

Historic Environment Overview

Spring 2022



Heritage Counts

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Bowes Railway Company volunteers went from gardening novices to allotment champions as part of an allotment project inspired by Heritage Open Days' Edible England theme. © Bowes Railway Company



People visiting Kenilworth Castle. © Tom Podmore on Unsplash

The Historic Environment in 2021-22 and the role of the Historic Environment Forum

The Historic Environment Overview is part of [Heritage Counts](#), the annual audit of England's heritage, first published in 2002.

Throughout the financial year 2021-22 the pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the historic environment sector, despite the successful rollout of the vaccination programme which led to the lifting of most restrictions and the continuation of emergency funding. Notwithstanding the pandemic, we have seen some major policy changes (e.g. the funding streams replacing EU funding, the development of the levelling up agenda, etc.) which may transform the way the historic environment is managed. This report also shows the ingenuity of the sector, which responded to the challenges in innovative ways (e.g. developing digital activities, initiating programmes to strengthen resilience) and harnessing opportunities such as the [COP26](#) event held in Glasgow.

Since 2000, the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) has brought together representatives from key stakeholders across the historic environment sector in England to facilitate high-level strategic collaboration. It was restructured in 2020 to take a more proactive role in addressing vital priorities, following the successful example of the programme [Heritage 2020](#). Today, the Forum aims to identify opportunities for the sector, coordinate efficiently the sector's response to challenges, and facilitate collaborative work on agreed priorities. HEF is hosted by The Heritage Alliance on behalf of member organisations, with financial support from Historic England.

The outcomes that HEF aims to realise are:

- Well-informed advocacy and decision-making, by facilitating intelligence-gathering.
- Stronger, less fragmented and more efficient sector, thanks to the establishment and maintenance of productive working relationships between the key stakeholders.
- Positive change through collaboration in the historic environment sector in England.
- A sector better equipped to support, maintain and champion heritage in the long term, thanks to a key coordination role and the realisation of the outcomes listed in the [HEF Strategic Framework for Collaborative Action](#).
- Collaboration is promoted and celebrated. Through its communication channels and this Overview, HEF aims to provide opportunities to be explicit about how the sector is working together.

This overview report captures the most significant changes that happened in the last financial year under five main sections:

1. Introduction and updates – covering DCMS and arm’s length bodies’ strategic directions and developments over the past 12 months.
2. The funding and resource landscape – concerning the financial updates of the sector and the most significant funding streams.
3. Heritage policy and management – with updates on key policies developed and major programmes.
4. Planning system – reviewing key changes in national and local planning policy.
5. Participation and capacity building – covering public engagement, volunteering and events as well as the efforts towards building capacity within the sector.

The report material was compiled mainly in February-early March 2022, with updates covering the period relating to the financial year April 2021 to March 2022. This Overview is produced by the Historic Environment Forum, with support from the National Trust and Historic England.



A view of Canterbury. © Ion Şipilov on Unsplash

1. Introduction and updates

This section includes information on ongoing and completed work by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS), and by the main arm's length bodies (ALBs) involved in policy making and in shaping the protection and management of the historic environment in England.

DCMS

2021-2022 has been a challenging year for all with a continued focus on response and recovery from Covid-19. As we now move safely towards living with Covid-19 and following the ending of remaining restrictions in spring 2022, there have been many achievements over the last year that have highlighted the importance of the heritage sector to wider recovery and building back better.

In 2021 our world leaders gathered for COP26. The UK was proud to host a joint-ministerial event on adaptation and cultural heritage protection with the Italian government, building on Italy's pioneering G20 leadership, to put out a call to action for all states to embed cultural heritage protection into their adaptation planning.

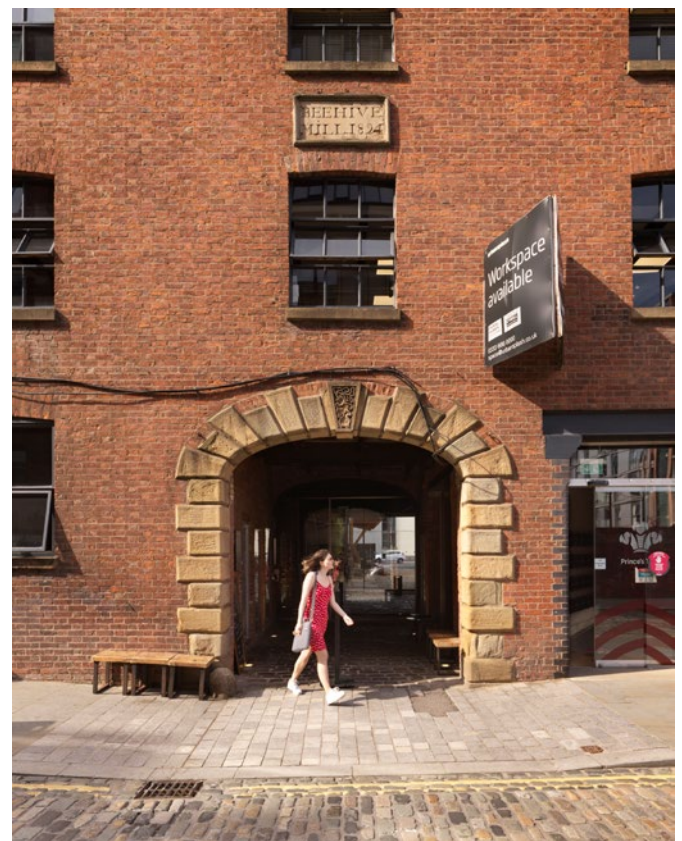
DCMS also launched its **Culture and Heritage Capital Programme** with the publication of ['Valuing culture and heritage capital: a framework towards informing decision making'](#). Throughout the programme, DCMS will publish research, data, guidance and tools to help organisations think systematically about how policy changes will have an impact on society leading to better investment decisions. The first conference held in March 2022 reached around 400 practitioners and leaders from across the arts and heritage sector.

The Government launched the £2 billion **Culture Recovery Fund** in 2020 and support for heritage alone has now exceeded £300 million. The Culture Recovery Fund, delivered through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, has supported over 700 heritage projects and sites. The Heritage Stimulus Fund capital funding, distributed by Historic England, has supported nearly 900 sites to restart vital construction and maintenance, preserving visitor attractions, and supporting vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors. This funding has safeguarded around 900 specialist jobs, as well as leaving a substantial legacy of heritage assets in better condition.

Building on this investment, the **Spending Review 2021** settlement for DCMS will grow and evolve the UK's world-leading culture and heritage sectors. £850 million has been allocated for cultural and heritage infrastructure over the Spending Review period. National museums, galleries and other DCMS public bodies have been provided up to £150 million of additional funding to help recover from Covid-19 and support levelling up. Government has also confirmed the continuation of the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme for another three years until 31 March 2025.

Alongside funding and investment, collaboration has continued to be key. The Ministerial Covid-19 **Heritage Working Group** has been absorbed into the re-established **Heritage Council**. The Council's extended membership ensures the close collaboration on key issues continues and recovery is fully integrated into wider cross-government dialogue on heritage policy. The Council reconvened in December 2021 to discuss key strategic issues such as agri-environment schemes, the response to Covid-19 and levelling up funding.

The **Levelling Up White Paper**, published in February 2022, set out the Government's key priorities for spreading opportunity more equitably across the country, as part of the Government's agenda to Build Back Better after the pandemic. Heritage has a clear role to play across these priorities, as the White Paper set out. A place's heritage – its local institutions, historic



Entrance to Beehive Mill, Manchester.
© Historic England Archive/James Davies

buildings, natural heritage, and intangible heritage – are sources of pride for local communities, catalysing a sense of belonging. Recognising this role, more than 40 of the 107 successful Levelling Up Fund bids in the first round of the £4.8 billion **Levelling Up Fund** had some element of ‘culture’ funding, with a number of these focusing specifically on heritage projects in October 2021. The prospectus for the Levelling Up Fund round 2 was published in March 2022 and confirmed that ‘culture and heritage’ remains an investment theme of the Fund. Further details of the £2.6 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the guidance for which confirms that ‘heritage assets’ can be considered by Local Authorities for investment, will be published later in the spring.

In 2021 DCMS committed to publish a new **Heritage Statement** to set out the Government’s strategy for heritage. Government undertook a series of online and in-person consultation events across the regions to hear from key stakeholders to understand current issues and challenges. The statement will focus on how heritage can galvanise the achievements of the last year, to ensure a sustainable future for assets and the environment, fully contribute to levelling up the country both economically and socially, and ensure that the benefits of heritage are accessible to everyone, no matter their background.

Historic England

In May 2021 Historic England published its [Future Strategy](#) setting out its aspirations and priorities for the organisation over a ten-year period as the country and the heritage sector began their recovery from the devastating impact of Covid-19. Putting people at the heart of its vision, values and objectives, the Strategy set out a new strategic approach based upon three areas of focus – Thriving Places, Connected Communities and Active Participation. The Strategy recognises the important contribution heritage and the historic environment make to many of the key issues of the day – enhancing wellbeing, achieving greater diversity and reducing inequality, increasing prosperity and living more sustainably. It builds upon the shorter-term activities and priorities set out in Historic England’s [Corporate Plan](#), and it reinforces Historic England’s commitment to continue the close working relationship with fellow sector organisations and others that developed during the course of the pandemic to achieve greater levels of impact and reach.

The importance of collaboration is also a central theme of Historic England’s climate change activities, as described in its strategy for its response to the climate, energy and biodiversity crisis. The organisation’s [Climate Change Strategy](#) is divided into three areas

of activity – Mitigation (the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero), Managing Risk (understanding the threats to heritage from a changing climate), and Adaptation (preparing for a changing climate). Historic England has established a programme to deliver the identified priority actions in the strategy and progress with delivery will be reported annually. Alongside the strategy, Historic England also published its [Carbon Reduction Plan](#), which reported the organisation’s baseline carbon footprint for the first time and identified the primary sources of its carbon emissions together with a plan to remove them from its operations by 2040.

Reflecting Historic England’s vision for heritage that is valued, celebrated and shared by everyone, work continued in 2021/22 to deliver the actions set out in its [Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Strategy](#). Historic England applied for the first time and was placed 82nd out of 203 organisations that registered for the [Social Mobility Employer Index](#). Work is underway to implement many of the recommendations made by the Social Mobility Foundation to improve Historic England’s policies and practices to ensure the organisation provides opportunities to everyone regardless of background or birth. Progress has also been made on inclusion and diversity training, on developing work with young people through the [Heritage Schools](#) programme and other action research projects, and on developing a cohort of Inclusion Champions across the organisation to support inclusion and diversity work internally and externally.

Recognising the impact Covid-19 has had on the heritage sector and society as a whole, Historic England has continued to focus on delivering activities designed to aid recovery from the pandemic. The organisation continued its highly effective partnership with the DCMS, Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver the [Culture Recovery Fund](#), including the [Heritage Stimulus Fund](#) designed to ensure essential repairs and restoration can be completed and heritage sites are brought back to life, safeguarding specialist heritage jobs and generating employment. As well as administering grants, Historic England also worked with the Historic Environment Forum to implement a [Recovery Plan](#) for the sector and to develop a subsequent Resilience Plan. Reflecting the impact the pandemic has had on people and communities, Historic England has placed [wellbeing](#) at the centre of its work, undertaking research and developing advice and support to ensure as many people as possible experience the wellbeing benefits of heritage.



Interior view of St Mark's Church with painted murals by Kitty Milroy, listed in 2021.
© Historic England Archive, photographer Christopher Redgrave

Historic England has also continued to deliver its core functions of:

- Grants, including for heritage at risk and the High Streets Heritage Action Zones programmes;
- Planning, comprising casework as well as advice and guidance and advising government of proposed changes to planning policy and regulations;
- Research, continuing to make new discoveries and provide greater understanding and enjoyment of our historic places;
- Listing.

Details of much of this work are covered in this Overview.

The [Annual Review of Listing 2021](#) report of fascinating places that joined the National Heritage List for England was published and received positive and widespread media coverage across England. 416 new sites were designated during 2021, including the prototype for the D-class submarine that was commissioned into

the Royal Navy in 1909 and served in the First World War; the Mud Walls of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, constructed of local clay as an inventive way to work-around the government tax on brick and tiles; the exquisite scheme of murals by local artist Kitty Milroy on the chancel walls of a Victorian church, St Mark the Evangelist Upper Hale; and an incredibly rare 1930s Police Box in Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, one of only a handful that still survive (98% have gone, a reminder of just how important listing is).

Work also continued on the [Culture and Heritage Capital framework](#). The programme was launched in January 2021 and aims to help the heritage sector make a stronger case for investment in heritage by better capturing and articulating the value of heritage assets using innovative economic techniques aligned with HM Treasury guidance.

Following a review of its marine heritage services, Historic England appointed a Head of Marine Heritage Strategy to set and deliver a strategic framework for marine heritage, engage with government and national agencies, and be an advocate for [marine heritage](#) in England. Four new marine plans were adopted in 2021 with the result that all English regions of the UK

Marine Area are now covered expressly by specific policies on the historic environment. Additionally, a major collaborative £2.9m AHRC-funded project led by Historic England – UNPATH – was announced with the aim of making marine records accessible for the first time across all four UK nations and opening them to the world.

Historic England, jointly with English Heritage Trust, had their status as an Independent Research Organisation re-confirmed for the next three years following an audit by UK Research and Innovation.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

During 2020-21, the National Lottery Heritage Fund prioritised support for the UK's heritage to adapt and respond to the immediate impact of the Covid-19 crisis. This included closing National Lottery Grants for Heritage to create the £50 million Heritage Emergency Fund, grant increases and giving flexibility to existing projects, the Culture Recovery Fund for DCMS, and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund for Defra. In 2021-22, as the heritage sector looked to adapt and recover, the Fund reopened National Lottery Grants for Heritage, prioritising the six funding outcomes to fund heritage projects that support the UK's economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

In 2021-22, the National Lottery Heritage Fund's two overarching priorities were to support organisations working with heritage to manage the Covid-19 crisis; and to make the Fund more responsive to immediate operating environments and beyond.

Funding through the open programme, National Lottery Grants for Heritage, was focused on meeting six of the nine outcomes in the **Strategic Funding Framework** (SFF) that support the UK's heritage throughout the pandemic and the UK's wider social and economic recovery:

- Inclusion – the Heritage Fund's mandatory outcome that 'a wider range of people will be involved in heritage'
- Economy including job creation – 'the local economy will be boosted'
- Wellbeing – 'people will have greater wellbeing'
- Local areas – 'the local area will be a better place to live, work and visit'
- Skills – 'people will have developed skills'
- Organisational resilience – 'funded organisations will be more resilient'

In addition, the Heritage Fund asks all applicants to take steps to achieve positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts through their projects.

In August 2021 the National Lottery Heritage Fund published a wide-ranging [review](#) of its approach to equality, diversity and inclusion covering investment, workforce, governance and culture. As part of the review, NLHF consulted both internally and externally and committed to act on what was learned. An independent taskforce advised the review and is continuing to advise on the implementation.

In addition to reopening National Lottery Grants for Heritage, additional funding and support for the heritage sector included the following:

The Fund continued to work in partnership with Historic England to deliver further rounds of the Cultural Recovery Fund.

The [Cultural Assets Fund](#) opened to safeguard nationally important heritage assets which are at risk due to the impact of Covid-19. £20 million from DCMS is being used for heritage assets in England, together with £20 million funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to ensure a UK-wide balance of funding. The Heritage Fund is working in close partnership with Historic England, Arts Council England and The National Archive to ensure nationally important heritage is safeguarded in the most appropriate way.

£50 million was awarded to five transformational heritage projects in 2021 through the [Heritage Horizon Awards](#). The four projects in England are Peatland Progress: A New Vision for the Fens; Plymouth Sound National Marine Park; Great Yarmouth Winter Gardens: Reimagining the People's Palace and International Slavery Museum: Igniting Ideas and Action.

In 2021-22, the Heritage Fund's Board has led a sharper focus on the Fund's impact on places, understanding and tracking the impact of investment and using insight to take an evidence-based approach to identifying priorities for engagement. The Heritage Fund's Areas of Focus has prioritised building capacity in local organisations to support heritage assets in thirteen areas that have had historically lower levels of funding from National Lottery Grants for heritage and rank higher on Indices of Multiple Deprivation. In partnership with the National Trust, the Heritage Fund has jointly invested and mentored 8 local authority areas to secure the future of their green spaces. The [Future Parks Accelerator](#) takes a place-based approach,

building capacity and supporting local authorities to develop a strategy that will transform their green spaces and make their management more sustainable in the long-term.

The [Digital Skills for Heritage](#) initiative continued to support heritage organisations to develop the digital skills and confidence needed to effectively respond to current challenges and equip organisations for the future. In November 2021 a new £1 million tranche of funding was awarded to heritage organisations or partnerships to establish new digital volunteering opportunities. The second [Digital Attitudes and Skills for Heritage](#) (DASH) survey provided new insights into attitudes towards digital in the sector, the digital skills and priorities relevant to the sector and how organisations are accessing support with digital. The survey report was published in January 2022.

Business support and enterprise development training programmes continued to be delivered by organisations and experts in the sector with an additional £1 million investment from the Culture Recovery Fund.

The Heritage Fund's commitment to social investment continued through the Arts and Culture Impact Fund run by Nesta and the Heritage Impact Fund, run by the Architectural Heritage Fund.

The Heritage Fund delivered a second round of the £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund on behalf of Defra, in partnership with Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission.

The [Dynamic Collections](#) campaign, launched in February 2022, focuses on supporting collecting organisations to be more resilient by making the most of their collections through engagement, re-interpretation and improved collections management. The campaign brings together project funding available through the Heritage Fund's open programme with digital resources and knowledge sharing.

Improved analysis and use of data and insight drove collaborative work to advocate for heritage and to support organisations working in heritage as their needs changed. Building on the heritage sector survey commissioned at the start of the pandemic together



Watergrove Mine in the Peak District. © Natural England/Elaine Willett

with stakeholder intelligence, the Fund partnered with Historic England to create the [UK Heritage Pulse](#) – a collaborative data and insight project to help inform and shape approaches to recovery following the pandemic.

Natural England

As the government's statutory adviser for the natural environment, Natural England's purpose is to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Delivering the vision of 'thriving nature for people and planet' requires an integrated approach, recognising that historic and natural environments are inseparable, interwoven, and interrelated. At Natural England, historic environment experts work closely with colleagues and external partners across a broad range of schemes and projects to secure conservation and enhancement - delivering more for nature and landscapes.

The Government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#) includes the goal of achieving 'enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement', recognising the important role that the historic environment plays in facilitating public understanding, appreciation and participation with the environment. In 2021, the Environment Act became law, placing the 25 Year Environment Plan on a statutory footing - introducing a suite of statutory targets, new tools and mechanisms to drive its delivery forward.

The [Nature Recovery Network](#) (NRN) is a major commitment of the plan, aiming to deliver a national network of wildlife-rich places, expanding, improving and connecting these places across our towns, cities and countryside. Protecting our historic natural environments and reinforcing the natural and cultural diversity of our landscapes is a defined objective of the NRN. Natural England is working to ensure historic environment considerations are embedded in nature recovery projects and Local Nature Recovery Strategies from the outset. A strong heritage voice within the NRN Delivery Partnership is crucial and heritage partners from across the country are encouraged to engage with this exciting work.

Looking forward into 2022, Natural England will continue to drive for historic environment benefits and protections as the new Environmental Land Management schemes are developed. Natural England's work within existing schemes will continue, providing expert input alongside partners to deliver protection for, and enhancement of, the historic environment. The Environment Act's introduction of

a new, mandatory, biodiversity net gain condition for planning permissions is an exciting opportunity to deliver permanent benefits for natural and heritage assets. Natural England is keen to see a strengthened position on cultural heritage within the Government's response to the Glover Landscapes Review and will be working closely with colleagues across the organisation to deliver a response to the consultation. 2022 presents a host of exciting opportunities for landscapes and nature, and Natural England is committed to the integrated management and protection of the historic and natural environment, delivering more for people and nature.



A view of the Peak District. © Roxxie Blackham on Unsplash



Street view in Hastings. © Kai Bossom on Unsplash

2. The funding and resource landscape

In the financial year 2021-22, funders continued to expend considerable efforts supporting existing heritage projects to survive the Covid-19 crisis, and to start building future resilience.

