

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The left side is dominated by a complex, dark wooden roof structure with many beams and trusses. On the right, a tall, slender stone column supports a high, pointed Gothic arch. Through the arch is a large stained glass window with a central figure in colorful robes and a banner below. Below the main window is a smaller, arched window with a diamond-patterned leaded glass design. A decorative lantern hangs from the ceiling in the lower center.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW

2020

HERITAGE COUNTS

THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN 2020

2020 has been an unprecedented year, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic changing all aspects of our lives including many aspects of work of the heritage sector. The year has seen significant changes and many new initiatives as part of shielding the sector from the worst impacts of the pandemic such as new, large-scale emergency funding schemes being launched, while some existing funding streams have been paused. Alongside these, major policy and planning changes were introduced that could drastically change the way in which change to the historic environment is managed. The pandemic encouraged the development of novel approaches for working digitally and many new initiatives for training and connectivity were developed across the sector. This report captures those recent updates under its five main sections:

- **Introduction and updates** – covering major sector-wide bodies’ strategic directions and developments over 2020;
- **Changes to the funding and resource landscape** – concerning the financial situation of the sector;
- **Heritage policy and management** – reviewing key policies developed, new priority areas and achievements through programmes for managing heritage;
- **Planning system** – reviewing key changes in national and local planning policy;
- **Participation and capacity-building** – presenting public engagement, volunteering as well as the latest efforts towards supporting capacity within the sector.

Key updates on the work of major bodies engaged in management and policy in the sector include:

- The [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\) \(section 1.1\)](#) completed the Taylor Review Pilot, which tested recommendations from the Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals;
- Organisations within the heritage sector have continued to collaborate through the [Heritage 2020 initiative \(section 1.1\)](#) and new model [Historic Environment Forum](#);
- The [Heritage Alliance \(section 1.3\)](#) supported the independent sector with advocacy and practical support through the COVID-19 crisis, continued its work on the future of environmental and agricultural legislation and immigration and visas after Brexit, published ‘Backing The Bedrock’ which captures fiscal and funding priorities, and launched an innovative report on how heritage supports health and wellbeing;
- Progress has been made with [Historic England’s \(section 1.4\)](#) flagship programme – High Streets Heritage Action Zones ([section 2.3](#)), as well as its most recent research, campaigns and emergency funding schemes.



Bedford Street, Norwich, Norfolk. © Historic England Archive

The recent operational and functional limitations for historic sites that the pandemic brought in created a challenging environment for the sector together with a pressing need to respond quickly to avoid greater damage and longer-term detrimental impact for both businesses and sites. The pandemic affected every aspect of society and economy and the heritage sector forms part of it. Some major funding streams were paused or postponed either to prioritise emergency funding or for practical reasons due to lockdown and accessibility restrictions. The need to support organisations facing loss of income streams and needing to operate under the new legal requirements required a rapid and structured response in the form of policy and leadership to be able quickly to support capacity building activities and set up new funding mechanisms.

Despite these, there have been many notable success elements in 2020, especially regarding the funding opportunities for the whole sector to support recovery ([section 2.1](#)), including:

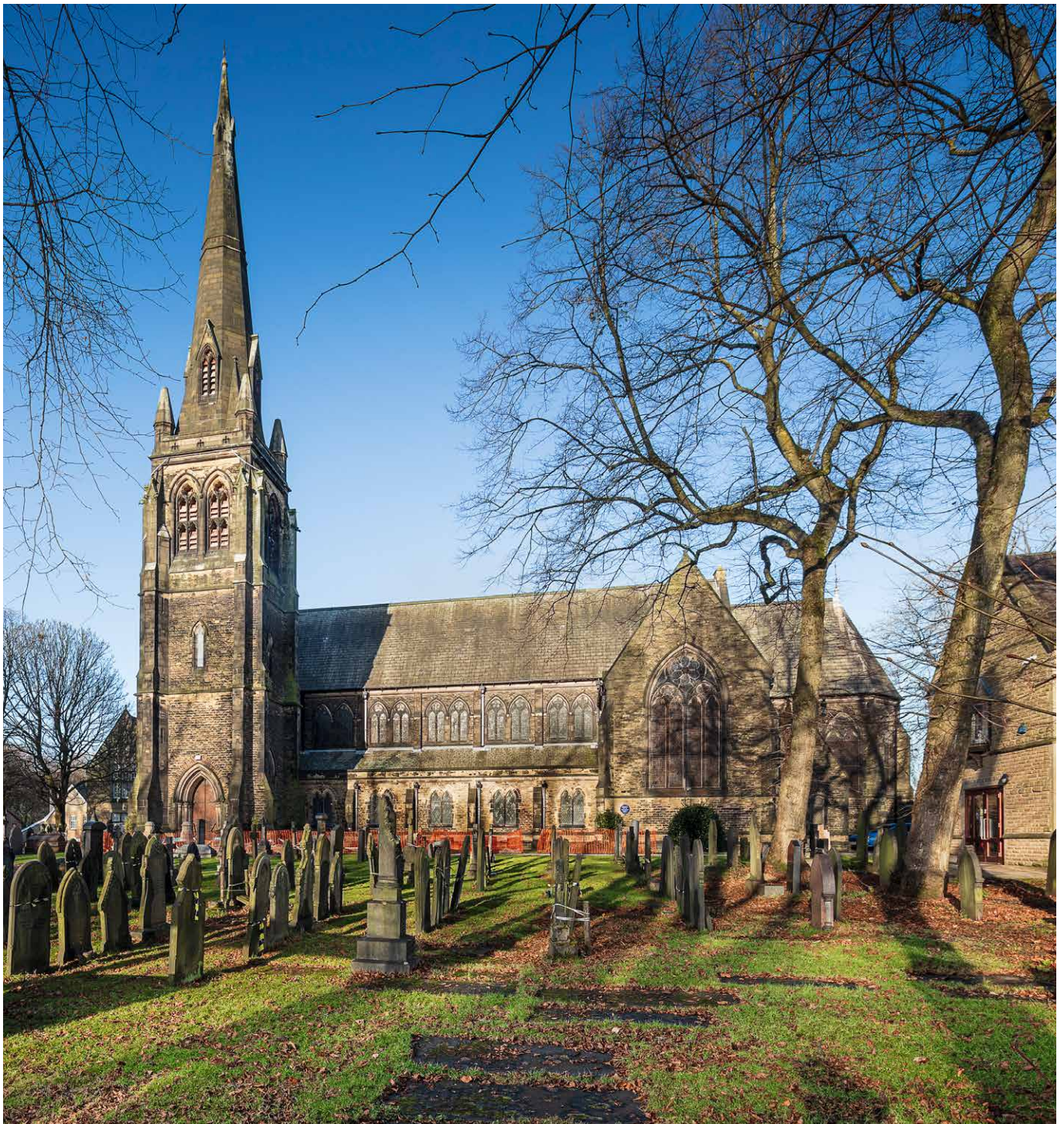
- In July 2020, the government announced its Culture Recovery Fund, a support package for heritage as part of a wider £1.57 billion investment – the largest ever one-off investment in UK culture – to protect the country’s cultural, arts and heritage organisations.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Historic England [is administering £88 million of this fund](#). Prior to this, the National Lottery Heritage Fund had launched a £50 million Heritage Emergency Fund to provide emergency funding for those organisations most in need to support the heritage community, to assist with essential maintenance and utility costs and to prepare for reopening. New applications for funding to the normal Heritage Fund schemes were closed in April to concentrate on offering this emergency response, but began to reopen from November 2020.
- Historic England launched two funds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic ([section 2.1](#)): the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund (with grants of up to £25,000, aimed at small heritage organisations and up to £50,000 for projects that reduce risks to heritage organisations by providing information, resources and skills), and the COVID-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund offered grants of up to £25,000 for repair and maintenance projects. In total, £1.8 million was shared amongst 70 projects in the first response.



Hales Street, Coventry, West Midlands. © Historic England Archive

Updates from the wider heritage policy and management landscape include:

- The national [Heritage Crime Programme \(section 3.3\)](#) has now been running for ten years. Heritage Crime Liaison Officers (HCLO) roles were established across the country to support with the prevention and investigation of offences that occur within the historic and natural environments;
- The Listed [Places of Worship \(section 3.4\)](#) Grant Scheme (LPOW) continues to run until March 2021. [The Taylor Review Pilot](#) was completed in March 2020 and has already supported 396 listed places of worship in Greater Manchester and Suffolk, including awarding 136 maintenance and repair grants totalling £1 million.



