

Participant Information Sheet

Version No: 1.0 17/02/2025

TRANSECTS: TRANSitions in Energy for Coastal Communities across Time and Space

We invite you to participate in the TRANSECTS research project.

What is the project about?

The shift to marine renewable energies will transform the sustainability (the balance between economic growth, social well-being, and environmental care) and resilience (adapting to change, adversity and new opportunities) of coastal communities and adjacent seas. History tells us that previous energy transitions have led to profound environmental and socio-cultural change for local communities due to their often boom-and-bust nature.

Our team will explore previous experiences of these energy transitions. We will examine the shifts from non-renewable marine energy sources: **Whale oil** (1800 to 1900s), **Oil and gas** (later-1900s to present) and **Renewable energy** (early-2000s to present).

We will assess the raw energy sources and examine how nearby communities have been affected during transitions. We will investigate the fairness and equity of decisions made.

We will work directly with coastal communities to develop strategies to enable energy transitions that increases resilience for them, and the environment they depend on.

Find out more about the project on our website: <https://transects.org.uk>

Three case study areas: Orkney | East Coast Scotland (Aberdeenshire) | Humber Estuary

Each area has changed their main marine energy economic activity from whale oil via offshore fossil fuels to marine renewable energies and has experienced changing economic fortunes, marginalisation and (often hidden) hardship caused by these transitions.

There are 4 interlinked research themes in the TRANSECTS project:

Natural Capital Stocks and flows - TRANSECTS will take a natural capital approach to ensure that society's dependence on natural resources for energy is considered when assessing the impacts of marine energy transitions and how they have affected coastal community resilience.

Re-peopling the past (UHI Team lead) – Using arts and humanities methods TRANSECTS will explore how communities understand and interpret the changes caused by energy



transitions, using creative, heritage and archaeology-based, participatory mapping and place-based approaches.

Just Transition – TRANSECTS will examine the impacts of marine energy transitions on people and places, with an emphasis on just and unjust transitions, and compare indicators of social and political economy change for coastal communities.

Theory of Change – with an ‘Energy Transitions Atlas’ we will assist communities to develop strategies to enable future marine energy transitions that increase the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

Who we are

This research project activity is being run by a team from the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Archaeology Institute based at UHI Orkney. The TRANSECTS project is led by Heriot-Watt University (PI Prof Karen Alexander) in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen, University of Hull, University of Strathclyde and Daryl Burdon Ltd.

This information sheet is for project activity being run by the team from the University of the UHI Archaeology Institute, UHI Orkney, with David Atkinson of the University of Hull.

The project is funded by [UK Research and Innovation](#) (UKRI)

It is anticipated that the project will run until April 2028.

Why do we need your help?

The project is only possible by working with coastal communities, individuals and organisations to explore the questions raised by this research. We strive to make our research activities open, inclusive and fair to those involved, and will work with participants to ensure this is the case. We greatly value your contribution and look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the project team.

What is involved?

The UHI Team will explore a set of key research questions:

- How can learnings from the experiences of different coastal communities during past energy transitions help present-day communities to develop strategies to enable energy transitions that increase coastal resilience?
- How are present-day communities understanding, impacted by, and responding to marine energy transitions?
- How can arts and humanities approaches (including creative, heritage, archaeology and geography methods) be used to record how and where the human consequences of transitions occur, including intergenerational dimensions and inequalities?

- How can creative methods (integrated with community dialogue and scientific research/expertise) enable coastal communities to explore their roles and responses to energy transitions?

What would taking part involve?

You would be contributing to a series of interlinked and staged activities in each of the three case study areas that the UHI team and partners will undertake:

- **Knowledge exchange workshops and interviews** - used to co-develop methods and gather responses to the research questions.
- **Place-based activities** - walkshops will enable participants to think outside, exploring the topics and gather responses whilst walking in the landscape.
- **Creative activities** - creative activities such as collage and interventions will be used to explore the topics, and gather responses from participants.
- **Participatory mapping** – this will be used to explore the topics using maps as a tool for thinking and sharing in workshops inside and in the landscape.

Your contributions will contribute to:

- Written summaries, reports and publications
- Websites – project web pages, blogs and social media
- Story maps - collation of research, histories and responses into an interactive online map
- Exhibitions – travelling exhibitions sharing the results of the project

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Energy transitions affect us all. Your contribution to the project would support the core aims of the research, to work together to develop strategies to enable energy transitions that increase resilience, and are fair and just, for coastal communities and their environment in the future.