Covid-19 Emergency Funding

On 5 July 2020, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport announced a £1.57 billion package to protect the UK's culture and heritage sectors from the economic impacts of Covid-19. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, in partnership with Historic England, has distributed funding to organisations and businesses that own, work with or manage heritage in England.

At the 2021 Budget, the Chancellor announced an additional £300 million to support the Culture Recovery Fund in 2021-22, to continue to support key cultural organisations; bridge the sector as audiences begin

to return; and continue to ensure a vibrant future for the culture sector as the nation recovers from the pandemic.

Through the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage, in the first round £78.5 million was awarded across 508 grants, supporting organisations from 1 October 2020 up to 30 June 2021. The second round awarded a further 475 grants totalling £42.5 million to provide further support to organisations from 1 April 2021 up to 31 December 2021. Funding could support costs such as staffing, overheads, 'one off' costs associated with re-opening organisations including purchasing or installing essential Covid-19 related equipment and on-going essential maintenance.

In June 2021 a final round of the Culture Recovery Fund was announced. This round of funding was delivered through two strands; the 'Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Emergency Resource Support', for organisations that were in severe need and had not yet received support from the Culture Recovery Fund and the 'Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Continuity Support' – for organisations that were in need and had already received support from the Culture Recovery Fund. The budget for this round of funding was



The wrought iron gates at Ham House are heavily corroded and have lost elements of their decorative ironwork. The decorative finish is heavily degraded and in need of renewal to protect the remaining fabric.

© National Trust Images/James O. Davies

£40 million. Accredited museums continued to be supported separately through Culture Recovery Fund grants administered by Arts Council England.

Both strands initially closed in October 2021, awarding £15.7 million through Continuity Support to 126 organisations and £760,300 across 12 Emergency Resource Support grants. In order to continue to support the sector throughout the winter period, the Emergency Resource Support programme was re-opened to new applicants and past grantees with the aim of giving more organisations at imminent risk of financial failure an opportunity to bid for support. This scheme was open to Expressions of Interest up until 18 January 2022. Those invited to apply had until 3 February to submit a full application. The budget for the re-opened strand was £5 million.

In June 2021, the National Heritage Memorial Fund launched the NHMF Covid-19 Response Fund of £40 million to support nationally important heritage which is at risk due to the impact of Covid-19. This UK-wide fund includes a specific allocation of £20 million from DCMS as the Cultural Assets Fund for England, which sits with NHMF's own £20 million allocation enabling the combined fund to be available across the UK. This is a rolling fund across 2021-22 and 2022-23.

The NHMF Covid-19 Response Fund can support anything that is of outstanding importance to the national heritage *and* at risk due to the impact of Covid-19. This scope includes built heritage, monuments, land, portable heritage, heritage sites and collections. The scheme can support repair backlogs and conservation works necessitated by the impact of the pandemic, acquisition/purchase costs and costs associated with asset transfer, including organisational development costs to support ownership transition.

Levelling up funding

At the beginning of February, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove MP, announced the publication of the [Levelling Up White Paper](#). The White Paper articulates the government's intentions for its flagship policy of levelling up. Alongside the White Paper is the Levelling Up Fund, round one of which has already been announced. This is designed to target areas with greatest need and catalyse regenerative change. Round 1 of the fund includes three themes, one of which is *Culture and Heritage*.

The central objective of 'levelling up' is to address spatial inequality in the UK. These inequalities which, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), "*are*

greater than in most comparable countries" ([IFS Green Budget 2020, Levelling Up: Where and How?](#)), restrict opportunities, and result in unfulfilled potential. Addressing this imbalance is central to the ambitions of the government. A set of aspirations are outlined within the White Paper as 12 missions, the meeting of which will shape the approaches taken to levelling up.

The mission with the most direct link to heritage is 'Pride in Place'. This mission is supported by three themes, one being culture, heritage and sport. The reference to heritage here reinforces the position taken for existing funding streams, such as the Levelling Up Fund, the Towns Fund, and planned funds (the UK Shared Prosperity Fund). Within each of those funding streams, culture and heritage are explicitly referenced as supporting towns to meet their regenerative aims.

This hard-fought integration of heritage objectives into the development of key policies and funds is significant, but also represents a challenge. Moving heritage from the periphery to the core of economic regeneration policy is the result of a growing body of evidence that identifies the value of investment programmes which reflect, and are built around, an understanding of the places they seek to change. With the potential of increased investment into heritage-led regeneration comes the challenge of delivering effective change to places that need it most.

The most topical of these revenue streams is the Levelling Up Fund which, in the foreword to its prospectus, states that: '*upgrades in local heritage sites strengthen the local economy and build civic identity*'. This principle was developed with the inclusion of Culture and Heritage as one of just three investment themes (alongside transport and town centre regeneration).

The sector knows that wherever people live in the UK they are surrounded by heritage, be it historic buildings, landscapes and streets, or parks and gardens. It also recognises that heritage has a positive impact on people's quality of life. Polling by think tank Public First showed that heritage was the main source of civic pride for voters. Local heritage offers character and distinctiveness that can be key to unlocking place-based competitive advantages.

Heritage Action Zones and High Street Heritage Action Zones

As reported in previous years, Historic England continues to deliver its groundbreaking Heritage Action Zones and High Streets Heritage Action Zones programmes. Progress over the last 12 months has inevitably been impacted by Covid-19 and the resulting



Community group inside Frank's Café, Tyldesley High Street Heritage Action Zone.
 © Historic England Archive, photographer James Davies

lockdowns, but despite these restrictions both programmes continue to deliver real change in places that need it.

Through both the High Streets Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ), and broader Heritage Action Zones (HAZ) programmes, Historic England is working with local partners to unleash the power of the historic environment to create economic growth and improve quality of life in villages, towns and cities across England.

There are 20 HAZs spread right across England – historic buildings that have deteriorated through decades of neglect are being restored and put back into use; conservation areas are being improved to kick-start regeneration and renewal; and unsung places are being recognised and celebrated for their unique character and heritage, helping to build local people's pride in the places that they live and work. Amongst a range of other activities, the HAZ programme will see:

- 276 historic buildings repaired or restored;
- Over 28,000m² of commercial floorspace brought back into active use; and
- Over 800 volunteers trained.

Sitting within the Government's wider efforts to regenerate high streets, the HSHAZ programme has Historic England working with local partners in 67 high streets, unlocking their potential, fuelling economic, social and cultural recovery. With £95 million of funding from Government (£92 million) and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (£3 million), local partners are working with Historic England to develop and deliver schemes that will transform and restore disused and dilapidated buildings into new homes, shops, workplaces and community spaces, restoring local historic character and improving the public realm. Amongst a range of other activities, the HSHAZ programme will see:

- Over 93,000m² of public realm improved;
- Over 25,000m² of commercial floorspace brought back into use;
- More than 550 shopfronts reinstated;
- More than 575 heritage assets repaired; and
- More than 700 public events and open days held.

Case study: Heritage Debate 2022

The Heritage Debate 2021 took place on 30 November, focused on the topic of Levelling Up: What Does it Mean for Heritage? Panellists from across different areas of the sector were asked to discuss the place for heritage in the Government's levelling up agenda. In line with this event, heritage professionals were also invited to share their perspectives on this topic in short blogs for a [dedicated blog site](#). The event and the blogs produced useful case studies which The Heritage Alliance can use in its advocacy work with policy makers. The debate also provided members and the wider sector with useful reflections about the Levelling Up Agenda, and how heritage might make the most of the future plans.



Hunslet Mill in Leeds, following restoration and listing.
© Historic England Archive, photographer Alun Bull

Approach by HMRC to conditional exemption access requirements in 2021-22

264 historically significant properties in England have entered the conditional exemption scheme. These sites therefore comprise one of the largest networks of heritage assets open to the public. The conditional exemption scheme, operated by HMRC (Her Majesty's

Revenue and Customs), provides independent owners with relief from capital tax liabilities in return for undertakings that relate to the maintenance of nationally important assets and the provision of public access. More information can be found at www.visitukheritage.gov.uk.

HMRC has been helpful in understanding that it has not always been possible for owners of properties or assets in the conditional exemption scheme to meet all of their undertakings due to Covid-19. HMRC did not consider owners to have broken their agreement if public opening was delayed until 1 August 2021, even if public access requirements were due before this date.

After 1 August 2021, HMRC did not consider that owners had broken their agreements if reasonable public access remained impossible when following guidance on social distancing. For this reason, HMRC was open to considering requests for temporary adjustments to agreements until 31 March 2022. Similar pledges were made in relation to objects that might have been on loan to museums, galleries or other venues that remained closed because of the pandemic.

The Heritage Alliance and the wider funding landscape

The Heritage Alliance has continued to work with Government and funders, especially DCMS and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund and others, to make sure that funding programmes are as accessible as possible to the widest range of organisations in the sector. In addition to working across the sector to advocate for measures that will put heritage organisations in the most resilient place possible during the next phase of the pandemic, the past year saw advocacy also in support of funders themselves. The Heritage Alliance has made strong representations to the two DCMS Select Committee enquiries into the future of the National Lottery, reminding Committee members just how vital it is that the 20% share the National Lottery Heritage Fund receives from the National Lottery continues.

Autumn Statement and UK Shared Prosperity Fund

In the Autumn Statement, the Government announced the settlements for DCMS. In order to have the best possible outcomes for the sector, key organisations such as Historic England, the Arts Council and other Arm's Length Bodies, need to continue to be securely

and sufficiently funded. The Heritage Alliance made representations to the Treasury ahead of the Autumn Statement, with an updated '[Backing the Bedrock](#)' briefing for MPs and Lords focussing on current fiscal and funding priorities.

The funding landscape also continues to be impacted by Brexit. Towards the end of the financial year, the pre-launch guidance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was published, of which The Heritage Alliance [produced a summary](#). As the main replacement for EU structural funding, the UKSPF will be crucial, especially when paired with the Levelling Up White paper, which The Heritage Alliance also [summarised](#). The priority areas chosen by the Government have already impacted applications for the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisation Funding. The Levelling up Bill is anticipated in the next year and the sector must collectively continue to advocate that heritage benefits are front and centre of levelling up places.

Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Horizon Europe

A seven-year European research and innovation programme called [Horizon Europe](#) launched last year. In early 2021, the UK government announced that scientists, researchers and businesses would be able to access funding under Horizon Europe on equivalent terms as organisations in EU countries.

The UK Government stated that its priority remains association to Horizon Europe and that it stands ready to formalise UK association. Despite delays, the UK Government states that it is committed to securing association and continues to encourage UK researchers to take advantage of this opportunity.

Under Horizon Europe, [funding opportunities](#) are open to all legal entities, including museums and other cultural and creative sector organisations. The European funding instruments are not the easiest to navigate. As such a team of around 20 National Contact Points (NCPs) have been appointed by the UK government to help organisations to apply for Horizon Europe funding opportunities. A free helpdesk service is provided to answer questions about any aspect of Horizon Europe funding.

For anyone wanting to stay up to date with the latest European social science, arts and humanities events, news and funding opportunities, there is a cluster 2 email list available on request to ccisncp@esrc.ukri.org. This is also the contact address for the National Point for enquiries from cultural and creative sector organisations.

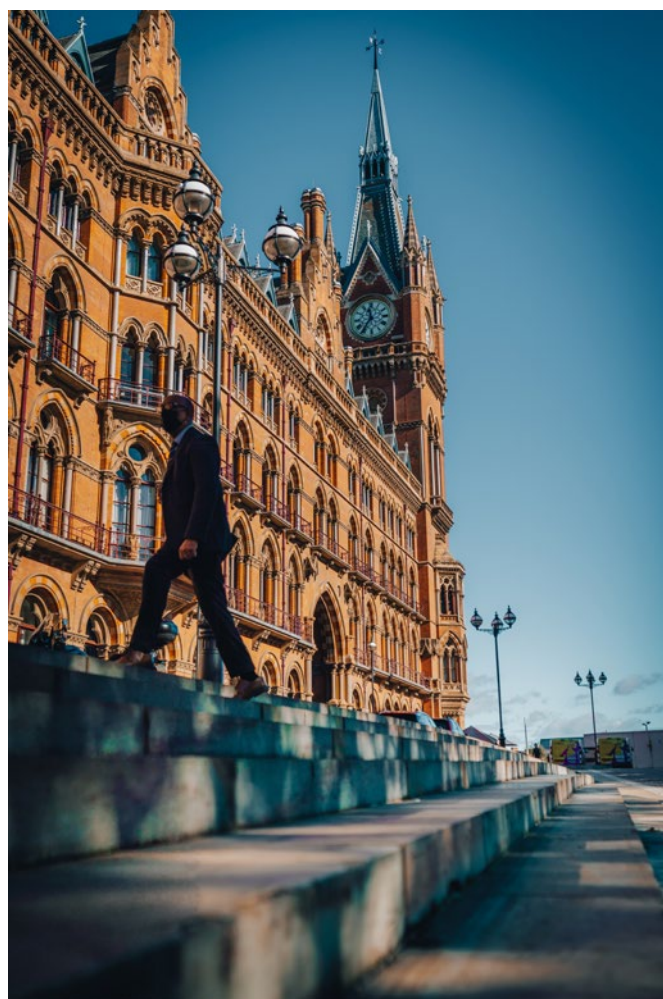
Should the UK be unable to associate to Horizon Europe, the UK Government has guaranteed to pay the successful applicants in many of the schemes. Further details can be found at: [Horizon Europe guarantee notice and guidance](#).

In 2021, the European Commission launched a [funding guide](#) for the Cultural and Creative Sectors.

In 2021, the [Heritage Research Hub](#) was updated. This is a platform for the international cultural heritage research community. It has been created and is managed by the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage (JPI CH).

[AHRC's Research Networking Scheme](#) allows for proposals for the development of European collaborative networks or consortia that might support the development of applications to the EU under Horizon Europe or other EU funding opportunities.

Finally, AHRC's International Co-Investigators policy also means that more than one International Co-Investigator can be included on a [responsive mode](#) proposal but costs cannot exceed 30% of the overall 100% Full Economic Cost (fEC) of an application.



St Pancras station, gateway to Europe.
© Jonny Gios on Unsplash

Architectural Heritage Fund

Founded in 1976, the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) works across all four countries of the UK to offer advice, grants, loans and other social investment support to projects seeking to reuse historic buildings for community benefit. The primary beneficiaries of all AHF funding and advice are charities and social enterprises, an increasing number of which are not heritage-focused in their activity, but nevertheless recognise the role that historic buildings can play in supporting placemaking and in protecting the uniqueness of our towns and neighbourhoods. The AHF's core goals are to support the development of sustainable new uses of historic buildings – bringing into line conservation objectives and business uses that will not only secure historic buildings for the future, but also ensure they remain dynamic hubs within their communities.

The AHF's largest grants programme in England, the DCMS-funded [Transforming Places through Heritage](#) programme (TPtH), was launched in 2019 and runs through to March 2023. This £15 million programme supports a team of regional officers

to guide and assess applications, monitoring more than 100 grant awards each year. Most TPtH grants focus on establishing the viability of a project plan (Project Viability Grants up to £15,000) and project development work to develop proposals, secure permissions, build a business plan and fundraise for capital works (Project Development Grants up to £100,000). Roughly a dozen capital grants up to £350,000 have also been allocated throughout the programme, with the final capital grant round due in March 2022. The TPtH programme has also supported several projects to develop community share offers via a partnership with Co-operatives UK and has worked with the Heritage Network and Locality, to present Open High Streets - an events series focused on building capacity within the sector. The latest report on TPtH can be read [here](#).

Over this same period, the AHF has been utilising its [Heritage Impact Fund](#) (HIF) – the only social impact-focused investment fund in the heritage sector. Through the HIF, the AHF offers loans between £25,000-£500,000 for up to five years, which can be used to provide stable cashflows during capital redevelopment, or for operational needs. The AHF



Heritage Minister Caroline Dinenage and social enterprise restaurateur Eileen Eastaugh-Mascoll open 160 King Street, Great Yarmouth, a 17th century timber-framed building conserved by Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust. © Stuart Livesey

have launched a business support and mentoring service, RePlan, which is included within the wrap-around advice that they provide to loan recipients. This offers help to charities and social enterprises to achieve long-term sustainability and to maximise the positive outcomes they generate for their communities. Over £5.5 million in loans from the HIF and endowment have been offered during 2020-21.

Throughout the pandemic the AHF has sought work in partnership with other funders and to offer flexible support needed by projects on the ground. This included the final delivery of the AHF's Culture Recovery Fund scheme for business planning post-Covid.

Wider funding landscape

Trusts and foundations, as well as social investors across the heritage and social impact landscapes, expended considerable efforts in 2020-21 supporting existing heritage regeneration and community heritage projects to survive the pandemic. During the past year, these funders have sought to embed new responsiveness and flexibility into their long-term offerings (many signing up to the [Flexible Funding Commitments](#) of the Institute for Voluntary Action Research), with additional revenue and emergency support offered alongside funds for capital redevelopment and education/interpretation.

A diverse range of charities and other investors offer funding for heritage projects in England. Many trusts and foundations focus on grants for capital work to conserve and adapt historic buildings, including the [Pilgrim Trust](#), the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#), the [Linbury Trust](#), the [Julia and Hans Rausing Foundation](#), the [Hamish Ogston Foundation](#) and the [Wolfson Foundation](#). Some of the above organisations also support the development and implementation of educational and interpretation programmes, as well as traditional heritage skills, which are supported by grants from the [Dulverton Trust](#) and many of the older guild trusts. Increasingly, many of these funders are also offering core revenue support for organisations. A complete list of heritage funders can be found in the [Heritage Funding Directory](#).

An increasing number of projects delivering key services from adapted historic buildings may be eligible for other forms of social investment, including loan or blended grant-and-loan support for organisational development and business planning from [Social Investment Business](#), [Power to Change](#), [Big Society Capital](#), [Key Fund](#) and [NESTA](#). Co-operatives UK also manages a [Community Shares Booster programme](#) to provide start-up grants, as well as equity investments,

Case study: Collections Care Stimulus Fund

With museums and galleries dealing with the disruption caused by the pandemic, the Collections Care Stimulus Fund was set up by Icon (the Institute of Conservation) to support the care and conservation of collections. This was a modest but positive offer, which came at a time when budgets for the conservation of collections and objects were badly impacted by the loss of income resulting from the lockdown restrictions.

Launched in February 2021, the scheme targeted small heritage organisations with under 100,000 visitors a year. The programme provided grants of up to £1,250 to support interventive, preventive and digitisation activities.

All projects required the involvement of Accredited members of Icon with the proposed conservation activities.

The total funding available was £20,000 which was originally intended to be distributed through two separate funding rounds. However, given the popularity of the programme, it was agreed that the full funding would be distributed in one round. 27 applications were received for a total of £30,043 grant funding to support projects costing £39,262. A panel of Icon members was convened to review the applications and make the final selection. 16 grants awards were made and the first completion reports are now available on the [Conservation Register website](#).

in projects seeking funding and to promote community engagement through community share issues.

Cover story: Wellington Monument

The National Trust has recently completed a conservation project to repair Wellington Monument, the highest three-sided obelisk in the world.

Situated high on the Blackdown Hills on the Somerset/Devon border, the 53m high monument was built between 1815 and the early 1850s to commemorate the Duke of Wellington's successes at the Battle of Waterloo. It has had a chequered history, including damage by lightning strikes, and has spent much of its life needing repair.

Since the Trust took over management responsibility in 1934, the monument has needed careful renovation



The Wellington Monument stands as a tribute to the Duke of Wellington and his victory at the Battle of Waterloo.
© National Trust Images/John Miller

every 10 to 15 years – an expensive and unsustainable process given its height. Over the years, poor quality historic mortar, failed repairs, and water ingress had caused areas of stonework to crack and fall away.

With the Grade II* listed monument in a dangerous and deteriorating state, the National Trust was forced to fence it off due to the risk of falling masonry. The condition of the monument having reached a critical point, in 2018 the National Trust launched a national fundraising project to ensure its repair.

