

P1088 Following the Fish
RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	GB/1741/P1088
Alternative reference number:	-
Title:	Following the Fish
Dates of creation:	c.1927-2025
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	1 bundle, 30 digital files
Format:	Paper, photograph, .jpg (JPEG), .mp3 (MP3) .mov (Quick Time Movie), .mp4 (MP4), .docx (MSWord), .pdf (PDF)

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:	Most photographers are unknown, digital copies of photographs were deposited by family members and friends of Herring Girls; oral history interviewer, Kathleen Robertson; family trees by C. Anne Fraser; all other material produced by the Following the Fish project (more info below)
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Administrative history:	For over 100 years the Herring Girls were the backbone of the UK's fishing industry. Following the Fish was a joint project run by High Life Highland's Archive Service in partnership with Suffolk Archives, the Norfolk Record Office, and Tasglann nan Eilean (the Hebridean Archives) to capture their stories.
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The project team put out a call for records in 2024. This led to correspondence and interviews with Herring Girls and their families to capture memories, as well as digitise photographs and records detailing their work, travel, leisure time and wider experiences.

The project launched in-person exhibitions in Wick (Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives) and Ipswich (Suffolk Archives) in May 2025, followed by an extensive touring

exhibition around the Highlands and Islands, and Suffolk and Norfolk. The exhibition is also available [online](#).

The Caithness Archive continues to collect or digitise photographs and records relating to the Herring Girls. Please speak to a member of staff if you would like to deposit towards the collection

Custodial history:

The collection includes many digital copies of photographs. The original photographs are still in the custody of family members and friends of Herring Girls

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Digital copies of photographs and one oral history interview captured during the project; research notes from interviews conducted as part of the project; exhibition material

Appraisal:

None

Accruals:

Expected

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access:

Open

Closed until:

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Access conditions:

Available within the archive searchroom

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available within the archive searchroom and [online](#)

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

WS/1 – Donald Waters and Sons Fishcurers
SUTH/5 – Oral Histories
Am Baile – Please see [website](#) which contains many digital images of Herring Girls

Publication:

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Notes:

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Date of catalogue:

2025

Ref.	Description	Dates
P1088	Following the Fish	c.1927-2025
P1088/1	Case Studies of Individual Herring Girls	c.1927-2025
P1088/1/1	Agnes Murray	c.1927-2025
P1088/1/1/1	Digital copy of a photograph of a group of Herring Girls, Agnes Murray fourth from right (1 digital file)	c.1927-1936
P1088/1/1/2	Digital copy of a photograph of a group of Herring Girls and three men, Agnes Murray middle row, on the right, Bella Murray [Agnes's sister] front row, far left (1 digital file)	c.1927-1936
P1088/1/1/3	Digital copy of a photograph of a group of Herring Girls in their 'Sunday best', Agnes Murray third from right (1 digital file)	c.1927-1936
P1088/1/1/4	Digital copy of a photograph of Herring Girls and fishermen (1 digital file)	c.1927-1936
P1088/1/1/5	Digital copy of a photograph of a group of men including Agnes Murray's husband Harry Grant second from left (1 digital file)	c.1927-1936
P1088/1/1/6	Digital copy of a photograph of Agnes Grant (née Murray) and her husband Harry Grant on their wedding day in Lowestoft (1 digital file)	Nov 1936
P1088/1/1/7	Digital copy of a photograph of two women in a photographer's studio, Bella Murray (Agnes Murray's sister) on right (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/1/8	Digital copy of a photograph of Agnes Murray in a photographer's studio (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/1/9	Digital copy of an oral history recording of Agnes Grant (née Murray). This interview was conducted in the 1980s. The purpose of the interview was to record Agnes giving a first-hand account of her life as a herring girl. The interviewer was Kathleen Robertson (1 digital file) [Also available online as part of the Wick Voices Collection. Originally recorded on cassette tape]	1980s

