

Application for access to Museum nan Eilean collections for research and analysis

The Museum nan Eilean (MnE) collections are available to the public for research and education purposes. Access to collection objects, including destructive or non-destructive sampling, requires permission and is in accordance with the MnE Access Policy.

Requests for access to objects from MnEs collections must be made in writing using the application form below and submitted to the Collections Officer. Applications will be approved, denied or referred to the Collections Committee for further consideration. Applications identified for further consideration will be considered at the following Collections Committee meeting and the applicant informed of a decision in due course.

Where appropriate, applications will be considered in relation to:

- The scientific, cultural and historical importance of the object to be sampled
- The rarity of the object
- The condition and any potential damage caused by access
- The needs of users, both in the present and future, will also be considered.
- Legal and ethical issues
- The potential significance of research outcomes and results will be taken into account

MnE reserves the right to consult relevant external professionals for advice on whether to approve a request for access.

The aims, objectives and projected outcomes of the research must be clearly stated. The methodology should include a rationale for proposed sampling methods and analytical techniques chosen, and any consideration of alternative techniques. The removal of samples must be undertaken by a suitably experienced person, indicated in the methodology.

Research access to the museum collections will be at MnE. Only in exceptional circumstances will objects from the collection be allowed to travel. Removal of an object from MnE will require a loan request that should be submitted alongside the sampling request. Loans of collection objects will be subject to a MnE loan agreement.

Samples should be removed in a manner which minimises any impact on the object, visual or otherwise. The sample should be as small as possible, but sufficient for purpose.

Upon completion, or if the project is not completed, the museum should be notified and arrangements made for the samples to be returned as soon as possible.

MnE and staff must be acknowledged in any publications or reports, and copies of all such literature must be submitted to MnE to be added to the object file. The museum retains intellectual property rights associated with museum objects and samples removed from them.

Failure to comply with the conditions outlined above may impact on future applications by the applicant or applicant institution.