£3.1m of repairs have restored the monument to a more durable condition than when it was first completed, with funding received from many major donors, the Chancellor and money granted through LIBOR funds, Historic England, Highways England and Viridor Credits. The local community have also been very generous with their donations. The monument is now in great condition following the successful repair project and is once again open for the public to climb to the top.



Urban blossom, Swindon 2021. © National Trust Images/James Dobson

3. Heritage policy and management

Section: Covid Response and Resilience Building

HEF Covid Task Group

The Covid Task Group set up by the Historic Environment Forum continued its work with DCMS and others to share information about the impact of the pandemic on the heritage sector and facilitate related collaborative working.

The Historic Environment Forum established the [Covid Task Group](#) in April 2020 to work with DCMS and support the meetings of the Heritage Working Group (part of the Culture Renewal Taskforce) chaired by the DCMS Heritage Minister, Nigel Huddleston MP.

Key discussions within the Working Group related to:

- guidance for a safe reopening of heritage attractions after the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19;
- the Culture Recovery Fund and the different revenue and capital elements of the Fund that are available to the heritage sector;
- the Test & Trace app and the consequences for heritage sites;
- collection of information on re-opening experiences at heritage sites, including details of compliance issues relating to social distancing and mask wearing etc. and
- periodic evidence-gathering on the impact of the second wave of Covid-19.

The Group worked with Historic England to assist in the production of the Heritage Recovery Plan (published February 2021) which covered four themes: re-opening, resilience, skills and return to growth with actions for Government and for the sector. The plan helped to guide the sector through the period of gradual re-opening in 2021 as regulations began to lift.

The Group also worked with The Heritage Alliance and DCMS to support a series of virtual roadshows held in the summer of 2021, which related to the themes of the forthcoming Government Heritage Statement, including resilience and recovery.

The focus on resilience was further developed by the Task Group later in the year. In December 2021 a series of workshops were held with representatives of HEF members to discuss priority actions for a heritage sector **Resilience Plan** (published in June 2022). The themes cover governance and business planning, climate change and sustainability, skills, diversity and inclusion, and embedding heritage in policy. Over the coming year, following publication of the Resilience Plan, the Task Group will coordinate and oversee collaborative work across the sector to deliver the agreed priority actions.

Historic England's activities to foster resilience in the sector

Whilst Covid-19 threatened the sector's resilience, it also encouraged new ways of working, particularly around digital engagement and training, which Historic England has continued to develop over 2021-22. Towards the end of the period, work has shifted in earnest away from pandemic planning and reaction, and to focus once more on the chronic risks to sector resilience.

Research/keeping abreast of the evidence. In 2021 the multi-year [Local Authority Staffing Survey](#) continued to provide data on core staffing. In addition, it contained a special module of questions to assess vulnerability of the local authority sub-sector and issues arising from changes to international employment following the full adoption of the Brexit agreement. Total core staffing for both local authority buildings conservation and archaeological teams showed a slight rise in full-time equivalent staff numbers (around 3.8%) from 2020 to 2021. The international workforce survey suggested that the risk to the local authority heritage workforce arising specifically from post-Brexit loss of EU staff was small.

Training and knowledge sharing. The Covid-19 pandemic saw a rapid adoption of digital learning technologies across the sector to maintain the delivery of education and CPD training opportunities. Historic England was amongst those organisations rapidly switching in-person training to online. For many training providers this was a steep learning curve and has been a change in practice which has demonstrated many benefits. To understand this shift and the impact on learners, Historic England commissioned [research](#) (published in 2021) into the use of e-learning in the heritage sector and lessons that could be applied to ensure resilience and accessible training provision in the future.

 FORUM
  LIBRARY
  GROUP BLOGS
  EVENTS
  WIKI
  MEMBERS



High Street HAZ

Welcome to High Street HAZ! 'Meet', share and learn with Project Officers from HSHAZ Schemes and Historic England's regional HAZ Project Officers. We hope you find this a helpful, friendly and informative space to support each other through your High Street HAZ journey, and share expertise, knowledge, skills and experiences relating to the delivery and legacy of your HSHAZ.

Last activity - Yesterday

Online peer groups are connecting heritage professionals and helping project delivery. © Historic England, 2022

The research showed that the heritage sector had a strong track record of using digital technologies to promote audience engagement and facilitate meaningful visitor experiences. The use of e-learning for skills-based heritage training, however, did not appear to have developed at the same pace and although there are some excellent examples of innovation there is a lot to be learnt, especially from other sectors, and challenges to overcome. Historic England will continue to explore ways in which digital learning techniques can support learning in the sector and aims to support other training providers by sharing experiences and creating communities of good practice.

To develop ways to collaborate effectively across the sector, Historic England appointed the sector's first ever [Digital Community Manager](#) apprentice to provide support for the use of online forums and groups such as those using [Heritage Workspace](#). Groups have been particularly effective for the support of long-term multi-agency partnerships such as the [High Street HAZ](#) group.

The Heritage Alliance Covid-19 response

The Heritage Alliance is the heritage sector's coalition of independent heritage organisations in England, with over 175 members. It is uniquely placed to share ideas and draw on members' knowledge to help policy makers realise the potential of heritage and to avoid inadvertent harm. The Heritage Alliance advocates for better understanding of the importance of heritage to prosperity, wellbeing, our environment, creativity and social resilience, as well as incubating and generating new thinking and dialogue on heritage issues. The Heritage Alliance's 2021-26 strategy can be read [here](#).

The Heritage Alliance develops and champions its members and their needs through representation at the highest levels in Government, including through the Heritage Council, Heritage Working

Group and direct information exchange with relevant departments. During the Covid-19 crisis The Heritage Alliance gathered data from members, fed back concerns where guidance was required, and [created a free guidance hub](#), sponsored by Oxford University, with live updates of rules, guidance and Government advice as well as good practice and guidance from the sector.

The Heritage Alliance also gave practical advice (for instance on how to apply for Culture Recovery Funding) and provided wider sector support through Heritage Lottery Funded Heritage Digital and Rebuilding Heritage programmes. These live programmes were able to generate information on how organisations needing support were faring and where gaps in knowledge and support lay.



Visitors exploring the garden at Nostell Priory and Parkland, West Yorkshire. © National Trust Images/John Millar

Case study: Historic Houses survey

Every year Historic Houses undertakes a survey of its 1,500 member properties, to generate information about the conditions those properties face. Nearly a fifth responded to the 2021 survey, revealing much about the conditions experienced by historic houses, parks and gardens during the year. The survey was conducted between November 2021 and January 2022 with the statistical analysis undertaken independently by DC Research.

Historic Houses properties have a significant economic and social impact. The results showed that in 2021 the respondents to the survey supported 7,000 jobs, two thirds of which were part-time or seasonal.

The impacts of the pandemic continue to be felt. 81% of respondents said that their turnover/revenue had fallen between March 2020 and July 2021. Visits in the calendar year 2021 were more than a third below those reported in the last pre-pandemic survey (17.1 million compared with 28.1 million in 2019). Two thirds of those surveyed had received Government-backed grants or loans during the pandemic, but despite this nearly half (47%) had delayed maintenance or repair works as a result of Covid-19.

Covid-19 is likely to have a significant long-term impact. Nearly two fifths of the member properties

said that the commercial activities they undertake had changed during the pandemic. The pandemic has posed a very real threat to the economic wellbeing of these places. Sometimes such financial conditions led to the sale of land or artworks. However, 63% of members described it as 'very important' that the house, land and collection be kept together as a single entity.

The adaptation of historic properties to meet 21st-century requirements remains subject to the planning system. Nearly a third (31%) of member properties had made a planning application in the 12 months leading up to November 2021. Of these, 70% were for repairs and restoration, 36% were for 'conversion of disused space to commercial use', 25% were to undertake works on residential development to tenanted properties and 10% were for installing renewable energy sources or heating systems.

Only 61% of members said they had a reliable mobile phone signal at their property, while 54% said they did not have reliable access to superfast broadband (30Mbs or more). Meanwhile the main barriers to reducing the carbon footprint of Historic Houses properties were reported to be: upfront costs (64%); the requirement for planning consents (39%); lack of information/advice (26%); or lack of time (24%).



View of Chatsworth House during an event. © Tom Podmore on Unsplash



Photovoltaic panels on the south-facing slope of Gloucester Cathedral's medieval roof. © St Ann's Gate Architects

Section: Climate Change, Sustainability and Environment

HEF Task Groups on Climate Change and Sustainability

The Historic Environment Forum exists to bring people together and there is no other issue that requires the forum to work more closely together than climate change. In late 2020, the Historic Environment Forum (HEF) agreed that a new HEF task group should support the sector to exchange and coordinate learning, and to create shared messaging and resources on heritage and climate change. COP26, the global summit on climate change, took place in Glasgow in November 2021 and provided a timely opportunity for HEF to demonstrate how heritage can be part of the solution to the climate change crisis.

Ahead of the COP26 summit, the HEF COP26 Task Group launched [Heritage Responds](#), a publication highlighting the positive contribution heritage organisations and their partners are making to the climate change debate and the actions needed to adapt to a changing world.

The work was the culmination of six months of collaboration between members of the [HEF COP26 Task Group](#). Heritage Responds showcases how the sector is responding to climate change, including investment in traditional low-carbon building adaptation techniques and nature-based solutions to mitigate the future impact of climate change. It also illustrates renewed efforts to increase the lifespan of heritage assets and save embodied carbon which might otherwise be sacrificed in demolition, new construction or poor upkeep. Heritage Responds asks the sector to: commit to decarbonizing; collaborate on climate change; communicate the value of heritage and to invest in the necessary training and skills to ensure the sector can adapt to climate change and unlock future opportunities.

Alongside this new report, the HEF COP26 Task Group, in collaboration with Historic England, also launched an online case study repository – the new [Heritage Responds Climate Change Story Map](#), a geographical mapping of key case studies demonstrating how the heritage sector is acting to address climate change, which aims to inspire further positive action across the sector.

Engagement with the report and the story map has been hugely positive. Since the launch, Heritage

Responds has been showcased at national and international events including the Victoria & Albert Museum's webinar series 'Culture in Crisis', the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund/ Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) 'Culture. Climate.Peace' conference and in the upcoming 'Speakers for Schools' educational webinar series, further increasing project reach and impact. Some of the key messages from Heritage Responds have also been reflected in Historic England's new Climate Change Strategy, which is very encouraging.

A new [HEF Sustainability and Climate Change Task Group](#) has been created to build upon the success of Heritage Responds. The group will work closely with HEF and other sustainability networks, supporting the sector to fulfil some key areas for action on climate change. The task group will create a forum through which knowledge, expertise and practical advice on sustainability planning, carbon accounting and net zero initiatives can be shared and exchanged. The group will run until autumn 2022 and will also produce heritage-led sustainability tools and templates, provide signposting and increased access to technical expertise.

IHBC@COP26: Helpdesk+ & podcasts

With COP26 as the most important conservation and climate advocacy event of the century to date, the IHBC established an innovative low-cost 'fringe' programme. This introduced a partnership-focused, open-access and virtual 'Helpdesk+' service - [IHBC@COP26](#): 'Conserving our Places Conserves our Planet!'.

The charity-based, public-led and partnership-focused '[IHBC@COP26 Helpdesk+](#)' programme featured other lead bodies including Heritage Trust Network, SPAB, SPAB Scotland, STBA, BEFS, and the Victorian Society. Each contributor invested time and effort to familiarise themselves with the virtual platform, exploring how conservation philosophy and practice contribute towards meeting the challenge of climate change. The full and diverse programme is available online.

To support open access to the Helpdesk+ platform – to which all were welcome – the IHBC opened for at least five hours over each of the 13 days of the COP, which equated to 70+ hours of free training on offer for specialist users and volunteers.

The IHBC has produced a leading advocacy document: '[Conserving our Places Conserves our Planet: Some observations on moving forward after COP26](#)' which continues to evolve. The main IHBC 'Helpdesk+' offer was the series of '[Climate and Conservation](#)' Podcasts,

led by IHBC Professional Services Officer Michael Netter. These featured lively sessions with a variety of sector experts sharing their views and experience on what is being done now and what is to come.

Sample podcasts episodes include Carl Elefante discussing why we should value our stock of existing buildings; Nigel Griffiths, of the STBA, on the recent Heritage & Climate policy and why Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) need a fundamental rethink; Historic England's Adala Leeson and Douglas Phillips on how understanding heritage values and carbon in the built environment is critical for transitioning to a lower-carbon economy; former IHBC chair, Dave Chetwyn, on how good planning and urban design increase places' sustainability and economic opportunity; and IHBC trustees Crispin Edwards and Roy Lewis in conversation about why the conservation of the historic environment is inherently sustainable.

The Climate and Conservation podcast has been listened to in excess of 16,000 times to date. Users can recap on episodes all of which are freely accessible via the [IHBC Podcast page](#) and usual podcast channels.

National Trust's response to climate change

The National Trust has worked extensively throughout all areas to reduce its impacts on climate, and while there is still much work to be done, it has made some fantastic achievements in recent years to reduce energy use, dependence on fossil fuels and to make operations and business practices more sustainable through waste reduction and improvements in environmental practice. This has very much been down to the leadership of the Environmental and Countryside Teams, through engagement with property teams and through a network of Environmental Practice Advisers. Policy has become practice, and this is now reflected in the spend on certain resources. In many ways Covid-19 prompted the organisation to more deeply explore and invest in ways of working which reduce travel and limit use of resources it previously felt dependent upon. Climate action continues to be prioritised with initiatives both in the design stage and starting to roll out – such as meeting the target for planting 20 million trees, and work around peatland recovery to increase capacity for mitigation and storage.

In 2020 the Trust turned its attention to climate adaptation. This initiated a piece of work led by National Specialist for Climate Change, Keith Jones, to map the major hazards the organisation is likely to face in relation to climate change. The Trustees were keen to understand the likely cost of climate change

adaptation to this type of organisation. What does climate change mean for its conservation principles? How would they know when and whether the changes in approach to managing assets, staff, visitors, and other activities have worked?

To answer this, the mapping of hazards was undertaken to focus on coastal processes, flooding, heat/humidity, storm damage, landslides and shrink/swell. The maps drawn up looked at the worst-case scenario (a Representative Concentration Pathway or RCP 8.5 scenario) to encourage the Trust's leaders to "plan for the worst" and then hope for the best.

Understanding of the National Trust's exposure to climate hazards is only the first step. The organisation has since been working with Historic Environment Scotland, Historic England, Cadw, Northern Ireland's Department for Communities and other charities such as English Heritage Trust and National Trust for Scotland, to consider the sensitivity and vulnerability of assets and activity to such hazards. Once this is understood, work can begin on targeting with the actual impacts. Does climate change actually make a difference to the management of places? How about individual assets, collections, trees, or paths?

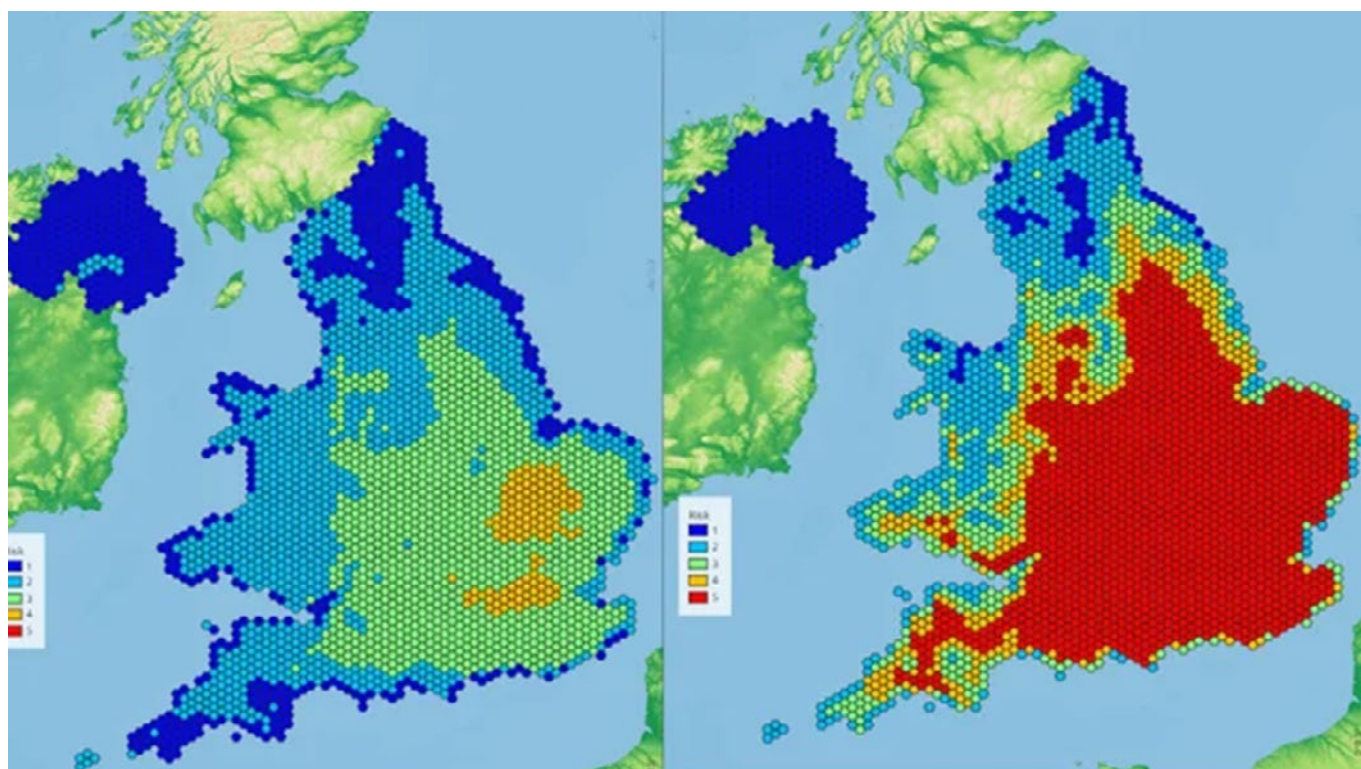
A literature review in 2021 assessed the adaptation strategies and methodologies in the heritage sector. This also looked at ecology, visitor attractions and emergency salvage guidance related to adaptation. This helped to prioritise the Trust's own thinking around adaptation, to develop internal policies

around climate change, and options for dealing with hazards and their impacts. The organisation has begun conducting internal workshops on different focus areas (such as parks and gardens, archaeology, buildings and infrastructure, coast, insurance, facilities and services etc.) to consider which guidance and practice exists and to identify research needs and gaps in knowledge to aid planning over the next few years. This research will help to develop a manual and toolkit for National Trust regional staff.

Ultimately any guidance the Trust produces will have a focus on its own practitioners, but it is also developing a platform for external guidance around asset type/activity. This will be accessible to all heritage professionals, offering options and guidance around different climate impacts and how and when conversations around conservation may need to happen proactively – to avoid last-minute reactive decision making, particularly where this leads to unrecorded loss of the historic environment.

Marine heritage

The designation and management of nationally protected marine sites has continued to be a focus for innovation. Projects and initiatives in 2021-22 have sought to increase accessibility through the publication of virtual dive trails, reduce heritage crime, provide for conservation of 'at risk' artefacts, and deliver new seabed surveys and research.



Hazard maps - heat and humidity 2020 vs 2060 on an RCP 8.5 trajectory. © National Trust



Winter walk in Cornwall. © Benjamin Elliott on Unsplash

June 2021 saw the adoption of four new marine plans with the result that all English regions of the UK Marine Area – which extends from mean high water springs to the limits of the UK continental shelf, as well as the tidal extent of estuaries, rivers and channels – are now covered expressly by specific policies on the historic environment.

In addressing climate change, the UK is continuing to ramp up the development of offshore wind farms which, like other forms of marine development, are subject to development advice on heritage through the marine planning system. Updated guidance on preparing and implementing *Archaeological Written Schemes of Investigation for Offshore Wind Farm Projects* was published by the Crown Estate in July 2021.

Progress on developing the National Marine Heritage Record (NMHR) has accelerated. This will be a dynamic dataset for everyone to search for records on marine heritage. The dataset will inform responses to marine planning and contribute to assessments of significance for heritage assets under consideration for statutory protection. Building on Historic England's existing marine data, the NMHR will relate to heritage assets that lie in the English inshore and offshore regions of the UK Marine Area.