P1088/1/1/10	Family Tree for Agnes Murray, compiled by C. Anne Fraser, Family Historian, Highland Archive Service (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/1/11	Notes from an interview with Margaret McLean and Henry Grant, Agnes Grant's (née Murray) daughter and son. The interview was conducted as part of the Following the Fish project (3 items)	19 Nov 2024
P1088/1/1/12	Storyboard for Agnes Murray, used as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/2	Alice Thompson and Annie Miller	n.d., 2025
P1088/1/2/1	Digital copies of photographs of Alice Thompson and Annie Miller, sisters from Wick, who worked as Herring Girls (5 digital files)	n.d.
P1088/1/2/2	Storyboard for Alice Thompson and Annie Miller, used as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/3	Janet (Jessie) Winchester	c.1901-1911, 2025
P1088/1/3/1	Scanned copy of a postcard sent by Janet (Jessie) Winchester to her daughter in Buckpool when she was working as a Herring Girl in Lowestoft, c.1902-1911. Also includes a transcription and additional information (1 item)	c.1901-1911, 2025
P1088/1/4	Jessie Gunn	n.d., 2025
P1088/1/4/1	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Gunn and her brother William 'Buller' Gunn (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/4/2	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Gunn, second from left, and other women gutting herring (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/4/3	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Gunn and others (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/4/4	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Gunn (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/4/5	Digital copy of six photographs of Jessie Gunn and others [including P1088/1/4/1-4] (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/4/6	Biographical details for, and anecdotes about, Jessie Gunn, written by her great-granddaughter Kari Moodie (1 digital file)	2025

P1088/1/4/7	Storyboard for Jessie Gunn, used as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/5	Jessie Lizzie Macdonald	c.1930, n.d.
P1088/1/5/1	Digital copy of a photograph of the Stewart's fishcurers crew, possibly at Great Yarmouth. Jessie Macdonald back row, fourth from left, and her Uncle Bobby (Cooper), standing on left (1 digital file)	c.1930
P1088/1/5/2	Digital copy of a photograph of the Stewart's fishcurers crew, possibly at Great Yarmouth. Jessie Macdonald, back row, third from right (1 digital file)	c.1930
P1088/1/5/3	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Nicoll (née Macdonald) and husband William (Willie) Nicoll (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/5/4	Digital copy of a photograph of Jessie Nicoll (née Macdonald), her husband William (Willie) Nicoll, and her daughter Agnes Clark (née Nicoll) (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/5/5	Digital copy of a photograph of Angas Clark's (née Nicoll) cousins in the back garden at Kinnauld Street, Wick (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/5/6	Digital copy of Agnes Clark's (née Nicoll) photograph mosaic that hangs in her house (2024) showing photographs of her mother Jessie Macdonald, father Wille Nicoll and other family and friends [including P1088/1/5/1-5] (1 digital file)	n.d.
P1088/1/5/7	Family Tree for Jessie Lizzie Macdonald, compiled by C. Anne Fraser, Family Historian, Highland Archive Service (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/5/8	Notes from an interview with Agnes Clark, Jessie Lizzie Macdonald's daughter. The interview was conducted as part of the Following the Fish project (3 items)	26 Nov 2024
P1088/1/5/9	Storyboard for Jessie Lizzie Macdonald, used as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/6	Peggy Macleod	2025
P1088/1/6/1	Storyboard for Peggy Macleod, used as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 item)	2025
P1088/1/7	Georgina 'Lina' Sutherland	n.d., 2025
P1088/1/7/1	Copy photograph of three Herring Girls including Georgina 'Lina' Sutherland (centre). Georgina lived in	n.d., 2025

	Ackergill Crescent, Wick and travelled around the UK working as a Herring Girl (1 item)	
P1088/2	Following the Fish Exhibition material	2025
P1088/2/1	Digital copy of Following the Fish exhibition banners (1 digital file)	2025
P1088/2/2	Digital copy of Following the Fish exhibition storyboards (1 digital file)	2025
P1088/2/3	Following the Fish exhibition video including images and digitised records sourced from across all collaborating archive services, Am Baile, The Johnstone Collection and members of the public (1 digital file)	2025
P1088/2/4	Herring Girls video by the Wick Society's Wick Voices and Johnston Collection shown as part of the Following the Fish exhibition (1 digital file)	2025