Monton Unitarian Chapel, Greater Manchester. © Historic England Archive

Key updates on planning changes include:

- In August 2020, significant changes to the planning system were proposed in the Planning White Paper: Planning for the Future. ([section 4.1](#));
- The government consultation on the Planning White Paper, entitled Planning for the Future, closed at the end of October 2020. Its aim is ‘to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed([section 4.2](#));
- In November 2020, the MHCLG Committee [held](#) an oral evidence session in its inquiry into the future of the planning system in England. The session featured witnesses from the RICS, RIBA, RTPI as well as the National Trust’s Historic Environment Director.
- The archaeological investigations and research in support of the development of the High Speed 2 (HS2) railway continues to grow ([section 4.4](#)) providing, due to its scale, an opportunity for many communities to reconnect with their local archaeological sites. In April 2020, the Department for Transport gave HS2 Ltd approval to issue its contractors with Notice to Proceed to full detailed design and construction of the 225 km London–West Midlands Phase 1.



Heritage Open Day, Baddesley Clinton, Warwickshire. © Chris Lacey, Heritage Open Days

Finally, 2020 was a challenging year regarding engaging with the public and celebrating community engagement with heritage.

The disproportionate impact of the pandemic on people with protected characteristics, including many young people, people with disabilities and people from many BAME communities, was accompanied by increased pressures on Community and Voluntary Sector networks across the UK that work in partnership with the heritage sector. While these increased pressures weaken overall sustainability and resilience, some opportunities for digital engagement and novel ways of capacity building within the sector were explored, including:

- AHRC/UKRI-funded programmes (total investment of over £100 million) such as Audiences of the Future, Towards a National Collection, the Creative Industries Clusters Programme and a variety of rapid-response research relating to COVID-19.
- **Heritage Open Days 2020 (section 5.4)** continued to deliver their programme through virtual tours and digital experiences. This was the first year the festival engaged communities and volunteers across 720 organisations in this way.
- **Heritage Schools (section 5.6)** from Historic England continues to help teachers so that children develop an understanding and appreciation of their local heritage.
- **The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) (section 5.1)** as been working with sector partners, including Historic England, to widen access to careers in heritage. This is done through developing new entry routes (through apprenticeships) and by strengthening existing ones (through accreditation schemes).
- **Digital Skills for Heritage (section 5.1)**, a two-year, £2.6 million initiative, launched by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, in February 2020, has directly supported over 6,000 individuals and organisations working in heritage through **online training, workshops and other activities** to date. Additionally, a wealth of resources including instructional videos, research and guides has been produced, providing practical advice on a wide range of topics. The Heritage Alliance leads the 'Heritage Digital' project consortium.

1. Introduction and updates

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Heritage Counts is the annual audit of England’s heritage, first published in 2002. It is produced by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum (HEF). The Historic Environment Forum is the high level cross-sector committee that brings together chief executives and policy officers from public and non-government heritage bodies in England to co-ordinate initiatives and strengthen advocacy work and communications.

Heritage Counts consists of six separate documents, which are updated annually:

- Heritage Counts – Annual research report
- Heritage Indicators
- Historic Environment Overview
- Heritage and the Economy
- Heritage and Society
- Heritage and the Environment (new for 2020).

This Overview report provides heritage organisations working on management, planning and advocacy of England’s heritage with the most recent updates about developments in the sector during the last year. It includes information on ongoing and completed work by key government bodies and organisations involved in policy making and in shaping the protection and management of the historic environment as well as updates on funding streams, including campaigns, public engagement programmes and innovative capacity-building activities. It also provides insight into the celebration of people’s contribution to heritage through a section devoted to engagement and participation.

The report material was compiled mainly within 2020, with latest updates covering the period up to December 2020.

1.1 DCMS: Latest news

- The **Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)** has experienced further ministerial changes this year; starting in February 2020 when a new Secretary of State, Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP was appointed and Nigel Huddleston MP was appointed as new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport, Tourism and Heritage. Existing and new areas of work completed during this year includes the following:
 - DCMS has developed a £1.57 billion support package for the heritage, arts and culture industries through the Culture Recovery Fund. Of this, Historic England was allocated £50 million to distribute through the Heritage Stimulus Fund. The purpose of the Heritage Stimulus Fund is to support vital heritage construction businesses through enabling repairs to heritage assets that would otherwise have been deferred. In addition, the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Historic England is administering £88 million from the Culture Recovery Fund in grants to heritage organisations to cover reopening, operating, hibernation and/or recovery costs during the pandemic. Museums are being supported separately through Culture Recovery Fund grants administered by Arts Council England.



Chester Rows High Street Heritage Action Zone, Cheshire. © Chester West & Chester Council

- DCMS has published the results of the independent [Tailored Review of Historic England](#) in November 2020.
- The Taylor Review Pilot (not to be confused with the aforementioned Tailored Review), which tested recommendations of the [Taylor Review: Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals](#), has concluded. The pilot provided free support and advice for places of worship over a two-year period in trial areas Greater Manchester and Suffolk. The evaluation report, published in October 2020 can be accessed [here](#). Advisory resources and useful templates developed during the pilot are also [available online](#).
- DCMS has been working closely with the heritage sector and Arm’s Length Bodies (ALB’s) throughout the pandemic, listening to their concerns and both seeking evidence and providing clarity on a range of issues. The Heritage Working Group has provided a forum to share information, provide guidance and understand the challenges being faced by the sector. Up-to-date guidance for people who work or volunteer in heritage locations and guidelines for reopening are communicated through these channels and published on the [gov.uk site](#).
- UK statistics authority assessed the [DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates](#) series and designated as National Statistics the DCMS Sector Economic Estimates on Regional and National GVA, Business Demographics and Employment. Experimental statistics showing the number of daily visits to DCMS sponsored museums and galleries were also published in July 2020.

- On 22 September, the Secretary of State Oliver Dowden [wrote](#) to DCMS Arm’s Length Bodies to outline the Government’s position on contested heritage. The letter invited them to share what contested heritage means in the context of their organisation. Historic England advises central government on matters including the listing and de-listing (designation and de-designation) of buildings and advises local government on heritage applications in the planning system. Historic England’s Conservation Principles provide an overarching approach to how they advise on applications for listing and for alteration and/or removal.
- [EU Exit](#) continues to be a focus for the government. The interests of the heritage sector continue to be represented in ongoing policy development. A [collection of guidance documents](#) for DCMS sectors and policy areas was shared in October 2020 to help during the transition period and after 1 January 2021.
- DCMS and Historic England are working closely to develop a formal approach to value cultural and heritage assets called Culture and Heritage Capital (CHC). The programme’s ultimate aim is to create publicly available statistics and guidance that will allow for a more quantitative articulation of the value of the culture and heritage sectors in decision making.
- The Heritage Council seeks to strengthen the link between the country’s heritage and the wider regeneration and placemaking agenda as well as helping government to best support the heritage sector. The council reconvened in October covering planning matters and energy efficiency issues and met again in December to focus on EU Exit and the Environment Bill.



Heritage Action Zone, Priestpottle, Hexham, Northumberland. © Historic England Archive

1.2 Historic Environment Forum

- The Historic Environment Forum (HEF) is a high-level committee which, by working collaboratively, carries out a range of activities to encourage and support research, conservation, presentation, enjoyment and use of the historic environment in England. HEF has been restructured over the past year, with new task groups and support staff now in place to develop the Forum's work. The Forum is co-ordinated on behalf of member organisations by The Heritage Alliance, with financial support from Historic England.
- HEF brings together senior members of staff from public and non-government heritage bodies to keep the sector updated in relation to political and policy developments and be a sounding board on issues affecting the work of the sector. Amongst others it supports the sector to work collaboratively on strategic priorities, oversees the production of Heritage Counts, and facilitate the sector's debate on complex topics. The recent restructuring allowed HEF to concentrate its efforts – beyond its ordinary functions – on three different strands of work:
 - **Governance of the 'new HEF'**: Production of new Terms of Reference provided an opportunity for HEF members to reflect on the scope and purpose of the Forum, as well as to think about its overall structure. The results of this process are now accessible on a revamped [website](#), which also hosts the outcomes of the Heritage 2020 programme. The transition of HEF to the new structure has been marked by the appointment of a new Chair, Dr Adrian Olivier, in October 2020. Future Forum activities will be driven by a new '[Strategic Framework](#)', which identifies areas for collaboration and beneficial outcomes for the sector and the public for the next five years. Future HEF Task Groups will support collaborative working to achieve those outcomes and will be open for wider contributions from across the sector. Other working groups in England whose scope aligns with the 'Strategic Framework' can receive HEF endorsement and contribute to its positive outcomes.
 - **COVID-19 support**. Two groups have supported the work in the sector to aid the recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first one facilitated the deliberations of the Heritage Working Group and liaised closely with Government to articulate the needs of the heritage sector across England. HEF members expressed gratitude to the Government for the scale of the financial rescue package made available to the sector in response to the case that was made for the hardship and jeopardy being faced and welcomed the opportunity for continued discussion through the working group. The second group ran from June to November 2020 and produced a shared sector narrative on the value of heritage and the key role it can play in the nation's post-COVID recovery. The narrative supports HEF organisations to communicate important messages on sector value, in the context of recovery, key to key decision makers, therefore maximising impact. The narrative also provided the basis for cross-sector, public-facing communications work on the value of heritage, which highlighted the ability of HEF to communicate in a coherent and co-ordinated way.
 - **COP26**. The group will run from December 2020 to May 2021 to create a shared sector plan for 'the route to COP26', [the global](#) summit on climate change and will take place in Glasgow from 1st – 21st November 2021. The event provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness of climate change and cultural heritage. The task group will support HEF to promote, in a joined-up way, the ways in which the sector can advance, rather than hinder, environmental progress and sustainability.
- The HEF Steering Group also worked on understanding the sector's readiness to the impact of the end of the EU transition period, in order to provide the best co-ordination and support for the sector to minimise the impact of Brexit.

