The inclusive nature of residents’ emotional attachments to their local historic environments

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Research questions

1 How did the emotional attachment to the historic environment demonstrate some inclusive attributes?

2 What do such attributes suggest for heritage conservation at the community level, and, more ambitiously, for heritage education?
Context

Place attachment / place identity / sense of place

Sense of belongings, well-beings, community identity, social capital, social coherence, etc.

Civic action

Place disruption / place attachment disruption

Development or redevelopment of historic spaces

Pro-environment behaviour

Joining local civic associations

Local protest, campaigns
Case study area and sampling
Method

Attachment

Demographic profile

Place of residence

- gender
- age
- ethnicity
- employment status
- tenure
- education attainment
- family history of living in Edi (newcomer, 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd- generation Edi citizens)
- EIMD (Scottish Multiple Index of Deprivation re-ranked for Edi)
- live in a Conservation Area
Results

EIMD (Scottish Multiple Index of Deprivation re-ranked for Edi)

gender
age
ethnicity
employment status
tenure
education attainment
family history of living in Edi (newcomer, 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd- generation Edi citizens)

live in a Conservation Area
To assess *the special architectural and historic interest* of heritage (or more broadly the historic spaces, places and environment) requires special expertise, whereas talking about place attachment allows people from all backgrounds to be involved.

Community participation in historic environment conservation

Young people and heritage education
“Rescue the geographies” of the affective connection between people and places (Jones and Evans 2012)

There are historic places of emotional significance which should not be disregarded in local development and planning, though they may not meet the criteria of a listed building or conservation area designation.
Challenges

1. Individualised attachment vs. shared value
2. Feel attached but not engaged (*Enthusiasts*)
3. Attachment is changing, fluid and adaptable
Thank you very much!