Additionally, a major collaborative project led by Historic England – UNPATH – was announced with the aim of making marine records accessible for the first time across all four UK nations and opening them to the world. UNPATH will devise new ways of searching across diverse collections, visualising underwater landscapes, and identifying wrecks and artefacts from them. UNPATH will also deliver tools to protect our most significant heritage, while inviting the public to co-design ways of exploring the archives in order to uncover previously untold stories and new questions to guide future research. UNPATH is funded by UKRI's Arts and Humanities Research Council as part of their *Towards a National Collection* programme.

Following a review of its marine heritage services, Historic England appointed a Head of Marine Heritage Strategy in November 2021 to set and deliver a strategic framework for marine heritage, engage with government and national agencies, and be an advocate for marine heritage in England. Consequently, DCMS and Historic England have been meeting regularly to discuss items on a broad agenda encompassing policy and protection, international matters, marine discoveries and public value, as well as specific issues.

Case study: CITiZAN: Local knowledge and partnerships at the heart of sustainability

Inclusive and participatory practices are key considerations for many archaeologists. These ethical codes are at the basis of how we know archaeology should be practised, and are also central to social sustainability. [CITiZAN](#), the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network, is a community-based, citizen-science project aimed to highlight the loss of archaeology on the foreshore and intertidal zone. It promotes an accessible and standardised survey and monitoring methodology enabling members of the public to record and monitor heritage at risk that could otherwise disappear without preservation by record. At its core, CITiZAN promotes individual development, social capital, placemaking, social responsibility, community resilience, empowerment, and wellbeing. It *is* social sustainability.

Environmental change and its impact across human settlements and landscapes is a familiar theme in archaeology. The CITiZAN team has been able to highlight the relevance heritage can have on today's communities through archaeology revealed on the foreshore, and how the ecology of intertidal areas and associated economies are also changing – helping communities find new ways to reconnect with their environment and come to terms with damage and loss. The strength of this work is through CITiZAN's methodology, which enables and empowers participating members of the public to tell their own climate story. CITiZAN adapts to, and works with, local community values, to focus on and be led by what they consider important or significant.

CITiZAN regards volunteers as important sources of experience and information. Volunteers assist the CITiZAN project team in five locations across England: Liverpool Bay, the Humber, Mersea Island, the East Kent Coast, and the Solent Harbours. While the primary project goal is to enable heritage access to a wide range of audiences and members of the public, a core team of volunteers can now contribute to training events themselves, having gained an awareness of archaeology and the necessary skills to conduct archaeological research and actively contribute to site reports. Some volunteers have even been trained to survey and record transects throughout the foreshore using real-time kinematic positioning (RTK) technology. This is used to understand the contours of the foreshore, the potential for buried remains, and degrees of change for monitoring.

Through the project, the team has harnessed local knowledge and empowered individuals of local communities to tell their own climate heritage story – bridging social and environmental sustainability. For COP26, CITiZAN partnered with CHERISH and SCAPE to produce 14 videos, [available online](#), from across England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland focusing on climate heritage stories and how understanding the past can help contribute towards climate action.

CITiZAN is a [MOLA](#) (Museum of London Archaeology) project with partners the [Council for British Archaeology](#) and [Nautical Archaeology Society](#). The project is funded by the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), Historic England, the [Lloyds Register Foundation](#) and the [National Trust](#) with additional support from [The Crown Estate](#).



Photo of a CITiZAN volunteer leading their own heritage trail to a small group. Paul prepared the walk in Whitstable, and his since enrolled in an archaeology course, crediting CITiZAN for considerably changing his life direction. © Hana Morel

Climate change in archaeological practice

Archaeology – like all disciplines – needs to think about changing its working practices to contribute to net-zero targets. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) has established a small climate change working group of members who encouraged the Board of Directors to sign up to the Climate Heritage Network, and to review and update the Institute's existing policy for Environmental Protection. More recently, the working group has developed a Carbon Reduction Guide Table. This table looks at how the Chartered Institute, and the wider sector, can reduce their impact on the environment and respond to the climate, while working within the Institute's *Code of conduct* and Standards and guidance (www.archaeologists.net/practices/archaeologists-and-climate-change).

Climate change and the historic environment was the theme of [The Historic Environment: policy and practice, vol 12, nos 3-4](#), with ten scholarly articles exploring responses to the crisis.

Reaching net-zero in the Church of England

We are living in a time of climate emergency, and the Church of England is taking steps to encourage their churches to become Carbon Neutral by 2030, ahead of the UK government's target of 2050. This is a considerable challenge.

The Church of England's new digital databases allow them to record their carbon footprint whilst monitoring progress. This involves a package of measures including renewable energy sources, insulation, modernising heating, lighting and other systems, with any new development work taking these into account. This information is linked via the Church Heritage Record to other statutory databases, for example the National Biodiversity Network and other resources such as those managed by Historic and Natural England and the Archaeology Data Service.

Churchyards and cemeteries are carbon sinks with their mature grassland and trees. The Church is committed to protecting the biodiversity within church buildings and churchyards, such as bats, wildflowers and veteran trees, all of which are given protection by the Church of England's systems.

During 2021, the Dean of Arches convened a Green Working Party to consider what regulatory changes would be desirable under the faculty rules, to support churches moving to net-zero carbon. The discussions identified a range of actions that were desirable, and some it wanted to discourage, such as installing new gas- or oil-fired boilers.

This work was put into effect in amendments to the faculty rules that come into force in July 2022. The changes clarify the situation over some simple matters – LED lights, for example, and furnishings that help to retain body heat to increase comfort without increasing heat levels. For many applications electricity is a low-carbon source of energy. The amended rules have reduced regulation around installing buried cables in churchyards, which is intended to help upgrade supplies.

There are some actions which the group were keen to actively discourage. Heating churches is a particular challenge. From July 2022, a church that wants to upgrade its heating will need to conduct an options appraisal of the heating available to ensure that low-carbon options are considered, even if on some sites they prove unrealistic. The parish will need to engage with the issue as part of its permissions process.

Rural heritage issues

Over several decades, agricultural restructuring has rendered much of our rural landscape heritage largely redundant. This relates particularly to traditional farm buildings and field boundaries which are such a distinctive part of its character. Without an economic base for their maintenance, our countryside has suffered dereliction and loss. Similarly, farmland archaeology requires regular management to sustain it. Since 1986, rural heritage has therefore had a modest share of funding under agri-environment schemes. The post-Brexit shift of funding from area-based payments to payments for 'environmental public goods' via forthcoming Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes could, in principle, considerably increase the funding available for threatened heritage.

Although recognised in the Agriculture Act 2020 (which put in place a domestic framework for agricultural support following the UK's exit from the Common Agricultural Policy) as an environmental public good, heritage did not figure in the definition of 'environment' in the 2019 draft Environment Bill, giving rise to concerns that it might be deprioritised or no longer funded.

Whilst Government did not amend the definition in what is now the Environment Act 2021, Ministers have made several key commitments, notably that heritage would be included and funded in ELM schemes and would be included in future Environmental Improvement Plans (EIPs) when the current Plan is reviewed or replaced.

The Heritage Alliance continues to represent the sector on the ELM External Engagement Group. Defra did in



Muslim Hikers - Ramadan Hike at Ilam Park, Dovedale and the White Peak, Derbyshire. © National Trust Images/Paul Harris

2021 commission Historic England to work with The Heritage Alliance and other stakeholders to produce Heritage and Dry Stone Wall Standards as options within the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) – one of the three elements of ELM. Their introduction, however, is expected to be delayed until 2025.

Historic England has developed and introduced a Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) – an automated, digital record of heritage on farmland provided to all entrants in the first rounds of the SFI. This, along with management advice, helps ensure that there are no detrimental impacts upon rural heritage. A Shropshire Hills ELM Test and Trial project, a collaboration between Historic England, members of The Heritage Alliance (primarily the National Trust and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers), the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Upper Onny Farmers' Group has begun. It will examine how heritage information and advice can best be incorporated into the Land Management Plans that are currently expected to underpin the other two elements of ELM – Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery.

Looking ahead, it will be important for the sector to work with Defra to ensure that effective heritage indicators are included within the current and future Environment Improvement Plans. In parallel with the development and piloting of ELM, the existing Countryside Stewardship scheme continues to be open for applications.

Spend on heritage options currently averages £13 million a year. Heritage can also benefit from other Countryside Stewardship management and funding of other environmental objectives (such as nature recovery, soils and climate change). The Countryside Stewardship Farm Building Restoration Pilot grant scheme, operating in five National Parks, has also continued, with £7,715,438 having been offered, and £4,841,067 already spent. The Government's response to the Glover review of protected landscapes, and the anticipated Nature Green Paper will also be key areas for engagement.

Section: Other Policy and Management News

The Heritage Alliance's work on Environment Bill, Cultural Heritage Capital, D&I, and Funding Directory

The Heritage Alliance campaigned in the House of Lords in response to the then Environment Bill, providing Peers with comprehensive briefings and draft amendments, resulting in a commitment on the record to including heritage in the forthcoming guidance, and participation in Ministerial-level stakeholder meetings.

The Heritage Alliance has also facilitated meetings between DCMS and members, especially those with a focus on archaeology, on the Cultural Heritage Capital programme. This answered a concern from both Government and the sector that the work on developing a cultural heritage capital valuing system needed to take full account of the many ways in which archaeology contributes to the value of heritage.

Last February, The Heritage Alliance held two member roundtables on Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) with Historic England. These informed the UK-wide survey on D&I, to which 85 people responded and which went on to inform DCMS ahead of the Heritage Statement consultation sessions on the topic.

The Heritage Alliance, alongside the Architectural Heritage Fund, continues to maintain the Heritage Funding Directory (HFD), which is sponsored by the Historic Houses Foundation. The HFD provides a unique resource, bringing together funding opportunities for a range of heritage organisations and projects. The new Heritage Funding Directory website, relaunched in September 2020, has an improved user experience which has enabled better accessibility for users as well as reaching a wider audience. The resource was widely used over 2021, receiving 60,897 total page views across the year.

Inclusion, diversity and equality in Historic England

In November 2020, Historic England published its first ever strategy for Inclusion, Diversity & Equality. Throughout the first year of implementation it launched a raft of new initiatives, projects and programmes centered on their work, people and support for the historic environment sector. The following summary provides a flavour of the range of work currently being undertaken.

The vision for the strategy for Inclusion, Diversity and Equality is: 'Heritage is for everyone. The work we do ensures that a diverse range of people are able to connect with, enjoy and benefit from the historic environment.'

As such the implementation of this strategy is reflected in the following areas: Our Work, Our People, Our Role in the wider Historic Environment sector, and in a series of underpinning actions.

Highlights from the first year of work include:

Listing. Work on the listing strategy has begun. This will pave the way to ensure that the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) is more inclusive and representative, ensuring that the process for nominating places is more accessible.

Grants. A new inclusion-focused grants programme has been launched focusing on 'Everyday Heritage'. The first call is for projects which celebrate [working class histories](#). The Grants programmes are being reviewed, and this is confidently expected to result in the grant criteria better reflecting the organisation's commitment to inclusion and diversity.

Young People. A new programme is being developed for engaging young people. A research project has been commissioned to identify the impact and benefits for young people who engage with local heritage. As a result 18 kickstart placements have been provided, 13 apprentices recruited and three rounds of virtual work experience delivered, each lasting three days.

Training. In January, a new programme of staff training was launched with a focus on accessibility. As a way of supporting the sector this training offer will be made available to other historic environment organisations free of charge.

Recruitment. Historic England has invested in extensive work on its employer brand. This has contributed to an improvement in the diversity of job applications. The under-representation of job applicants from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds has reduced (an improvement from 10% to 13% of our job applications). There is still more to do, although this is an encouraging start.

Creating an inclusive culture. During the last year Historic England has:

- Established a thriving Social Mobility staff network, signed up to the Social Mobility Pledge and participated in the Social Mobility Index for the first time;

- Progressed to Level 2 of the Disability Confident Scheme;
- Published a Menopause policy and established a virtual Menopause community;
- Reduced the gender pay gap and applied changes to its maternity policy so that the contractual maternity pay provisions are available as a day one benefit;
- Applied changes to its Shared Parental Leave policy to support employees who become a parent in an arrangement involving more than two co-parents;
- Launched a Trans Inclusion policy;
- Once again been awarded Gold in the Mind Workplace Wellbeing Index, recognising sustained efforts to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Sector Workforce diversity. Historic England is currently undertaking a research project to better understand the demographics of the workforce across the historic environment sector. This will provide information against which a measurement can be made assessing the progress, tools and mechanisms for improving data collection.

Advice, guidance and resources. In-depth conversations have been initiated with a range of organisations in the sector. The aim is to develop an understanding of the ways in which Historic England can offer support to enable others to become more inclusive and representative. A hub of practical resources is being developed to support this workstream.

Equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI) in archaeology

During 2019, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists's Board of Directors committed to developing and implementing ClfA's strategy for equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI) in archaeology. This established ClfA's plan to work with others in the archaeological sector to explore the development of a pan-sectoral strategy on equality and diversity. Making the Institute and the archaeological discipline more inclusive is an integral part of ClfA's new Strategic Plan.

Heritage Crime

2021 marked the tenth anniversary of the Heritage Crime Programme and ARCH – Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage. Significant progress has been made in this time to protect the historic environment from the threat and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.



Visitors in the garden at Lyme Park, Cheshire. © National Trust Images/Chris Lacey



Evidence gathering of soil for a metal detecting case. © Historic England Archive

Highlights in the 2021 included:

- A growing number of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners have identified heritage and cultural property crime within their local Police and Crime Plans. This marks a significant step forward in our ability to work with police services across England to prevent and investigate the loss or damage to historic fabric within the historic environment, both terrestrial and maritime.
- The Heritage Watch programme continues to develop. Historic England's agreement with National Neighbourhood Watch has seen Heritage Watch being identified as a specific thematic.
- In partnership with Wiltshire Police, Historic England launched the Volunteer Horse Rider Initiative. The volunteers are asked to act as a 'Neighbourhood Watch' on horseback and report back on any unusual activity they see. Typically, riders will be looking out for signs of heritage and wildlife crimes. Over eighty riders are now actively involved in the scheme.
- The heritage crime module for Volunteer Police Cadets continues to be popular with cadets across the country. Historic England has extended the funding for the programme with the intention of raising awareness and understanding to a wider range of young people.
- Revised training programme for Heritage Crime Liaison Officers has seen the development of a new online course for law enforcement and heritage professionals and community volunteers.
- Following the successful implementation of Heritage Crime Researcher within OPAL – National Acquisitive Crime Intelligence Unit, Historic England have extended the funding and enhanced the role as a Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Intelligence Analyst. This will develop a consistent and resilient capability to identify active and emerging threats to heritage assets and the historic environment, leading to the effective allocation of resources necessary to prevent, investigate and intervene.

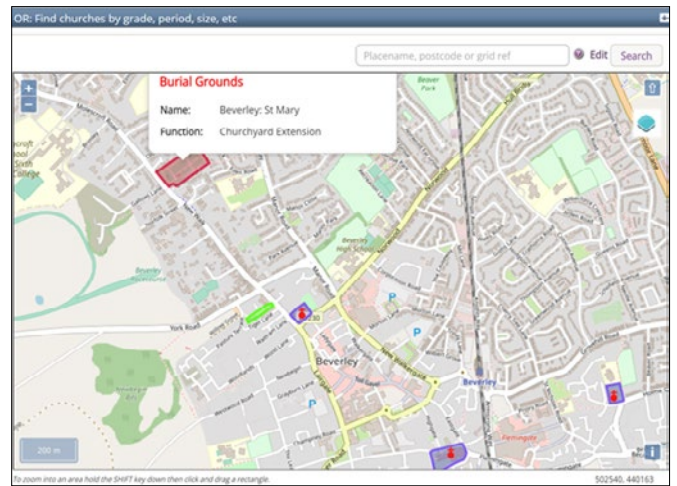
Church of England's National Burial Grounds Survey

Beyond being 'carbon sinks', churchyards are also a repository of archaeological, historical and genealogical significance often with scheduled and listed monuments, and in all these ways, they are often beautiful places of high community value, attracting visitors and local people to their atmosphere and solitude, or simply just as a place to sit.

To support enjoyment and appreciation of these precious outdoor spaces, the Church of England is collaborating with partners to develop a project to digitally record all their churchyards and burial grounds and everything contained within them – known as the National Burial Grounds Survey (NBGS).

The first phase of the NBGS was the compilation of a nationwide digital map containing Shapefiles with a relational database of all the burial grounds, which has been incorporated into the Church Heritage Record. This is a GIS map-based database of all churches and burial grounds associated with the Church of England, developed in partnership with Historic England and other organisations in England. This took two years to complete. This monumental task has been achieved with funding support from Historic England. ArcGIS is used for the base map.

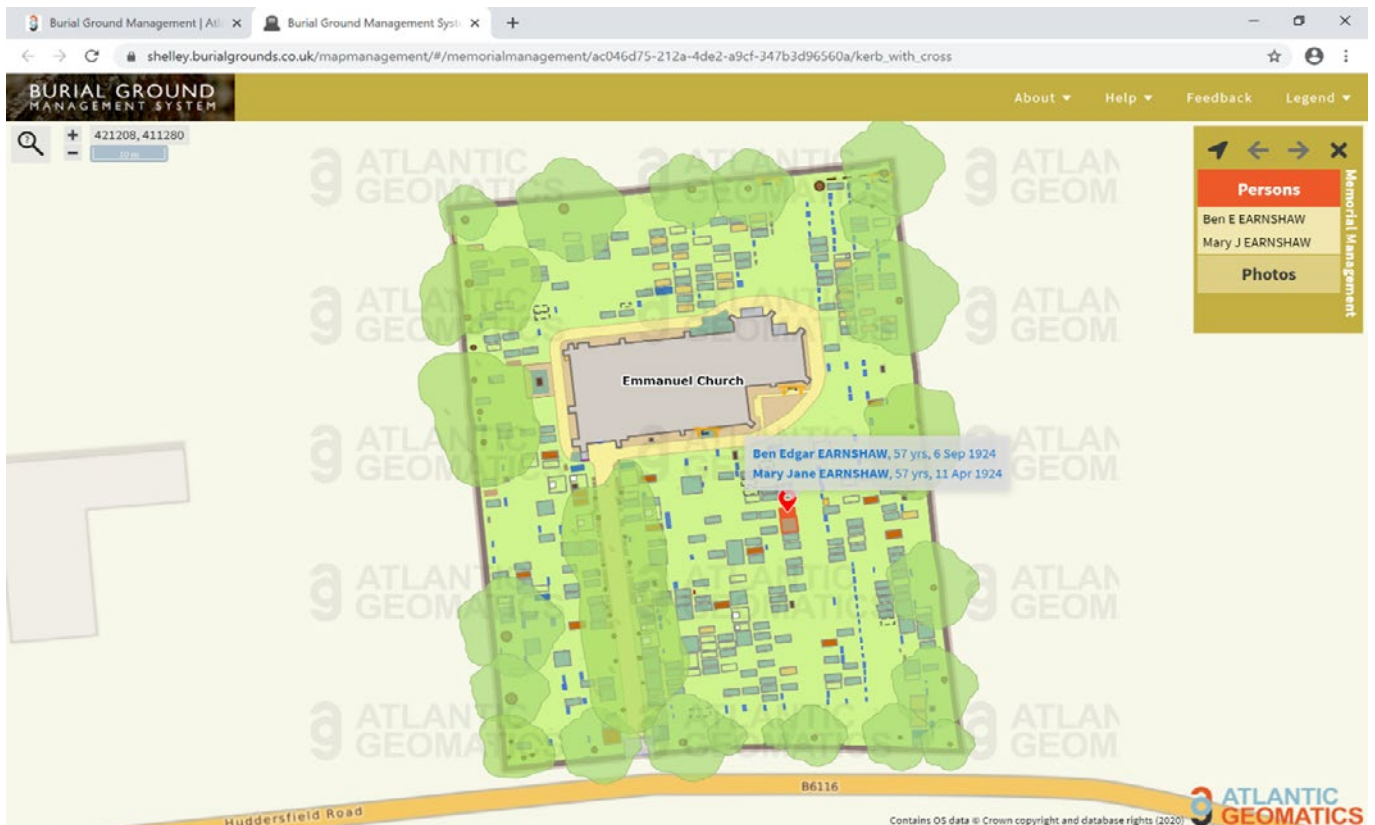
The project has now entered its second phase with the completion of detailed records within these Shapefiles for the burial grounds of two churches in the



The churches and burial grounds of Beverley, East Yorkshire. Screenshot from Church Heritage Record. © Church of England

Diocese of Leeds, Kirkburton All Hallows and Shelley Emmanuel. A survey company (Atlantic Geomatics, based in Cumbria) has recorded the details of these churchyards. This pilot project was backed by the then Heritage Lottery Fund.