Heritage 2020 Initiative

- Heritage 2020 was funded by Historic England and managed on behalf of the [Historic Environment Forum](#) by the Heritage Alliance. It has provided a catalyst for collaboration by organisations from across the historic environment sector between 2015-2020. The focus of their collaboration has been the Heritage 2020 Framework which set out five strategic themes spanning conservation, public engagement, research, advocacy and capacity building. A product of the HEF, the Heritage 2020 programme came to a close in October 2020.
 - Over the last year, Heritage 2020 has brought together over 55 people from 42 organisations through its working groups and annual Foresight workshop. The spirit of collaboration remained strong during lockdown and the programme adapted well to virtual working. This year's activity focused on ensuring a legacy for both the working relationships that have been developed over the course of the five-year programme, as well as the outputs from the five Heritage 2020 working groups so that they can be available and useful to others beyond October 2020.
- A key part of this legacy has been work led by the **Helping Things to Happen** group on the development of the new model for collaborative working in the form of a revitalised HEF which became operational in October.
 - The **Discovery, Identification and Understanding** group has published its work focused on understanding and strengthening collaboration between higher education institutions and heritage organisations. A scoping study on existing connections, results of a consultation on how to develop connections, and over twenty case studies of the breadth of collaborations between the two sectors, including lessons learned, are all [available online](#).
 - Information on collaborative work to address the economic and social changes experienced by High Streets has been captured by the **Constructive Conservation & Sustainable Management** group which this year focused on alignment of the major schemes in place to invest in the [regeneration of historic high streets](#) and case studies that begin to demonstrate the benefits of this investment.



North Walsham High Street Heritage Action Zone, Norfolk. © North Norfolk District Council

- The **Capacity Building** group has published its work on the legislative base for Local Planning Authority **historic environment services** to show where capacity and skills must be maintained to ensure the future delivery of these vital conservation and archaeology services. It has also summarised its work on **Apprenticeships**, from the kick-off workshop in 2017 on ‘Apprenticeship reform’ to the live standards developed through the ‘Historic Environment Trailblazer Consortium’ that are available in 2020.
- **Diversity and Inclusion**, and **youth participation with heritage** have been the focus of the **Public Engagement** group. This working group brought together people with a background in youth engagement projects and people from the historic environment sector. Together they have looked at reasons for under-representation of the 16-25 age group in engagement with heritage, how it can be addressed, and shared examples of successful work.

1.3 The Heritage Alliance

- The **Heritage Alliance** (THA) is the heritage sector’s coalition of independent heritage organisations, now with over 150 members. It is uniquely placed to draw on members’ knowledge to help policy makers realise the potential of heritage and to avoid inadvertent harm. The Alliance advocates for the better understanding of the importance of heritage to national prosperity and wellbeing, the place of heritage as the bedrock of creative enterprise and as part of environmental solutions, as well as incubating and generating new thinking and dialogue on heritage issues.
- 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 Alliance has been at the heart of data gathering and sector support, feeding actively into Government response.



Ormskirk High Street Heritage Action Zone, Lancashire. © West Lancashire Council



Claremont and Robertson Street, Triangle, Hastings, East Sussex. © Historic England Archive

- The Alliance’s Advocacy groups have continued to meet and work on issues including spatial planning, rural affairs, digital, learning and skills, funding, and mobile heritage. There are also two working groups: one on marine heritage, and the other on fiscal incentives for the repair and maintenance of historic fabric. The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance (HRBA) continues to champion the needs of historic religious heritage.
- The Alliance currently leads cross-cutting projects on international heritage, heritage and wellbeing, heritage and the creative industries, and heritage and diversity. It leads two consortia delivering National Lottery Heritage Funded capacity support for the sector – ‘Heritage Digital’ and ‘Rebuilding Heritage’.



■ Key work this year includes:

- In response to the **COVID-19 pandemic** and subsequent lockdown, the Alliance liaised with members and advocated for their needs with Government and Parliamentarians. It also successfully advocated for the reopening of ‘paid for’ gardens, and against closure of botanical gardens in the second lockdown, alongside

others in the sector. The Alliance created Guidance and Funding Hubs, which collated the large amounts of guidance and funding material emerging from various sources and updated those daily during the peak of the crisis to help the sector understand the resources available.

- The Alliance created new mechanisms to support **networking and skill sharing** across the breadth of its membership through communications, specialist support and members’ roundtables. The Alliance offered exclusive support sessions to its members to apply for the Culture Recovery Fund, which were particularly impactful. During 2020, the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance set up COVID-19 guidance and information specifically for religious buildings.
- Following the launch of the Heritage Council in 2017, the Alliance took an active part in the **Heritage Council** meeting in October 2020, focussed on planning reform and energy efficiency and again in December 2020 on Brexit and future environmental legislation.
- THA’s fiscal priorities document was updated in September 2020; “**Backing The Bedrock**” outlined the funding and fiscal measures needed to secure a positive future for the heritage sector. This supports the Alliance’s 2019 Heritage Manifesto.
- Now in its second year, the **Resilient Heritage Alliance** project has supported significant infrastructure change as well as growing the organisation’s capacity to support the sector in Development and Communications.
- In September, THA published its ‘**Heritage, Health & Wellbeing**’ report. This report collated over 30 case studies demonstrating the transformative power of heritage and making clear recommendations to increase the sector’s potential to help those who need it most. The timely report offers examples of successful cross-sector partnerships and recommendations significant for the recovery ahead as long term mental health challenges across many age groups emerge as a legacy of the pandemic.

- **Heritage Digital** is a THA-led project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Digital Skills for Heritage initiative, which aims to increase the free, high-quality digital skills training and support available to heritage organisations. Training and resources are focussed on four strands of communications, technology, rights management and strategy.
- **Rebuilding Heritage** is a free support programme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and co-ordinated by the Alliance, to help the heritage sector respond to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A public programme of webinars and resources has launched with a series in winter 2020 on Ways out of Crisis.
- Heritage Dialogues: The Heritage Alliance received sponsorship from the University of Oxford to run a series of webinars for the sector. ‘Heritage Dialogues’ it provides a platform for discussion and debate on key and timely topics within the sector.
- Heritage Debate: The **Heritage Debate**: ‘Young People and Heritage: Creating Lifelong Supporters?’ took place in November 2020. Panellists were asked how the sector could better support young people to engage and care about heritage throughout their lives, starting from a young age. Young people were asked to submit blogs and vlogs before the event, which were shared widely, and the expertise from the panellists and engagement from the audience in the first ever virtual debate was both exciting and informative.
- 2021 will see the launch of the new Heritage Alliance website and a redesign of Heritage Update.
- Heritage Funding Directory: The Heritage Alliance, alongside the Architectural Heritage Fund, continues to maintain the Heritage Funding Directory, which is sponsored by Historic Houses Foundation. The HFD provides a unique resource, bringing together funding opportunities for a range of heritage organisations and projects. In 2020, the HFD website was revamped and re-launched.



Hexham Heritage Action Zone, Northumberland.
© Historic England Archive

1.4 Historic England

- A refreshed **Corporate Plan** was published in May 2020 which sets out Historic England’s purpose, vision, values, and **priorities for 2020–23** and how the organisation will realise the value that is tied up in our extraordinary heritage. The plan identifies the six strategic objectives and priority areas for work, including the central role of the Public Value Framework for guiding Historic England (HE) activities.
- The **Tailored Review** of HE, published by DCMS on 24th November 2020, gives a positive endorsement HE’s work in championing and protecting the historic environment, while also suggesting areas for improvement. A response will be published in 2021.



