ecosystem effects of offshore wind and Harry Simpson working on environmental monitoring techniques.
- In June, UHI Research Coordinators Joan D’Arcy (Island Centre for Net Zero), Christine Anderson (UHI Net Zero Hub), and Stephanie Strother (former UHI Energy Innovation) presented **UHI Knowledge Exchange capabilities** in the Outer Hebrides, stopping at the UHI NWH Stornoway Campus and Benbecula Learning Centre. The event engaged small businesses and community organisations and generated numerous ideas for future UHI KE Challenge Fund projects.
- The UHI-organised **Environmental Interactions of Marine Renewables (EIMR) Conference** has been confirmed for 13-17 April 2026 in Oban with a call for abstracts issued. Benjamin Williamson continues to serve on the scientific committee.
- **SFC KEIF funding** for the UHI Net Zero Hub coordinated by Christine Anderson and UHI Energy Innovation chaired by Benjamin Williamson was confirmed for 2025-26 with a KE Challenge Fund call issued.
- Christine Anderson was accepted onto the **UHI Advance HE Aurora Leadership Development Programme**.
- Benjamin Williamson was invited to participate in a **Future Marine Research Infrastructure (FMRI)** workshop on coastal autonomy, a proposed **MASTS Scotland-Northern Ireland Working Group**, and delivered an invited presentation at the **Scotland Beyond Net Zero ‘Tackling the Climate Emergency’** event in Edinburgh.

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

- Research into physics-to-ecosystem level effects of offshore wind in the **PELAgIO** project was presented by Benjamin Williamson and Julie Salvetat at the Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts in Montpellier, with >1000 attendees from >60 countries.
- The **PREDICT** project on predicting seasonal movement of marine top predators using fish movements and autonomous platforms was presented at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea Annual Science Conference in Lithuania.
- The **EQUIFY** project ‘Establishing a Framework for Quantifiable Evidence and Impact of Ecosystem Change Throughout the Lifecycle of UK Floating Offshore Wind Farms’ has completed the first ambitious multi-ship, glider and mooring campaign around Kincardine floating wind farm alongside the **eSWEETS3** project, including deploying and recovering four multi-instrument seabed monitoring platforms. The cruise was featured on BBC Countryfile in October.
- The second stage of the **Energy Catalyst** project with INGENIE Wave Energy Systems continues, towards the open-water demonstration of the wave energy converter in Indonesia.
- The 3-year **KTP** with the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) to advance techniques for environmental monitoring of marine renewable energy started in October 2025 with the Associate in place.
- The **Supergen** Offshore Renewable Energy Hub project to advance monitoring of floating tidal stream turbines has completed initial data collection in Orkney.
- Caitlin Harris secured £500 from the **Calum Davidson Memorial Prize** to support a research visit to SAMS to continue data analysis for the **IFLOW** project “Impacts of floating offshore wind infrastructure on the distribution and behaviour of harbour porpoises”.

Pollution:

Mitigating environmental contamination through innovative solutions

Highlights

- After almost 15 years at ERI, Pollution Theme Lead Mark Taggart has left.
- Following on from the myriad of **Pb ammunition research** at ERI, led by Mark Taggart - the UK Government finally announced that it plans to introduce legislation (by summer 2026) to effectively ban lead ammunition in the UK, with a three-year transition period running until 2029.
- Lydia Niemi and Mark Taggart co-authored a **report on PFAS in Scottish rivers**, commissioned by Fidra and led by the University of York as part of the UK-wide monitoring study on PFAS and pharmaceuticals
- Lydia Niemi and Stuart Gibb led development of the full stage proposal UKRI cross-research council call (£2 million) **“Pharmaceutical reduction in the environment through sustainable healthcare”** with UHI, NHS Highland, University of Nottingham, The James Hutton Institute
- Lydia Niemi, Mark Taggart, and Stuart Gibb contributed to the full stage proposal UKRI cross-research council call (£2 million) **“Calanus as vectors of pharmaceuticals and contaminants in the marine environment: PharmaCal”** led by SAMS
- The **PhD** project proposal **“Birds as Vectors of Plastics, Heavy Metals, and Pesticides in Scottish Wetlands”** (DoS: Neil James, with Elizabeth Masden, Lydia Niemi, and colleagues at RSPB and UKCEH) has been selected for advertisement by the ECOWILD CDT.
- Maria Lach-Gar completed her 6-month internship within the Pollution group - on the 8th of August - working on the **CO-OP CIF2** project with Szabolcs Pap.
- Mark Taggart and Szabolcs Pap successfully delivered an **Interface Innovation Voucher** project in partnership with Russwood Ltd.
- Szabolcs Pap has initiated a collaborative research project with **Scottish Water** and **Carbogenics** to investigate the potential of alternative carbon-based materials for the removal of priority pollutants.
- Szabolcs Pap and Mark Taggart won the **IBioIC Special Converge Award**, receiving £20k in cash and £40k in in-kind support. The award will provide support for the development of their spin-out company from UHI.
- Manuel-Thomas Valdivia (supervised by Mark Taggart and Szabolcs Pap) successfully defended his **PhD** (awarded subject to minor corrections).
- Szabolcs Pap submitted his Expression of Interest for “Green Future Fellowship”, entitled **“Phosphorus Under a Low-carbon Sustainable Era: Preventing the Undesirable Blue-Green Water Future (PULSE)”** to the Royal Academy of Engineering.
- Mark Taggart and Maider Guiu successfully completed the RSPB funded project on the **‘fate/behaviour of the noenicitinoid insecticide acetamiprid in forestry’**. A final report has been submitted to the RSPB.