The GIS models were processed to provide plans of these churchyards and all features found within their curtilages, within each Shapefile in the national map. As the professionals surveyed the churchyards, volunteers recorded the monuments and their inscriptions, linking these to the burial records. This methodology has now been refined, and funding sourced. All Church of England churchyards are to be surveyed in this way over the next decade.



The digital map of the churchyard of Emmanuel church, Shelley, Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire). © Church of England

Known as the Burial Ground Management System, this is a comprehensive online system with robust data protocols following national guidance. It is designed to act as a management tool for churchyard maintenance and burials, providing easy online access to search for graves/memorials by name, date/age, photographs of the memorial inscriptions, and the ability to find the exact grave location in the graveyard and with the associated burial register entry. These individual plans will be accessible from the Church Heritage Record.

Historic England's draft Industrial Heritage Strategy

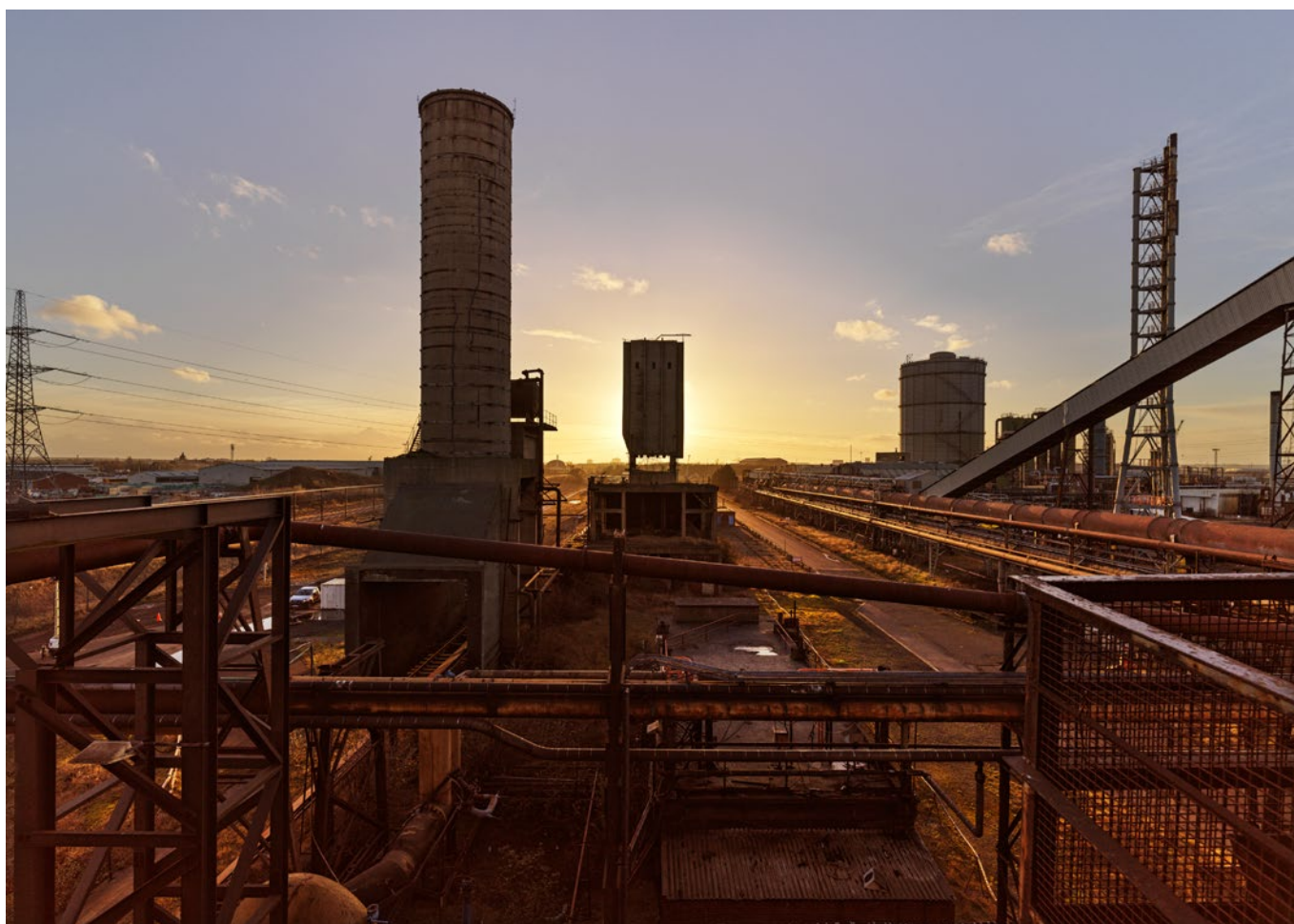
Work continues on developing and implementing [Historic England's draft Industrial Heritage Strategy](#). In March 2021, Historic England undertook a three-month consultation on the draft Strategy which garnered much support, the responses to which are now being carefully considered.

Delivery is ongoing and includes a number of [Heritage Action Zones](#) with a strong industrial heritage component – such as Greater Grimsby (once the world's busiest fishing port), the Stockton & Darlington Railway, Stoke-on-Trent Ceramic (home of the pottery industry) and the railway town of Swindon.

Historic England's ['Mills of the North'](#) project – covering Greater Manchester, Pennine Lancashire and West Yorkshire – aims to raise awareness of mill reuse, promote strategic engagement and target priority mills. Recent work includes publishing 'Driving Northern Growth through Repurposing Historic Mills', working with Oldham Borough Council to prepare a pilot mills strategy and looking at the potential transformational reuse of Temple Mill, Leeds, as the location of the British Library of the North.

The restoration of [Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings](#) continues, with the Main Mill and Kiln due to open in 2022. This revitalised site will offer high-quality office space on the top four floors together with a new visitor experience and café, open to the public, on the ground floor.

The role of the Historic England-funded [Industrial Heritage Support Officer](#) (IHSO), hosted by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, has been refocused in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. With its emphasis on nationally designated, publicly accessible and interpreted industrial heritage sites, the IHSO provides direct face-to-face support, promotes resources, such as advice and grants, and manages the ten [Industrial Heritage Support Networks](#) across England.



Redcar Steel Works at sunset. © Historic England Archive, photographer James Davies

To help improve knowledge and skills, Historic England is delivering a series of free [industrial heritage webinars](#). These have considered the investigation, assessment and recording of industrial heritage sites through the planning process, the role of enforcement powers in tackling industrial listed buildings at risk, textile mill reuse, the work of the Industrial Heritage Support Officer and Historic England's developing Industrial Heritage Strategy. The webinars have proved extremely popular with in excess of 6,000 views, including online views of the available recordings. The training programme will be expanded in 2022.

World Heritage 2021 – An Overview

2021 was a challenging year for World Heritage in the UK, in part because of the impacts of the pandemic. However, many of our World Heritage Sites (WHSs), like others in the culture and heritage sectors, have proved to be reasonably resilient and have continued to navigate difficult journeys towards recovery.

The regular online and UK-wide WHS Coordinators Forums hosted by World Heritage UK (WH:UK) have continued to focus on exchanging the impact and recovery experiences of the 33 UK WHSs, as well as of the Government agencies concerned with World Heritage planning and management.

Two cases have been particularly challenging for UK WHSs this year:

1. The decision by UNESCO to de-list the Liverpool WHS results from a long-running, complex, and sad tale in which all parties bear some responsibility. It is only the third WHS worldwide to have been delisted by the World Heritage Committee and is a blow for the UK's otherwise considerable World Heritage achievements and record of good practice over 35 years. Lessons can be learned from Liverpool, however, for the management of our existing and future WHSs. The experience suggests, for example, that great care should be taken in defining realistic WHS and buffer zone boundaries in continually evolving urban areas, particularly in relation to future regeneration needs; that respectful and constant dialogue with communities is vital especially if the Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs) that underpin a WHS are reconsidered or redefined; and that fair, balanced local planning policies need to be applied consistently over periods of time that match the time scales of urban development changes.

2. At Stonehenge, the currently proposed upgrade of the A303 trunk road and associated tunnel partially below the WHS is another long-running, complex, and controversial story. The debate has arisen over the appropriate length of the tunnel in relation to the WHS boundaries and the impact of its portals on the landscape and archaeology that underpin the OUV of the WHS. Following the recent submission by DCMS of a required and updated State of Conservation report (considering the threats to Stonehenge's OUV), the World Heritage Committee will consider the case for inclusion on the Sites in Danger List at their 45th Session in June 2022. The evaluation of the upgrading and tunnel scheme alternatives and their benefits and disbenefits is complex given that this requires a blend of both qualitative and quantitative criteria.

Our 33 WHSs have a remarkable potential for contributing more to the UK's post-pandemic economic recovery, and other agendas such as levelling up, placemaking and wellbeing. This includes enhanced community regeneration, the re-establishment of domestic and inbound tourism, and the UK's future positioning on the international stage. However, World Heritage value needs to be integrated more fully and consistently into decision-making systems. As set out in WH:UK's report [UK World Heritage - Asset for the Future \(2020\)](#) a national vision and *practical* strategy is needed for UK World Heritage. This should aim to provide a coherent framework to guide the more consistent balancing of conservation and development issues at the local level.

As a positive message for the UK's commitment to the World Heritage Convention, two additional WHSs were inscribed on to the World Heritage List at the 44th Session of the World Heritage Committee in 2021:

1. The Slate Landscape of North West Wales WHS tells the story of evolution between the 18th century and 1900 of an agricultural society to a thriving industrial economy with slate quarries, new settlements, and transport links that carved their way through Snowdonia to ports that exported slate to global markets.
2. The Great Spa Towns of Europe is a serial transnational WHS including 11 places developed around mineral springs in seven countries across Europe. These include the City of Bath in the UK. These places are testimony to the spa resort culture with their ensemble of architecture and landscape that was at its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries across Europe.



The City of Bath has been included in the serial transnational WHS 'The Great Spa Towns of Europe'.
© Tim Wildsmith on Unsplash

Establishing and maintaining WHS status was and continues to be a significant achievement that all can share and celebrate. In 2021 the Derwent Valley mills, Saltaire and New Lanark WHS all celebrated the 20th anniversary of their inscription. In 2022, Hadrian's Wall commemorates 1,900 years of the Wall with a year-long festival of events.

2022 is also the 50th Anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Using 'The Next 50' as a theme, international events and activities will be focused on World Heritage as a source of resilience, humanity, and innovation.

Case study: A 'green corridor' along the River Avon to the east of Bath, links the historic city centre to surrounding countryside

In 2020, the National Trust's Director-General Hilary McGrady announced an ambition to create 20 'green corridors', knitting together green space, woodlands, towpaths and parks to remove barriers that could prevent those in inner city neighbourhoods from accessing large green areas. The corridor through Bathampton Meadows is the first of these corridors to be confirmed.

Meandering out from the heart of the City of Bath WHS, the route through Bathampton Meadows is now in the care of the National Trust and safeguarded from future development. This is thanks to a transfer of land from Bath & North East

Somerset Council, and an acquisition of farmland using a restricted fund of legacy donations.

The meadows located alongside the River Avon form an important part of the green setting of Bath on the eastern side of the city. The acquisition of this critical green wedge – 15.58 hectares of farmland and a transfer of 24.66 hectares from the local council – will mean the land is now protected without any threat of future development, to the benefit of residents, visitors and nature. The area had previously been at risk when it was proposed as a potential site for a 'Park and Ride' in 2015.

With an official start and end point still to be determined, the ambition is for the route to start close to the historic medieval Bath Abbey, and a likely end point in Batheaston, recognising the Georgian trend of seeking out green spaces and countryside for pleasure and to enhance wellbeing.



Bath Green Corridor. © National Trust Images/John Miller

Victorian Society's 2021 Top 10 Endangered Buildings

The Victorian Society's annual Top Ten list engages communities across England and Wales by asking for their nominations of places that, without help soon, will be lost forever. The 2021 list had a wide variety of structures, many of which are recognised through their listing as being nationally important, yet they are all important to local communities. The campaign aims to expose these buildings to a wider audience in the hope that increased awareness and appreciation will help to save them. These buildings are *"crying out for our help"* – Griff Rhys Jones, Victorian Society President.

The 2021 top ten included:

1. Coal Drops, Halifax, Grade II, 1874. The Coal Drops were fenced off after concerns for 'public safety'. They are a rare and important example of the mechanisms used in the transportation of coal from rail to road.
2. Healings Flour Mill, Tewkesbury, Grade II, 1865-66. The complex was once the world's largest and most advanced flour mill. Milling ceased in 2006 since then it has deteriorated.
3. Horncliffe House, Northumberland, Grade II, 1869. Left as a husk since a fire in 2019 which destroyed the ornate interiors of plaster mouldings and wall paintings. The rich exterior details and stone dressings survive intact as does the portico, but extensive works are required to prevent collapse.
4. Icknield Street School, Birmingham, Grade II*, 1883. The council-owned school building is in a critical state of disrepair.
5. Indoor Market, Burslem, Stoke on Trent, 1897. The vaulted iron and glass roof is a fine example of Victorian 'functional' architecture. Structural concerns saw it close in 2003. It urgently needs vital repairs to prevent collapse.
6. Jones & Higgins Department Store, London, 1894. The architects were inspired by the Torre dell'Orologio, in San Marco, Venice. The store closed in the 1980s, leaving the building's upper floors unused, slowly decaying.
7. Minley Home Farm, Hampshire, 1896. Part of the Minley Manor Estate is now owned by the MoD. The farm buildings are now little more than shells and the MoD recently proposed their demolition.
8. Oldham Hill Stores, Oldham, Grade II, 1900. This vast ashlar-faced building included shops and a reading room as well as two ballrooms, one with a colossal fan-style stained glass window still



Tewkesbury milling heritage is strong dating back to the Domesday book, therefore the Victorian mill is an important heritage asset. © Nicholas Jones



Knebworth House dressed for a wedding. © Historic Houses, Knebworth House

intact. This functioned as a dance hall until the 1980s. Plans were in place to convert the vacant upper floors into residential units although nothing has happened as yet.

9. Church of St Helen, Biscathorpe, Grade II*, 1847. The Gothic Revival church risks being forgotten and lost. Already suffering exposure to the elements, without intervention there will be further damage to its original features.
10. Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, Grade II, 1902-08. This large asylum in Wales is currently fenced off with an uncertain future.

National media attention generated by the Top Ten campaign has led to real progress – prospective tenants have been shown Oldham Hill Stores, plans are being devised to turn the Indoor Market into a food hall run by refugees, and the Victorian Society has been consulted on a listing application for the Home Farm.

Changes to wedding legislation

Many heritage locations function as venues for wedding ceremonies and events. Around a third of the 1,500 Historic Houses properties can be hired in this way.

Covid-19 had a significant impact on wedding businesses. Many events were cancelled or postponed, owing to the severe restrictions that were imposed

on weddings during the pandemic. Venues are now extremely busy, catching up on events postponed from 2020 or 2021.

The [Law Commission](#) has proposed a new approach to the licensing of wedding venues in England. Rather than individual premises seeking a licence from their local registrar, officiants will in future have the freedom to give consent to couples' own choices of venue. This would reduce red-tape and potentially open a far wider range of sites for use as wedding venues. The change in approach, if adopted, will require legislation.

In the meantime, the Government has introduced a new Statutory Instrument that will continue the provision of outdoor weddings and civil partnerships indefinitely beyond 6th April 2022 at existing venue sites. Temporary permission to hold wedding ceremonies outdoors was given during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the extension of this freedom will be a welcome relief to many heritage sites across the country.

Treasure Act reform

The DCMS Cultural Property team is continuing to work on implementing the proposals contained in the response document following the consultation on the Treasure Act 1996. This includes work on updating the Codes of Practice and on changes in the definition of treasure.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

Meeting the public to identify and record their finds is a crucial part of the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) (in England) and its network of 40 locally-based Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs). Unfortunately, this ability has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic; 2020 saw DCMS introduce guidance for metal-detectorists '[searching for archaeological finds in England during Covid-19](#)' which remains current (though has been updated). In 2021 the PAS recorded 45,581 finds (England & Wales), down on pre-pandemic levels (81,602 in 2019; 69,687 in 2018). The impact on Treasure reporting has been less apparent, with 1,085 cases being reported (in England, Wales & Northern Ireland) in 2021 (1,311 in 2019; 1,097 in 2018), suggesting that PAS is losing out recording more finds because its staff are less able to meet with finders directly.

During the pandemic the PAS has made more use of 'virtual recording' (where finders send in digital information to FLOs – see [PAS Annual Report 2020](#)). While this had some good effect in certain areas, it does not replace a FLO's ability to spend time with the objects they record – taking their own measurements and photographs. The PAS also benefits from 'self-recorders', volunteers within the finder community who have been trained (through the NLHF-funded PAST Explorers project: finds recording in the local community) to record their own finds on the PAS database, with 65 metal-detectorists making over 1,600 finds records in 2021.

There is anecdotal evidence that more people are now metal-detecting, with FLOs seeing many new finders – many seem new to the hobby and not necessarily clear on best practice. In 2021 the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) endorsed the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal-Detecting in England and Wales' (2017 revision) and a [video of the Code](#) was also produced. The NCMD is now providing funding support to help excavate in-situ finds made by their members, although not on metal-detecting rallies. Recent years have seen a proliferation in commercial rallies which concerns archaeologists. PAS is now calling for rally organisers to take more responsibility for what happens on the events they organise – including providing funding to support the recording of finds made, ensuring the proper archaeological excavation of in-situ finds, better facilitating the reporting of Treasure and providing support for finders from abroad in regards export licensing etc.

PAS data is widely used for development control works and archaeological research. Its data is key for

understanding the historic landscape, but also the material culture of past peoples. Current examples of funded projects making use of PAS data include '[Warhorse: the archaeology of a military revolution](#)' (Exeter) and '[Middling Culture: the cultural lives of the middling sort, 1560-1660](#)' (Kent); the PAS is a partner in both projects, and full list of researchers using PAS data can be found on the [PAS website](#). The PAS is a member of the European Public Finds Recording Network (EPFRN), where it joins public finds recording schemes in Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands, with the establishment of new schemes in Czechia and Estonia. New projects resulting from this collaboration include [DigiNUMA](#).

Training for PAS staff and others has benefited from online platforms such as Zoom and Teams, with many training sessions being delivered in 2021, including on Roman coins, Viking Art and Medieval Jettons etc., as well as those delivered by partners in funded projects, such as Warhorse. The PAS website's County Pages have been used to promote [blogs](#) by PAS staff and volunteers about the work of PAS and there is also a PAS podcast – [PASTcast](#). Recent publications associated with the PAS include [Finds Identified II](#), and books in the '50 Finds' series on [Bronze Age Finds](#), [Early Medieval Coinage](#) and [Finds from Kent](#).



The view along Bishopsgate in London, towards number 22, known as 'The Cheesegrater'.
© Historic England Archive, photographer Christopher Redgrave

4. Planning System

Planning system – general changes

The English planning system covers the built, natural and historic environment. It influences the places we live, work and visit. There were a number of changes to the planning system in late 2020 and 2021. The following changes are of particular interest:

Implementation of the [Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development etc.\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 3\) Order 2021](#). Amongst other things, this extended Permitted Development Rights to allow for the holding of markets by local authorities and for the erection of moveable structures for pubs, restaurants, etc. and historic visitor attractions. There are exemptions for scheduled monuments and for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). A number of restrictions apply, relating to size and duration, etc. For unlisted pubs, restaurants, etc. a single structure can be in place all year round. For listed pubs, restaurants, etc. the structure can be in place for up to 120 day a year, and prior approval is required for siting and the method of installation.