- To support the heritage sector to manage the impact of Coronavirus in these challenging and uncertain times, HE is collaborating with a number of heritage organisations to share information and expertise, to provide support and guidance and to understand the impact of the current situation on the heritage sector. Work is currently focused on a few key areas:

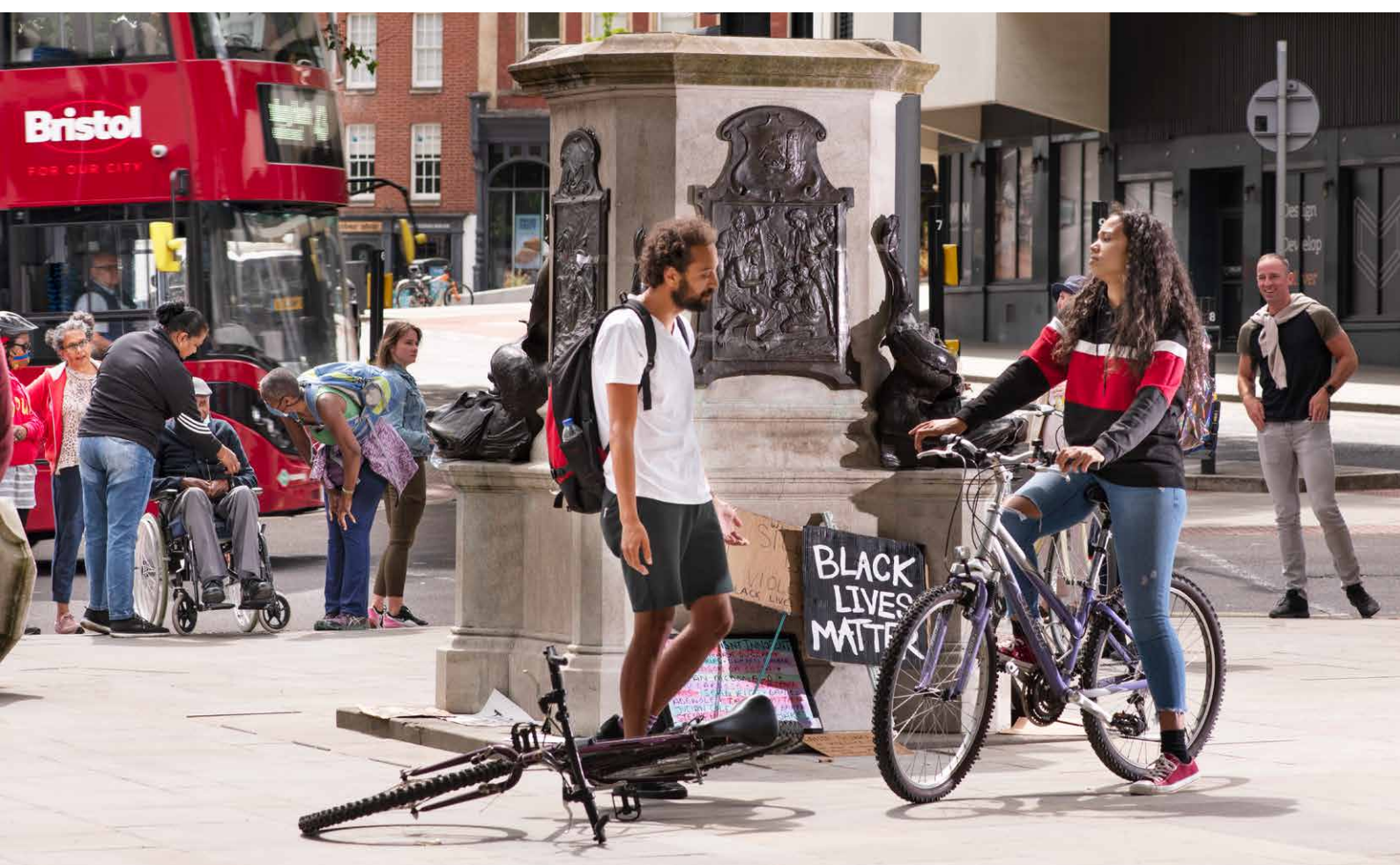
- [COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#)
- [Heritage Sector Response Group](#)
- COVID-19 intelligence gathering and supporting heritage organisations
- Working with the Government and DCMS to inform policy development.

- A number of national heritage organisations, forming the **Heritage Sector Response Group**, have come together to assess the impact on heritage, to share information and to co-ordinate support and action. The attendees are drawn from across the national Historic Environment Forum and include, amongst others: Historic England, Historic Houses, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Trust and The Heritage Alliance.

Other key activities in 2020 include:

- **High Street Action Zones:** Historic England has a longstanding record of place making, and is currently applying its [Places Strategy](#) through its flagship £92 million programme for [High Streets Heritage Action Zones](#). Each local scheme will regenerate heritage assets on or around the high street and use this as a catalyst for wider social, economic and environmental outcomes, and will invite local communities to engage with arts and heritage through a strong cultural programming element.
 - In September 2020, funding was formally announced for the 68 selected historic high streets across England to give them a new lease of life and help them recover from declining footfall and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Historic England has already seen the difference that High Street HAZ funding can make thanks to the Coventry demonstrator scheme launched in 2019. The Coventry High Street HAZ, which was awarded £2 million funding, centred on revitalising the historic retail area known as The Burges. In this area, 21 buildings are subject to restoration and improvements works, alongside work to restore the public realm. So far, many of the buildings have had roof repairs, windows replaced and six shop fronts have been restored.
- **Heritage and Planning:** The government consulted on its Planning White Paper (PWP), entitled Planning for the Future. Its stated aim is ‘to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed’. A summary of Historic England’s response to the PWP is available [here](#).

- Historic England also provided a set of **statements** on cases where **contested heritage** is involved to increase transparency in decision making and guidance. HE's position on heritage which is contested is that that the heritage should not be removed but owners should provide thoughtful, long-lasting and powerful reinterpretation, which keeps the structure's physical context but can add new layers of meaning, allowing us all to develop a deeper understanding of our often difficult past. This recognises that further work needs to be done on recognising past events and histories of places and increasing representation. This process of active, democratic learning about UK histories and heritage is being achieved through the continuation of cross sector partnerships including youth led organisations, race equality networks, local employers and research ([RSA/British Council, 2020](#)).
- In November 2020 a £3.5 million pledge from the Hamish Ogston Foundation was **announced** for a major in-work training and apprenticeship programme to address long-standing and severe shortages in the heritage construction sector.
- Also in November, HE adopted its **Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Strategy** which, while not intended as a strategy for the historic environment sector, does include actions which will help develop more diversity in the sector.
- Highlights of the eclectic 2020 Listing programme were **published** in December 2020. Over 400 places were added to the National Heritage List for England during the year.



Plinth to the statue of Edward Colston, after the statue had been pulled down following a Black Lives Matter campaign march, Colston Avenue, Bristol. © Historic England Archive

1.5 The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- Following the onset of the pandemic in March, The National Lottery Heritage Fund paused funding for new projects to focus all its efforts on supporting heritage organisations to deal with the immediate implications of lockdown and support heritage organisations ‘restart’.
- Undoubtedly the impact of pausing this mainstream funding has affected heritage organisations across the country, many of them working in partnerships and supporting development of heritage conservation and regeneration projects. The new funding streams developed and launched included:
 - the **Heritage Emergency Fund** in April 2020, which awarded 961 grants worth £50 million.
 - Committing to support over 2,500 projects already in development and delivery where investment commitments totalled over £1 billion (with increased flexibility on cash flow, project changes and the provision of expert advice and mentoring support).
 - Refocusing the Digital Skills campaign to consult directly with the sector in relation to their digital priorities and to offer immediate digital support and guidance to heritage organisations moving activities online in response to this.
 - Expanding the **Digital Skills for Heritage initiative** to help the sector make better use of digital to respond to the longer-term reconfiguration of the sector, supported by £1 million of DCMS funding. The expanded offer focuses on digital business development, innovation and collaboration.
 - Committing of over £4 million to new Business Support and Enterprise Development programmes across the UK, providing support from autumn 2020 for heritage organisations developing ways of working through the pandemic.
- Funding for new projects started to reopen in November 2020 with a focus on activity that supports organisational resilience and inclusion. Organisations that have not received emergency or recovery funding are a priority for the initial £10 million of funding available. Project funding will open more fully early in 2021 but will not be a complete return to the pre-COVID Strategic funding framework – see future plans ([section 2.4](#)).
- The closure of the open programmes in March and the specific criteria of the **Heritage Emergency Fund** (i.e. open only to past grantees) meant that there were some organisations and communities which were not accessing funding, including in their ‘Areas of Focus’. To address this gap the Fund directly solicited bids in those areas, specifically designed to address their inclusion priority. Through this ongoing work the Fund has awarded 17 grants, totalling £3.8 million across the UK, to engage with under-represented groups in their local areas.
- The Fund will continue to support heritage organisations as they assess the impact and adapt to the continued implications of COVID-19 including through the Business Support programme and Digital Skills for Heritage. There will be continued provision of mentoring and expert advice to heritage organisations through the Fund’s Register of Support Services. The existing 2,500 projects in development and delivery will continue to be supported and, where appropriate, grant increases considered to cover unforeseeable costs arising as a result of the pandemic.