Personal benefits may include knowledge exchange between individuals and organisations with an interest in the project topic. Health and well-being benefits from engaging with creative and outdoor activities.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We realise that project such as these can cause a burden on people's time. There is a risk that participants in large research projects can suffer engagement fatigue. We will endeavour to keep our activities well-coordinated and concise.

It is possible that you may contribute responses or information that you wish to withdraw. Whilst you are free to withdraw from the project at any time, it may not be possible to withdraw your contributions if they have been published in reports, publications or online.

Further supporting information

- **Withdraw your research consent:** You can withdraw your research consent at any time during the project in writing by letter / email or verbally to the main UHI team project contact (Dan Lee). Once material has been published or reports issued it will not be possible to withdraw these materials from publication.
- **Data storage:** Your contact data and any responses to the workshops will be stored on secure SharePoint folders maintained by UHI / Heriot-Watt University.
- **Financial gain:** the project is funded by UKRI to support partner activities during the project. None of the project partners will make personal or commercial financial gain from this research project.

Data protection

Identity of the Data Controller and Data Protection Officer

The data controller is the University of the Highlands and Islands, UHI House, Old Perth Road, Inverness, IV2 3J. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at: dataprotectionofficer@uhi.ac.uk.

For questions about the research study please contact:

UHI team: [Dr Antonia Thomas](#) (lead), [Anne Bevan](#), [Dr Jennifer Harland](#), [Dan Lee](#) with [Prof David Atkinson](#) (University of Hull).

Main UHI team contact: Dan Lee Daniel.Lee@uhi.ac.uk (Research Associate)

The TRANSECTS research project team includes: Heriot-Watt University, the University of Aberdeen, University of Hull, University of Strathclyde and Daryl Burdon Ltd.

Personal data processing purposes:

Purpose 1: Recruitment and administration of research participants

Processing your personal data to administer your contribution to the research activity. This will, or may, include: your research activity preferences, availability, demographic information, contact details, research consent form.

Processing will include:

Purpose 1A: Directly contacting individuals who are actively engaged with the subject areas being researched.

Purpose 1B: Receiving applications / notes of interest in taking part in the research activity

Purpose 1C: Collecting details from participants who attend scheduled research events

Purpose 1D: Inviting you to take part in research activities

Purpose 1E: Research and personal data consent management

Purpose 2: Research data collection

Research participants will engage with the research activities, including those outlined in the 'What would taking part involve?' section of this PIS.

If you are invited to, or attend, any research activity then specific information about the particular activity and research (and personal) data collection methods will be provided. You will be free at any time, before an activity, to change your mind and not take part.

Some research activities (online and in person) will, or may, be recorded (audio/video) for the purposes of research data collection, and research outputs. This will be explained to you before any research activity. Recordings will form part of the research material – recordings may be further processed – for example they may be transcribed or edited.

Purpose 3: Research analysis and synthesis

The TRANSECTS research project team will examine, analyse and synthesise the research data as part of the research project.

Purpose 4: Research dissemination

Research outcomes will be communicated and published. The research team will not publish any information that reveals personal data collected during the research process (unless consent is given for this). You must also read the rest of this notice to understand research data re-use.

The research outcomes will be communicated in any format including but not limited to:

- Written summaries, reports and publications
- Websites – project web pages, blogs and social media
- Story maps - collation of research, histories and responses into an interactive online map
- Exhibitions – travelling exhibitions sharing the results of the project

This may include, for example, reproducing research contributions, including verbatim quotes from individuals, – without identifying the individual.

You will, or may, be asked for your consent to be identified as the giver of certain information or a quote – names, images, voices, etc.

Purpose 5: Research storage, archiving, re-use, and further research

All research data and project data and outputs will be stored by the project team and may be accessible to all the TRANSECTS research project team.

All, or any part, of the project data and outputs will be stored by the TRANSECTS research project team. This information may be held temporarily or archived, by any of these parties.

All, or any part, of the project data and outputs will be deposited with the UK Data Service [UK Data Service](#). Information deposited will not reveal personal data collected during the research process (unless consent is given for this).

All, or any part, of the project data and outputs will be deposited with relevant archive centres, including local and regional archives, and archives of thematic relevance to the research project. Information deposited will not reveal personal data collected during the research process (unless consent is given for this).

Lawful basis for processing personal data:

Use is necessary for the performance a task in the public interest (with a basis in law) or under official authority vested in us (public task). In this case the undertaking of education or research by the University or its students in keeping with the University's public task. This public task including the planning, delivery, and communication of research. Research includes conducting the research and the taking all required steps to ensure the safety, validity and academic integrity of the research. It may also include re-use of the research data for further research, storage for later inspection, auditing and archiving.

