



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

AHRC

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Research Grants - Standard PROPOSAL

Document Status: With Council

AHRC Reference: AH/T012218/1

Research Grants (open call)

Organisation where the Grant would be held

Organisation	National Museums of Scotland	Research Organisation Reference:	SHAMG Hoard
Division or Department	Scottish History and Archaeology		

Project Title [up to 150 chars]

Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard

Start Date and Duration

a. Proposed start
date

01 September 2020

b. Duration of the grant
(months)

36

Applicants

Role	Name	Organisation	Division or Department	How many hours a week will the investigator work on the project?
Principal Investigator	Dr David Goldberg	National Museums of Scotland	Scottish History and Archaeology	■
Co-Investigator	Dr Susanna Harris	University of Glasgow	School of Humanities	■

Data Management

Has this proposal been written in line with your organisation's and AHRC's data management policies? See Help for full details. Yes

Objectives

List the main objectives of the proposed research in order of priority [up to 4000 chars]

The Galloway hoard is unique among Viking-age hoards in the British Isles and Ireland in its wealth of surviving organic and inorganic materials preserved as complex wrapped bundles, caches and groupings. This project seeks:

Objective 1. To question the process and purpose of assembling and collecting a hoard. This project will maximise the unique potential of the range of material in the Galloway hoard, the rare opportunities presented by the organic preservation and the complex structure, to explore the process of collecting objects, wrapping them, and assembling them into hoards.

Objective 2. To achieve a comprehensive understanding of every object in the hoard.

Objective 3. To understand the composition, geographical origin, age and accumulation processes of the full range of materials contained within the hoard.

Objective 4. To evaluate the significance of all objects within the Galloway hoard in terms of their regional, national and international context.

Objective 5. To promote understanding of the on-going research for the wider public.

Summary

Describe the proposed research in simple terms in a way that could be publicised to a general audience [up to 4000 chars].

Note that this summary may be published on the AHRC's website in the event that a grant is awarded

The Galloway hoard is the richest, most varied and well-preserved collection of precious and exotic objects surviving from Viking-age Britain and Ireland. Buried around AD 900, it is both Scotland's earliest Viking-age silver bullion hoard and the

largest collection of gold surviving from that period in Britain and Ireland. Beyond the silver, familiar from most Viking-age hoards, and the much rarer gold, is an unprecedented array of inorganic materials such as bronze, glass, and rock crystal, entangled with the outstandingly rare preservation of organic materials (wood, leather, wool, linen, and silk). For example: a gold-mounted rock-crystal jar, likely to originate from the Byzantine Empire or perhaps beyond in the Islamic caliphate, is wrapped in several layers of textile including Scotland's earliest examples of silk; both this exotic fabric and the crystal jar could have travelled thousands of miles to reach Scotland.

Most hoards are usually interpreted as buried wealth, with the focus on events surrounding the moment of burial. The Galloway hoard challenges this view, and presents a rare opportunity to ask in much more detail about: how, and why, people assembled and collected hoards during the Viking Age? Four distinct caches within the Galloway hoard, exceptionally preserved with associated textiles, leather wrappings and a wooden box, take us beyond the usual perspective of hoards as a single mass of objects. Through a range of digital imaging techniques, scientific analysis and radiocarbon dating we will piece together clues from the history (biographies) of objects in order to examine the process of assembling the different parts of this spectacularly rich collection in the years (and perhaps even centuries) before its final burial.

This project brings together expertise in hoards and hoarding at National Museums Scotland and archaeological textiles and leather at University of Glasgow. Three Postdoctoral Research Assistants will tackle different aspects of the hoard: the silver which forms the bulk of the contents; the gold, glass, rock crystal and other inorganic materials; and the 250 detached fragments of organic material (mostly textiles). The latter will be identified, analysed and mapped back within the four caches, especially the wrapped lidded vessel containing complex bundles. Once recorded and studied these organic fragments will then form the basis for a fine-grained radiocarbon dating programme by Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC). Integrating this with all the other project findings will produce rare insights into the biographies of the many objects and the accumulation of this hoard before its final deposition. We will be collaborating with a range of specialist institutions. The breadth and depth of the contextual setting of the Galloway hoard stretching from Britain to the Byzantine Empire, and perhaps beyond, will attract international specialists to five workshops: 1) Wrapping and Reliquaries; 2) Silk and International Connections; 3) Late Anglo-Saxon Metalwork; 4) Viking-age Gold; 5) Mixed Materials, Exotica, Curios and Heirlooms.

Originating from distant lands, accumulated over many years, and containing sacred and secular items, the objects, bundles and composition of the Galloway hoard has currently unrealised potential to challenge our understanding of what constitutes a hoard in Early Medieval Europe and beyond. The significance of the Galloway hoard extends beyond the Viking Age, not just because of its international context, but because of its exceptional preservation. This significance will be assessed in a final symposium focusing on new approaches to assembling and collecting hoards. Key outputs will include two books from the workshops and symposium, targeted journal articles, an exhibition in four venues around Scotland accompanied by public and schools programmes, rich digital media activity and dedicated pages on National Museums Scotland's website.

Outputs

The main outputs of the research

Ethical Information

Are there ethical implications arising from the proposed research ?

No

Provide details of what they are and how they would be addressed [up to 1000 characters]

Does the institution have a policy on good conduct in research? Yes

Details of where the policy can be accessed

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/collections-research/our-research/collections-and-research-policies/>

Academic Beneficiaries

Describe who will benefit from the research [up to 4000 chars].