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 leading a project with OHBP partners to explore if pharmaceutical load reductions can be achieved through a One Health approach combining upstream actions with wastewater treatment.
- The **CO-OP CIF2** project, in collaboration with SAMS and SRUC, is progressing well. ERI has developed innovative composite materials combining biochar and shell waste for phosphorus adsorption. These materials were trialed in plant growth experiments at SRUC over the summer of 2025.
- Szabolcs Pap and Darlene Russell are actively developing proposals and building strategic support for the UHI spin-out, **CasioPeia**, with a clear focus on planning and delivering key milestones over the next 12 months.

Peatlands:

Studying peatland resilience across scales and discipline boundaries

Highlights

- The 9th edition of the **Flow Country Conference: from Capitulum to Catchment** (28-29-30th) October sold out with 100 attendees from UK & Europe, celebrating the end of the Leverhulme Leadership Award and science in the Flow Country World Heritage Site. A special mention to Heather Johnstone who led the organisation of the conference.
- Liam Godwin secures his first **2 research grants**: one with Peatland ACTION and one with Riverwoods.
- Sam Webber and Callum Thompson have both passed their **PhD** subject to minor corrections, Jake Tuuli, Rob McHenry, John King and Rob Hughes are awaiting their viva after handing in their PhD theses in September
- The Peatland team hosted Roger Rodrigo Navarro from Barcelona as part of an **Erasmus** project supervised by Mascha Bischoff in July and August.
- The team **said goodbye** to Praveen Teleti in September, who moved on to a new role at the University of Singapore
- Marlene Mellwig successfully completed her **MSc dissertation** under Masha Bischoff's supervision, with input from Cristian Navarro Waggershauer (UHI Inverness).
- 3 major NatureScot funded **reports** involving Roxane Andersen and Chris Marshall are published as peer-reviewed publication, on the use of InSAR for monitoring peatland condition and landslide risk assessment.
- Roxane Andersen secured funding for a **NERC seedcorn** project to set up an international partnership to study peat "creep" and for a **Knowledge Transfer Partnership** with RWE to develop innovative restoration practices with excavated peat, both projects will start before the end of 2025

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

- **Leverhulme Leadership Award** (£980K, Leverhulme Trust) – this 5.5 year project is now in the final months and will conclude shortly after the Flow Country Conference. The project supported 3 PhD, 3 MRes and 9 UG students, 4 research assistants and 6 post-doctoral researchers between April 2020 and November 2025.
- **MOTHERSHIP** (£3M, lead JHI, NERC Large Grant) – at the 3.5 out of 5 year mark, the project continues to develop means of integrating a better representation of peatland in global land surface models.
- **KTP Highland Park** (£250K, lead UHI, Innovate UK) – Lewis Robertson (KTP associate) is deploying innovative trials to restore shallow peat areas on Highland Park peatland, alongside an extensive monitoring programme
- **Peatland ACTION water quality monitoring** (£20K, ERI lead, Peatland ACTION) is deploying high resolution temporal monitoring of river quality on the river Dyke to capture effects of restoration intervention
- **Riverwood development grant** (£18K, ERI lead, Riverwood) has just started and will provide a desk-based integration of spatial products to inform riparian tree planting along Flow Country Rivers

Society:

Connecting Environment, Economy and Wellbeing to environmental change

Educational Research Highlights

- Neil James (Project Coordinator) and Stuart Gibb organised and led the first meeting of the **North Highland Innovation Centre Project Task Force** in Thurso in September. The partnership involves ERI/UHI North, West and Hebrides, Caithness Chamber of Commerce, The Highland Council, HIE, NRS Dounreay/NDA, and FOCUS NORTH, and seeks to develop a business case for a transformative regional hub for innovation, enterprise, and research to support sustainable economic growth across the north Highlands. The project is funded by NDA/NRS Dounreay.
- The **Circular Ocean** and **Blue Circular Economy** projects (involving ERI's Neil James (project manager) and Elizabeth Masden), along with the follow-on project **CIRCNETS**, were collectively recognised at the **Interreg NPA Awards** with the **Award for Achieving Synergies**.
- Neil James delivered a session at the **Interreg NPA 25th Anniversary Conference – CONNECTING THE DOTS** in Bodø, Norway (October 2025).
- Lydia Niemi attended the **European Drug Utilisation Research Conference** in Uppsala, Sweden (July 2025) and co-delivered a workshop on environmental considerations in sustainable healthcare and pharmaceutical pollution. She delivered a presentation on the One Health Breakthrough Partnership and data visualisation tool overlaying environmental monitoring and prescribing data of pharmaceuticals.
- Lydia Niemi led the resubmission of the **COST Action “EcoMeds4U: Improving healthcare practices for eco-directed use of human medicines across Europe”**, with an international consortium of collaborators across 29 European countries to explore existing initiatives and harmonisation of eco-directed medicine use across Europe (62 collaborators).
- Stuart Gibb has contributed a Workpackage proposal to the next phase of the **Hydro Nation Chair** Programme. The programme is funded by Scottish Government and Scottish Water. It is led by the University of Stirling and involves several other Scottish Universities. If successful, this Workpackage will support a position in the area of One Health for a period of 6 years
- Stuart Gibb **attended Planetary Health Annual Meeting 2025 (PHAM 2025)** in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Organised by the Planetary Health Alliance conference with the support of UNESCO the theme was “Planetary Health for All and In All: Boosting Urgency and Agency for Systems Change” — inspired action and collaboration across disciplines and continents.

Current major projects/initiatives

- Lydia Niemi, Neil James, and Stuart Gibb received **funding** (£32k) from the Scottish Government Water Industry Division to support the continued coordination of the One Health Breakthrough Partnership, collaborating with SEPA, Scottish Water, NHS Highland and the Centre of Expertise for Waters.

Tourism:

Cultural heritage and responsible tourism; Slow adventure and well-being and
Tourism innovation and rural enterprise

Highlights

- Katie Murray was awarded **British Council funding** for a project to work with associate researcher Lalith Welamedage on developing cultural heritage resources for the Tea Research Institute in Sri Lanka, focussing on the experiences of Scots on tea plantations and their formative role in the industry.
- Kendra Turnbull and Katie Murray have **secured an Innovation Voucher** to work with GoGolspie on harnessing innovative digital tourism to increase overnight stays and provide an enhanced tourism offer.
- At the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) programme's 25th anniversary, in Bodo, Norway, Steve Taylor received, on behalf of his project collaborators, an **Interreg NPA Award for Shaping Sustainable Tourism**, for involvement in transnational projects that unlock the potential of sustainable tourism in the Northern Periphery and Arctic.
- Steve Taylor is second supervisor for two **new PhD students**, one funded through one of the UHI studentships, examining the role of outdoor environments to support dementia in the Scottish Highlands, and the other exploring the impacts of polar science tourism in Arctic islands.
- Katie Murray and Kendra Turnbull **secured tourism KE challenge funding** for a project with the Hynish Trust, on Tiree, to increase the skills and confidence of trust personnel in gathering and publishing local heritage stories to form part of the new interpretation, as well as enhancing their digital presence.

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

- Steve Taylor and associate researcher Lalith Welamedage have started (in October) to work with Oxfam on a **project to develop ecotourism in Cambodia**. The two-year, World Bank-funded initiative is centred on the development of CPD resources
- Katie Murray, Steve Taylor and Kendra Turnbull are working with Mel-Manwaring McKay at UHI Inverness and Prof. Peter Reid at RGU on a **project to celebrate the life and work of Charles Fraser-Mackintosh**. The year-long project is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Inverness Common Good Fund and Inverness City Heritage Trust.
- Peter White is working in collaboration with Institute for Outdoor Learning and Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee to develop and implement a **UK-wide Snapshot Survey for 2026**. This aims to capture participation and incident data across a range of outdoor adventure activity providers to help identify trends and themes, alongside exploring relationships between various contributory factors. The project has endorsement from over 12 sector representative bodies and is currently recruiting for organisations to participate. It is currently applying for an Advanced IV from Interface. [Snapshot Survey 2026](#)