2. Changes to the funding and resource landscape

2.1 New emergency funding streams

Government's £1.57 Billion Investment Package for Cultural, Arts and Heritage Organisations

- In July 2020 the government announced its support package for heritage as part of a £1.57 billion investment. This was the largest ever one-off investment in UK culture, to protect the country's cultural, arts and heritage organisations. The Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) developed this support package for the heritage, arts and culture industries through the [Culture Recovery Fund](#) (CRF). [Historic England](#) was allocated £50 million of this to distribute through the Heritage Stimulus Fund. In addition, Historic England in partnership with the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) administered £88 million from the [Culture Recovery Fund](#) (CRF) in grants to heritage organisations to cover reopening, operating, mothballing, hibernation and/or recovery costs during the pandemic. Museums were supported separately through Culture Recovery Fund grants administered by [Arts Council England](#).
- The package was intended to provide a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations across the country hit hard by the pandemic to help them stay afloat while their doors are closed. Funding to restart paused projects was also to help support employment, including freelancers working in these sectors. Heritage organisations welcomed the Government's funding announcement to help the heritage sector recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The CRF, as announced, comprised:
 - £1.15 billion for cultural organisations in England delivered through a mix of grants and loans. This was made up of £270 million of repayable finance and £880 million in grants.
 - £100 million of targeted support for the national cultural institutions in England and the English Heritage Trust.

- £120 million capital investment to restart construction on cultural infrastructure and for heritage construction projects in England which was paused due to the coronavirus pandemic
- The new funding will also mean an extra £188 million for the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland (£33 million), Scotland (£97 million) and Wales (£59 million).

- The vital funding stream for heritage sites was to help boost local economies by funding urgent conservation work, repairs and adaptation of a broad range of locally-loved historic buildings and places. The emergency funding kickstarted stalled major projects at nationally important heritage visitor attractions across the country. This was expected to help them reopen and cater for what was expected to be a huge surge of interest in these treasured historic places as lockdown restrictions eased. The impact of the funding package is being evaluated during 2021.

Historic England COVID-19 Emergency Response Funding

- Historic England launched two funds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: [the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund](#) and the [COVID-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund](#). The first one consisted of grants of up to £25,000, aimed at small heritage organisations, and up to £50,000 for projects that reduce risks to heritage organisations by providing information, resources and skills. In total, £1.8 million was awarded to 70 projects in the first response. This was followed in June 2020 by a [second emergency fund](#) of up to £3 million to support the heritage sector recovery from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. This was expanded on receipt of additional funding through the Culture Recovery Fund to offer grants to all eligible applicants.



National Parks Pilot Scheme for Field Barns: Newly installed field barn, Bridge End Farm, Longsleddale, Cumbria. © Historic England Archive

- Grants of up to £25,000 were offered to fix urgent problems at locally-cherished historic buildings and sites which are normally visited by the public, so that they could re-open as quickly as possible, subject to COVID-19 restrictions, and thrive once again. The funding could be used to address problems such as damaged roofs, masonry and windows, to hire scaffolding to prevent structural collapse, or commission surveys necessary to inform urgent repairs.
- These funds ran alongside [new funding announced by the National Lottery Heritage Fund](#), as well as other measures introduced by the Government and heritage and cultural sector partners.

Heritage Stimulus Fund (part of the CRF delegated to Historic England)

- The Heritage Stimulus Fund was designed in response to COVID-19 to support owners of listed buildings of all grades to carry out

maintenance and small-scale urgent repair work, and to fund nationally important listed buildings that are heritage tourist attractions to reinstate stalled programmes of significant repair and improvement works.

- The fund comprised three grant streams:
 - **Repair Grants for Heritage At Risk** – additional funding has been offered for major capital works to existing RG HAR recipients with a focus on bringing spaces back into economic use.
 - **Grants for Programmes of Major Works** – offered grants of up to £10m for programmes of capital repair works to major tourist attractions to be completed by March 2021.
 - **Historic England COVID-19 Emergency Heritage at Risk Response Fund** – an increase of c.£11 million to the original £3 million budget (see above)

Further Emergency Funding Streams

- Most funding streams that formed part of the first phase of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund are closed but **Phase 2** of the scheme, again administered by the NLHF with HE and others on behalf of DCMS, was announced in December 2020 (open for applications from 7th January until 26 January 2021).

2.2 Spending review 2020

- The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered a one-year **Spending Review**, setting departmental budgets for 2021-22 and the Devolved Administrations' block grants for the same period. The DCMS settlement provides a 2.3% real terms increase in core resource funding from 2019-20 to 2021-22. The department's capital budget increased by £135 million in cash terms next year to £764 million.
- SR 20 pledged to "support the world-leading culture and heritage sectors," with £150m to "*continue to strengthen our cultural and heritage infrastructure*" with continued investment in the "Heritage High Streets programme" as well as investment through the Cultural Investment Fund and Museums Infrastructure Fund, enabling the development of British Library North. The SR 20 settlement included more than £100 million of capital investment for DCMS-supported bodies working across culture, heritage, and sports and over £320 million for the country's internationally renowned galleries and museums.
- There is an emphasis on digital infrastructure development, with over £200 million UK-wide to continue flagship digital infrastructure programmes and an additional £45 million for programmes to drive growth through digital technologies and data, while improving digital security.
- Delivering public value is set as core goal and objectives for DCMS include: "increasing economic growth and productivity through improved digital connectivity, growing and evolving our sectors domestically and globally, increasing growth through expanding the use of data and innovation and enhancing the cohesiveness of our communities and reducing inequalities of participation with a focus on youth".

2.3 Historic England: High Streets HAZ programme

- In September 2020, Historic England formally launched the **High Streets Heritage Action Zone** programme, a new multi-million pound fund across 2020-24 to regenerate heritage assets on or around high streets and to use that as a catalyst for wider economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes. 68

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE HIGH STREETS HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME

We do not yet understand the long-term implications of COVID-19 for the high street, but it is clear that lockdown, travel and other restrictions and social distancing measures have had a significant impact on high street occupiers including retailers, cafes and other local businesses. Footfall and spend fell considerably and not all businesses will survive this loss of trade.

Throughout 2020 Historic England has been working closely with partners as they adapt their schemes to respond to these rapidly changing circumstances. Whilst this has been challenging, the period of lockdown and tiered restrictions has demonstrated the importance of local high streets to communities, providing a vital resource when travel was limited. The High Streets HAZ Programme provides the funding and support for the economic recovery and regrowth of the high street through investment in the historic fabric of buildings and public realm.

The COVID-19 period has also greatly emphasised the importance of community. Many local groups emerged to support those in need and people explored their local area to discover places on their doorsteps that they never knew existed. Community engagement is a central part of each HSHAZ scheme, ensuring that all voices are heard, and play a key role in shaping the future of their high street to best suit local needs and aspirations. This celebration of local identity and place will be supported through a rich and vibrant cultural programme as part of the High Streets HAZ programme. Funded and delivered in partnership with the NHLF, this £7.4 million programme will engage communities with their local high streets and will celebrate the role and importance of

high streets across the country were chosen to get a new lease of life thanks to a £95 million Government fund delivered through Historic England's regional teams.