[Redacted content]

Impact Summary

Impact Summary (please refer to the help for guidance on what to consider when completing this section) [up to 4000 chars]

In 2017, the PI (Goldberg) spearheaded a fundraising campaign for £1.98 million to acquire the Galloway hoard for the nation, in accordance with the Treasure Trove process. The National Museums Scotland (NMS) campaign was generously supported by the National Heritage Memorial Fund (£1million), the Art Fund (£400,000) and the Scottish Government (£150,000), but it was hundreds of individual donations that made up the total. Central to the campaign was an exhibition in NMS, visited by thousands of people, with the PI giving daily tours for 6 months. Social media reached over 750,000 people with 471,128 viewing 17 Facebook posts, 51,948 page views to all Hoard web-pages with five videos (including two live broadcasts) achieving 100,050 views. People responded to the call that: "With your support, the precious items in the Hoard - some of which have never before been found in Britain - can speak to us across the centuries and teach us things we've never imagined about our ancestors, history and heritage" (Galloway Hoard Appeal, NMS). It is now the sincere intention of this project to fulfil that promise.

Having garnered local, national and international support amongst the general public and academic communities for the research potential of the hoard, this project will maintain this enthusiasm by extending the available data and presenting it to the public through a touring exhibition, presentations, schools engagement and digital media.

An "Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard" exhibition will originate in Edinburgh and then tour to Kirkcudbright, responding to demand from local communities close to where the hoard was discovered, and also to Aberdeen and Dundee. The digital content of the exhibition will be updated for each venue based on the on-going research and supported by public lectures from the project team, and school activities. These museums and galleries, and the communities they serve will reap the benefits of international standard research in material culture studies. A public programme of talks and tours, (in real-time, videoed and archived on-line) will spotlight the on-going AHRC research for visitors to NMS and the touring venues, as well as people around the UK who cannot come to see the hoard itself on display.

The "Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard" project will also have an impact beyond these shores to an even greater range of people around the world who are fascinated with the Viking Age. As well as people from across the UK and Ireland, the exhibition at NMS will attract a high proportion of international visitors, especially during the Edinburgh Festival. However, digital outputs, the on-line presence of this project, and the variety of dissemination channels will extend the reach of this research further to international audiences. An annual update of the project will be presented to the public at NMS as part of Scottish Archaeology Month.

The long-term legacy of this AHRC research will be in the displays of Galloway hoard material at Kirkcudbright Art Gallery, the closest appropriate venue to where the hoard was discovered, and in the next decade the Galloway hoard will become a centre-piece of the transformation of the new permanent galleries in the National Museum of Scotland.

"Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard" will generate new information about hoards, why people assembled such collections and how these can contribute to our understanding of the past in surprising ways. This National Museums Scotland partnership with the University of Glasgow puts this project in a unique position to create and communicate this knowledge to both non-academic and expert audiences. Our research on this collection of mixed cultural origin, accumulated over generations, and travelling great distances has the potential to reveal new insights about the world during the Viking Age and the development of national histories and identities at a crucial point during the 10th century AD.

Summary of Resources Required for Project

Financial resources

Summary fund heading	Fund heading	Full economic Cost	AHRC contribution	% AHRC contribution
Directly Incurred				
Directly Allocated				
Indirect Costs				
Exceptions				

Summary of staff effort requested

	Months

Other Support

Details of support sought or received from any other source for this or other research in the same field.

Awarding Organisation	Awarding Organisation's Reference	Title of project	Decision Made (Y/N)	Award Made (Y/N)	Start Date	End Date	Amount Sought / Awarded (£)

Staff

Directly Incurred Posts

Role	Name /Post Identifier	Start Date	EFFORT ON PROJECT		Scale	Increment Date	Basic Starting Salary	London Allowance (£)	Super-annuation and NI (£)	Total cost on grant (£)
			Period on Project (months)	% of Full Time						
										6
Researcher	Dr A M Makin									
Total										

Applicants

Role	Name	Post will outlast project (Y/N)	Contracted working week as a % of full time work	Total number of hours to be charged to the grant over the duration of the grant	Average number of hours per week charged to the grant	Rate of Salary pool/banding	Cost estimate
Principal Investigator	Dr David Goldberg						
Co-Investigator	Dr Susanna Harris						
						Total	

[illegible]

Description	Total £
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[illegible]

Estates Costs

Amount (mandatory)		
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Indirect Costs

Amount (mandatory)		
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Proposal Classifications

Research Area:

Research Areas are the subject areas in which the research proposal may fall and you should select at least one of these. Once you have selected the relevant Research Area(s), please ensure that you set one as primary.

To add or remove Research Areas use the relevant link below. To set a primary area, click in the corresponding checkbox and then the Set Primary Area button that will appear.

Subject	Topic	Keyword
Archaeology	Archaeological Theory	
Archaeology	Archaeology Of Literate Societies [Primary]	
Archaeology	Science-Based Archaeology	

Qualifier:

Qualifiers are terms that further describe the area of your research and cover aspects such as approach, time period, and geographical focus. Please ensure you complete this section if relevant.

To add or remove Qualifiers use the links below.

Type	Name
Geographic Area	UK & Ireland
Geographic Area	Western Europe
Time Period	Early Medieval: c.400 - 1100

Free-text Keywords:

Free-text keywords may be used to describe the subject area of the proposal in more detail. It is particularly important that you provide these where the Research Area(s) you have selected are only defined to two levels.

To add or remove those previously added use the links below.

Free-text Keywords
Archaeological Material Culture
Archaeological Textile
Assemblage
Hoard

Classification

Is your research multidisciplinary (i.e. involves researchers from two or more different disciplines)?

Yes ☒ No

Is your research interdisciplinary (i.e. applies methods and approaches of several disciplines)?

☒ Yes No