Further amendments were made to the General Permitted Development Order with additional protections coming into force for unlisted statues, monuments and memorials. Changes were made to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to reflect the amendments.

Proposed planning reforms

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) was renamed the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in September and work continued on possible planning reforms throughout 2021. Planning reforms are likely to be taken forward as part of a Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

Heritage and infrastructures

The Government launched the operational review of the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) regime in July 2021. The Government intends to formally consult on proposed measures for the NSIP regime ahead of reforms planned for September 2023. A key priority for the government is delivery of high-quality national infrastructure. Objectives from the review include:

- To speed up infrastructure delivery so that ‘...by September 2023 some projects will go through

the NSIP process in up to half the time than at present’.

- To improve the quality and fairness of the process, with better and greener outcomes.

The operational review includes Project Speed, launched in summer 2021 to speed up the delivery of infrastructure projects. The A66 road scheme is an early pathfinder for Project Speed with Historic England closely involved in the enhanced pre-application process. Under the operational review a cross-Government National Infrastructure Planning Reform Board has been established.

A review of National Policy Statements (NPS) is also taking place with government consulting on [Planning for new energy infrastructure: a review of Energy National Policy Statements](#) in December 2021. A consultation on the National Networks NPS is due in spring/summer 2022.

The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) is also taking place. The Government objective of 40GW offshore energy generation by 2030 will see increased NSIP activity in offshore wind farm projects, offshore to onshore connection projects and electricity transmission network projects.

Historic England advice and guidance

Historic England has always produced a wide range of advice and guidance, with a strong focus on comprehensive and well-laid out PDF documents available for download. Whilst these continue to be produced (see below for a list of advice and guidance from February 2021 to February 2022), Historic England have also adapted to fit the demand for a more digital output since the start of the pandemic. As a result, they have begun creating new – and updating old – content as series of webpages, which are more accessible and interactive, as well as creating hybrid versions, where webpages are created and/or updated and published alongside new PDFs.

Leading these developments has been the Technical Conservation team. The list of updates to webpages is immense therefore the following list includes only fully updated or newly created pages.

Furthermore, during Covid-19 an extensive series of webinars was created, which include guidance content and help to disseminate and explain the information, with the webinar recordings page achieving in excess of 10,000 views.

This financial year the post of Guidance Delivery Adviser has been reintroduced, which focuses on the creation and delivery of Historic England's guidance to the heritage sector and the public.

Revised and Updated Advice and Guidance (PDFs):

- [Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Prevention and Response](#) (10/09/2021)
- [Theft of Metal from Church Roofs: Replacement Materials](#) (10/09/2021)
- [Graffiti on Historic Buildings](#) (19/02/2021)

New Advice and Guidance (PDFs):

- [Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment HEAN 15](#) (16/02/2021)
- [Conserving War Memorials: Inscriptions](#) (01/11/2021)
- [Listed Building Consent HEAN 16](#) (21/06/2021)
- [Peatlands and the Historic Environment](#) (14/05/2021)
- [Purbeck Marble](#) (11/05/2021)

New/Majorly Updated Webpages:

- [Heating Historic Buildings](#) (27/09/2021)
- [Building Works and Bats](#) (28/06/2021) *updated from a previous PDF
- [Coade Stone](#) (11/2021)
- [Design in the Historic Environment](#) (07/02/2022) *including a range of case studies
- [Fire Advice](#) (28/07/2021)
- [New Landing Page combining information about Climate Change](#) (launched for COP26 and updated 28/02/2022)
- [Low and Zero Carbon Technologies](#) (17/03/2021)
- [Internal Lighting in Historic Buildings](#) (16/07/2021)
- [External Lighting of Historic Buildings](#) (06/09/2021)
- [Conservation of Traditional Thatch](#) (06/04/2021)

'Commercial Renewable Energy Development & the Historic Environment' was published as a PDF in February 2021. It was created as a Historic England Advice Note (HEAN) [PDF](#), due to its audience and purpose in the planning sector. Since its publication the PDF has had approx. 650 downloads; and the [associated web pages](#) around renewable energies had approx. 1,200 views.

'Peatlands & the Historic Environment. An Introduction to their Cultural and Heritage Value' was published in May 2021. It was also created in a [PDF format](#), and downloaded at least 397 times since; while the [associated webpages](#) and the [webpage hosting the PDF](#) have been viewed approx. 750 times. This indicates an approx. 50% drop from page views related to, or hosting the PDF document, to actual downloads.

'Bats in Historic Buildings' used to be a PDF document with approx. 250 downloads a year before it was archived. The old web pages associated with the document averaged about three views per day. A [new series of web pages](#) was created in place of the PDF document, to increase accessibility and make the content easier to digest. These new web pages now get average views of 40-60 per day, in total they have had over 8,700 views since being published in June 2021.

All guidance PDFs uploaded in the last 6 months can be found on the Historic England website. <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/find/latest-guidance/>



Serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) flying from an abandoned building. © National Trust Images/Bat Conservation Trust/Hugh Clark

Historic Environment Protection Reform Group

2021 saw the formal re-establishment of the Historic Environment Protection Reform Group (HEPRG) as a non-HEF-funded body (topic group), reporting to the Historic Environment Forum (HEF), as well as an extension of the Group's remit to include wider planning reform. Updated terms of reference for the Group have been agreed, and the Group's work programme is now being amended accordingly, informed by progress with the Group's previous work programme, updates to the list of potential reforms identified by the sector, and the wider planning and heritage reform context.

Development-led archaeology

Archaeological work was in historically high demand again during 2021 as the construction sector remained buoyant throughout the pandemic. The latest data from the [Profiling the Profession](#) report indicates that the size of the UK archaeological workforce was up 31% since the last survey in 2012-13, to 6,300 FTE.



Historic England and University of Leicester Archaeological Services staff at work during the excavation of a mosaic pavement. © Historic England Archive, photographer Steven Baker

The ability of archaeological contractors to work flexibly and adapt to increased restrictions has meant that the development-led archaeology sector has been able to withstand the wider pressures of this high demand on the industry. Nonetheless, a skills shortage precipitated by high demand for services and reduced access to non-UK labour, due to Brexit and Covid-19, provide an ongoing challenge. With archaeology on the Shortage Occupation List, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and DCMS hosted discussions between leading archaeological employers and the Home Office to explore new visa systems. Nevertheless, the impact of immigration control remains a concern for archaeology.

Planning reform proposals were a focus for positive discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) over the need to improve baseline data on archaeology (see also Historic England's Archaeological Sensitivity Mapping project) and emphasise the need for robust policies to understand and manage heritage assets – as demonstrated by [117 case studies](#) collected by CIfA, funded by Historic England. This research will continue to inform discussions with the DLUHC over the Planning & Regeneration Bill in 2022 and the case will be argued for making Historic Environment Record services a statutory requirement – ensuring processes for archaeological investigation are streamlined but maximise public benefit.

Emphasising the public benefits that archaeology can bring, and how archaeology can help the construction sector meet many of its UN Sustainable Development Goals, CIRIA (Construction Industry Research Information Association) published its [Archaeology and construction good practice guidance](#). The guide, prepared by MOLA, Taryn Nixon Heritage Works and CIfA, is now the subject of a CPD programme for the construction industry, helping it align construction and archaeological processes and ensure that archaeology adds value to development. This initiative is part of CIfA's external relations work, forming knowledge partnerships with professional and trade bodies in planning, construction, heritage and environmental sectors.

In 2021, in collaboration with colleagues at HS2 and Sadie Watson MCIfA, CIfA published further explanation of the rationale for putting public benefit at the heart of all archaeological work in a new [Professional Practice Paper](#). Using recent and emerging research, and grounded in the ethical obligations of professional archaeologists, CIfA argued that all archaeological work should deliver real, engaging, and innovative public benefit. The arguments were followed through in a

themed edition of *The Archaeologist*, a series of training and CPD events, and led up to the April 2022 Annual Conference *Making a difference: the value of archaeology*.

As an example of sectoral collaboration in England, Historic England and Cifa are jointly leading the [Twenty-first century archaeology programme](#), a series of work packages involving all the lead organisations in archaeology. This pan-disciplinary collaboration aims to make strategic improvements to sector engagement in policy, the resilience of local authority services, the applicability of professional standards and guidance, and the way we synthesise, interpret and share new understandings of the past.

Local authority conservation service staffing, recruitment and salary

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) has recorded and analysed local authority conservation staffing throughout the UK over several years. It has collected data on staffing local authority conservation services in England annually or biannually since 2006 alongside standalone survey work in Scotland and Wales. Conservation advice is available to local authorities through permanent and temporary in-house staff (full time or part time), consultants and advice through agreements with other local authorities.

Conservation staffing in England has declined significantly over this period and since 2009 the conservation specialist advice available to local authorities in England has decreased by 48.7%. This loss has left some local authorities unable to carry out even their statutory conservation duties. Where there is conservation provision available, the reduced levels affecting most local authorities means that advice and support for listed building owners and developers is not available from the local authority to help them to maintain and protect the heritage they are responsible for.

In 2020 6% of local authorities did not have access to conservation advice in any form. 5.5% of all local authorities with a service of any type below 0.5 FTE may not be providing a credible service. This lack of advice exposes the nation's heritage to the real risk of harm.

Conservation posts advertised within English local authorities have been recorded annually by the Institute since 1998. Notably in 2021, the local authority jobs market appeared to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic. Several posts were re-advertised within six months appearing to reflect some difficulty in filling posts. The first fall in year-on-

year average conservation salaries took place across England since 2015-16, possibly reflecting recruitment at lower levels of expertise and experience than in the past. Paralleling the conservation capacity findings, recruitment levels edged up slightly over the last three years, but remain well below those during the first decade of the century.

HS2: archaeology and heritage programme highlights

The historic environment programme at High Speed Two (HS2) comprises the three Phases (One, 2a and 2b) of the project. Phase One (between London and West Midlands) this year has seen the continuation of investigation works with the substantive completion of all fieldwork. Many sites are now moving through the post-excavation assessment process. Highlights from these excavations have been shared across the media and have generated public, community and academic interest. A range of virtual and in-person engagement events were also undertaken.

Working within the design and construction context of Phase One of HS2, the extensive programme of archaeological investigations has provided many remarkable highlights. These include the completion of excavations at St Mary's church, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. The full extent of the church and burial ground has been excavated and recorded, revealing Anglo-Saxon and earlier origins. The final weeks of site work saw the extraordinary discovery of Roman figurative sculptures, possibly associated with a mausoleum, beneath the church building. Elsewhere extensive areas of Iron Age and Romano-British settlements have been recorded. At Blackgrounds, Northamptonshire an exceptionally well-preserved settlement with over 30 roundhouses and subsequent stone buildings and new roads suggest a busy trading centre. The Romano-British roadside settlement and associated cemetery at Fleet Marston, Buckinghamshire also provided unusual burial rites, with 10% of the 425 burials being decapitated. A rare Roman wooden figure was uncovered in Twyford, Buckinghamshire. Initial assessments date the wooden figure to the early Roman period, given the style of the carving and the tunic-like clothing. Shards of pottery dating from 43-70 AD were also discovered in the same ditch. This archaeology programme has featured several times in the BBC series *Digging for Britain*.

A series of webinars were delivered during the 2021 Festival of Archaeology, with presentations from the HS2 heritage team and extensive contractor supply chain. Topics presented included Hillingdon's Hidden History, the Archaeology of Curzon Street Station,



Complete bust of female Roman statue discovered during a HS2 archaeological dig at the site of old St Mary's church in Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. © HS2

Birmingham, the archaeology of Northamptonshire as well as broader subjects on landscapes and innovation.

The gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions enabled a series of in-person public events at St Mary's Field Museum, Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. These included open days and hands-on courses for osteology, the recording of graffiti and other marks on stone and monuments.

With the completion of Phase One site works, the post-excavation assessments are beginning to be delivered, together with the substantive digital archive hosted at the Archaeology Data Service. The HS2 heritage team is working closely with the ADS to realise the opportunities that this resource presents for all interested people.

Royal Assent for Phase 2a (West Midlands – Crewe) was granted in February 2021, which allowed for the commencement of archaeological fieldwork. Like all HS2 historic environment activities, the Phase 2a works are being undertaken in line with an overarching research strategy. Initial work has focused on early utilities diversions and environmental sites, with larger-scale works commencing over the next few years.

The environmental impact assessment of the route between Crewe and Manchester has been the focus of the historic environment work. This is now part of the Environmental Statement submitted in January 2022 in support of the Phase 2b hybrid Bill. Work has also started on the development of the Historic Environment Research and Delivery Strategy. A series of workshops have been held with stakeholders to gather views and research perspectives.



James West, Site Manager MOLA, by one of four wells uncovered during the archaeological excavation of a wealthy Roman trading settlement, known as Blackgrounds, in South Northamptonshire. © HS2

5. Participation and Capacity Building

Section: Digital Participation

Unlocking the digital potential of the sector: The Heritage Alliance's digital initiatives

In the last year, The Heritage Alliance continued to lead on various initiatives to grow the heritage sector's skills and increase the adoption of digital, through the Heritage Digital Consortium and the DASH Survey, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Digital Skills for Heritage initiative.

The Heritage Digital Consortium combines the strength of a consortium of Heritage and Digital expert partners to deliver high quality UK-wide digital training programmes and resources for the heritage sector.

[Heritage Digital](#) concluded in September 2021, supporting 2,796 individuals and 1,090 organisations through a variety of conferences, workshops and resources based on four key digital learning tracks: strategy, communications, technology and rights.

[Heritage Digital Academy](#) is running a cohort approach to provide small- and medium-size heritage organisations with a series of unique digital business support sessions focused on innovation, enterprise, and organisational planning.

In addition, the project Heritage Digital Questions is producing a suite of new resources around the theme of Finding, Creating & Sharing Digital Content. These free resources will help to answer the sector's [top 100 digital questions](#), as the sector's micro to medium heritage organisations begin to upskill and grow in confidence.

[The Digital Attitudes and Skills for Heritage \(DASH\)](#) survey ran in September/October 2021, gathering the voices of 4,514 staff, volunteers, trustees and freelancers from 323 participating organisations. It covered the topics of digital skills, mindsets and organisational support. The results from the 2021 survey have recently been published and can be found [on the NLHF website](#).

In summary the key findings include:

- Digital attitudes are still focused on problem-solving although digital confidence has grown.
- Organisational support has increased for staff but not as much for trustees/volunteers.

- Business-critical skills have improved, but few used digital in transformative ways.
- Heritage leaders feel as though they are firefighting with limited time for innovation.
- Teams are missing the benefit of informal face-to-face interactions which support skill sharing and innovation.
- Needs of individuals and organisations remain unchanged and are very similar to the 2020 results.

CBA Festival of Archaeology

The CBA Festival of Archaeology is the UK's largest annual celebration of archaeology incorporating hundreds of in-person and virtual events delivered by community groups, heritage organisations, universities, commercial units, and more.

The 30th CBA Festival of Archaeology was held from 17 July to 1 August 2021. The theme was 'Exploring Local Places' and over the course of the festival there were 1,229 opportunities to engage in archaeology across the UK.

In 2020, Covid-19 meant that CBA could not go ahead with their usual programme of on the ground activity and adapted the festival to deliver a fully digital programme. Following the success of the digital festival, in 2021 they decided to move to a hybrid model incorporating both digital and in-person events along with self-led activities and a range of on-demand activities available throughout the year via CBA's new resources area.

CBA-led events included in-person events at Leicester and Hull, youth events, online lectures, takeover days, A Day In Archaeology and #AskAnArchaeologist Day. Alongside this they once again saw an incredible range of activity delivered by a wide range of groups and organisations across the sector. Events included family fun days, re-enactments, hands-on crafts, skills training – including opportunities to participate in archaeological fieldwork – guided walks, lectures and workshops. Many event organisers adapted their delivery to reflect ongoing restrictions by offering repeat events for small audiences, hybrid delivery and incorporating a range of techniques to make their events accessible to a wide audience.

In 2020 CBA saw a significant decrease in the number of local groups and societies delivering events for the festival as a direct result of the pandemic. They were delighted to see these groups return in 2021 and their



Staff from Oxford Archaeology showing members of the public finds from recent excavations in Hull. © Simon Dewhurst

evaluation showed around 400 volunteers contributed over 4,700 hours to help deliver festival events.

The festival was supported by a wide range of organisations across the sector including Historic England, Cadw, Wessex Archaeology, the National Trust, Forestry England, Bradford Museums, Antiquity Trust, Victoria County History and the Royal Archaeological Institute.

Over the course of the festival there were 372 in-person events and 133 digital events, many of which were held over multiple days or offering multiple sessions. In total there were 1,229 opportunities to participate in live events. 94 new activities were added to the festival's resource library creating a total of 213 on-demand activities available to access at any time.

Over the course of the festival, the #FestivalofArchaeology hashtag gained a staggering 61 million impressions, with 16.9 million unique impressions (people using the hashtag). Overall, the festival had an estimated digital reach of 70,803,603.

The 2022 festival will take place between 16-31 July. The festival is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the diverse work of the sector to the public and organisations are encouraged to consider participating.

More information can be found on their new [website](#).



Closing event of the Festival of Archaeology 2021. © Simon Dewhurst

Case study: the National Trust at the Festival of Archaeology

The National Trust took part in a mixture of online and face-to-face activities to promote the Festival of Archaeology. One highlight was the online 'Evening with Trust Archaeologists' run in partnership with the CBA. This provided a fantastic opportunity to hear about the varied work of the Trust's archaeologists with presentations followed by a question-and-answer session, chaired by the Trust's Head of Historic Environment.

Over 380 people registered for the event with people joining from as far away as New York and Brazil. Some brilliant questions were posed to the archaeologists including their favourite finds and how they would recommend starting a career in archaeology. Feedback on the event was positive

with 95% of attendees rating their enjoyment as either very high or high and 100% as having learnt something new from the event (now available on [YouTube](#)).

Revised web content on [Archaeology at our Places](#), including a new blog post, proved particularly popular, with page views up 570% on previous weeks. A new [Heritage Explorer Challenge](#) which was created to help families find archaeology when visiting National Trust parks and gardens had 140 downloads over the first weekend. The Trust's social media team also reported a dramatic response to their 'history in the landscape' #NTChallenges, various tweets and Instagram stories over the course of the festival. This was in addition to activities on the NT Archaeology [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, which included Trust archaeologists answering over 100 questions on #AskAnArchaeologist day.

Heritage Open Days

Building on the learnings and innovations developed at speed in 2020, Heritage Open Days returned with more than double the number of events and organisers in 2021. Retaining and refining the options for participation via both in-person and digital events offered more opportunities to engage, whilst the national theme and targeted projects further supported organisers to explore new avenues to reach a wider range of visitors.

[Heritage Open Days](#) is a festival co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. It is England's contribution to European Heritage Days, which takes place across 50 countries. At a local level, events are run by a huge range of organisations, including civic societies, heritage organisations, local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers.

'Heritage Open Days engages local people in Swindon's history and encourages them to take pride in their town and its story'

Local organiser from Swindon Borough Council (HAZ)

1,528 local organisers created 3,866 events for the festival in 2021. Confidence built throughout the year and there was a strong return to more in-person visiting opportunities, though often at lower visitor capacity. The digital platform remains a valuable alternative offer though, enabling organisers to reach a wider audience. 10% of the final festival programme

was online, including events such as an interactive workshop on the History of English Puddings which attracted 400 participants from across the globe. Evaluation shows that the new hybrid festival with its greater variety of opportunities is welcomed by visitors who are increasingly looking to learn something beyond just visiting a site for free.

To inspire and support organisers throughout the year, a new series of online events was developed to connect the community and share examples of best practice. This included a coordinators assembly, four webinars, and seven community cafés. The webinars attracted over 250 people – a much larger audience than previous in-person workshops could cater for. Whilst the cafés provided informal spaces for community members to meet and discuss challenges and ideas.

The annual festival theme has become an established way to provide inspiration for organisers to explore different aspects of their local heritage and encourage new people to consider participating. The theme for 2021 was [Edible England](#), which proved popular with both organisers and the media. Over 730 events took part exploring stories as diverse as the tradition of Victorian picnics in cemeteries, the chain from 'farm to fork', 'lost' pubs, and the history of brands and packaging.