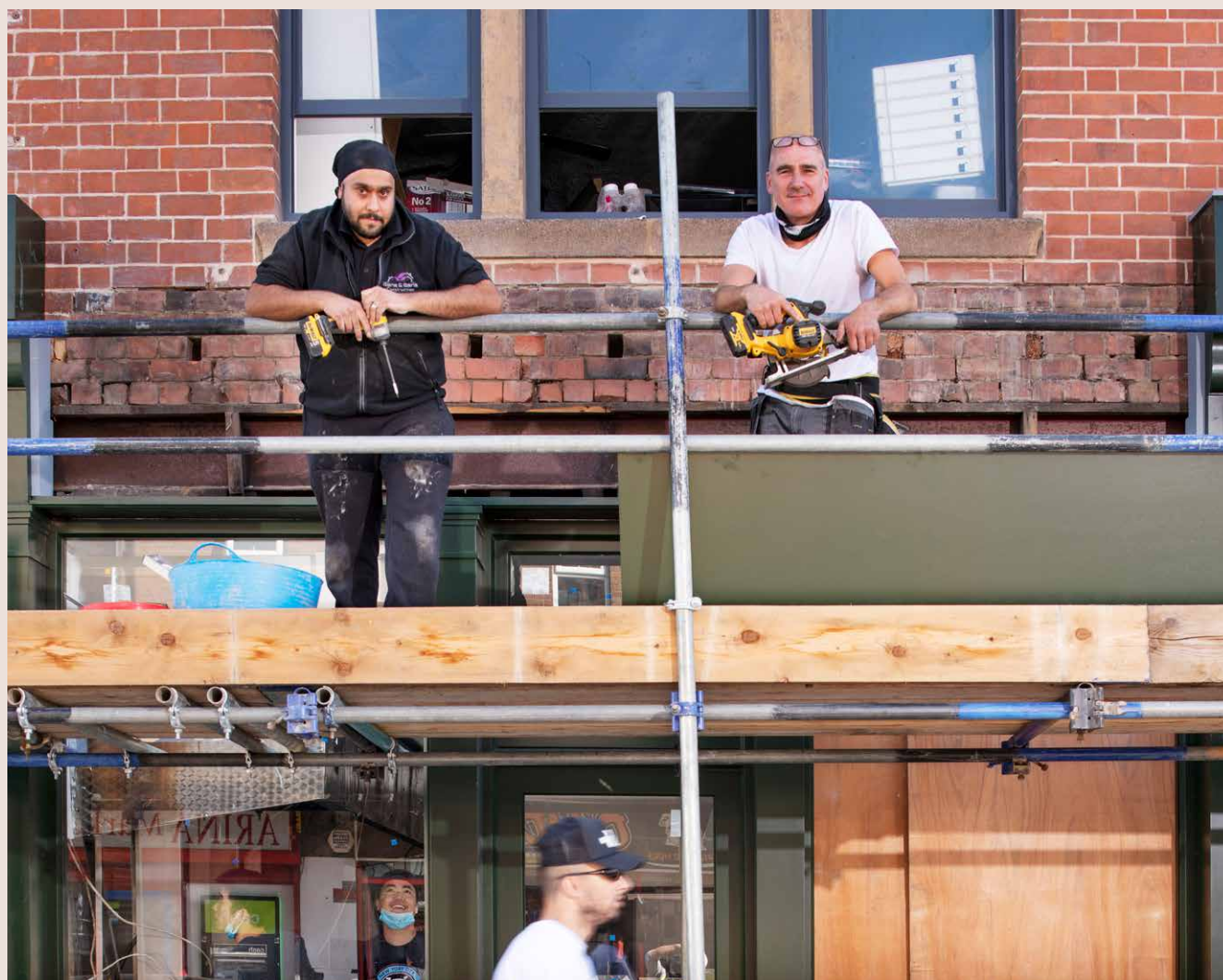
- The initiative is being funded by combining £40 million from DCMS' Heritage High Street Fund with £52 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's

Future High Street Fund. £3 million is being provided by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to support a cultural programme that will engage people in the life and history of their high streets. The programme design is enabling Historic England to work more closely with partners to find new ways to champion and revive our historic high streets.

these historic areas as hubs of the community. This programme has already begun with a series of pilot grants to help partners explore how cultural activity might take place in a post-COVID context.

Although many schemes are just getting started, the Coventry High Street HAZ is well underway. This high street scheme began in 2019 and acts as a demonstrator project. The scheme is already having an impact through its revitalisation of the historic

retail area known as The Burges. 21 buildings are subject to repair and conservation works, alongside a wider programme of public realm improvements. Many of the buildings have had roof repairs, windows replaced and shop fronts restored and new timber shop fronts installed. The first phase of this scheme will be completed by the end of January and the lessons learned are being applied to the delivery of the main HSHAZ programme.



Retrofitting a shopfront on Hales Street, Coventry, West Midlands. © Historic England Archive

2.4 The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- The [National Lottery Heritage Fund's Heritage Emergency Fund](#) was a package of support for the heritage sector as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. This included increased advice and support, longer-term skills and capacity building initiatives, and a £50 million fund to provide emergency funding for those most in need. The total amount awarded was £49,829,600 to 961 successful applications. The fund is currently being evaluated.
- As mentioned above, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England are delivering a £92 million **Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage**, with £88 million available for Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage grants of between £10,000 and £3 million. The additional £4 million is supporting schemes for the heritage sector, including The National Lottery Heritage Fund's **Digital Skills for Heritage** and resilience initiatives. By the end of 2020, 433 organisations in England had received a share of £67 million in the first round of awards of between £10,000 and £1 million.
- The £15 million **Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund** aimed to support up to 30 heritage capital projects across England that had been paused, delayed or were at risk due to COVID-19. The funding supported National Lottery Heritage Fund capital projects in delivery that faced increased costs which put the project and the outcomes at risk. Over 85% of eligible organisations were located outside London. The funding was part of the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund package.

Future Parks – a new collaboration helping to save our public parks and urban green spaces

- Urban parks and green spaces are amongst the most used public services and that has never been more true than during the pandemic. But despite being so vital to people's lives, many urban green spaces face a deeply uncertain future with funding for maintenance reducing whilst public usage accelerates. To help secure their future, The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the National Trust last year launched a joint venture, with additional funding support from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, called [Future Parks Accelerator](#).

- The National Trust and The National Lottery Heritage Fund created the venture because of the shared belief that urban green space should be protected, free and available for everyone for generations to come, and that Local Authorities needed greater support. Over the course of the Accelerator which runs until the end of March 2022, eight urban places will receive more than £8 million of National Lottery and Central Government funding together with £5 million worth of knowledge and expertise from some of the country's leading experts in conservation, fundraising, volunteering, enterprise and green space management at the National Trust and other partners.
- This is the first joint venture between the National Trust and The National Lottery Heritage Fund and builds on five years of sustained innovation, prototyping and path-finding work, delivered with Local Authorities and local communities, to find long-term sustainable solutions for the funding and management of urban green spaces. A key goal is to enable and support Local Authorities, their partners and local communities, to transform their whole green space estates, to grow public value from these assets and to achieve financial sustainability for the future. The eight places were selected competitively and all demonstrated ambition, leadership, capability and readiness to drive transformational change at pace, both practically and systemically across their urban places and communities in ways that will be replicable for others to follow.

Future plans

- As it becomes clear that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic will have longer-term consequences for the heritage sector the focus is shifting towards sector recovery and resilience. The 2019-24 Strategic Funding Framework provides a flexible basis on which they can refocus the support and funding in response to the pandemic. The Fund will prioritise heritage projects that support the country's recovery from the crisis by contributing to local economies, job creation and skills, health and wellbeing, inclusion and environmental sustainability, together with activity that supports organisational resilience. Nature and landscape and community heritage will continue to be priorities as set out in the Strategic Funding Framework.

Arts Cultural Impact Fund (ACIF)

- The Arts Cultural Impact Fund (ACIF) is a new social impact fund, launched in March 2020. The ACIF will run over 10 years with the first three years being the active investing period where the ACIF is targeting 40 investments of between £150,000 - £1 million at interest rates of between 4% and 10% and repayment periods typically between 12 months and 10 years. This new social impact fund follows on from the previous Arts Impact Fund, with the National Lottery Heritage Fund's involvement extending the remit and availability of finance to heritage organisations across the whole of the UK. Alongside £2 million investment of heritage lottery funds into the ACIF, Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn, Big Society Capital, NESTA and Bank of America Merrill Lynch have all committed funds to the partnership.