Special category data

The data being collected may include special category (sensitive) data, and we use this sensitive data under the following legal condition(s):

The UHI research team does not intend to pro-actively elicit sensitive personal data in the course of the project. However, in some cases, individuals may choose to provide such information, for example, for reasons of background or context when making a point when taking part. Where such information is provided it may be recorded in keeping with the research data collection methods being used at the time. Where special category (sensitive) information is provided it will be processed under the following basis: Processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes. That purpose being the undertaking or research by the University.

Your data will or may be shared with the following recipients or categories of recipients:

- This research project is part of the wider TRANSECTS project. This project is being undertaken by a group of organisations, those being: Heriot-Watt University (lead partner), University of Aberdeen, University of Hull, University of Strathclyde, Daryl Burdon Ltd. Any information collected or created as part of this process will, or may, be shared with any of these parties (and their agents/contractors)
- Anonymised research data, and research data outputs (anonymised) will be made publicly accessible through responsible repositories such as the [UK Data Service](#).
- Relevant archive centres, including local and regional archives, and archives of thematic relevance to the research project



- The University of the Highlands and Islands and its [Academic Partner Organisations](#), (and the same individuals and groups listed in the following list in respect of the other project partners) including:
- Relevant UHI exam boards comprising UHI and external representatives.
- All individuals to whom UHI considers access should be granted for academic integrity, safety and safeguarding, marking, audit, records management, library, archiving, and quality assurance purposes (and to ensure all data is handled, and research conducted, in keeping with UHI's policies and procedures). The parties may include UHI staff, contractors or selected external individuals. Such access will only be used as necessary.
- Data may be handled by UHI, or academic partner, ICT or records management staff who are required to undertake actions to keep the data safe, maintain data integrity, or ensure the data is handled and secured in keeping with UHI's data policies and procedures. The parties may include UHI staff, contractors or selected external individuals. Such access will only be used as necessary.
- Service providers providing, under contract, services to UHI that are used for the research purposes such as productivity tools (eg Microsoft Word etc), storage areas, analysis, transcription, or any other service relevant to the research.
- For any questions about data sharing please contact the research supervisor or principal investigator listed in this document.
- Research outputs (not including personal data) will be published in any form and in any location.
- Research outputs that include personal data will only be published with your consent. Please see the relevant consent question and privacy notice available from the link in the 'international transfers' section below or from research project staff.
- Research data will, or may, be re-used by other researchers in future. They may share the data with other individuals or groups as required by their research.

International Transfers

The research output in the form of reports, videos, sound recordings (both digital and physical) will, or may, be shared online, and as such, may be shared digitally across international boundaries. Where such material includes, with your consent, personal data (for example: your words (attributed to you), your voice, image, video or sound recording) this transfer will be made based on your consent – further information is provided in the [privacy notice here](#).

Retention

Your data will be retained for the following length of time:

All research data (including personal data and recordings) may be held until, at least, the end of the project. It is anticipated that the project will end in 2028.



The personal data within the research data will, or may, be held for longer and will, or may, be archived for future scientific or historical research, re-use, and other archiving purposes in the public interest.

As such, the personal data collected may be held indefinitely by any of the project partners and by any of the repositories with which the research data is lodged (please see the 'Your data will or may be shared with the following recipients or categories of recipients' section of this privacy notice).

This retention period is in respect of the personal data processed. Anonymised data may be kept for longer and the retention period does not apply to any materials published as a result of this project – it may not be possible to retract material that has been published.

Other organisations with whom any of the material has been lodged (eg UK Data Service or other archives) may retain the data for a different period. This period may be indefinite where the data is used for archiving, statistical or research purposes.

Source of the personal data – Purpose 1A

Purpose 1A: Directly contacting individuals who are actively engaged with the subject areas being researched.

The researchers may seek information, including contact details, about individuals who are actively engaged with the subject areas. This information will, or may, be retrieved through web searches, websites, or any other published materials (eg magazines, specialist publications, membership lists). In these cases, the information will have been procured from those sources.

The following are your rights in respect of the processing set out in this Participant Information Sheet:

- The right to withdraw consent if consent is our lawful basis for processing your data in this privacy notice
- The right to access your personal data
- The right to rectification if the personal data we hold about you is incorrect
- The right to restrict processing of your personal data
- The right to request erasure (deletion) of your personal data
- The right to data portability
- You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office about our handling of your data.