Other

Highlights

- UHI NWH have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Caithness Broch Project** and The Flow Country Partnership to work together on the site intended for the first broch to be built since the Iron Age as a new visitor attraction.
- Master's nursing education researcher, Morag Forbes, completed the **2025 research data collection** and analysis of the experiences of undergraduate LGBTQ+ nurses across Scotland.
- Lewis Sturrock published **dissertation**, '[Barriers to achievement in the traditional learning model for students with autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\) in higher education in Scotland.](#)'
- Marsia Bealby published the results of her 2025 **MEd theses**, '[Collaborative and compassionate leadership: approaches for enhancing global online faculty's professional development](#)' focusing on the four identified activities of strong educational HE leaders: modelling; reducing friction; creating belonging; recognising growth.
- Dr. Eilidh Macphail was **awarded Associate Professor**, University of Highlands and Islands.
- Dr. Kara Smith served as the University of Guelph's Scottish Studies' visiting research fellow in July; acted as the external KE reviewer for Demeter Press; and **published**: 'Is the Gàidhealtachd using Gàidhlig?'
- Graham, E. *et al.* (2025). The **Kenyan Optical Telescope Initiative (KOTI)** update - met models & weather observations. **European Astronomical Society General Assembly 2025 (EAS-GA 2025)**. SS48 **European African Collaboration**, Cork, Ireland, 22-27 June 2025.
- Eddy Graham - **Winner of RMetS Gordon Manley Prize** <https://www.rmets.org/rmets-awards/2024-winners/awards-educating-inspiring-and-enthusing-2024>
- Dr. Eilidh Macphail and Dr. Tamara Griffith's **PGR student**, Anyaku Onyebuchi, began the team organisation of identifying environmental decision makers in the Outer Hebrides, working initially with Scottish Energy (SSEN).

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

- **DARA** – Development of Radio and Optical Astronomy in Africa (Eddy Graham, 10% FTE, 2024-27 & Masters student 2026) led by University of Leeds <https://www.dara-project.org/>
- **AUPP** – fresh bid (Eddy Graham, 5% FTE) led by University of Edinburgh. <https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/africa-uk-physics-partnership-collaborative-projects-2025/>

OUTPUTS

All themes and activity

Peer-reviewed publications

Journal Impact
Factor

Citation with NWH authors in bold

Price, S., **Taylor, S., Turnbull, K.** & Stafford, M.R. (2025) A regenerative approach to tourism: Learnings from community enterprises. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, Volume 51, 100900. **4.4**

Bartle, R.S. (2025). "Personal Responsibility and Contrition for Sin", *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*, vol. 43 (1), pp. 34-52

Bartle, R.S. (2025). "Reformed Confessionalism and the Belhar Confession", *Koers: Bulletin for Christian Scholarship*, vol. 90 (1). DOI: [10.19108/KOERS.90.1.2614](https://doi.org/10.19108/KOERS.90.1.2614)

Iverson, K., ... **Andersen, R.** et al. (2025) Unprecedented UK heatwave harmonised drivers of fuel moisture creating extreme temperate wildfire risk. *Nature Communications: Earth & Environment*, 6, 1, 727. **8.9**

McHenry, R., Mitchell, L., Smart, J. and **Andersen, R.** (2025) Scat-tered evidence. Understanding the diet of forest-associated mammalian mesopredators in a UK peatland ecosystem. *Ecology and Evolution*, 15 e71961 **2.3**

Hughes, R., ... **Andersen, R.**, (2025) Hydrological and vegetation change during peatland restoration at ex-forested sites in a blanket bog ecosystem. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **4.8**

Mitchell, E.,... **Andersen, R., Marshall, C.** (2025) NatureScot Research Report 1355 - A summary of surface motion remote sensing methods for the monitoring of peatland

Large, D., ... **Andersen, R., Marshall, C.** (2025) NatureScot Research Report 1344 - Use of satellite measures of surface motion to improve the assessment of peat landslide susceptibility

Large, D., ... **Andersen, R., Marshall, C.** (2025) NatureScot Research Report 1356 - Application of surface motion remote sensing to quantify the condition and trajectory of change of c.680,000 ha of peatland

O'Hanlon, N.J., Clewley, G.D., Johnston, D.T., Thaxter, C.B., Langlois Lopez, S., Quinn, L.R., Boersch-Supan, P.H., **Masden, E.A.**, Daunt, F., Wilson, J., Burton, N.H.K., Humphreys, E.M., 2025. Partial Niche Partitioning in Three Sympatric Gull Species Through Foraging Areas and Habitat Selection. *Ecology and Evolution* 15, e71577. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.71577> **2.3**

Graham, E. (2025). *Clouds: How to identify nature's most fleeting forms*. [Princeton University](https://www.princeton.edu/) Press. 9780691262482.

Thaxter, C.B., Quinn, L.R., Atkinson, P.W., Booth Jones, K.A., Clark, N.A., Clewley, G.D., Green, R.M.W., O'Hanlon, N.J., Johnston, D.T., **Masden, E.A.**, Ross-Smith, V.H., Sage, E.L., Scragg, E., Taylor, R.C., Burton, N.H.K., Humphreys, E.M., 2025. Breeding and foraging habitat are important in determining foraging ranges of sympatric generalist species. *Ibis* <https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13446> **2.1**

Gaffney, P.P., Tang, Q., Wang, J., Zhang, C., Xu, X., Xu, X., Li, Y., **Pap, S.**, Ratcliffe, J.L., Li, Q. Niu, S., 2025. The high-altitude peatland carbon cycle: A review of the impacts of climate change, human disturbance and management. *Geography and Sustainability*, 6(6). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geosus.2025.100353> **8.0**