Youth Accelerator Fund (YAF)

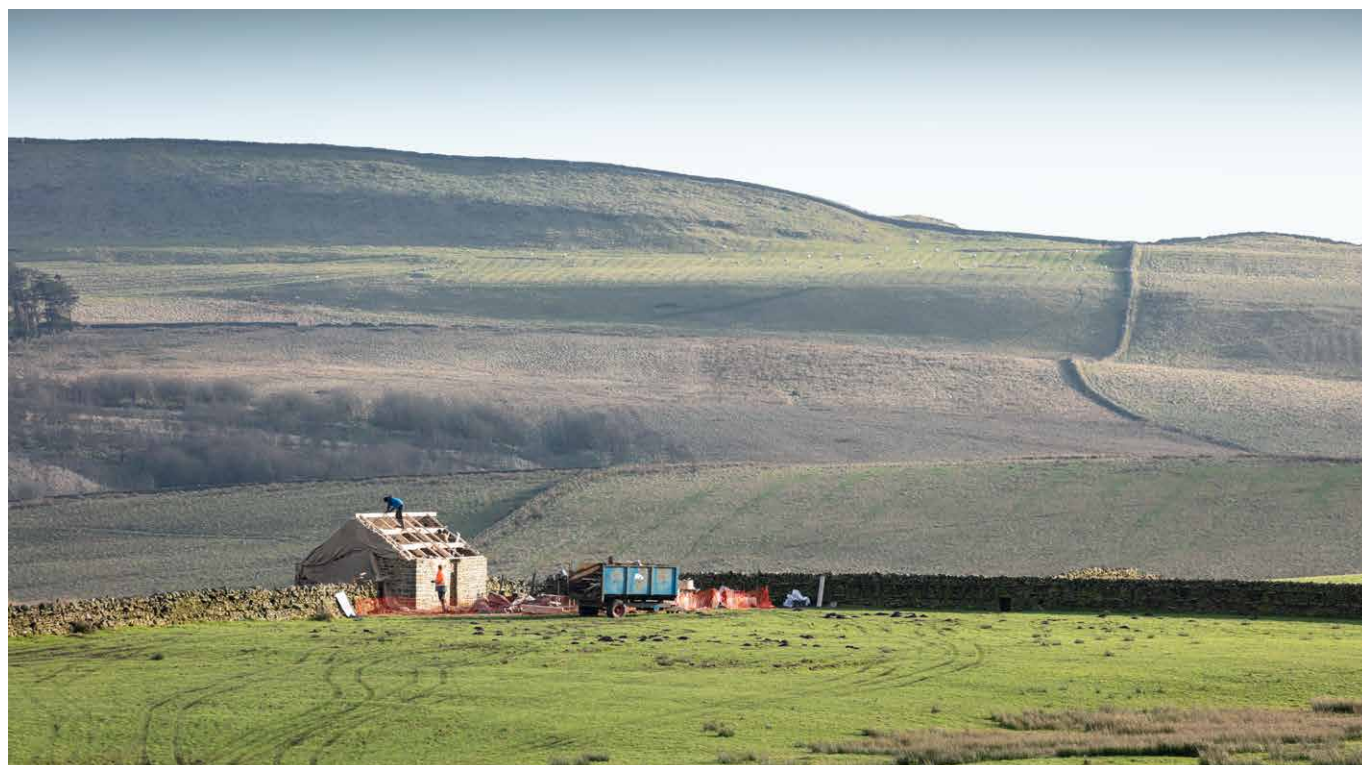
- In March 2020 the Heritage Fund distributed £1.27 million as part of the DCMS [Youth Accelerator Fund](#) to heritage projects in England led for and by Young People. Nine projects across England, drawn from the wider Kick the Dust portfolio programme, have been supported to expand their activity using

engagement with heritage to support a range of outcomes for young people so they:

- are treated fairly and equally
- become active members of their communities
- feel safe and confident in their future
- have positive health and wellbeing
- are skilled and equipped to earn and learn.

2.5 The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF)

- The [Architectural Heritage Fund](#) (AHF) achieves its charitable mission by providing advice, grants and loans to deliver historic building regeneration projects led by charities and other not-for-private-profit enterprises. It is often the first point of contact for community groups seeking to rescue and reutilise a historic building, including those 'at risk'. In 2019 and 2020, the AHF launched a series of new programmes, detailed below, which will support project and capital development, and further build capacity among charities and social enterprises to acquire, redevelop and manage heritage assets.



Green Edges Farm, Melkridge, Cawburn, Northumberland. © Historic England Archive

Transforming Places through Heritage programme

- Funding from the DCMS has enabled the new Transforming Places through Heritage programme. A £15 million programme supporting projects that contribute to the transformation of high streets and town centres in England by supporting charities and social enterprises to create sustainable new uses for redundant or underused historic buildings. The programme, launched in 2019 is part of a wider initiative to revive heritage high streets in England, alongside Historic England's High Streets Heritage Action Zones. The aim of the programme is to safeguard heritage assets, strengthen local communities and encourage local economies to prosper.
- Since the launch in September 2019, the AHF has awarded **128 grants to the value of £5,768,072**, including project viability grants, project development grants and transformational capital grants.
- The main outcomes that will result through the funding from the AHF allocation from the Future High Street's Fund are:
 - Delivering regeneration for town centres and high streets through the reuse of historic buildings
 - The safeguarding and enhancing of historic buildings across England through enabling viable new uses for underutilised and disused high street properties
 - The building of capacity within charities and social enterprises to deliver authentic and long-term regeneration
 - The piloting of innovative and alternative uses, ownership structures and investment models across the high street
 - Positive social impacts around sense of pride, identity and local distinctiveness for communities across England.
- The overall aim of the AHF programme is to assist the delivery of projects led by charities and social enterprises which can help revitalise urban centres through the development of sustainable new uses for historic buildings.

Heritage Development Trust

- The **Heritage Development Trust Pilot grant** by the AHF is part of the Transforming Places through Heritage programme. The aim of the grant is to enable organisations to make a step-change in their operations and support their long-term sustainability, creating a meaningful legacy in their area of operation. It is anticipated that this will be achieved through taking a portfolio-wide approach to assets and acting entrepreneurially in terms of securing new forms of funding and ownership models. The programme distributes a relatively small investment, through a grant of up to £50,000 per organisation over three years. The grant can be spent on revenue costs, including employing new staff, undertaking development studies or funding organisational overheads.
- In their first year of funding, grantees were already helping to deliver increased levels of community ownership and providing high quality space for new social enterprises, charities and businesses in Rossington (Valley Heritage), Great Yarmouth (Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust), Sunderland (Tyne and Wear Preservation Trust) and Coventry (Historic Coventry Trust). The model offers potential for many other places and with the right investment existing and new Heritage Development Trusts could significantly scale up their delivery. HDTs could provide significant support to the levelling up agenda in economically deprived towns and places across England.
- Following the initial pilot round of HDT awards the AHF is in process of assessing a second cohort of HDT applications.

Heritage Impact Fund

- The Heritage Impact Fund (HIF), launched in February 2019, provided an additional £7 million of capital for the sector, significantly expanding the loan finance accessible to organisations and projects. The HIF aims to shift the heritage sector from over-reliance on project-to-project grant funding towards financially sustainable models that utilise increased social investment.



Seating shelter and viewing terrace to front of St Nicholas Gardens, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
© Historic England Archive

- Alongside the HIF, and with the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland, the AHF has also established a capacity-building business support service, **RePlan**, which will offer business or financial health checks to identified projects, as well as targeted interventions in governance, business planning, financial systems and decision-making, impact, and community investment raising.

Cultural Recovery Fund

- Following funding from DCMS and supported by Historic England, the AHF awarded £1 million in grants to 44 organisations based at heritage assets that were adversely impacted by COVID-19 to undertake work associated with business planning and build more sustainable operational models.

Evaluation

- The AHF published its new Evaluation Strategy in September 2020. The aim of the Evaluation Strategy is to set out their approach to better understand and quantify the impact of support (both grants, loans and advice). The AHF wants to ensure funders and the sectors it works within and across have clear and ready access to data that can help demonstrate the impact projects are having on communities and our heritage. AHF will deliver this through programme evaluation, long term impact assessments and detailed case studies.

2.6 Wider funding landscape

Towns Fund

- The first seven towns to receive funding as part of the Towns Fund were **announced** in October 2020. Between them the seven towns - Barrow in Furness, Blackpool, Darlington, Peterborough, Norwich, Torquay and Warrington – are to share in £178.7m which includes funding for exhibiting the extraordinary finds from the Must Farm waterlogged Bronze Age site – ‘the Pompeii of the Fens’.
- Soon after taking office in July 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a **£3.6 billion Towns Fund** supporting 100 towns with investment in transport, broadband connectivity, youth services and social and cultural infrastructure. The 100 towns (101 now that Keighley and Shipley are counted separately) have been preparing bids for capital investment for submission by April 2021.
- Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund are part of a pioneering **coalition of DCMS agencies** supporting the Towns Fund with evidence and advice.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

- **UKSPF** was designed to replace EU structural funding after EU Exit. The government has highlighted boosting productivity and ‘tackling inequalities’ as two key objectives of the UKSPF – but detailed plans have yet to be published. The UKSPF will need to fit into a complex patchwork of place-based policies. These include city deals and local growth deals, which are funded via competitive bidding and do not have a specific focus on reducing geographic inequalities, and the Towns Fund, which combines a mix of needs-based funding and competitive bidding. The social and economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis could differ significantly between regions in ways not reflected in standard measures of regional and local economic disadvantage, adding further complexity in the decision of priorities for the fund.