'Researching for this particular Edible England event has not only opened my mind but those of the Friends and our visitors'

Local organiser from [Friends of Wombwell Cemetery](#)

From sustainable fashion and poisonous plants to video games and escape rooms, 27 innovative events were developed by 18 local organisers in collaboration with young people for Heritage Open Days 2021. This was the culmination of a new capacity building project, [New Wave](#), set up in January 2020, but with two cohorts delivering at the same time due to pandemic delays. To support organisers through the programme, six online training sessions were delivered during the year including a final event in-person enabling the two cohorts to meet and share their experiences and best practice. Participants reported being inspired by the project to continue working in new ways with different audiences, including the development of a youth panel and latest programme at Locomotion in County Durham, and

Further information from Heritage Open Days:

- More [Case Studies](#)
- More quotes and statistics on the [Festival Review news item](#) including:
 - 80% visitors said attending made them more proud of their local area
 - 70% visitors said it was a great way of bringing different people within the community together
 - 32% of visitors were from a lower socio-economic background.

an ongoing partnership with the local musical theatre group for Brierley Hill Community Forum.



Heritage Open Days visitor enjoying the VR experience at Avro Heritage Museum, Stockport. © Heritage Open Days



Two young adults watching CCT digital portal on TV. © Churches Conservation Trust

The Churches Conservation Trust goes digital

Due to the pandemic, people had fewer opportunities to physically engage with heritage. In response, the Churches Conservation Trust devised an online lecture series. Seeing the potential for growth, they then made two documentaries which have supported an increase in membership numbers. Dubbed a 'Netflix for Churches' in the press, CCTdigital.com is a place to enjoy digital membership of the CCT wherever you are in the world.

When the lockdown began, the CCT was very keen to make sure that their staff remained engaged and connected to the organisation. They devised the idea of a weekly Thursday lecture where staff could learn and be inspired by other staff across the Trust. After a brief trial, the lectures were put online. The response was unprecedented. Not only had the CCT found a new audience, but in addition a great number of academics and authors were eager to share their knowledge of historic church buildings. A programme was initiated running weekly live sessions on Facebook each Thursday lunchtime. Feedback was really positive. At its peak there were over 1,500 people watching live and many thousands more watching after the event.

This was a new audience for the CCT which raised the question of how best to engage it. Each week a membership ask was made, a section included on the work of the CCT, or Church of the Week. The team also

started to link book sales to each lecture, which has proved to be a valuable source of income when other areas had been shut down.

CCT membership had been a fairly standard traditional offer, with discounts on Church Tours, engagement with CCT staff and copies of the Pinnacle Magazine. With this new worldwide digital audience, a rethink was required – how could this audience be engaged and encouraged to support the work of the CCT?

The result was the launch on 6 December 2021 of [CCTdigital.com](https://www.cctdigital.com). This channel functions not only as a searchable repository of over 100 online lectures but also for some specially made documentaries on historic churches. CCT were delighted when Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch agreed to make a five part documentary on church crawling, visiting places important to him and who he is. 'Church Crawls in Solitude' is also a reflection on the pandemic and reinforces the importance of these significant cultural assets. More documentaries have been added on the English Organ and Cadaver tombs.

The result was a great upsurge in membership of the CCT, and a whole new audience to share in the joy of these important English historic buildings. The aim is to continue to grow and develop more digital content appealing to this digital audience, whilst enabling them to support the ongoing conservation of the buildings themselves.

Section: Capacity Building

Heritage Skills and Career Pathways at Historic England

In 2020 there was little visible movement on skills programmes, partly due to the impact of Covid-19 but also due to development work taking place. 2021 saw three major schemes commence, led by Historic England, but aiming to strengthen the resilience of the sector.

Historic England has been successfully implementing their three-tier model of vocational training which will enable them to establish and invest in opportunities that support individuals at critical points in their careers. The three tiers are:

- 'Prepare' for working in the heritage sector;
- 'Enter' the heritage sector workforce;
- 'Sustain' the heritage sector workforce.

Historic England continues to chair the Historic Environment Trailblazer group which has developed six new apprenticeship standards for those working in the historic environment. Four apprenticeship training

programmes have now commenced in the areas of archaeology, heritage advice and conservation; providing new routes for people to enter the sector workforce and develop specialist skills to sustain it. It is also leading the development of a new standard focused on higher technical skills for those working in heritage construction.

The first-ever cohort of Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprentices completed their apprenticeships in 2021; with over half achieving a Distinction. 80% of these apprentices were employed by Historic England. A second cohort commences in October 2022, made up of twelve apprentices from organisations across the sector. Historic England continues to co-deliver the taught element of this apprenticeship alongside Strode College.

The Hamish Ogston Foundation Building Skills programme commenced in summer 2021, providing an injection of £4.3 million to Historic England to develop heritage craft and trade skills training at each tier of the model. 2021 marked the recruitment of the first cohort of apprentices in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering, roofing and stonemasonry, and in February and March 2022 recruitment began for specialist placements in mosaic restoration, painting and decorating, millwrighting and stained-glass conservation.



Conservation in Action – Stonemason working on the abbey steps at Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire.
© National Trust Images/Alana Wright

Kickstart Gateway has been very successful, with 32 sector employers as members of the Gateway and 75 paid work placements undertaken by unemployed young people (as of February 2022). According to Historic England, just under 25% of placements have gone immediately into work or full-time education following their placement. So far, this scheme has directed nearly £400,000 of funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) into the sector.

Driving innovation and developing apprenticeships in archaeology

Innovation continually drives the sector to review and evolve its working practices and research approach. In January and October 2021, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) hosted a week-long innovation festival to showcase and celebrate some of the innovative practices and approaches being undertaken. The events also focused on some of the identified barriers and challenges to implementing innovation in archaeological research which were identified as part of a Historic England-funded project on [Building capacity through innovation](#).

2021 also saw the completion of the first-ever historic environment apprenticeships as the first cohort of apprentice Historic Environment Advice Assistants submitted their end-point assessments. The development and delivery of historic environment apprenticeships has only been possible thanks to significant strategic investment by Historic England and sector partners including professional bodies, employers and training providers. Archaeological Technician and Archaeological Specialist



A cycle of improvement: what begins as innovation becomes good practice, is normalised and allows for innovation. © Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Case study: Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprenticeships within the National Trust



Harry Farmer joined the National Trust in October 2021 as one of two level 4 Historic Environment Advice Assistant Apprentices. © National Trust

Harry joined the National Trust in October 2021, having enrolled on the level 4 Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprenticeship scheme. He has been working alongside the archaeology teams at Runnymede and across the Trust's London & South East region. He is one of two apprentices at the Trust so far to have come through this programme.

The best thing about the apprenticeship has been... *"Learning new skills and developing working knowledge of protocols, legislation and historic landscapes coupled with witnessing how they are used to compose practical recommendations is a huge bonus of this practical form of career development. I believe the insights we can gain from the archaeology on our sites (and connected to them) bolsters their already intrinsic environmental and social value because they inform the tapestry of stories and experiences we interpret and offer to our visitors. Expanding the reach of our shared heritage to include, enrich and empower wider demographics of people both physically onsite and digitally around the world is something I am incredibly motivated by and it certainly feels like NT is the place to do it for me. Working in the South-East region offers a barrage of historical intrigue from Neolithic communal sites through early-medieval monastic beauty to colonial and WWII remnants that reveal so much about the human condition. I'll never tire of that, and I find the challenge of adapting the knowledge of all of these periods for our various stakeholders invigorating."* Harry Farmer, Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprentice

apprenticeships were also advertised for the first time. As part of their commitment to widening access to their sectors, Icon and ClfA have joined the register of end-point assessment organisations and are in the process of gaining Ofqual recognition. ClfA's investment in becoming an Ofqual recognised assessment organisation is a further development of its role as an NVQ assessment centre and bridges two of its key strategies: to develop and promote more

non-traditional, diverse entry routes into the profession and to use its influence to support the sector as it reduces unfair obstacles to attaining competence. Along with accrediting degree courses in archaeology and supporting employers to develop in-house training programmes, these initiatives aim to tackle immediate skills shortages, promote a more sustainable approach to training and career development and widen access to careers in archaeology.

Case study: Building skills and connecting people: CCT's project '1719'

2021 saw the completion of CCT's repair of Grade I listed Holy Trinity in the heart of Old Sunderland. Known as 1719, the year the church was completed, this partnership project has transformed Sunderland's first parish church and civic hub into a spectacular space for connecting people, and sharing stories and heritage – through conservative repair, sensitive adaptation and contemporary interventions with an emphasis on the quality of craftsmanship and materials throughout. The overall budget for the project is £5.2 million, with £3.2 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and a substantial contribution from Sunderland Council.

Holy Trinity is a significant early Georgian church, closed for regular use since 1988 and, in recent times, on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register. The building suffered from water ingress through defective roof coverings, rising damp, plaster failure, a lack of foundations and a disastrous 1935

restoration. Through a £3 million programme of conservation-led repairs, including replacement of over 16,000 handmade bricks and the large, glazed windows to the original design, the church has been returned to its former glory. Sensitive adaptations include a new kitchen servery, toilet pods, underfloor heating, Wi-Fi and lighting scheme, with all plant in the roof space and existing cupboards and ducts used to hide pipes and cables. A public programme of traditional craft skills activities, including apprenticeships, work placements, hard hat tours and taster days proved extremely successful and resulted in CCT being commissioned to deliver heritage training programmes across the North East of England. The investment has paid dividends already with one of the apprentices offered full-time employment and a place on a stonemasonry course, and a work placement student offered a two-year apprenticeship.

However, 1719 has never just been about repairing bricks and mortar. Holy Trinity is entwined with the lives of the people of Old Sunderland, as it was not only their parish church, but early on also their town hall and magistrate's court, library and public reading room, a place where decisions were taken on sanitation, poverty, law and more. Right from the start the local community has been integral to how this regeneration project has developed. Creative learning and engagement programmes, and traditional and non-traditional interpretation materials are at the core of CCT's vision for the future of 1719 – and a nice café too. The aim is for it to deliver income sufficient to cover all running costs through a combination of events and hire, alongside the café activity.

Developing the project has not always been easy and CCT has learnt much on its journey with Holy Trinity. A complex and challenging venture was made more so by the global pandemic, requiring adaptations to ways of working by everyone on site, their partners, those in the community and CCT. Now though, with the doors finally open and the heating on, Holy Trinity looks forward to welcoming visitors.



Holy Trinity once again at the centre of the Old Sunderland community. © Mike Veitch

Sowing the Seeds of Resilience: Rebuilding Heritage

Rebuilding Heritage was a UK-wide support programme designed to help heritage organisations navigate the challenges presented by Covid-19. It was coordinated by The Heritage Alliance, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and delivered in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Fundraising, Clore Leadership, Creative United, and Media Trust, with support from additional providers.

The programme was launched in September 2020, eight months after the first UK lockdown, and ongoing social restrictions had put many heritage organisations in a precarious position. The mood was characterised by nationwide uncertainty, as many organisations struggled with unforeseen closures, staff absences and funding difficulties – not to mention rapid and radical alterations to established ways of working.

Rebuilding Heritage’s ‘live’ programme ran from November 2020 to October 2021. During this period, Rebuilding Heritage was able to alleviate some of the pressures exerted on heritage organisations by the pandemic, helping them to pivot and adapt in the face of rapidly changing circumstances.

The programme engaged over 1,000 individuals from 634 organisations, representing heritage of every type and from every corner of the UK. It targeted subsectors

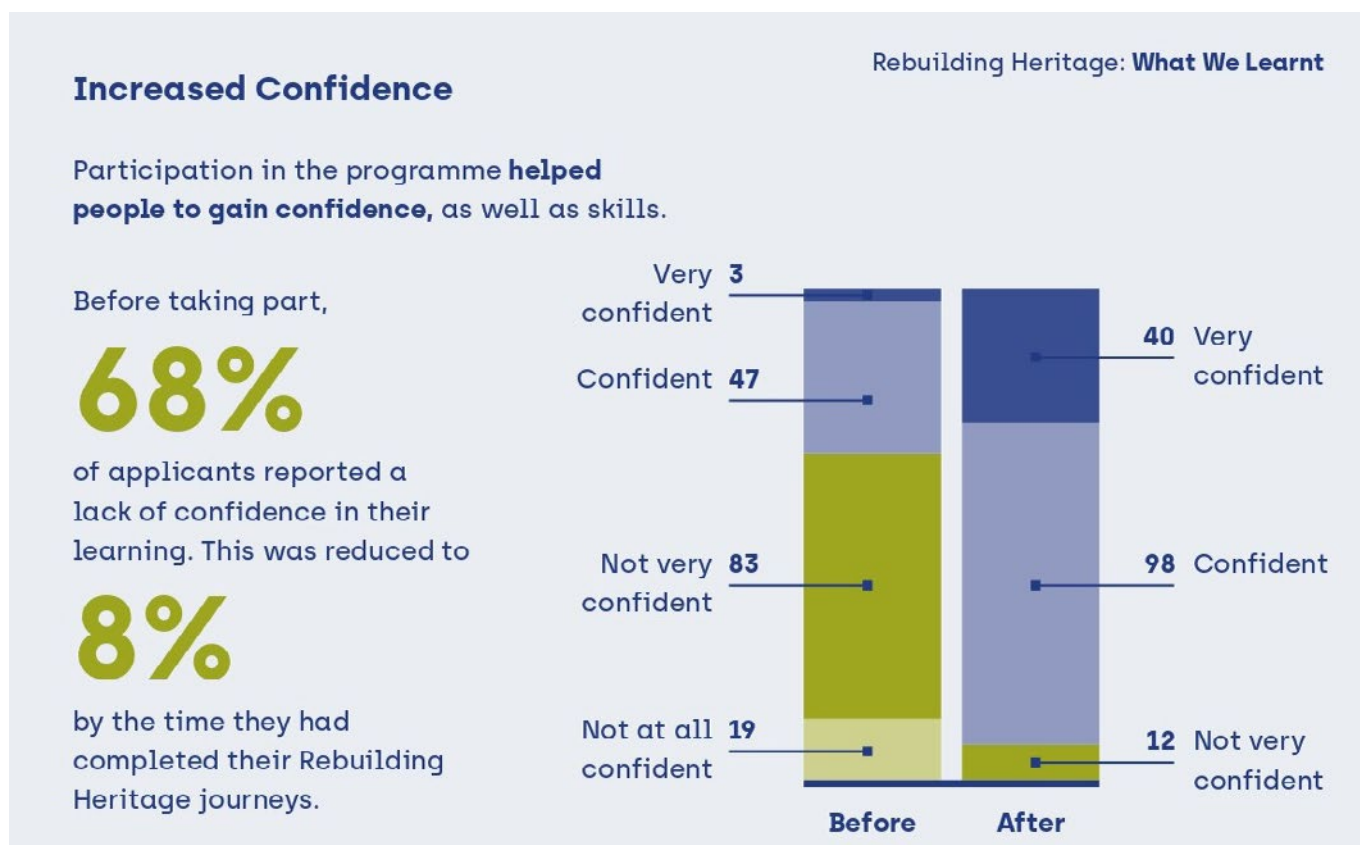
which consultation had revealed were particularly at risk from the pandemic.

Participating organisations received in-depth support and expert advice on a range of issues. This was delivered as webinars (open to all); 1-2-1 coaching (by application); guided group sessions (by application) and peer-to-peer support.

Areas of support included: business & enterprise planning; governance and leadership; fundraising; marketing & communications; workplace inclusion; managing organisational change; hybrid working; wellbeing; vision, mission & storytelling; legal advice and applications skills.

Over the course of the live programme, Rebuilding Heritage improved its support offering in response to feedback and consultation – expanding on the initial four areas (business planning, communications, finance and leadership) to a total of 11, based on needs gathered from multiple consultation strands. This agile delivery method enabled it to remain relevant as organisations took stock of emerging needs and challenges. Rebuilding Heritage found that many of the problems organisations were facing represented pre-existing issues, exacerbated by the hardships of the pandemic.

Before taking part, 68% of applicants reported a lack of confidence in their learning. This was reduced to 8% by the time they had completed their Rebuilding Heritage



Rebuilding Heritage help participants to gain confidence and skills. © Rebuilding Heritage

journeys. Furthermore, 97% percent of participants agreed that the support was relevant and useful in their working lives.

The present 'legacy' phase of the programme extends from October 2021 until spring 2022. This consists of working with the project's partners to publish static resources in a variety of formats (articles, podcasts and infographics) on the Rebuilding Heritage website, with content drawn from the live webinars and final evaluation.

The project has had success in continuing to engage audiences with the legacy resources, building trust and growing its followership. Learnings gathered by the project's final external evaluation have given Rebuilding Heritage staff valuable insights into the running of the programme and the ongoing needs of the heritage ecosystem which are being shared widely with other sector-support initiatives.

Rebuilding Heritage is preparing to offer a programme of follow-on support to previous participants in the live programme. It plans to release a set of case studies, showing how the programme helped several organisations to navigate their difficulties and emerge from the pandemic strengthened and upskilled.

The project is also fundraising for a programme of future support, focused on foundation business skills and new ways of working.

To stay informed of the project developments, [visit the website](#), follow [Rebuilding Heritage on Twitter](#) or [sign up to the mailing list](#).

Historic England's Heritage Schools programme

The Heritage Schools programme will celebrate ten years of delivery in October 2022 and continues to provide training and resources to teachers, trainee teachers and educators on how to embed local heritage into the curriculum. There are over 3,000 attendances at the training events each year and since the start of the pandemic these have been delivered online and via face-to-face settings.

The Heritage Schools team works with local heritage and cultural partners to develop training, resources and projects for schools. The aim of the programme is to engage the pupils with the heritage on their doorstep, understand its significance locally, nationally and globally and develop a sense of place and identity.

In the last academic year over 500 schools were involved in the programme and an independent

evaluation of its impact found that after attending Heritage Schools teacher training:

- 98% of teachers agreed they have a greater understanding of the value of using local heritage in the curriculum.
- 96% of teachers agreed they are more aware of where to access useful resources.

When teachers were asked about the impact of learning about local heritage on their pupils:

- 98% of teachers agreed that learning about local heritage improved pupils' sense of place.
- 96% of teachers agreed that learning about local heritage increased pupils' sense of pride.

Throughout the year many schools delivered or participated in inspiring local heritage projects, and most Heritage Schools embed local history into the curriculum to build knowledge and understanding across year groups. St Robert's RC First School in Morpeth, Northumberland, is an excellent example of a school using the Heritage Schools training and resources to help their pupils understand how the area has changed and developed through time.

"I could have done that CPD (Continued Professional Development) all day, it was so interesting. And, if we teachers find it interesting, then it's easier for us to teach and children find it interesting."

Head Teacher, St Robert's RC First School

All schools taking part in the programme are provided with a bespoke set of archive maps and aerial images of the area around the school and training in how to use them. Using archive maps is a great way to start learning about the heritage of the local area and the impact significant events and people have on the built environment. Heritage Schools training also helps teachers use these local stories to bring heritage of the area to life in the classroom.

Over the years Heritage Schools partnerships, with other heritage and cultural organisations, have enabled schools to tell their local stories through a variety of creative outputs including exhibitions, films, artwork, poetry and plays and, more recently, through music and song.

Last year, a partnership project with the award-winning folk band The Young 'Uns led to schools from across Cambridgeshire taking part in workshops to create local heritage songs following training and support provided via Heritage Schools. One cluster of schools

National Trust and University Partnerships

In 2021, the Trust launched a new national partnership with the University of Exeter. Built around the joint concepts of Landscape Stewardship and Ecological Citizenship, the partnership is undertaking a programme of research, generating new knowledge and building the tools necessary to maximise the Trust's potential to shift from present-focused reactive ways of working to evidence-based, future-focused strategies for land use and decision-making in the context of rapid environmental change, declining biodiversity, and widespread political and economic uncertainty. Taking a multi-disciplinary, co-designed and embedded approach to problem-solving that cannot be met with expertise from practitioners or academics alone, the partnership will maximise the benefits of the Trust's work to better understand ways to care for the natural and cultural heritage of our countryside and coastlines so it can respond more fully to the future needs of people, society and the environment.