- Cakin, I., **Pap, S., Gaffney, P.P., Guiu, M., Taggart, M.A.**, 2025. Applying biochar to treat and detoxify whisky distillery effluent. *Environmental Technology & Innovation*, p.104468. **7.1**
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eti.2025.104468>
- Zhang, H., **Pap, S., Taggart, M.A., James, N.A., Boyd, K.G., & Gibb, S.W.** (2026). Exploring the removal of flame retardants and chlorobenzenes by plastic-based materials. *Chemical Engineering Science*, 320 (Part C), 122675. **4.3**
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ces.2025.122675>
- Cubbon, K., Irving, A.D., **Taggart, M.A.**, Li, Y., Bell, M.C., Capper, A., 2025. Metal accumulation in commercially important velvet crab (*Necora puber*) in the Orkney islands, Scotland. **2.4**
Regional Studies in Marine Science, p.104313. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2025.104313>
- Goddijn-Murphy, L.M.** (2026) 10 Things to consider before approving another offshore wind farm: A case study for Highland, Scotland. *Ocean & Coastal Management*. Volume 271, 107956. **5.4**
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2025.107956>

Books and book chapters

- Smith, K.** (2025). Is the Gàidhealtachd using Gàidhlig? (Ch.8) In, Zajda, Joseph & Suzanne Majhanovich (Eds.), *Globalisation and Educational Practice for Social Justice*, Book 55. Globalisation, Comparative Education and Policy Research. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland AG Publications.
- Smith, K.** (2025). [Metacognition through Hebridean Learning Methods](#). In, Cook & McConnell Mikkelson (Eds), [New Ways to Think and Learn with Metacognition](#). Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 178-189.
- Dr. 'Eddy Weather' Graham** released his book, *Clouds: How to identify nature's most fleeting forms* with Princeton University Press.
- Mandy Haggith.** *The Lost Elms: A Love Letter to Our Vanished Trees – and the Fight to Save Them* (creative non-fiction), Wildfire, 2025, ISBN-13: 9781035412358, Hachette uk.

Conference/event presentations

- | | Poster / podium / invited |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Steve Taylor co-presented (with Ari Laakso at the University of Lapland) 'Tourism in the Making: Building Blocks from 25 Years of NPA Projects' at the Northern Periphery and Arctic programme's 25th anniversary, in Bodo, Norway. | Invited |
| Dr. Marsia Bealby presented the results of her 2025 MEd KE study, ' <i>Collaborative and compassionate leadership: approaches for enhancing global online faculty's professional development</i> ' focusing on the four identified activities of strong educational HE leaders: modelling; reducing friction; creating belonging; recognising growth. UHI. | Podium |
| Dr. Eddy Graham was invited to speak on, ' Painting the Sky: the arts and science of clouds ' at An Lanntair's 2025 FACLAN book festival, 31 October. | Invited |
| Neil James presented the session "From Awareness to Action: Ten Years of Tackling Marine Plastic Pollution in the NPA Region" at the Interreg NPA 25th Anniversary Conference – CONNECTING THE DOTS, Bodø, Norway. | Invited |
| Lydia Niemi attended the European Drug Utilisation Research Conference in Uppsala, Sweden (July 2025) and co-delivered a workshop on environmental considerations in sustainable healthcare and pharmaceutical pollution. She delivered a presentation on | Workshop invited/
podium |

the One Health Breakthrough Partnership and data visualisation tool overlaying environmental monitoring and prescribing data of pharmaceuticals.

Lydia Niemi presented at the inaugural ChemNet UK-based chemicals network event formed by Glasgow Uni, promoting OHBP data visualisation tool and OHBP partnership Invited

Szabolcs Pap attended on CONVERGE Final Award Ceremony in Edinburgh on the 2nd of October 2025 with his shortlisted project 'CassioPeia'. Podium

Szabolcs Pap was invited to speak on 'Collaborative Research and Development in Sustainability' at SULSA IndAc conference, Glasgow, 28-29 October 2025. Invited

Benjamin Williamson delivered an invited presentation at the Scotland Beyond Net Zero 'Tackling the Climate Emergency' event in Edinburgh. Invited

Research into physics-to-ecosystem level effects of offshore wind in the PELAgIO project was presented by **Benjamin Williamson** and **Julie Salvetat** at the Conference on Wind energy and Wildlife impacts in Montpellier, with >1000 attendees from >60 countries. Podium

