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# Statement on Research and Evaluation Ethics

September 2024

## Purpose

In evaluation, a research ethics statement is crucial for guiding responsible and ethical research practices. It provides a framework to maintain integrity, protect participants, uphold transparency, and foster trust in the evaluation process, ensuring the reliability of obtained results.

## Our Commitment

At the AHF, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of research and evaluation ethics in all our endeavours. Our approach to data collection is rooted in transparency, integrity, and a sense of responsibility toward our funders and the projects we support.

Data collection within the AHF aligns with its strategic objectives by:

- Upholding accountability to our funders
- Attracting more funding and investment
- Influencing sector-wide policies and practices
- Capturing valuable learning and insights on our programmes

Upholding accountability to our funders is paramount in our data collection strategy. By monitoring and evaluating the impact of our programmes, we provide our funders with clear, evidence-based insights into how their contributions are making a difference. This commitment to accountability ensures that our funding partners are well-informed, fostering trust and confidence in the effectiveness of our initiatives. We see this transparency as a fundamental aspect of our responsibility to those who invest in our vision and share our commitment to supporting the conservation of historic buildings and their community-led reuse.

We recognise the critical role that data plays in demonstrating the impact of our work, thereby enhancing our ability to secure financial support for our initiatives. This funding is vital for the sustainability and growth of our programmes, enabling us to extend our reach and make a more profound impact on the projects we support.

Furthermore, our commitment to ethical research extends beyond financial considerations. Through data-driven narratives, we not only demonstrate accountability but also champion the transformative impact of heritage and community-led regeneration. The data we collect becomes not only a measure of success but also a tool for inspiring broader conversations and actions.

We view data as a powerful tool for capturing learning and insight into the effectiveness of our programmes. By evaluating our initiatives, we not only ensure accountability to our stakeholders but also foster a culture of continuous improvement and curiosity. The knowledge gained through systematic evaluation allows us to refine our strategies, optimise resource allocation, and adapt our approaches to better address the evolving needs of our beneficiaries. Emphasising that not meeting targets or experiencing failures is a natural part of this process, we prioritise learning from such instances to enhance overall impact of our initiatives.

### **Our approach:**

We are committed to the principle of proportionality in our data collection efforts. Recognising that charities and social enterprises we support are often small or entirely voluntary-led organisations and have limited capacity, we endeavour to minimise what data we ask them to gather and report. This principle dictates that the information requested is proportional to the amount of investment they have received— a small grant of £5k should incur a smaller amount of data gathering than a loan of £500k, for example. We believe that aligning our requests with the scale of support provided ensures fairness and acknowledges the diverse capacities of the organisations we work with.

In our pursuit of knowledge, we are committed to protecting the privacy of organisations we support. We adhere to strict ethical guidelines, ensuring that data is collected and utilised lawfully. We strive to engage in participatory and inclusive research methodologies that engage with those directly affected by our initiatives. For more details on our commitment to privacy, please refer to our comprehensive [privacy policy](#) available on our website.

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