

# HERITAGE COUNTS

## The Historic Environment in 2016: An Overview

2016 has been an important year for the heritage sector. The publication in March of the Government's Culture White Paper represented the first comprehensive government strategy for the sector in over 50 years, and the first of its kind to reflect the value of all the cultural sectors. This year also saw the formal launch of the Heritage 2020 framework and first anniversary of the restructuring of English Heritage into Historic England and The English Heritage Trust. On-going reforms to the planning sector also continued to be made covering both legislation and policy.

This year has seen major changes in the country's political landscape. The decision to leave the EU represents a major step into the unknown and the full ramification of the decisions and its effects upon the heritage sector are yet to be seen. The subsequent resignation of David Cameron and resultant cabinet reshuffle under the new Prime Minister Theresa May brought about the appointment of Karen Bradley as the new Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Heritage participation has also featured prominently in 2016 with a number of heritage initiatives and activities taking place, demonstrating the enthusiasm of those who care for heritage. These included the launch of the Enriching the List project, the Discover England Fund, and the Great Place Scheme. 3.4 million people also took part in Heritage Open Days, and over 120,000 children benefited from the Heritage Schools programme.

The heritage sector continued to face many challenges in 2016, with further cuts to funding, the continuing decline in the number of local authority specialists, serious instances of heritage crime, on-going neglect of heritage assets, and unsympathetic planning all representing substantial threats to the historic environment. Proposed changes to the planning system in the past year could also have significant impacts on heritage, especially archaeology. Nevertheless, the sector has continued to display determination and resilience in safeguarding the nation's heritage assets.

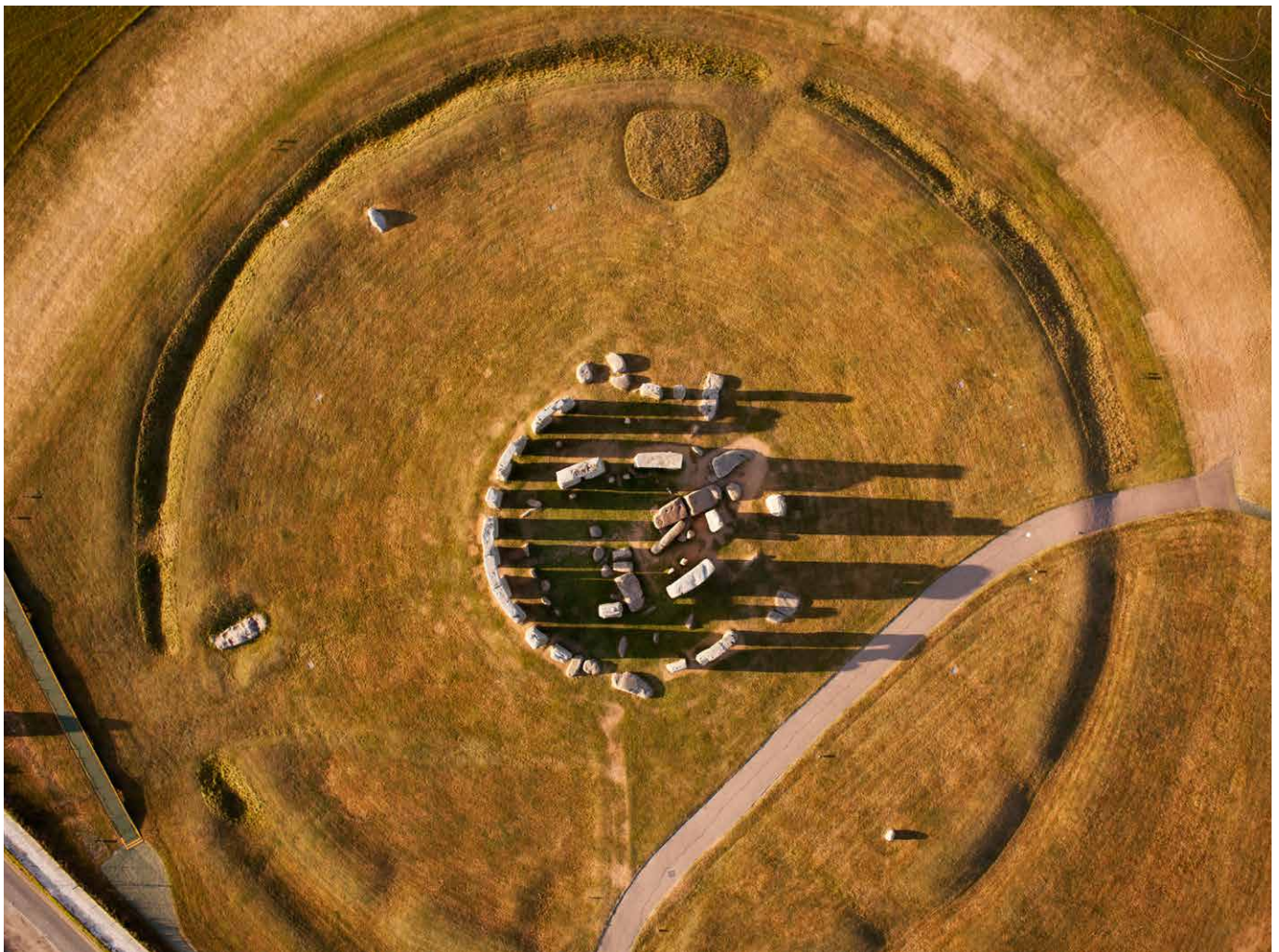
This paper is divided into five main sections:

- **Management of Heritage** – covering major heritage-wide developments over the past 12 months.
- **Changes to the Funding and Resource Landscape** – concerning the financial situation of the sector.
- **Planning System Changes** – providing insight into changes to heritage planning on both local and national levels.
- **Participation** – regarding voluntary work and events in 2016.
- **Sector Insight** – providing an overview of heritage research, awards, and specific heritage organisations.

# 1. Management of Heritage

## 1.1 Culture White Paper

- In March this year, the government published the **Culture White Paper**. It represents the first comprehensive government strategy for the sector in over 50 years, and the first ever to reflect the importance of all the cultural sectors including arts, museums and galleries, and heritage. The paper offers a set of policies that aim to increase access to culture in all its forms, particularly for the most disadvantaged.
- **Government set out its vision that everyone should be able to enjoy the opportunities that culture provides, no matter where they start in life.** New initiatives, such as the Cultural Citizens programme, should help increase participation across underrepresented groups.
- **The document sets out policies that are intended to help shape place at a local level which should increase wellbeing, help drive economic development, and strengthen communities.** A central feature in this strategy is the Great Place Scheme, which is jointly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Arts Council, with expertise provided by Historic England. The scheme will assist communities who want to make heritage, arts and culture important elements in their Local Plans.
- **The nation's cultural offer is world-leading.** The White Paper's vision is that England's global reach will continue to be developed so that ideas are shared internationally. The Government recognises its role in supporting the sector to enable it to develop its exploration of new avenues for funding such as crowdsourcing, and philanthropy. Projects are underway, and include a crowdfunding pilot which will match private funding with public funding.



Stonehenge from above.  
© Historic England

## Heritage 2020: Recent Progress

Heritage 2020 is a new collaborative initiative established by the historic environment sector in England which aims to provide a mechanism for partnership working to tackle priority issues which will benefit from a shared approach.

It operates under the aegis of the Historic Environment Forum (HEF). Over the course of the last year, five working groups have been established to look at priorities for action in specific areas: capacity building, constructive conservation and sustainable management, discovery, identification and understanding, helping things to happen, and public engagement. Each working group has met several times with the membership of each group drawn from across the sector to bring together representatives of key organisations and individuals with an interest in the relevant issues. The groups have been identifying priorities for sector collaboration and mapping current activity, as well as looking ahead to identify areas where collaboration is the only way that a desired outcome can be achieved.

The initiative is now benefitting from funding provided by Historic England, initially for a three-year period, which has allowed The Heritage Alliance to contract a Project Officer (Caroline Peach). Caroline supports the working groups and is developing communication plans to encourage wider participation in taking forward the priorities agreed by the working groups. A dedicated web site was launched in November 2016 to provide more information about the initiative and how everyone can get involved.

In September 2016 the initial priorities drawn up by the working groups were agreed by the Historic Environment Forum. These are:

### Capacity building

- defining core service provision by Local Authorities with respect to the historic environment.
- developing an integrated approach to education, training and continuing development of heritage professionals with an initial focus on apprenticeships.

### Constructive conservation and sustainable management

- tackling concerns regarding the transfer of publicly owned heritage assets.
- the resilience of High Streets to social and economic forces for change.

### Discovery, identification and understanding

- building stronger bridges with the higher education sector.
- reviewing sector approaches to foresight work.

### Helping things to happen

- achieving a long-term shift to a positive vision for the contribution that heritage makes to post-Brexit Britain.

### Public engagement

- establishing an ethos of cultural entitlement where everyone has a right to understand the values of cultural heritage, has a sense of ownership of cultural assets, and advocates a collective responsibility for the cultural landscape.