Media coverage

PhD student recognised as UHI North, West and Hebrides Student of the Year
‘Academically excellent’ Thurso PhD student recognised for contributions to research in UHI North, West and Hebrides awards John O Groat Journal
Remarkable Students Celebrated by UHI North, West and Hebrides - The Highland Times The Highland Times
Peatlands Research
Thurso academic points to ‘global lead’ Scotland is taking thanks to work in Flow Country The Northern Times
Scotland Leads The Way in Mapping Peatland Health With New Satellite-Based Tools - The Highland Times The Highland Times
Thurso academic points to ‘global lead’ Scotland is taking thanks to work in Flow Country John O Groats Journal
BBC Radio Orkney Roxane Anderson interview on Flow Country Peatland restoration
BBC News at One Orkney Roxane Anderson interview on Flow Country Peatland restoration
BBC 1 Scotland lunch time news Roxane Anderson interview on Flow Country Peatland restoration
BBC Radio Scotland FM Roxane Anderson interview on Flow Country Peatland restoration
Reporting Scotland, evening news Roxane Anderson interview on Flow Country Peatland restoration
The Crown Estate Partnership
Crown Estate, University of Highlands and Islands Partner Up for Renewables (UK) World Ports Organization World Ports
Dr Neil James research
Killer in the nest: how young storks are being strangled by plastic Birds The Guardian The Guardian
Caithness Broch
Global gateway plan for Caithness broch build near Unesco World Heritage Site The Northern Times
Global gateway plan for Caithness broch build near Unesco World Heritage Site John O’Groat Journal

Iron Age broch could be raised as gateway to Scotland's Flow Country The Herald The Herald
Gateway bid for broch site, A proposed new Caithness broch set to be built near Latheron could become a worldwide attraction and feature as the entrance gateway to the nearby World Heritage Site. Press and Journal (print only)
First Iron Age broch to be built in 2,000 years aims to become 'must-see' Scottish tourist attraction MSN News
First Iron Age broch built in 2,000 years aims to become 'must-see' Scots attraction The Scotsman
johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/pictures-planning-approval-a-phenomenal-start-for-caithne.../ John O'Groats Journal
Plan approved to build Scotland's first broch for 2,000 years - BBC News BBC News
An ambitious plan to build Scotland's first broch in 2,000 years is to go ahead after being granted planning permission. The Herald (print only)
Dr Szabolcs Pap
Interview Dr Szabolcs Pap Water technologist – research fellow RSC Education Royal Society of Chemistry
Bay of Fundy Tidal Energy Research Project
Bay of Fundy tidal energy projects receive \$10.7M federal boost - Offshore Energy Offshore Energy
Riverwoods Blueprint Project
northern-times.co.uk/news/flow-country-rivers-to-benefit-from-woodland-plan-cash-boost-.../ North. Times
johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/flow-country-rivers-to-benefit-from-woodland-plan-cash-bo.../ John O' Groats
FRESH funding to improve waterways in the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland could see the link between land and water restored, according to those behind a new project. Caithness Courier (print only)
For Peats Sake Project CDN Awards Nomination
johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/the-community-made-its-voice-heard-on-caithness-maternity.../ John O'Groat Journal
Awards chances for college courses We Love Stornoway
Eddy Graham – weather and climate
BBC Radio London, Eddie Nestor show, 10:40am, 16 June 2025 - interview on London Heatwave.
BBC Radio 5 live 10.30pm 18 June 2025 interview on London heatwave
BBC Radio Scotland, Out of Doors podcast (summer 2025) - https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0lwc37n
Eddy Graham book reviews
mention in <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> https://www.wsj.com/arts-culture/books/clouds-review-spectacle-of-the-skies-3329b4b7
Book Review: Clouds, Edward Graham – The Eclectic Light Company
book review https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wea.7772?af=R
Szabolcs Pap Converge Awards Success
UHI innovator in Thurso secures prize at Scottish university entrepreneurs awards John O'Groats Journal
https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/media/news/uhi-innovators-win-big-at-scotlands-top-university-entrepreneurs-awards-.html UHI Press Release
Szabolcs Pap – mentioned in local journal - https://www.johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/uhi-innovator-in-thurso-secures-prize-at-scottish-university-416381/
Lydia Niemi and Mark Taggart co-authored the report featured in the BBC News - 'Forever chemical' TFA found in all but one of tested UK rivers - BBC News

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.

Note:

- New proposals submitted during this reporting period (June- October) are listed from line XXX onwards.
 - The status of pending proposals is **dynamic**; the table reflects the position as of 31/10/2025.
 - 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.
- We continue to pursue new funding opportunities, including partnerships with universities, research institutes, businesses, and other external stakeholders.

