

SAMS Proposed New Chair

Diana Murray



Diana Murray has worked in the cultural and historic environment sector for over 40 years and was the Chief Executive of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and latterly, joint CEO of Historic Scotland (HS), managing a major change programme until October 2015 in preparation for when the new body, Historic Environment Scotland, took over the roles of both these two successful heritage organisations. She retired from HES at the end of 2016.

During her career, she developed RCAHMS into a major national collection for the historic environment. She led the transformation of the national record into a world class online spatially enabled and publicly accessible resource and is passionate about engaging public interest through cross cultural understanding and enjoyment of both the historic and natural environment in Scotland. Under her leadership, RCAHMS was the first National Collection in Scotland to be recognised as an Independent Research Organisation by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and developed close ties with a number of universities to deliver collaborative PhDs.

She is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and an Honorary Fellow of the School of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of Edinburgh; a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Scottish Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Institute of Directors. She has extensive experience of governance in the charity sector. She was for many years a non-executive director of the National Trust for Scotland and recently stood down following a term of 8 years on the board of the Scottish Waterways Trust. She is currently a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, the Scottish Seabird Centre in North Berwick, and the Scottish International Education Trust, as well as the Chair of Arts and Business Scotland. In January 2019, she was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours list.