The groups are developing action plans which set out how they propose to focus their efforts in the coming year. The action plans are complemented by activity logs which map wider activity, showing what is being done by the wider historic environment sector to address the themes of the Heritage 2020 Framework document. The action plans and activity logs will evolve over the course of the year, and will be reviewed on a regular basis as the Heritage 2020 initiative evaluates its operations and deliverables over the coming years.

A public consultation relating to the priorities agreed by HEF on the recommendation of the working groups was hosted in the autumn of 2016, with the consultation accessible at [www.heritage2020.net](http://www.heritage2020.net).



## 1.2 Historic England: A Year On

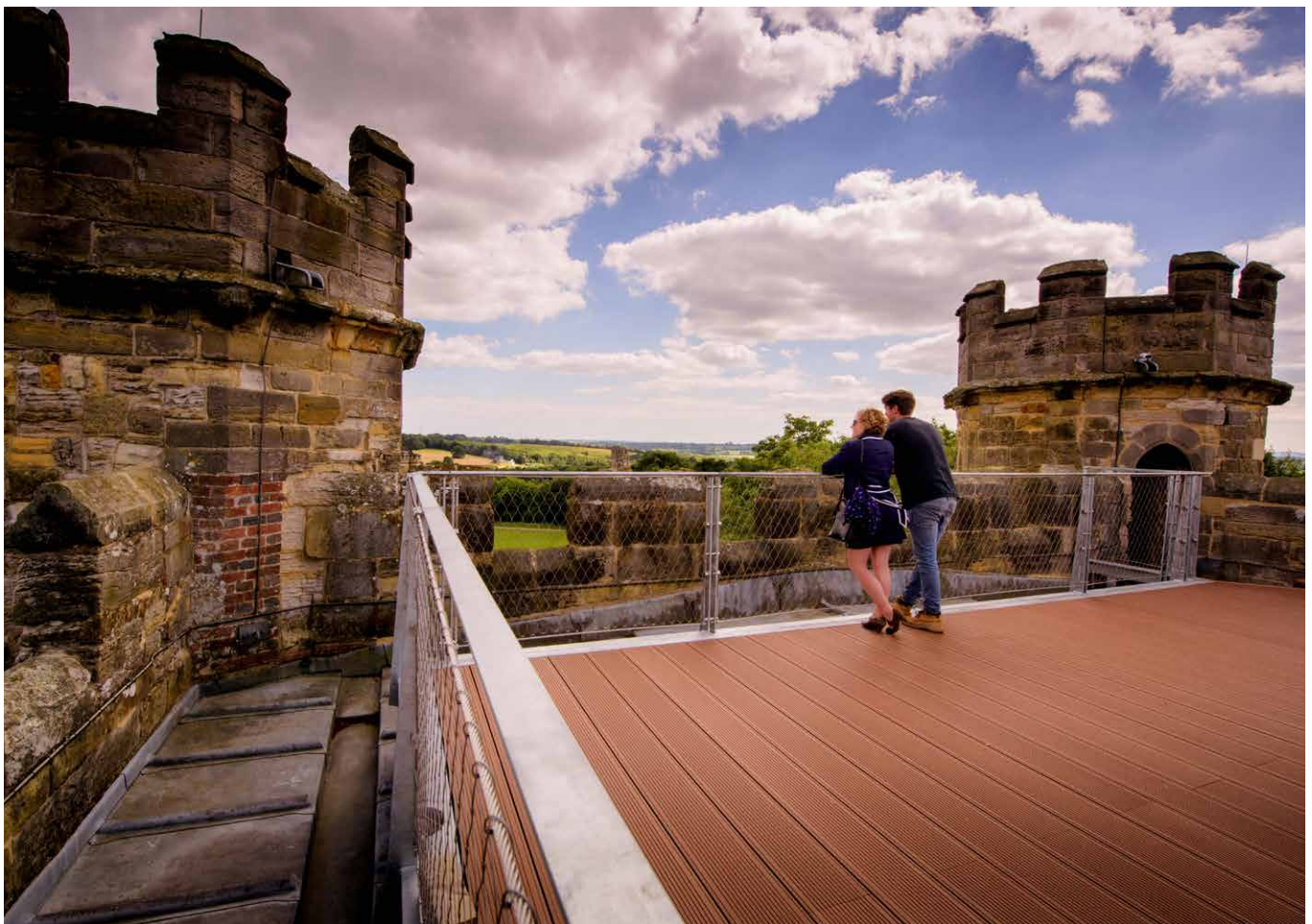
- 2016 marked the first anniversary of the formation of Historic England, and since April 2015 the organisation has made great strides in establishing its new identity while continuing to champion and protect England's historic environment. It has continued to expand and develop the *National Heritage List for England* (NHLE), adding more than 800 buildings and places to the List, with over 6,000 existing entries being amended and updated. Additionally, more than 450 war memorials were added to mark the centenary of the First World War, and 20 inter-war public houses were added, helping to ensure their future protection. There were over 1.5 million visits to the List this year, an increase of a third on the previous year.
- Planning advice continues to be a key feature of the work undertaken by Historic England, with advice and guidance being offered on over 22,000 planning or listed building consent cases. Additionally, Historic England achieved its target of removing 25 per cent of sites that were on the nation's Heritage at Risk Register in 2010.
- Increasing the public's engagement with heritage was also a prominent achievement of the last year. Over 120,000 pupils are engaged in Historic England's Heritage Schools Programme. More than 50,000 people visited Historic England's exhibitions. Members of the public have also added more than 1,300 places to Historic England's interactive Pride of Place map which celebrates the heritage of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people.
- Historic England funded over 300 projects undertaken by third parties in the last year, and undertook a wide range of its own projects. These include uncovering and identifying archaeological finds at Must Farm, an internationally-important Bronze Age site which was dubbed by the media as 'the Pompeii of the Fens', and the identification of the remains of what is believed to be Henry V's great ship *The Holigost*, in the River Hamble in Hampshire. Work has also continued on restoring Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, the world's first iron-framed building and 'the grandfather of the skyscraper'.
- Historic England's work in championing England's heritage continues to develop.



The archaeological dig at Must Farm near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.  
© Dave Webb

### 1.3 English Heritage: A Year On

- In its first full calendar year as an independent charity, English Heritage has continued to care for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places – from world famous prehistoric sites to grand medieval castles, from Roman forts on the edges of empire to Cold War bunkers, bringing the story of England to life for over 10 million visitors each year.
- In 2016, the charity has commenced using the £80 million government grant to conserve and present the National Heritage Collection. High priority conservation work has been delivered at sites across the country, such as the essential repairs to the Durbar Wing at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. Additionally, work has been undertaken on creating new experiences for visitors to English Heritage sites, including the outdoor interpretation scheme at Tintagel Castle in Cornwall, and the new museum at Rievaulx Abbey which sheds new light on the Yorkshire abbey’s 900-year history.
- As part of English Heritage’s programme to mark the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, visitors can now stand on the roof of Battle Abbey’s Great Gatehouse – founded by William the Conqueror on the spot where King Harold died – and get a whole new perspective on the most famous battle in English history.
- The summer holidays this year saw a record number of visitors to English Heritage sites, and its membership numbers are higher than ever before. Commercial operations have also been expanded over the past 12 months, and efforts continue to be made to attract new kinds of donors, making fresh arguments for the value of work English Heritage undertakes.



The new viewing platform atop Battle Abbey’s Great Gatehouse, Battle.  
© English Heritage



## 1.4 Heritage Crime

- Efforts to reduce heritage crime continued this year and saw the successful prosecution of seven men for criminal damage of the Grade II listed Clophill Church, Bedfordshire, a church which has been a frequent target of heritage crime. Historic England worked closely with Bedfordshire Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the local charitable trust, which restored the church, to bring the offenders to justice.
- Building on this success, other initiatives have been launched in order to continue the fight against heritage crime. Notable 2016 initiatives included the identification of a Heritage Crime Liaison Officer within each police service in England. This network of specialist officers, police staff and support volunteers will help to provide an effective and efficient response to criminal activity within the historic environment and is supported by the publication of the 'Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Guide'.
- In February, the Sentencing Council published new sentencing guidelines for theft offences which now includes the theft, handling and disposal of stolen heritage assets. Courts will now be able to take account of the special nature of heritage and cultural property when sentencing offenders. In the same month, the Sentencing Council also announced [new theft guidelines](#) which includes for the first time, theft of historic objects and the loss of the nation's heritage.
- In addition, several partnership campaigns were launched to target specific heritage crime threats. In particular, Operation Chronos – to tackle unlawful metal detecting, and Operation Crucible – to tackle the theft of metal from protected historic sites and buildings.
- Other work has focused on engagement and awareness opportunities within English towns and parishes, including the development of 'Heritage Watch' schemes, and an awareness programme with the Society of Local Council Clerks.