Number	proposal/theme		overall project value	NWH component	% likelihood of success	Duration (months)	Funder	% FY 24_25	%FY25_26	Status
Applications submitted September to November 2024										
446	Bridging Waters_Scotland -Sweden	SOCIETY	31,130	18,428	25	4	Scottish Government	100		secured
447	Clean CHAR_fellowship	POLLUTION	2,000,000	1,500,000			EPSRC Open Fellowship			unsuccessful
448	Bryden 2 Marine Sensing PhD	ENERGY	165,000	165,000			Peaceplus			unsuccessful
449	Dyke river salmon	PEATLANDS	30,000	30,000	50	12	NatureScot Peatland Action		50	secured
450	Sustainable Medicine Use	POLLUTION	600,000	48,000			COST EU			unsuccessful
451	Validating monitoring systems	ENERGY	125,000	97,000	25	12	SUPERGEN Flexfund		100	secured
452	Virtual Connections	TOURISM	20,000	20,000			National Lottery			unsuccessful
453	Sustainable Tourism_GURCA	TOURISM	18,000	9,000	50	6	Interface IV		100	awaiting outcome
454	PhRESH water_pharma reduction	SOCIETY	960,000	560,000	10	24	UKRI cross council		25	second stage
455	Explore Lochaber	TOURISM	95,590	70,590			SSE			unsuccessful
456	CO_IMPACT climate resilience	SOCIETY	70,000	65,000			SSE			unsuccessful
457	On the map_NLCA	TOURISM	14,000	7,000	50	6	Interface IV	100		secured
458	Value of marine structures	ENERGY	5,600,000	475,000			UKRI_Artificial Structures			unsuccessful
459	Geophysics in mapping peatlands	PEATLANDS	300,000	300,000			TOTAL			unsuccessful
460	Biochar chasing sustainability	POLLUTION	3,000,000	2,000,000			RAENG Green Futures			unsuccessful
461	PharmaCal	POLLUTION	1,200,000	250,000	10	24	UKRI cross council		25	second stage
462	ROBINSv2	ENERGY	500,000	50,000			UKRI cross council			unsuccessful
463	Plastic flow_peatland	PEATLANDS	950,000	300,000			NERC Pushing Frontiers			unsuccessful
464	Astronomy in Kenya	OTHER	100,000	15,800	50	5	DSIT	100		complete
465	GenMed	POLLUTION	2,000,000	13,000			UKRI applied global health			unsuccessful
466	KTP_RWE_peatlands	PEATLANDS	264,180	209,782	50	24	UKRI Innovate UK		35	secured
467	Russwood water quality	POLLUTION	9,500	9,500	50	4	Interface IV	100		secured
Applications submitted December 2024 to February 2025										
468	Pathways to sustainable OW	ENERGY	4,500,000	320,000			Horizon Europe_CL5			unsuccessful
469	OHBP continuation	SOCIETY/Pollution	74,000	74,000			Scottish Government			unsuccessful
470	Value of marine structures_SAMS	ENERGY	5,600,000	120,000			UKRI Artificial Structures			unsuccessful
471	Chemicals in Biosolids_PhD	POLLUTION	100,000	100,000			UHI_Scottish Water			unsuccessful
472	Peatland condition_Shetland InSAR	PEATLANDS	80,000	17,080			industry			unsuccessful
473	Dementia and Care Farms	TOURISM	9,990	310	25	9	Centre for Rural Health			complete
474	Large Heath Butterfly & Peatlands	PEATLANDS	30,000	15,000	50	42	NatureScot Peatland Action		25	unsuccessful
Applications submitted March 2025 to May 2025										
475	Global Flow Peat	PEATLANDS	100,000	60,000	25	24	UKRI global-seedcom-fund-2025		25	secured
476	WHS reviewing comments_small grant	ENERGY	3,013	3,013	100	3	highland council			complete
477	Flocculant optimisation	POLLUTION	4,445	4,445	50	3	challenge fund	100		complete
478	Industrial decarbonisation_pyrolysis	POLLUTION	90,000	50,000			Scot Gov transformation fund			unsuccessful
479	PhD Culture Vulture	POLLUTION	120,000	100,000			UHI PhD			unsuccessful
480	Go Tourism Golspie	TOURISM	17,826	9,626	50	6	Challenge fund +IV	30	70	secured
481	Dementia and care farms	TOURISM	9,861	620	50	4	challenge fund	100		complete
482	dementia and golf	TOURISM	6,999	310	50	4	challenge fund	100		secured
483	biosensors for diagnostic testing KTP	POLLUTION	10,000	10,000	100	9	KTP transfer from UHI	50	50	secured
484	Bridging Disciplines_pharma pollution	POLLUTION	5,000	5,000			RSC			unsuccessful
485	Offshore Clean Energy skills network	ENERGY	300,000	50,000			UKRI			unsuccessful
486	EU_IBIOPA	PEATLANDS	7,000,000	600,000	10	60	Horizon Europe			unsuccessful
487	Natural Capital and River Basins	PEATLANDS	80,000	30,000			CREW			unsuccessful
488	Water quality and Bathing Waters	POLLUTION	62,000	40,000			CREW			unsuccessful
489	One health Hydro Nation Partnership	POLLUTION	3,500,000	300,000	25	72	Hydro Nation Chair R & I		15	awaiting outcome
490	PeatFire	PEATLANDS	950,000	150,000	10	36	UKRI pushing frontiers			unsuccessful
491	Stories of Hynish	TOURISM	2,600	2,100	50	2	challenge funding	100		secured
492	CFM -gaelic	TOURISM	6,900	1,428	25	12	Bord Na Gaidhlig		100	secured
493	Decarbonising Scotland's Islands	ENERGY	50000	24000	10	6	ClimateXchange	10	90	unsuccessful
494	Evaluating Gull Management Programme	ENERGY	8222	4796	50	1	Inverness BID	100		unsuccessful