The National Trust has also formally launched a five-year strategic partnership with University College London (UCL) focusing on the Trust's 'Looking After What We've Got' strategy pillar to include heritage science, sustainable conservation and heritage significance. Working with UCL's Innovation and Enterprise leads, this is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with a wider academic community, to share expertise and methodologies necessary to address



Children using maps and aerial photos to see how Morpeth has changed over time. © Historic England

took part in a virtual concert with each school singing along to their songs via zoom. This project was so successful it has been rolled out to include schools from across the country.

Developing pupils' knowledge and skills is empowering and providing them with opportunities to express their learning creatively increases their confidence and self-esteem.

"We did see an increased confidence in some children, they wanted to get involved and it gave them a real chance to shine. They were talking about it for a long time afterwards. They liked the idea of creating music and songs."

Head Teacher, Jeavons Wood Primary



Scaffolding surrounds the hall during the roof restoration project at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk. © National Trust Images/Mike Selby

site-specific challenges, as well as informing policies and everyday practice. Sharing knowledge and skills presents a unique opportunity to learn from each other and, importantly, develop trusted relationships with UCL teams that will lead to future research projects.

Archaeology in higher education

University Archaeology UK (UAUK) represents departments and colleagues who teach archaeology in higher education. At present there are around 40 universities that teach archaeology in the UK either as single honours or in combined honours. However, there has been significant change in the university sector over the last few years. Roughly 10% of departments have been affected by closure, or threatened with closure or a reduction in staff numbers. The current situation is that some will close, whilst others are under review. Very few new courses are being offered.

UAUK has identified that the vulnerability of archaeology departments is due to a variety of factors, probably the biggest of which is undergraduate student recruitment. In terms of admission numbers, archaeology is a small subject compared with, for

example, history. There has been a complete collapse of part-time numbers, due to funding changes some years ago; full-time numbers are steadier but have still decreased. There are many reasons for this, but the loss of A-level archaeology is a contributing factor. Covid-19 has adversely affected archaeology departments, especially those which take students with lower grades. A small number of universities are 'stockpiling' students – which is having a major impact on the rest. The costs of teaching archaeology are high compared with other humanities/social sciences – especially with field and lab work, which are vital components of the degree. Leaving the EU has also led to a drop in international students coming to the UK to study. Graduate employability and salaries are traditionally problematic for archaeology graduates, so students seeking a general degree may be avoiding archaeology for this reason. Overall, the long-standing tension between the needs of the professional and more general pathways through archaeology degrees have been exacerbated by these recent trends.

In the face of these challenges, the sector has united and become more proactive in promoting the discipline, through UAUK, and alongside wider organisations and campaign groups (e.g. CBA, Dig4Archaeology). Recent initiatives include:



King's College in Cambridge. © Victoria Heath on Unsplash

- University Archaeology Day has been running successfully for several years as a promotion event for attracting undergraduate students.
- UAUK have petitioned against funding band changes, succeeding in having archaeology placed in with high-cost degree programmes alongside medicine.
- Working towards changing the image to archaeology as a broad degree with a fantastic range of transferable skills, and addressing current issues such as climate change.
- Using nationwide campaigns to promote the study of archaeology, working in close collaboration with the CBA and ClfA.

Case study: Icon launches The Student Project Gallery

The [Icon Student Project Gallery](#) has been launched to provide Icon Student Members with a platform to showcase the skills they have been developing as part of their studies – helping to take their work from the studio into the wider world and also supporting them as they look to secure future employment.

Finding ways to support students facing the challenges of the pandemic lockdowns was a key driver to putting this idea into action. With many institutional doors bolted there were none of the usual degree shows. Icon recognised that lockdown had reduced opportunities for students to demonstrate their achievements but the move to digital platforms indicated that there might be other ways to help students showcase their projects.

The idea sprang from a conversation between Sara Crofts, Icon Chief Executive, and Alex Owen, a furniture conservator at the British Museum and former Chair of Icon's Furniture and Wooden Objects Group (FWOG) during a group event.

“Such a great deal of research is carried out by conservation students that is never made accessible to the wider conservation community, even though this research involves hundreds of hours of work, heaps of innovation, and some really interesting ideas”

Alex Owen

The result is a new addition to the Icon website, fully accessible to the public, complete with templates to help Icon Student Members evaluate their projects and structure their content.

Case study: Broadening access to Icon accreditation for built heritage & craft-based practitioners

There is a strong opportunity for Icon to broaden access to its system of professional accreditation to individuals working in built heritage and craft-based roles. Indeed, there is clearly a significant overlap in the skillset of conservation and built heritage and craft-based practitioners, with many individuals working across both parts of the sector. By embracing a wider definition of conservation and encouraging higher uptake of professional accreditation from a range of conservation backgrounds, Icon will be able to be more effective in advocating for the whole profession, thus, highlighting the vital cultural and economic impact of conservation.

In May 2021 stakeholders from across the conservation sector came together to explore the relevance of Icon Accreditation to the craft and built heritage sector and identify the necessary steps to take to make the process more accessible.

Icon Accreditation demonstrates to clients, employers and peers that an individual has an in-depth knowledge of conservation, a high degree of competence, sound judgement and a deep understanding of the principles which underpin their practice. The system is based on Icon's Professional Standards and Judgement & Ethics criteria and is suitable for all conservation professionals. Since its introduction in 1999 nearly 1,100 professional conservators have become Accredited members of Icon. Icon Accreditation is open to all professional conservators regardless of their specialist area of conservation practice. Whilst there is already a strong representation of professionals working across architectural conservation roles, it is believed that this could be extended further.

There is demand for accreditation to support heritage craft and built heritage professionals and Icon is well placed to support members in securing professional recognition. However, it is also recognised that there is a lack of understanding of accreditation among many professionals for whom Icon Accreditation would be suitable.

[The resulting new report](#) explores the relevance of Icon Accreditation to the craft and built heritage sector and indicates next steps for making Icon Accreditation more accessible.



Historic England's work on wellbeing places individual and community wellbeing at the core of heritage work
© Historic England Archive, photographer James O.Davies

Section: Other Participation and Capacity Building News

Wellbeing & Heritage

There has been considerable interest in wellbeing in the heritage sector over recent years, as seen by the [Historic England report in 2018](#) and The

[Heritage Alliance's report in 2020](#). Whilst both reports highlighted case studies of good practice and more ways of thinking about wellbeing, work was needed in several areas – notably research into how heritage can support wellbeing, building toolkits and resources and working with the health sector around social prescribing. Since then Historic England has developed various research partnerships and pilots,

commissioned research on heritage volunteering and established a committed relationship to work in partnership with the National Academy of Social Prescribing. Examples of all this work can be seen in the [Heritage and Wellbeing special edition](#) of Historic England's Research magazine, published in February 2022.

It is generally accepted that arts, culture, heritage and nature have the potential for multiple impacts on our wellbeing. We know, for example, that public parks are essential to community wellbeing: 72 recently assessed historic public parks provide 37 million visits and over £856 million in benefits per year, where the mental health benefits are the highest – up to £543 million a year, as demonstrated in [Public Parks and Greenspaces Matter](#). Equally we know that heritage can support flourishing healthy *places*: A consultation on Ramsgate Seafront (part of a Heritage Action Zone or HAZ) reported that “*wellbeing is an element of every project*” within a HAZ, as they are about improving places for people and communities by making them accessible and appreciated. Self-confidence and resilience are key elements of personal wellbeing: A volunteer from a recent Heritage at Risk project stated “*it sort of gave me confidence in myself to, you know, my own abilities in some way... to trust in myself.*”

To successfully make the case for heritage and clearly demonstrate the wellbeing outcomes of engaging with the historic environment, it is crucial that heritage professionals purposefully put wellbeing at the core of what they do. To this aim, Historic England is developing its first [Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy](#) to establish clear aims at embedding wellbeing into its work.

Innovative work on the [specific wellbeing benefits of heritage volunteering in Heritage at Risk projects](#) was carried out by the University of Lincoln. The results showed that heritage volunteering can bring specific benefits for mental and physical health, social connections, sense of place and motivation. Working at Heritage at Risk (HAR) sites made 90% of participants feel enthusiastic, determined, inspired, connected to others and alert. The project looked at post-participation evaluation of benefits of volunteering at a range of projects across the country and revealed six themes of acquired benefits: purpose, being, capacity, sharing, self-nurture and self-actualisation, all underpinned by the unique HAR ‘offer’ of engaging with heritage and at-risk assets. A toolkit has been produced as part of the project to be used in planning and operating heritage at risk or similar monument management programmes.



The Cotton heritage dance performance by the About Time Dance Company in Kirkham, October 2021, with schoolgirls from Carr Hill School, Kirkham, Lancashire. © Jenny Reeves (About Time Dance Company)

Partnership with the National Academy of Social Prescribing

Following the recommendations of the [SOW report on Historic England's potential to deliver social prescribing](#) (2020), Historic England formed a partnership with the [National Academy for Social Prescribing \(NASP\)](#). This led to the establishment of the post of National Lead for the Historic Environment within the Academy, to becoming a [strategic and funding](#)

[partner of the Thriving Communities Fund](#) and to the successful delivery of the first [national Heritage & Social Prescribing webinar](#) in June 2020. As a result, Historic England helped raise the profile of heritage within the area of social prescribing so that it becomes embedded in the establishment of regional cross-sector social prescribing infrastructure and supported the development of heritage and social prescribing projects across the country, such as the Restoration Trust's Heritage Link Worker project and the Social

Case study: MARCH Network Plus study on developing guidelines for involving people with mental health issues in heritage projects

A [UKRI MARCH Network Plus funded project](#), carried out between November 2020 and May 2021, in partnership with Historic England, saw an expert panel develop best practice guidelines for organisations offering heritage projects as interventions for people who live with mental health issues. This was achieved through a Delphi process, utilising the skills of those with lived experience of mental health issues, as well as mental health and heritage professionals, bringing together their expertise to create a practical and beneficial tool based on real-life experience.

The research study was conducted by Dr Karen Burnell (Solent University), Dr Paul Everill (University

of Winchester), Dr Louise Baxter (Bournemouth University), Eva Makri (Solent University) and Dr Kathryn Watson (co-researcher).

The guidance covers the three main stages of project management (project development, project delivery, and project follow-up) and focuses on safeguarding, understanding risk, and duty of care, as well as the expertise that should be brought into the project delivery in terms of the appropriate management of both heritage/historic environment asset and mental health.

It is hoped that these guidelines can assist all organisations, big or small, funded or not funded, in the delivery of safe projects that support the mental health of those involved, as well as enhancing and protecting the historic environment that provides the setting for these interventions.



Historic England's Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy's vision is that everyone can experience the wellbeing benefits of heritage. © Historic England Archive, photographer Alun Bull

Prescribing programme within Kirkham's HAZ. Historic England, in partnership with the Council for British Archaeology, also created a Heritage and Social Prescribing community of practice as part of a sector-wide Wellbeing & Heritage working group. Aspects of this work were highlighted in the [Heritage and Social Prescribing Historic England Research article](#), and the [Heritage special episode of NASP's Podcasts on Prescription](#). Historic England has now produced internal guidance on social prescribing for its staff, which will inform the creation of bespoke learning modules within its Wellbeing & Heritage staff learning programme.

Read [case studies on Wellbeing and Heritage](#) and find out more about [Historic England's work on Wellbeing](#).

IHBC's learning-led Annual School Heritage MarketPlace

IHBC's Annual Schools have long-standing recognition as the major conservation event in its members' calendars, with live exhibitions, tours and networking over three days complementing the talks. The pandemic resulted in a pivot to a one day virtual [2020 School](#), but by [2021](#) a more extensive learning experience was needed, leading to incorporation of a School [Heritage MarketPlace](#), with targeted learning-led engagement from specialist [Stallholders](#), flexibility and encouragement for promotion and personal engagement. This model has been adapted for the [IHBC's 2022 School](#) which will offer 'blended' opportunities as well as a stand-alone MarketPlace on either side of an informal discussion forum: 'Happy Hour with the IHBC'.

The IHBC's [2021 Brighton School](#) Heritage MarketPlace offered a perfect and personalised virtual platform to help School delegates target priority learning while virtual Stallholders could access low-cost and low-carbon delegate engagement. You can see the developing MarketPlace for 2022 [here](#), as the 2021 version is not available online.

IHBC School delegates, visitors and members of the public were encouraged to use the Stallholder listing to survey the MarketPlace and plan networking with Stallholders. Everyone was encouraged to use and search the list for the suppliers, advisers, clients, contractors, advocates etc. that address their own special requirements. All were welcome to contact the Stallholders using the links provided. To facilitate access, School delegates seeking learning opportunities in the MarketPlace could search the list using key words, in particular those linked to the CPD opportunities on offer.

Delegates and Stallholders could circulate and promote the Stallholder's virtual stall listing and operations using a 'Stall Promotional and Networking link' at the end of each listing, for example: <https://marketplace.ihbc.org.uk/stallholderlisting/#ihbce>. The MarketPlace Stallholder Listing was regularly updated as new Stallholders arrived and learning offerings evolved to attract delegates to their stall – all as agreed in advance of the opening of the MarketPlace. Before the MarketPlace opened delegates were circulated links to the Stallholder-hosted Zoom sessions. Typically – but not exclusively, as stallholders could plan their own content subject to agreement with the IHBC – these were framed around 30-minute sessions with 15 minutes of learning and 'explanation' and 15 minutes of Q&A and discussion. All Stallholders were offered structured guidance and practical sessions on how their stall might be promoted, managed and presented.



Visitors walking the circular route at Tarn Hows near Hawkshead, Cumbria. © National Trust Images/John Millar

Section: Heritage Awards

Historic Houses awards 2021

Every year, Historic Houses celebrates the achievements of its member properties through special awards, the winners of which are announced at its AGM in November. The awards highlight the contributions to heritage being made at independently owned sites across the country.

The Garden of the Year Award recognises significant achievements in gardening and horticulture and the transformation of historic sites through new ideas and designs. The winner of the judges' choice category in 2021 was [Elton Hall](#) in Cambridgeshire, where Lady Proby has spent a lifetime transforming and enriching a long-established historic garden. It follows the success of Gresgarth Hall Gardens, Cumbria, winner in 2020.

[Radbourne Hall](#) in Derbyshire won the Restoration Award. A three-year restoration project here involved enhancement, as well as protection, of the building's architecture. As well as essential structural works to the roof and services and utilities, windows were reinstated and an entirely new staircase constructed on the house's garden front, giving the saloon on the principal floor access to the grounds. A 20mm gap separates it from the historic fabric of the Palladian mansion, meaning the listed building itself did not have to be directly disturbed.

[Powderham Castle](#) in Devon won the Frances Garnham Award for innovation in education, recognition for their work with local school groups and with academic partners in researching and presenting the diverse stories of the house. Meanwhile, [Browsholme Hall](#) in Lancashire won the first-ever Sustainability Award for their whole-estate approach. A woodchip boiler in the main house is fuelled from the local woodlands, while the café doubles as an education space for visiting parties of school children to learn about biodiversity.

CBA Archaeological Achievement Awards

Established in 1976 as the British Archaeological Awards, the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) took over the running of the awards in 2019. Working with a Steering Group of representatives from across the sector, it was agreed to broaden the scope of the awards to cover the UK and the Republic of Ireland. To reflect this change, the awards were relaunched in 2021 as the *Archaeological Achievement Awards*.

The Archaeological Achievement Awards are designed to celebrate the very best of archaeology across the UK and Republic of Ireland. Nominations are open to all from commercial units to grassroots archaeology projects.

Following a two-year hiatus, it was timely to review the award categories and criteria. Five new categories were developed along with one outstanding achievement award with an emphasis on a range of cross-cutting themes that are designed to show how archaeology relates to wider society, health and wellbeing and place.

The new awards categories are as follows:

- Archaeological Innovation
- Early Career Archaeologist
- Engagement and Participation
- Learning, Training and Skills
- Public Dissemination and Presentation
- Outstanding Achievement Award

The awards cross-cutting themes are:

- Health and wellbeing
- Collaboration – commercial/academic/public
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Place-shaping/placemaking

To raise awareness of the name change and the new awards categories an online event '[Introduction to the Archaeological Achievement Awards](#)' was held on 22 June 2021.

The awards were launched by Neil Redfern and Professor Carena Lewis (Chair of the awards Steering Group) at the CBA Festival of Archaeology closing event in Hull on 1 August 2021. By the closing date of 31 October, 85 nominations had been submitted, all of a very high standard representing an incredible range of archaeological work from across the sector.

The [awards ceremony](#) was due to take place at Edinburgh Castle on 7 December 2021, but due to health and safety concerns as a result of Storm Barra the in-person event was unable to go ahead as planned. The CBA quickly adapted to an online event, which took place via Zoom and was live streamed via the CBA YouTube channel. All of the shortlisted nominees were able to attend the event which was hosted by CBA President Raksha Dave.



Morgause Lomas, Scout Leader with Derbyshire Scouts, winners of the Archaeological Innovation Award for the Derbyshire Scouts Archaeology Badge. © Derbyshire Scout Archaeology

Social media impact from the event generated 140,000 impressions on Twitter including 107 retweets on the day of the awards ceremony. The Facebook reach was 6,798. The live awards ceremony was attended by over 120 people, the recording of the awards ceremony has had 841 views (which includes 100 people who watched the live stream via YouTube on the night) and the highlights video has had at least 86 views to date.

The awards were supported by all the state agencies and a range of sponsors from across the sector.

Nominations for this year's awards will open on 31 July with the awards ceremony taking place in Dublin in late 2022.

More information including the full list of winners and highly commended nominees from 2021 can be found at www.archaeologicalawards.com.

Heritage Day 2022 and Ecclesiastical's Heritage Heroes

The Heritage Alliance's Heritage Day 2022 was held as a [hybrid event](#) across 9-10 March with a virtual first day and in-person second day held at Christ Church Spitalfields. The event continues to be an important gathering of sector leaders from across

the heritage spectrum. Headline speakers included Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston MP, who outlined the Government's forthcoming Heritage Statement, the incoming National Lottery Heritage Fund Chair Dr Simon Thurley CBE, and The Heritage Alliance's new Chair Pam Alexander OBE. There were a range of panels and talks grappling with topics around skills, levelling up, and the long-term view for heritage, to practical support for the sector on key areas ranging from access, diversity and inclusion to culture and heritage capital and tourism recovery.

On Heritage Day, the [Ecclesiastical's Heritage Heroes Awards](#), run by the Heritage Alliance, celebrated their 12th Anniversary. The awards were set up to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Heritage Volunteers to society.

Ecclesiastical's Heritage Hero Award 2021 was awarded to Richard Johnson for his contribution to Change Minds, Norfolk Record Office's mental health programme, which supports people in North Norfolk who have mental health conditions and enables them to research the lives of people in the past. Richard is a Change Minds volunteer historian for the Restoration Trust and tirelessly advocates for Change Minds and has helped raise over £320,000 for heritage and mental health.

Ecclesiastical's Digital Heritage Hero Award went to Steve Ash for his contribution to Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust's Digital Project, which harnessed video to keep the site on the public's horizon during the pandemic. Steve has developed films about the Trust's people and places, aims, and achievements, as well as created virtual tours, events and digital games, which have engaged thousands of visitors and supporters.



The Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston MP speaking at Heritage Day 2022. © Becky Payne



Blossom in Birmingham, Midlands, UK. City centre pop-up blossom gardens and a legacy tree planting programme around the city. © National Trust Images/Paul Harris

Contributing organisations (in alphabetical order)

Architectural Heritage Fund

Arts and Humanities Research Council

British Museum (Portable Antiquities Scheme)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Church of England

Churches Conservation Trust

Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITIZAN)

Council for British Archaeology

Country Land and Business Association

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Heritage Alliance

Heritage Open Days (National Trust)

Historic England

Historic Environment Forum

Historic Houses

HS2

Institute for Historic Buildings Conservation

Icon (the Institute of Conservation)

National Lottery Heritage Fund

National Trust

Natural England

Rebuilding Heritage

University Archaeology UK

Victorian Society

World Heritage UK



Horses at Carding Mill Valley and the Shropshire Hills, Shropshire. The site covers 2,000 hectares of heather-covered hills featuring iconic views of the Shropshire Hills. © National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

Front cover image: Flying kites at the Wellington Monument, Somerset. The Wellington Monument stands as a tribute to the Duke of Wellington and his victory at the Battle of Waterloo.
© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

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