Clophill Church Bedfordshire, a frequent target of Heritage Crime.  
© Historic England

## 1.5 Countryside Stewardship

- Given the closure of Environmental Stewardship to new applicants in late 2014, 2015 marked something of a transitional period during which the new Countryside Stewardship scheme was developed ready for the new application window to open in the summer. The first Countryside Stewardship agreements became 'live' in January 2016. Countryside Stewardship incorporates what was previously Environmental Stewardship along with elements of the England Woodland Grant Scheme and Catchment Sensitive Farming programme. A condition of the new scheme is that land parcels containing Scheduled Monuments must be included in the agreements, and managed favourably. Applications are preceded by a Historic Environment Farm Environment Record, an audit of features underpinned by management advice provided by local authorities and Historic England via the SHINE ([Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England](#)) portal – an online resource developed collaboratively by Historic England, Natural England and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.
- All existing Heritage Lottery Fund and Entry Level Scheme agreements will continue to run for their originally agreed terms – in some cases not expiring until 2024. In January 2016 new Countryside Stewardship agreements started covering in total almost 3000 ha of heritage assets, representing a total commitment of £3.2 million over the length of these five year schemes. The option for the maintenance of traditional farm buildings in weatherproof condition has proved the most popular, with 251 agreements. The management of historic features in grassland proved the second most popular option with 83 new agreements, whilst 70 have addressed the issue of cultivation on archaeological sites.
- Natural England reports that the number of applications for agreements beginning in January 2017 is already far in excess of those seen last year. Given the promising start, it is expected that the 2017 figures will show a considerable increase in coverage for heritage.

## 1.6 Places of Worship Review

- The English Cathedrals and Churches Sustainability Review Panel, chaired by Bernard Taylor, is supported by experts in the field and by a working group comprising staff from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England, Historic England, and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Whilst the Church of England's 16,000 parish churches are the main focus, recommendations of the Review may impact on all historic places of worship. It will report back to the Secretary of State for Culture and the Chancellor in April 2017. Information about the Review can be found [here](#).

## 1.7 Select Committee into UK Cultural Heritage and other Select Committee work

- In August 2015, the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment issued a call for evidence to establish what steps could be taken to ensure better planning and design across the built environment, and whether the right balance between national policy and accountability for planning decisions is in place. The Inquiry received valuable written and oral evidence from across the heritage sector.
- The Committee published its report, *Building Better Places*, in February 2016. Overall, the report welcomed the then Government's commitment to speed up the supply of housing, but suggested an exclusive focus on the quantity of housing alone could threaten place-making, sustainable planning, and the delivery of high quality and design standards. The report outlined 66 recommendations broadly focusing on quality in the built environment, and long-term implications for 'place'. This included a call for a proactive, long-term national strategy for managing the historic environment, which recognises the full value of built heritage as a unique national and local asset. The report also suggested the continuation of a balance between heritage protection and development policies in the National Planning Policy Framework, and that the historic environment should be seen as a cultural and economic asset, rather than an obstacle to future developments. At the time of writing, the

Committee is still awaiting a government response and a debate on the recommendations outlined in the report.

- **The Culture, Media and Sport Committee launched an inquiry in March 2016 exploring ways to preserve and promote the UK's cultural wealth.** The Inquiry asked for evidence on the current funding situation for cultural sectors in the regions, the impact of local authority settlements on the cultural sector, and new funding models including the use of Lottery funding.

### 1.8 Civic Voice

- **This year the charity has continued to encourage local participation in the historic and built environment as well as make the case for the historic environment on a national and local level.** Training programmes for communities across the country on how they can champion their local heritage were organised, and Simon Thurley delivered the year's Sandys Lecture (in honour of Lord Duncan Sandys) with a talk on 'The Future of the Historic Environment'.
- **Civic Voice has continued to work with the Government through a programme of regular Parliamentary meetings attended by Ministers and several members of the House of Lords.** Civic Voice has also supported the Department for Communities and Local Government on how communities can use Assets of Community Value legislation to better demonstrate the value of heritage, and continued a campaign on ensuring communities generate Local Heritage Lists.
- **Additionally, responding to the growing pressures from the planning system on the historic environment, Civic Voice established the Association of Cathedral Towns with support from the All Churches Trust and organised a national survey to consider the challenge England's historic towns are facing.**
- **Demonstrating that communities will accept new development when it is of high quality, Civic Voice organised the second annual Design Awards with this year's restoration winner being the Master's House, Ledbury.** Formally on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register, the Grade II\*

listed building has now transformed into the hub of community life. Supported by a grant of £1.25 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund the project demonstrates that through effective collaborative partnership working and dedication a community can rescue a building.

### 1.9 Brexit

- **Following the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union in June 2016 the heritage sector in England is assessing the challenges and opportunities that might arise.** The key areas include:
  - Funding and taxation.
  - Legislation and regulation.
  - Skills and movement of labour.
  - Britain and England's identity on the global stage.
  - Social cohesion nationally and internationally.
- **Work is at an early stage but will be developed rapidly within Historic England and the wider heritage sector so that historic environment considerations can be fed into emerging government policies in the run up to leaving the EU.**

### 1.10 World Heritage

**Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.**

- **The Hague Convention, formally known as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, was adopted by UNESCO in 1954 in the aftermath of the Second World War to ensure nations and armies would not target cultural treasures.** Although the UK Government is a signatory to the Convention it has not until now taken steps to ratify it. In 2016 the Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill, which will enable the UK to accede to the Hague Convention, was introduced and is currently progressing through Parliament. It should become law in 2017. The provisions of the Convention and its two protocols include safeguarding measures and the establishment of units within military forces to take responsibility for the protection of cultural property, and provide for enhanced protection of cultural property of the greatest importance to humanity.



### 1.11 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- Many UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) globally are under pressure from armed conflict, natural disasters and development pressure. In England Liverpool's Maritime Mercantile City WHS remains on the list of World Heritage in Danger as a result of major redevelopment proposals. Work is being undertaken to avoid potential harm from these proposals and secure the removal of Liverpool from the in-danger list. To ensure that new development is compatible with WHSs,

the World Heritage Committee emphasises that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) should be undertaken to identify potential impacts on WHSs so that harm can be avoided or mitigated. ICOMOS (Cultural Heritage Advisor to the World Heritage Committee) issued guidance in 2011 on HIA, which should be followed consistently, especially as the Culture White Paper sets out the aspiration that the UK should be a model of good practice in World Heritage.

#### London Plan

Sadiq Khan was elected the new Mayor of London on 5th May. One of his first considerations was the timetable and priorities for a review of the London Plan. *Conservation Bulletin 75*, published in Spring 2016, included a range of opinions from the heritage, planning and development sectors on how best to take account of the historic environment on the Plan.

The range of contributions demonstrated the current scale of physical change and development pressure that is happening across London. The two key issues identified for the historic environment were tall buildings and the likely impacts of housing growth. The number of tall buildings planned for London has risen significantly in recent years, with research from the start of 2016 highlighting that over 400 towers of greater than 20 storeys are now under construction or proceeding through the planning system. Some of these projects are for residential towers, but right across the city demographic change and population growth continue to drive demand for new developments of all types.

The potential impacts of both these issues on the setting of designated assets and the effects on wider historic character are considerable and long-lasting. A number of contributors identified the difficulties of integrating new development of this type with its local context, and the incremental change to views and distinctiveness as issues to be addressed as a priority in the review of the Plan.

Heritage is a significant element in London's attractiveness as a destination for visitors and business, and in ensuring it remains a liveable city for its residents. The views expressed in *Conservation Bulletin 75* collectively demonstrate the pressures being exerted on the historic environment by market forces – and identify areas of priority for the new Mayor and his team to focus on.

## 2. Changes to the Funding and Resource Landscape

### 2.1 Spending Round

- In November 2015 the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, presented the **Spending Review and Autumn Statement setting out the government's spending plans for the next four years to 2019/20**. In it, he announced departmental budgets were to be reduced by £12 billion with unprotected departments needing to find £21.5 billion of savings. The Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) received a 20 per cent reduction in its core administration budget as well as a 5 per cent cut to its resource budget. Historic England received a 10 per cent cut to its grant in aid, however sufficient funding was to be provided to ensure the continued implementation of the English Heritage commercial model.
- The Spending Review also introduced further cuts to local authority budgets in a bid to reduce local grants by £6.1 billion by 2019-20. The cuts were said not to reduce overall local government cash spending as new revenue streams were also announced: a 2 per cent increase in council tax; full business rate retention; a premium added to business rates to fund infrastructure projects; and the ability for local authorities to spend 100 per cent of fixed asset receipts from the release of surplus assets.
- Other announcements with a significant impact on heritage include: £1 million towards the Hull City of Culture programme for 2017; a new £30 million Cultural Protection Fund to support cultural heritage in global conflict zones, continued free entry to museum and galleries, and a new tax credit to support the sector.
- Since the Spending Review, there have been significant political and economic impacts as a result of the Brexit vote in June 2016. This has led to downgraded growth projections, political volatility and uncertainty with a large amount of existing regulation and legislation under review.