New proposals in this reporting period

applications submitted June 2025 to October 2025									
495 Challenge fund One Health	SOCIETY	9710	4855	100	1	KE Water Challenge		100	complete
496 Tourism in Cambodia	TOURISM	57000	57000	50	18	Oxfam Cambodia		75	secured
497 Bressay Heritage Centre	TOURISM	27500	9052	100	17	Interface IV			under development
498 Tea Plantations In Sri Lanka	TOURISM	9744	4872	50	12	British Council		100	secured
499 woodlands in flow country peatlands	PEATLANDS	22000	19609	50	18	Riverwoods development grant		75	secured
500 One Health, Pharma and rUWWTD	SOCIETY	57753	57753	50	12	Scottish Water		100	secured
501 reactive media for P removal	POLLUTION	75,000	75,000	25	12	scottish enterprise		35	awaiting outcome
502 sewage sludge to biochar_fellowship	POLLUTION	1750000	1750000	10	60	ERC Europe		0	first stage
503 regional ecosystem monitoring	ENERGY	315,000	75,000	50	6	DEFRA		100	awaiting outcome
504 stories of the sea	TOURISM	1,500,000	377,000	10	36	AHRC responsive mode		0	under development
505 Offshore wind environmental monitoring	ENERGY	4,500,000	620,000	10	48	Horizon Europe		0	first stage
506 A FiresNET	PEATLANDS	3,000,000	130,000	10	48	Horizon Europe		0	awaiting outcome
507 Marine train	ENERGY	480000	80000	10	48	EPSRC		0	first stage
508 Viking PhD	ENERGY	150000	150000	50	48	Industry		0	under development
509 One health and antibiotics_cross border	SOCIETY	1500000	40000	10	60	UKRI transdisciplinary		0	stage one
510 Legacy of Tea Plantations_additional funding	TOURISM	52300	52300	25	24	TUI storytelling theatre		35	awaiting outcome
511 Advancing peatland geotech collaboration	PEATLANDS	5000	750	50	3	RSC small grant		100	awaiting outcome
512 Birds as vectors of plastic	POLLUTION	130,000	130,000	25	42	Ecowild		0	awaiting outcome
513 Peatland evolution	PEATLANDS	10000	7500	50	24	RSE research collaboration		35	awaiting outcome
514 Eco hydro effects of pine spread	PEATLANDS	130000	130000	25	42	Ecowild Doctoral Programme		0	awaiting outcome

NB* Intervention rates vary e.g. NERC 80%. The budget shown is the total for the project
 NB**gaps in sequence indicate where unsuccessful proposals were shown on previous update

APPENDIX: STAFF BY LOCATION

Contributor	Location
Andersen, Roxane	Thurso
Anderson, Christine	Thurso (Inverness)
Bartle, Roy	Stornoway
Bealby, Marsia	Stornoway
Bischoff, Mascha	Thurso
Boyd, Kenny	Thurso
D’Arcy, Joan	Stornoway
Eager, Dannielle	Thurso
Forbes, Morag	Inverness
Gaffney, Paul	Thurso (China)
Goddijn-Murphy, Lonneke	Thurso
Godwin, Liam	Thurso
Graham, Eddy	Stornoway
Griffith, Tamara	Fort William
Guiu, Maider	Thurso
Haggith, Mandy	Oban
Harris, Caitlin	Thurso
Hughes, Rob	Thurso
James, Neil	Thurso
Johnstone, Heather	Thurso
Lach-Gar, Maria	Thurso
Macphail, Eilidh	Stornoway
Marshall, Chris	Thurso

Contributor	Location
Masden, Elizabeth	Thurso
McHenry, Rob	Thurso
Mellwig, Marlene	Inverness
Murray, Katie	Fort William
Navarro Roger, Rodrigo	Thurso
Niemi, Lydia	Thurso
Onyebuchi, Anyaku	Stornoway
Robertson, Lewis	Thurso (Orkney)
Salvetat, Julie	Thurso
Simpson, Harry	Thurso (Orkney)
Smith, Kara	Stornoway
Strother, Stephanie	Thurso
Sturrock, Lewis	Fort William
Taggart, Mark	Thurso
Taylor, Steve	Fort William
Teleti, Praveen	Thurso
Thompson, Callum	Thurso
Turnbull, Kendra	Fort William
Valdivia, Manuel-Thomas	Inverness
Webber, Sam	Thurso
Welamedage, Lalith	Fort William
White, Peter	Fort William
Williamson, Benjamin	Thurso