### 2.2 Heritage Lottery Fund

- In July, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) welcomed Ros Kerslake as its new Chief Executive. Her appointment coincided with the launch of Great Place scheme, which aims to put arts, culture and heritage at the heart of successful communities across England. This aim will be achieved by awarding grants to twelve areas to pilot new approaches that enable cultural, community and civic organisations to work more closely together. Great Place is a key element of the Culture White Paper, which HLF is supporting through contributions to the Museums Review and the English Churches and Cathedrals Sustainability Review amongst other measures.
- The Culture White Paper also referenced the joint HLF and Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce research into the role of heritage in place-shaping. The first output from this work was the [Heritage Index](#) – an interactive map that provides a ranking of all local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales by the extent and usage of heritage assets. An updated and expanded second edition of the Index was published in the autumn.
- In terms of grants, HLF opened a third round of its Skills for the Future programme. Once again the focus is on traditional heritage skills but with an intention to encourage applicants to set ambitious and credible targets for broadening the demographic profile of the heritage workforce through the recruitment of trainees. HLF also offered a new challenge to the sector to develop partnership proposals for its Kick the Dust initiative, a programme designed to create a step change in the way that the heritage sector engages and works with young people.
- The Resilient Heritage programme was also launched, providing funding to organisations across the UK that want to build their capacity or implement strategic changes that will improve the management of their heritage. Grants can fund activities to help organisations acquire new skills or knowledge, or consider new models of governance or leadership aimed at increasing long term sustainability. Organisational sustainability will also be supported by a further round of the Heritage Endowments programme.



Some of the Young Heritage Apprentices, part of The Prince's Foundation for Building Community. © The Heritage Lottery Fund

### 2.3 Giving to Heritage

- The Heritage Lottery Fund supported **Giving to Heritage** Catalyst programme, delivered by The Heritage Alliance in partnership with the Institute of Fundraising, has come to a successful conclusion after two years. The programme was designed for staff and volunteers in independent heritage projects who need to raise funds from private sources.
- 105 workshops on 12 different fundraising subjects were delivered across England, together with consultancy and support sessions, mentoring, executive coaching and 25 webinars. Over the initial two years of the programme, training was delivered to over 650 different heritage projects involving 1,200 training places. An independent evaluation of the programme revealed that a third of respondents raised £745,000 as a result of putting the learning into practice. 94 per cent rated the workshops 'excellent' or 'good'. 31 per cent stated their organisation is now more financially resilient and 42 per cent said their heritage project is now better managed.
- The success of the programme has resulted in a further grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to extend the training for another 12 months to July 2017. The new programme will deliver a mix of existing and new content via workshops and webinars. Executive coaching and consultancy and support sessions will also be available. New content includes 'How and When to Apply for Social Investment Funds', 'How to Set Up a Community Shares Project' and 'Crowdfunding for Heritage'. There will also be a series of 'masterclasses' for those wishing to take their fundraising skills to the next level. An emphasis on the 'Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees' in relation to the provisions of the new Charities Act will also be included.



## 2.4 Listed Places of Worship and Cathedrals Funding

- The Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund, administered by the National Heritage Memorial Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, awards grants to listed places of worship of all faiths and denominations across the UK for urgent repairs to roofs and rainwater disposal systems. Launched in 2014, and extended for a second round due to heavy oversubscription, the Treasury has allocated £55 million to the scheme.
- Following 502 awards made in the first round from a £30 million budget, in June 2016, a further 401 places of worship received between £10,000 to £100,000 from an available £25 million. 1,502 applications, with a combined value of £88 million, were received. 84.5 per cent of awards were made in England, 5.7 per cent from Scotland, 5.5 per cent from Wales and 4.2 per cent from Northern Ireland.
- The £1.2 million SPAB Maintenance Co-operatives Project was set up by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) in 2013, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It has been operating across 5 regions, with development officers supporting local places of worship by training groups of volunteers to carry out preventative (non-invasive) maintenance and to share equipment expertise, time and money. Working with over 300 volunteers, the project has reached its target of setting up 25 co-operatives. The project team are now trialling Co-op 'Minis' to understand the impact of a more localised version of the model.
- In March 2016, a further £20 million was announced for the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund which supports urgently needed repairs enabling Church of England and Catholic cathedrals in England to host First World War commemorations. In July 2016, 39 cathedrals received grants totalling £14.5 million. A second round of applications took place in September 2016 with spending to be completed by March 2018.

- In 2016, the National Churches Trust launched two new initiatives. The Project Viability and Project Development grant programme offers awards of between £3,000-£10,000 to help churches develop high quality sustainable repair and community projects. The Yorkshire Maintenance Project, a Heritage Lottery Fund funded pilot, aims to encourage Yorkshire's historic places of worship to improve their preventative maintenance practices and skills.



Kingswood Meeting House, Hollywood, Birmingham was awarded £26,400 by the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund to address urgent works to the roof. © Historic England

## 2.5 Architectural Heritage Fund

- The **Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF)** published a new strategy in July 2016, setting out its priorities for the next three years and indicating how it intended to utilise its **£3 million of government investment announced in the Culture White Paper**. More money has been made available for early project grants (from just under £350,000 a year to £1,100,000 a year) to help communities get the professional help they need to rescue historic buildings, and four more locally-based community support officers have been recruited in England to provide specialist advice on matters such as business planning, social investment, community engagement and development, marketing and property management and maintenance. The expansion of its grants and advice services has ensured the AHF is better equipped to respond to the growing number of historic buildings that are being transferred from local authority to community ownership, many of which have the potential to be developed for enterprising new uses that will deliver a range of social and economic benefits.
- **Alongside the development of its community support programmes, the AHF has also increased the amount of resources it has available for lending, such as short-term loans to fund building acquisition or repair costs, and longer-term equity investment to help with the development of community heritage enterprises.** In 2016, the AHF purchased nearly £450,000 of community shares in five different community businesses that trade from important historic buildings.
- **A detailed survey of AHF-supported projects completed between 2000 and 2015 showed that AHF grants totalling £3.7 million and loans worth £46.5 million helped finance the repair and re-use of 293 historic buildings at risk.** These completed projects levered £402 million in additional investment.

## 2.6 Heritage Action Zones

- In June 2016, Historic England launched a new ‘Heritage Action Zones’ (HAZ) **initiative**, as heralded in the Culture White Paper. HAZs are envisaged as historic places with the potential to become focal points for sustainable economic development and community life, delivered by Historic England alongside local partners. Historic England’s support can include research into historic sites or buildings, grant aid to reuse and enhance buildings and sites, advice, training, updates to entries on the **National Heritage List for England**, and contacts with other potential partners and schemes, such as the Great Place initiative.
- **The first ten schemes have now been selected from a high quality range of applicants: Nottingham, Appleby, Ramsgate, Weston-super-Mare, King’s Lynn, Sunderland, Coventry, Elsecar, Sutton, and the 2017 City of Culture, Hull.** They include urban and rural communities, large and small schemes, and a range of heritage challenges and opportunities. These schemes will themselves start to be delivered in April 2017. The second call for prospective HAZs will be issued in Summer 2017.

## 2.7 Coastal Revival Fund

- In December 2015, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced the successful bidders to the **£3 million Coastal Revival Fund**. The Fund is designed to kick-start the revival of at-risk coastal heritage that has the potential to create opportunities for new businesses and jobs. Of the 77 successful applications in 2015, 69 are for projects designed to bring designated heritage assets back into economic use (£2.9 million of the £3.1 million available funding). Of these, 23 relate to assets on the Heritage at Risk register (£1.04 million funding). The range of assets involved in these projects include listed theatres, lidos, lighthouses and forts as well as many other types of coastal heritage.

## 3. Planning System Changes

### 3.1 Planning System - General Changes

- Following the publication of the Productivity Plan in July 2015, the Government has proposed a large number of changes to the planning system, through changes to legislation (via the Housing and Planning Act and the Neighbourhood Planning Bill), policy (primarily but not solely via the review of the National Planning Policy Framework), and a range of other proposals, such as a consultation on upwards extensions in London, and a technical consultation on planning. Many of these proposals have not yet been refined and taken effect, but concerns have been raised about their potential impact on heritage and the historic environment, and this has been a focus for much work in the last year, by both the sector and parliamentary committees. The Communities and Local Government Select Committee has held inquiries on both the National Planning Policy Framework and the work of the Local Plans Expert Group, and launched a further inquiry into the capacity of the house building industry to meet demand for new homes (as well as an inquiry into the future of public parks).

### 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework

- **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has been in place since March 2012 and has been supported by the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) since March 2014.** The Government launched a consultation on a partial review of the NPPF in December 2015, and that consultation was itself the subject of an inquiry by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee.

### 3.3 Planning Legislation

- **Much new legislation has come into effect in the last year, and, further to announcements in the Queen's speech in May 2016, more is expected.**
- **New legislation includes the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act, the Enterprise Act, the Energy Act, and the Housing and Planning Act.** The latter received Royal Assent in May 2016 and made extensive changes to the planning system, including the introduction of a brownfield register, a new route to planning permission ('permission in principle'), and the option for local authorities to request 'planning freedoms' in their areas in support of housing delivery.

- **The Neighbourhood Planning Bill, introduced in September, is intended to strengthen neighbourhood planning, ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed by local planning authorities where they are absolutely necessary, and further revise the Compulsory Purchase process.**
- **Together, these changes will have a significant impact on the planning system, with implications for heritage protection.**

### 3.4 Major Infrastructure

#### National Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- **National infrastructure remains a key Government priority and, in January 2016, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority was created to provide expertise, knowledge and skills at managing and delivering major economic projects.** It reports to the Treasury and Cabinet Office, and is also responsible for preparing the National Infrastructure Delivery Plan, together with the Infrastructure Pipeline, which contains details of all major projects costing over £50 million planned or underway in the UK. Government is committed to investing over £100 billion by 2021 in infrastructure, alongside other significant private sector investment.

#### National Infrastructure Commission

- **The National Infrastructure Commission was set up in October 2015 to look at the UK's future needs for nationally significant infrastructure.** As part of the Budget 2016, the Government accepted, and subsequently published, its response to three reports prepared by the Commission: 'Transport for a World City' (Crossrail 2), 'High Speed North' (Northern Powerhouse/Transport for the North) and 'Smart Power' (energy). Work has also begun on the first National Infrastructure Assessment, which will set out a long-term vision of the UK's infrastructure needs and priorities to 2050.



## Other Announcements

- HS2 is the Government's key strategic investment in the national transport network and a decision was taken in November 2015 to accelerate Phase 2A between Birmingham and Crewe to open in 2027, six years ahead of the rest of Phase 2. The parliamentary process for Phase 1 (London to Birmingham) continues with the Bill now at the House of Lords stage.
- A number of reports have been prepared as a result of the problems encountered during the current Network Rail investment programme which involves electrification. The 'Future Shape and Financing of Network Rail' by Nicola Shaw is likely to be the most influential, with recommendations for greater devolution to the routes and the creation of a dedicated northern route. Government has also announced a programme of development of railway stations and surrounding land, intended to deliver jobs and up to 10,000 homes.
- Highways England continues to deliver the Roads Investment Strategy, including improvements to the A303/A30/A358 Corridor, with a proposed tunnel at Stonehenge. Budget 2016 also saw work beginning on the second Roads Investment Strategy, which will determine investment plans from 2020/21 to 2024/25.

## Implications for the Historic Environment

- Infrastructure projects can impact on the historic environment or sites where the infrastructure itself is now of historic interest. Potential issues are being addressed by engaging with Government departments and industry representatives, responding to consultations or through the planning process, especially the nationally significant infrastructure planning regime. A further issue for the sector is to try to ensure that a sufficient number of skilled professionals are available to advise on, and to carry out, the assessment of impact and the consequent programmes of mitigation necessitated by projects with significant historic environment impacts.
- This section was written before the 2016 Autumn Statement was presented to Parliament on 23rd November.

## 3.5 Local Authority Capacity

- The decline in local authority heritage staff remains a major concern in 2016 with the number of conservation specialists in England continuing to decline. Additionally, in the past 12 months the number of archaeological specialists advising local authorities has decreased by 13.5 per cent. There are now 796.2 FTE (full time equivalent) historic environment specialists providing advice to local authorities in England, 524.6 FTEs of whom are working on building and area conservation and 271.7 FTEs providing archaeological advice. This decline in staff is set against the increasing demands being placed upon local authority heritage staff who have seen the number of planning application decisions and Listed Building Consent decisions (both indicators of workload) increase by 3.6 per cent and 0.62 per cent respectively. This continued decline in staff numbers, coupled with increases in planning applications and Listed Building Consent applications will inevitably place further strain upon local authority heritage staff. This decline continues to represent a serious concern for the heritage sector and its ability to deliver sustainable development.

## 3.6 Enhanced Advisory Services

- Historic England's four paid-for **Enhanced Advisory Services** have continued to flourish in 2016, and since operations commenced in October 2015 the services have provided a notable enhancement to Historic England's existing free planning and listing services. The services include 'Fast-track Listing', whereby listing recommendations are sent to the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) in a faster and guaranteed timeframe. This service has seen a number of cases (including Certificates of Immunity from Listing) with recommendations being sent to DCMS within half the time of the free service. These services include:
  - Listing Enhancement: Greater clarity over the extent of statutory protection in a guaranteed timeframe.
  - Extended Pre-Application Advice: Additional pre-application advice beyond Historic England's initial free service.
  - Listing Screening Service: Assessment of the likelihood of any heritage assets having a degree of interest that would warrant statutory Listing.

- All services have been used by a wide range of customer from across England to date, with the overall customer feedback being positive, particularly concerning the costs involved. The services are charged at full cost recovery, with Historic England not making a profit from them.

### 3.7 Good Practice Advice Notes

- Historic England published three Good Practice Advice Notes (GPA) in March 2015 to underpin the Government's Planning Practice Guidance: *The Historic Environment in Local Plans* (GPA1); *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (GPA2); and *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (GPA3). All three documents were produced with the assistance of the Historic Environment Forum (HEF). They provide supporting information and detail for applicants, owners, developers and planners in implementing national planning policy and guidance in relation to the historic environment. GPA3 (Setting) is under review, largely to incorporate advice on views previously contained in *Seeing History in the View*.

### 3.8 Historic England Advice Notes

- Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs), which include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance are produced by Historic England alone, and sit beneath the GPA notes. Eight HEANs have now been finalised since late 2015, and more are proposed:
  - *HEAN 1: Conservation Areas: Designation, Appraisal and Review* (February 2016).
  - *HEAN 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets* (February 2016).
  - *HEAN 3: Site Allocations* (October 2015).
  - *HEAN 4: Tall Buildings* (December 2015).
  - *HEAN 5: Setting up a Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreement* (November 2015).
  - *HEAN 6: Drawing up a Local Listed Building Consent Order* (November 2015).
  - *HEAN 7: Local Heritage Listing* (May 2016).
  - *HEAN 8: Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment* (November 2016).

### 3.9 Heritage Protection Reform

- The Historic Environment Planning Reform Group (HEPRG) of the Historic Environment Forum has continued to consider possible ways to address the continuing reduction in heritage resource in local planning authorities. HEPRG consulted on various proposals in August and September 2016, including a greater use of expert advice, improved advice on listed building consent, greater use of heritage statements in listed building consent applications, the use of Listed Building Consent Orders, and the use of independent experts to expedite applications for Listed Building Consent. The consultation closed in late September and the analysis of responses was on-going at the time of writing.

## 4. Participation

### 4.1 Heritage Open Days

- With 4,855 entries and 1,684 local organisers registering, more places and people than ever took part in **Heritage Open Days 2015**. 3.4 million people from across Great Britain took advantage of the four-day feast of cultural discoveries, with a record 2 million visitors sampling the festival for the first time.
- The annual visitor study confirmed the festival's power to change people's perceptions and behaviours. Following their visit, eight out of ten people felt inspired to explore their local area, while an even larger percentage experienced a greater connection with their historic environment (83 per cent) or an increased pride in their area (85 per cent). With half of all visitors attending heritage sites rarely or not at all before their Heritage Open Days visit, local cultural venues and organisations can take heart from the fact that 85 per cent felt encouraged to visit other attractions in the future. Furthermore, two new sets of findings underpinned the multiple benefits of Heritage Open Days for individuals and communities: 85 per cent of visitors last year saw their well-being enhanced as visiting the festival helped them to relax, keep active or healthy, or made them feel better about themselves.

- **For the first time, Heritage Open Days was also able to assess its economic impact.** In total, the 2015 festival is estimated to be worth a minimum of £15 million to local economies. With admission to every single one of the 4,855 events in the festival free of charge, an estimated £9 million was spent on food, shopping, travel or accommodation as part of people's trip to the local area. This was supplemented by a further £7 million of secondary spend on refreshments, souvenirs or books at individual events. The findings illustrate the effect investment can have thanks to the involvement of thousands of passionate volunteers.

- This section was written prior to the release of the 2016 Heritage Open Days figures.

#### 4.2 Community Volunteering

- **More than 21 million people volunteer in the UK at least once a year contributing an estimated £24 billion to the UK economy.** In the heritage sector, the National Trust remains the outstanding example with over 60,000 volunteers contributing 3.1 million hours of their time – the equivalent of 1,590 full-time staff. English Heritage has nearly

2,200 volunteers across 36 sites. Heritage Open Days is the flagship for community volunteering, with some 40,000 volunteers across England organising 5,000 events.

#### 4.3 Enriching the List

- The **National Heritage List for England (NHLE)** has almost 400,000 entries covering England's most significant historic places including tower blocks and tombstones, barrows and bunkers, palaces and pigsties, plague crosses and piers, cathedrals, windmills and rollercoasters, and whilst many places on this list are well-known and even world-famous, some remain relatively unknown.

- In June 2016, for the first time ever, Historic England has opened up the NHLE to public contributions with the launch of 'Enriching the List'. This is a major crowd-source project recruiting members of the public as virtual volunteers to share their knowledge and pictures of England's most treasured historic places, helping to chronicle the nation's history and unlock local secrets.



Egglestone Abbey in County Durham, the 15,000th contribution to Enriching the List. © Richard Laidler Martin



- With 99 per cent of people in England living within a mile of a listed building or place the project promises to be a great success and currently boasts 366 contributors who have made more than 12,245 contributions, including over 17,070 images. So far over 8,663 List Entries have had content added by the public. Enriching the List will continue to provide a unique record of England's evolving history and character, drawing on the enthusiasm out there, enlisting as many people as possible to enjoy our shared heritage and to rally behind it.

#### 4.3 First World War Memorials Programme

- As the nation continues to mark the centenary of the First World War Civic Voice, Historic England, the Imperial War Museum, and War Memorials Trust, are continuing to work closely on the First World War Memorials Programme (FWWMP). The programme aims to ensure that as many of the nation's war memorials as possible are appreciated and cared for by their local communities and are left in good condition by the end of the centenary. The project also aims to act as a catalyst for future action.
- Through War Memorials Trust, the FWWMP has made up to £2.5 million available to help local communities repair and conserve any memorial with a First World War connection (in grants ranging from £300 to £30,000). To date, 41 per cent of the grants budget has been offered or spent on over 190 projects.
- Through Civic Voice, the programme (which runs between 2014-2018), aims to engage volunteers via workshops and talks given on condition surveys, as well as through listing and grants. With 1434 attendees to date, the programme has enabled people to research, record and assess the condition of their local war memorials. Volunteers are also being invited to get actively involved in listing war memorials that matter to them, to contribute condition surveys to the War Memorials Trust and, where desirable, apply for grants for repair. Plans are being made to deliver teacher training events across eight regions on how to research war memorials, how to carry out condition surveys, and how to apply for listed status.

- Historic England's commitment to add at least 2,500 war memorials to the National Heritage List for England by the end of the centenary is well underway, with 865 war memorials being listed since commemorations commenced in 2014. Of these, 171 were added in in 2016, with recent examples including 15 war memorials commemorating those killed in the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Jutland.



Green Howards Regimental Cross, Richmond, North Yorkshire, one of the many newly listed war memorials. It is dedicated to the Green Howards regiment which suffered thousands of losses throughout the Great War, including many on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. © Historic England

#### 4.4 Capability Brown

- 2016 marked the 300th birthday of England's best known landscape architect, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. The Festival, the first ever celebration of Brown's work, united 17 partner organisations in the UK's largest festival of its kind to date and celebrated Capability Brown as an artist and landscape designer, encouraging more people to explore, learn and enjoy his landscapes. The long term aim of the festival is to grow appreciation of and interest in our designed landscape heritage, and to learn how organisations and volunteers can collaborate.
- Hosted by the Landscape Institute, the Festival was awarded a £911,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant towards supporting properties with new resources to open up sites to visitors, networking, and running their own projects and events. The Festival promoted Brown's art and design influence through press, TV, and social media, reaching a global audience. A major element of the Festival was the research carried out by the County Gardens Trusts, The National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, and other volunteers that will form part of the legacy of the year. The research finds have informed the National Heritage List for England with several new additions and revisions. New books have been published including several by volunteer groups, and exhibitions were held in Harrogate, London and many of the properties. The Festival also stimulated marketing opportunities such as souvenirs, including special beer and a set of eight Royal Mail stamps.

#### 4.5 Heritage Tourism

- 2016 witnessed the launch of the [Discover England Fund](#), a three-year £40 million funding pot to ensure that England stays competitive by offering world-class English tourism products.
- In its first year the fund has focused upon:
  - Small-scale quick-win projects and pilots that meet customer demand and test new products or new ways of joining up and distributing existing products.
  - Research to build understanding of customers, markets and product gaps.
  - Seed funding to build bids for years 2 and 3.

- The fund represents a tremendous opportunity for the English tourism industry and aims to play a prominent role in both boosting and maintaining the growth of one of England's most successful export industries, inbound tourism. The tourist industry in England delivers employment for over 2 million people, and plays a vital role in driving economic growth, generating £106 billion a year. In 2015, England experienced record tourism increases in both domestic and international visitors, with domestic overnight trips taken in England growing by 11 per cent and inbound visits showing strong regional growth.
- The fund has already proved itself extremely popular, attracting a very large number of high quality bids during the May – July application rounds, far outstripping the £6.5 million funding allocated for year one. The successful project applicants include Golf Tourism England, England's Seafood Coast, and Compass Holidays' Self-guided Activity App. The full list can be found [here](#).

#### 4.5 Great Place Scheme

- In August 2016 the Arts Council England (ACE), Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), and Historic England collaboratively launched The Great Place Scheme. The £15 million programme is one of the flagship measures from the Government's Culture White Paper, and will aim to place arts, culture and heritage at the heart of communities across England. To do this, the scheme will work with areas where there is a commitment to embed arts, culture and heritage in local plans and decision-making.
- The scheme will ensure that the substantial investment made by organisations like HLF and ACE towards culture has the maximum positive impact on jobs, economic performance, educational attainment, community cohesion and health and wellbeing, and will persuade civic organisations and local businesses to invest in and put culture at the heart of their thinking. This will be achieved by strengthening the networks between culture, civic and community organisations, and by involving citizens and local businesses.

- Grants range between £500,000 and £1.5 million and will fund a range of activities in twelve piloted areas across England, four of which being rural areas. The scheme will cover such activities as:
  - New ways to include arts, culture and heritage in local education or health services.
  - Research into the contribution made by arts, culture and heritage to local economies.
  - Funding for those working in arts, culture and heritage to build networks and increase their skills.
  - Exploring and piloting new ways of financing cultural organisations.
  - Encouraging the use of existing powers that allow communities to support their local culture, such as the Community Right to Bid or listing local landmarks as Assets of Community Value.
  - The development of local strategies that turn conversations and creation of networks into action.
- The successful applicants will also be able to access investment, advice and guidance from the national development agencies and National Lottery funders for arts and heritage, ACE, HLF, and Historic England.
- Further information on the scheme can be found [here](#).

#### 4.6 State of UK Public Parks

- In September 2016, the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) second State of the UK Public Parks report was launched, representing an important contribution to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee who launched an inquiry into public parks in July 2016.
- The report illustrated that there is a growing deficit between the rising use of parks and the declining resources that are available to manage them. Based on four surveys of park managers, independent park trusts, park friends and user groups, and the general public, the findings show that while parks are highly valued by the public and usage is increasing, park maintenance budgets and staffing levels are being cut.

- In her foreword to the report, Ros Kerslake OBE (HLF's Chief Executive) reminds us that parks are used regularly by over 37 million people each year: 'Good quality parks are the places where we can tackle many of today's greatest challenges, from childhood obesity to our changing climate. Parks provide places for people to play and get fit, to volunteer and to reconnect with nature and the seasons, as well as with each other. In creating many of our greatest public parks, our Victorian ancestors understood they were not a luxury, and today parks are even more essential in our increasingly urban lives'.
- Without urgent action the continuing downward trend in the condition of many of our most treasured parks and green spaces is set to continue. Whilst new ways of working and generating income are showing potential, more support, shared learning and collaboration is needed to support those that manage public parks. The research called for collaborative action to deliver new ways of funding and managing public parks to avert a crisis.

#### 4.7 Heritage Schools

- **Heritage Schools**, funded by the Department for Education, has now been running for four years, with a fifth year of funding agreed in March 2016. Heritage Schools is run by Historic England and aims to encourage children to take pride in their local area by engaging them with their local heritage through their schools. The programme engages with over 250 schools, 120,000 children and delivered training to more than 3500 teachers. The Churches Conservation Trust is a key partner and works with around 50 schools through their regional offices in Bristol, Cambridge and York.
- A recent evaluation shows the programme is having a considerable impact. The programme has also created new teaching resources which have been downloaded more than 30,000 times. In addition, Heritage Schools connects local heritage providers to schools and teachers. Over 450 heritage providers and arts organisations have benefitted from the programme in this way.





A Heritage School explores Great Yarmouth. © Kate Argyle

#### 4.8 Capacity Building/Heritage Sector Training

- Capacity building is one of five strategic priority areas set out in *Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England's historic environment 2015-2020*. The capacity building working group has now been established and members of organisations across the sector are working together on an action plan that will agree common priorities and areas for joint working, including a heritage sector summit on apprenticeships. The group has five priorities which are published on the new [Heritage 2020 website](#).
- A large number and variety of courses, events, trainings and information sessions continue to take place all over England, demonstrating the valuable capacity building work carried out in the heritage sector.
- Historic England continues to offer the Historic Environment Local Management training programme focusing on local authority needs, the Heritage Practice training programme in partnership with University of Leicester, and, new in 2016, the Essentials training programme designed for planners and early career historic environment professionals. Over 3000 training places are now available on these programmes, plus a new webinar and online offer.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund's The Skills for the Future programme was re-launched in 2016 and focused on creating paid, high quality opportunities for new entrants to the heritage sector, and helping to sustain the heritage sector in the longer term. It will give priority to projects which set ambitious and credible targets for the recruitment of trainees, with the aim of broadening the demographic profile of the heritage workforce.
- The Archaeology Training Forum has published its action plan 2016-18 which includes focusing on career paths, semi-vocational degrees, continuing professional development, meeting the demand for vocational qualifications, and ensuring capacity issues are considered, particularly in response to the demands of National Infrastructure projects on the archaeological profession.
- Following the Skills Summit held in 2013, the two Historic Environment Forum (HEF) task groups set up to address issues of training in the historic environment crafts and professions continued to work on their respective briefs. The HEF Client Demand Task Group has commissioned (via Historic England) a qualitative market survey on market conditions for expert and specialist heritage skills and services.
- The Historic Environment Investigator apprenticeship standard at level 3, designed by a working group of employers in the sector, was submitted to the Department for Education for approval in August 2016. It is the first in a planned series of specialist apprenticeships intended to provide an entirely new path for qualifications in the skills needed for a variety of historic environment roles.

## 5. Sector Insight

### 5.1 Heritage at Risk

- 2016 saw an overall decline in the number of entries present on the Historic England **Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register**, dropping from last year's total of 5,478 to 5,341. A reduction was also seen in the number of barrows present on the HAR Register, identified last year as the most common at risk heritage asset. Due to the implementation of several positive remedies this number has successfully been reduced by 64 to 782.
- Amongst the notable success stories for 2016 was the restoration work undertaken at **Marsden Lime Kilns, Marsden, South Tyneside**. The structure had been slowly deteriorating for many years but after major repairs were undertaken in 2016, funded by the owner and Historic England, the structure will be in a position to be removed from the HAR Register in 2017.
- Whilst the overall picture is positive, the percentage of buildings or structures that are capable of beneficial use but remain on the HAR Register has increased to 45.7 per cent, its highest ever level. Also, the cost to repair percentage of those capable of beneficial use has decreased slightly from 14.0 per cent in 2015 to 13.6 per cent in 2016. Both figures suggest that whilst there are more buildings on the HAR Register that are capable of beneficial use, many remain uneconomical to repair.
- At the same time, the estimates of conservation deficit of grade I and II\* listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments on the HAR Register has risen to £613.4 million from £475.4 million in 2015. A third of this conservation deficit is made up of country houses and textile industry sites, with 43 of the 122 country houses having an estimated total deficit of £118 million, and 16 of the 39 textile industry sites having an estimated collective deficit of over £115 million. It is hoped that investments in mills will form part of the Northern Powerhouse initiative in order to combat their at risk statuses. Although many factors contribute to this increasing figure the skills shortage that is affecting the availability of consultants, tradesmen, and scaffolders represents a key cause.



Conservation work being undertaken at Marsden Lime Kilns, Marsden, South Tyneside. © Historic England



## 5.2 Heritage Awards

### Historic England's Angel Awards

- The **awards**, funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, held its sixth annual award ceremony in London on 31st October 2016. For the first time additional award categories were created to celebrate inspirational young people and those who have dedicated their lives to saving our heritage. The winners were:
  - **Best Community Action Project** – Operation Nightingale for the project Operation Nightingale.
  - **Best Rescue of a Heritage Site** – Julie and Howard Duckworth for the rescue of Aire Street, Goole (within Goole conservation area).
  - **Best Research Projects** – Port Sunlight Village Trust and Wirral Borough Council (WBC) for the research project The Port Sunlight Local Listed Building Consent Order (LLBCO).
  - **Best Contribution by a Young Person** – Josh Aitken-Dunkeld for the project at Frank James Hospital.
  - **Outstanding Contribution to Heritage** – Carlo Diponio – Construction Supervisor at Dudley Zoo.
  - **Winner of the Historic England Angel Award for the Historic England Followers' and Telegraph Readers' Favourite** – Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust Ltd for the community action project Clevedon Pier Visitor Centre.

### Heritage Alliance Heroes Awards

- Now in its sixth year, The **Heritage Alliance Heroes Awards** was set up to recognise outstanding volunteer contributions to England's heritage. It was won by John Lambourn for his outstanding restoration and adaptive reuse of the nineteenth century fishing boat named Ripple moored in Newlyn Harbour in Cornwall. The award was presented by the Heritage Alliance's Chairman Loyd Grossman.
- The 2016 winners will be announced this December and will mark the renaming of the award to the Ecclesiastical's Award for Heritage Heroes, in recognition of the insurance company's sponsorship.

### European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards 2016

- Regarded as Europe's most prestigious prize in the heritage field, the **European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards** celebrate and promote the best practice in heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication. Winners announced at the award ceremony hosted in Madrid, Spain included:
  - The restoration of the 18th century Gothic Tower at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire.
  - Historic England's Heritage Schools programme.
  - The Pitoti Prehistoric Picture Project on Digital Rock-art.



*The Ripple* off the coast of St Ives under sail. © John Lambourn



### 5.3 SPAB's National Maintenance Week

- For some time the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' (SPAB) caseworkers have expressed alarm at the treatment of old floors. The SPAB believes a vital step is being missed by many of those involved with and responsible for the care of the built historic environment. A great number of schemes are being developed without initial consideration of the beauty and interest of the materials underfoot. Floors are where we make a direct physical connection to a space, following in the footsteps of those who – throughout the centuries – have gone before.
- Further enquiry into interventions involving floors in both religious and secular buildings across the country has convinced the Society that this is a subject of concern and something that should be brought to the attention of a wider audience.
- Obliteration of ancient fabric is happening with alarming frequency. Although often well-intentioned, brutal work is being carried out under the guise of 'improvement' with little or no regard given to the aesthetic or historic significance of a floor, resulting in irreversible damage due to lack of understanding. This campaign hopes to make people aware of the importance of the history at their feet. A free downloadable booklet on how to care for old floors and more campaign information is available [here](#).
- The National Maintenance Week, SPAB's annual campaign to encourage regular maintenance of all buildings, took place between the 18th – 25th November 2016. Calls to SPAB's technical advice line indicate that one of the biggest concerns for homeowners is how to keep their home dry, so 'damp' was taken as this year's theme. The Society will be providing expert advice on how to tackle the issue on the website and in the *SPAB Magazine*.

### 5.4 Conservation Areas 2017 Anniversary

- Heritage sector organisations are pulling together a package of research and activity to mark how much has been achieved in the half century since the Civic Amenities Act introduced the idea of Conservation Areas. From the first designation in Stamford in 1967, their popularity caught on quickly and there are now more than 10,000, embracing a huge range of historic places. From canals to post-war housing estates, city centres to humble hamlets, the Conservation Area has proved to be a practical and flexible way to protect the heritage that local communities value. Although the additional controls that Conservation Area designation brings are actually relatively limited, the fact that the area has a special status appears to have helped to drive up design standards and ensure that, in most cases, there is a shared sense of collective responsibility for heritage from the owners, local authority, statutory undertakers, businesses and others who have an interest in the area.
- A co-ordinated programme of research is underway, and will be reported in more detail in next year's Heritage Counts. Key elements of this are likely to be:
  - Surveys of the general public, members of local civic societies and heritage professionals about their awareness, and perceptions of and attitudes towards conservation areas.
  - Detailed analysis of existing conservation area data to gain a better understanding of who lives and works in them and uses them for leisure.
  - Research to better understand what can put conservation areas at risk and the pressures they are under whether from under-investment or inappropriate new development.
  - New and refreshed advice about managing conservation areas and their public spaces.

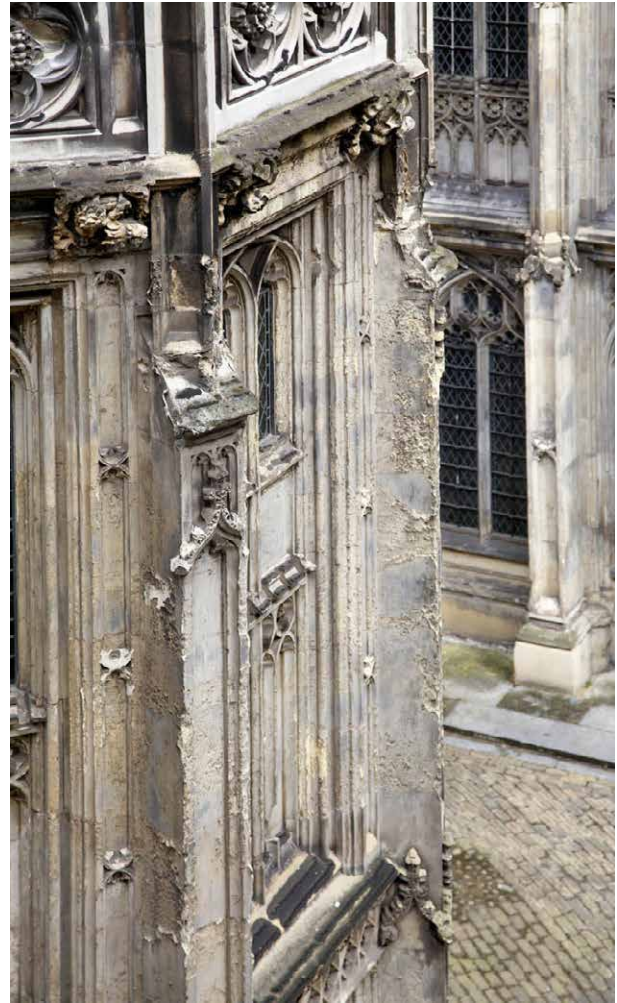
## Case Study: Restoration and Renewal of the Palace of Westminster

Since its construction in the mid-1800s, there have been several phases of conservation work to the historic fabric of the Palace of Westminster, including on-going phased conservation repairs to the cast iron roofs, external stonework and encaustic tile pavements, but a major programme is now required to renew essential services. Many of the mechanical and electrical services were last replaced in the late 1940s and reached the end of their projected life in the 1970s and 1980s. The reactive repair approach which has been operating since then is no longer sustainable and complete re-servicing is now required. This degree of intervention will require at least partial vacation of the premises to undertake the replacement of services together with the removal of asbestos from voids, upgrading fire compartmentation and any associated conservation works.

The Palace of Westminster Restoration and Renewal Programme was set up in order to address these substantial issues. In addition The Joint Select Committee on the Palace of Westminster, which was formally appointed in July 2015, was also created to consider the restoration process. Over the last year the latter has reviewed the Independent Options Appraisal, making suitable recommendations for the preferred course of action. Plans proposed included three varying options for how the work could be undertaken:

- **Rolling programme** – Parliament would remain occupied whilst restoration work was undertaken over a period of 32 years.
- **Partial move out** – the House of Commons, then followed by the House of Lords, would move out of the Palace into temporary accommodation whilst work was undertaken. The work would take 11 years to complete.
- **Full move out** – both Houses would fully vacate the Palace for the entirety of the renovation period, which would take six years.

The Select Committee issued their report at the beginning of September, recommending the third option of a full move out to allow the work to be carried out over six years. A decision is anticipated by the end of 2017, requiring the setting up of an arm's length Delivery Authority to develop proposals. Work on site is envisaged to commence in 2023.



An example of the general dilapidation of the stonework in Cloister Court. © UK Parliament

## 5.5 IHBC

- This year, the **Institute for Historic Building Conservation** (IHBC), in partnership with the Marsh Christian Trust, set up a new conservation awards scheme. There are two categories in the Marsh Awards. The first is for successful learning in heritage skills and is particularly targeted at young people at the beginning of their career. The second is for retired IHBC Members' contributions to the community. The award is there to recognise and encourage those retired members who use their skills voluntarily to help community based conservation projects. The first awards were made at this year's successful IHBC Annual School in Worcester with the title 'People Power: Catalyst for Change'.
- In partnership with ChurchCare, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England, the IHBC is running a series of sessions with staff in the Diocesan Advisory Committees (DACs) to raise awareness of how the IHBC can help in their conservation practice and careers and explain how to secure professional recognition for their special skills as members of the IHBC. The institute is offering reduced entry fees to promote access and training events are scheduled into the coming year.
- **The Institute has commissioned a report on its communications and campaigning.** It found that its existing online and mainstream profiles could be streamlined by tying its digital operations more closely to its campaigns. In response, the Institute is developing a new communications strategy and devoting resources to extend its use of social media. A linked initiative has been the IHBC's Conservation Wiki, which has been developed as part of the Designing Buildings Wiki platform created to make construction industry knowledge freely available to everyone. Anyone can create articles about subjects they know and find articles about subjects they don't.

## 5.6 CIFA

- Since it acquired its Royal Charter in 2014, individual membership of the Chartered Institute for Archeologists (CifA) has grown to over 3,300, and the number of Registered Organisations (a unique quality assurance register demonstrating compliance with CifA standards) now stands at 78.
- In accordance with CifA's 2015-16 business plan, the organisation has worked to increase opportunities for archaeologists entering the profession, in particular to ensure sufficient skilled professionals can advise on and staff forthcoming major infrastructure projects, such as HS2.
- In order to help graduates and new entrants to the profession gain professional recognition, CifA developed an accreditation 'pathway' setting out the steps to demonstrate Practitioner (PCifA) level competence. With universities, CifA are exploring the potential for accreditation of archaeology undergraduate and Master's degrees, to encourage academic study to provide skills that are relevant to a career in archaeology and to ensure that students have the opportunity to achieve professional accreditation of those skills. CifA runs an NVQ Assessment Centre, and works with individuals and employers to develop and assess candidates for the Level 3 NVQ certificate in archaeological practice. The next sections of pathway will guide to higher levels of accreditation. A potential final step is to 'Chartered Archaeologist', and CifA has been consulting the sector about whether or not to seek that power.
- **Changes to planning and heritage legislation have continued to dominate CifA's English advocacy work in the last year.** Many actual and proposed changes to the planning system threaten the successful management of the historic environment, especially for heritage assets with archaeological interest that are not designated. CifA has continued to promote the value of local authority archaeology services and Historic Environment Records to local authorities, Ministers and civil servants.



- ClfA has continued to work in partnership with many other sector partners, and this year signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. The agreement defines clearly the roles of the two institutes, articulating their similarities and differences in a way that is intended to help both organisations manage their relationship to the best mutual advantage, and to help other bodies in the sector and beyond identify which institute(s) to engage with and when.
- Further information about the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists can be found [here](#).

### 5.7 HHA Impact Research

- In early 2015 the Historic Houses Association (HHA) commissioned DC Research to carry out an independent study into the economic and social contribution of independently owned historic houses and gardens in the UK, as well as their wider contribution.
- The methods employed were desk-based research and analysis, consultations with steering group and HHA representatives, surveys of the HHA Membership, and finally identification, development and implementation of a range of case studies of historic houses which served as examples of the various ways in which historic houses contribute both economically and socially.
- The findings of the research highlighted that historic houses and gardens generate ‘regular economic contributions’ both on and off-site. Annual staff employment with HHA members generates 41,000 full time equivalent jobs in direct or indirect employment. There is also expenditure on procuring supplies and services which totalled £247 million per year, of which 46 per cent came from local suppliers. Expenditure on regular repairs and maintenance across entire HHA membership was valued at £85 million per annum, and the expenditure of the 24 million visits to HHA properties a year reached an estimated £1 billion, £720 million of which is off-site.

- Conversely, other aspects of economic contribution relate to individual one-off activities that have taken place (or could take place in the future), classified as ‘one-off’ economic contributions. These include capital expenditure on one-off developments, and expenditure on one-off repairs, of which urgent repairs totalled £480 million, and non-urgent almost £901 million.
- In combining both regular and one-off contributions it was revealed that independently owned historic houses and gardens add £286 million per year to the UK’s economy, illustrating the tremendous contribution these historic assets make.

### 5.8 Places of Worship Research

- Places of Worship and their value to the local community as architectural, social and landscape assets for everyone, not just people of faith, has been a key focus of Historic England in the past year. Research into Places of Worship has provided a much needed resource for decision making, as well as providing new narratives on under-represented or poorly understood heritage. New ground has been explored through the publication of work on Buddhist heritage, and work continues to be undertaken on Mosques, Hindu temples and the places used by other minority faith groups including Jain, Zoroastrian and Baha’i in England. The research has produced useful baseline data on the significance and uses of faith buildings, often acting as a turning point in their strategic management. Work in partnership with the Religious Society of Friends has provided historical reports, which are being made available to local Historic Environment Records and the public.
- Research on sites with immense significance to local and dispersed communities has been conducted on Jewish cemeteries. The findings highlight that the ‘abandonment’ of these burial grounds exacerbates the natural age-based deterioration that affects most cemeteries, reaching critical levels for many nineteenth century Jewish burial grounds. As a result, Jewish Heritage UK has designated a number of sites as ‘At Risk’ largely due to this neglect.

- Research is also being undertaken by Historic England on a partnership project with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Greater Churches Network, Doncaster Minster, and the Church of England to understand the challenges and distinctive characteristics of major parish churches in England, a report of the findings can be found [here](#).
- The Church of England published its own **Review of Church Buildings in October 2015**. It was described as ‘a comprehensive review of the Church of England’s stewardship of its church buildings and includes a wide range of statistics, a substantial theological reflection and a survey of various initiatives being taken in individual dioceses’. The Review has stimulated debate and active recognition of the need for strategic thinking about the best use of historic assets, their maintenance and creative use. The review can be found [here](#).

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