Cultural Development Fund and Creative Industries Sector Deal

- The Cultural Development Fund, announced in the 2018 Creative Industries Sector Deal, marked a step change in how Government invests in heritage, culture and creativity as catalysts for regeneration. Projects in Wakefield and the Thames Estuary landed more than £4 million each to boost the local creative industries, through a DCMS fund set up as part of the Government’s Industrial Strategy. The funding is expected to create over 1,300 new jobs, provide skills training to 2,000 people, and support more than 700 businesses. Applications were open to partnerships and consortia in towns and cities outside London for projects taking place between 2019 and 2022, which were required to secure 20% match funding. The Fund is administered through Arts Council England (ACE). An Expert Advisory Panel, consisting of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, ACE, Historic England, Nesta and the Creative Industries Council assessed applicant projects and made recommendations to the Secretary of State for DCMS.

Prosper North

- Prosper North is a business support and capacity-building service that aims to improve the capacity, resilience and investment readiness of 80 culture and heritage organisations in the North of England. Prosper North is aligned with the DCMS’ **Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund** (NCRF) which provides social investment to creative and cultural organisations in the North of England. A key ambition of Prosper North, which is being supported by £250,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, is to put cultural and heritage organisations in a position to gain investment from the NCRF.

Countryside Stewardship Historic Building Restoration Grant Pilot

- Announced by Lord Gardiner at Historic England's farm buildings event, the **Historic Building Restoration Grant pilot** was launched in 2018 with an initial budget of £2 million. It is a collaborative project between Historic England, Natural England, the Rural Payments Agency and 5 National Parks (Dartmoor, Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and Northumberland).
- The aim of the pilot was to bring life back to traditional agricultural buildings, funding restoration at a grant rate of 80%, within the participating National Park boundaries. Funding was made available for restoring buildings for continued agricultural use, using traditional methods and materials, resulting in an enhancement of the landscape for public enjoyment and habitat for wildlife such as bats and barn owls.
- Some early economic forecasting of the impact of the pilot grant scheme found that the building schemes may result in a total output of between £1.65 and £2.50 per £1 offered for the local economy of the target areas. Accounting for direct, indirect and induced effects, the analyses indicated that the pilot building renovation schemes are likely to create an average of around 15 full-time equivalent jobs in the local economy of each of the five National Parks; equating to at least 77 FTE jobs for an initial grant investment of just over £4 million. Given that the pilot grant budget has been increased to £8 million it is anticipated that the economic return will exceed early forecasts.
- The pilot is repairing more than 125 buildings, some of which form historic farmstead complexes. Indeed 31 of the buildings are listed buildings and several are on the Heritage at Risk Register. The repaired rural buildings will now be able to continue playing their important role on the farm and retained within the landscape setting.



Green Edges Farm, Melkridge, Cawburn, Northumberland. © Historic England Archive

3. Heritage policy and management

3.1 The withdrawal of the UK from the European Union (EU)

Historic England and The Heritage Alliance have continued to advise Government and brief the sector on new developments and evidence for the expected impact of Brexit for heritage organisations across the country. They are using the evidence gathered as a basis for advice to Government on the opportunities and threats posed by EU Exit.

The Alliance has updated its [Brexit and Immigration briefings](#), which sum up the main issues the heritage sector will face from 1 January 2021 as the UK has left the EU including relating to visa regimes, skill gaps and the future mobility of people and materials, and facilitated conversations across the devolved administrations on these matters. The Alliance has also created a Brexit Hub.

The key areas where significant risks and opportunities were identified after the referendum remain the same:

- The need to introduce new and efficient Government funding streams to replace EU programmes that support the conservation of the historic environment, reduce the levels of heritage at risk and deliver economic and social benefits.
- Ensure that existing skills gaps in the heritage sector are not made wider as a result of new controls over immigration by a combination of increasing training and development capacity within England, and seeking a visa system that works for skilled heritage professionals from overseas. There is also a need to ensure continued access to Horizon 2020 funding and the free movement of researchers between academic institutions within the UK and EU.
- The provisions for [Strategic Environmental Assessment](#) and Environmental Impact Assessment are being retained in domestic law through the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, but may subsequently be amended which could impact on the conservation of the historic environment.
- These issues were recognised in the 2017 Heritage Statement which set out the Government’s ambition that “as the UK leaves the European Union, they want to see the heritage sector maximising its potential as a key component of the UK’s place in the world.”
- For the period 2006-2020 the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, including LEADER, allocated £280m for agri-environment schemes and rural projects with a heritage component in England. Since 2015, an additional £30 million has been committed to heritage under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Funding levels need to be sustained with the historic environment fully integrated into [Environmental Land Management schemes](#) (ELMs) to deliver public benefits. The 25-Year Environment Plan takes an integrated approach, seeing the natural and historic environments as inseparable, and giving parity of approach to both, which has translated across into the Agricultural Bill but not yet been translated into the Environment Bill.
- In 2019, the [Migration Advisory Committee](#) (MAC) included archaeologists and architects in its Shortage Occupation List (SOC), although conservation specialists and some other heritage professionals were not given the same status. The Heritage Alliance continued to ask the Home Office and the MAC to reconsider the proposed £30,000 visa level for a post-Brexit immigration system, as these proposals would have a severe negative impact upon the highly skilled but low-paid heritage sector. The Migration Advisory Committee reported with amended levels and proposals for a points-based system and the lower salary threshold has been adopted in the Immigration Bill for the new Points-Based System.



Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. © Historic England Archive

- The Heritage Alliance collaborated with DCMS on gathering and providing data on the independent heritage sector's views. These have been captured in a [Heritage and Immigration Briefing](#) and a [Heritage-in-the-context-of-Britain's-Future-Relationship-with-the-EU Briefing](#). Highlighted opportunities included:
 - **VAT reform:** Leaving the EU provides [new freedoms for the heritage sector to grasp](#) – from improving the way heritage is treated in legislation to better, more targeted, funding. Leaving the EU offers the opportunity to apply reduced rates of VAT in the UK. The Chancellor has already used this new power to remove the so-called “tampon tax” from the start of January 2021. If the same happened it could resolve the disparity between 20% VAT on repair, maintenance and alteration of buildings and 0% VAT on new build and in turn improve environmental outcomes through encouraging the repair and recycling of existing buildings.
 - **Skills:** There are significant numbers of EU citizens that work in the heritage sector in England in a variety of capacities, as well as UK companies and citizens that work on heritage in other EU countries. This two-way exchange of expertise and labour is extremely important to our sector. As a part of its levelling up agenda, the Government has committed to a series of large infrastructure projects across the UK. Large projects, such as HS2, will highlight the UK's heritage skills shortage. Data from the [Labour Force survey on migration](#) within the UK's Construction Industry in August 2018 revealed that non-UK nationals accounted for 13% (109,000) of workers in the UK's construction of buildings sub-sector; 8% were born in EU accession countries (EU countries who joined in 2004 and 2007), 3% non-EU nationals and 2% EU15 (from countries who joined the EU before 2004) and EU Other nationals (excluding the UK). Given the severity of the skills shortages the sector already faces, the retention of these workers is a critical concern for the industry. Heritage Counts research shows that £7.1 billion in GVA was generated by heritage-related construction activities in England in 2018. Historic/traditional

(pre-1919) buildings require a labour force with traditional skills. There are roughly 5.5 million traditional buildings in England. Over the last 10 years, the skills gap to meet demand has ranged from about 85,000 to 110,000 people, with a significant proportion of the gap related to contractors using traditional materials.

3.2 Climate change policy and research updates

- We are facing a global climate crisis and the [UK has committed to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050](#). The sector recognises the urgent need for positive action and is committed to achieving net zero. Over the past several years, lead organisations like The National Trust have been working closely with other organisations, nationally and internationally, to understand and address the challenges that the historic environment faces.
- In June 2020, 8 key heritage sector organisations adopted the [Joint Heritage Sector Statement on Climate Change](#). This statement recognises that the historic environment has an important part to play in mitigating climate change, understanding and adapting to the challenges presented by a changing climate and engaging people with climate change and actions to reduce carbon emissions. The signatories have agreed to work together to take action and to reach carbon net zero before 2050.
- Historic England has published a [statement](#) on climate change and sustainability. This statement notes that:
 - Looking after and learning from the historic environment contributes positively to overall global sustainability and can help adapt to and mitigate for climate change.
 - Responsible management of the historic environment, including landscapes, seascapes, the built environment and archaeological sites, represents itself a sustainable approach.
 - The starting point for energy efficiency improvements should be the ‘whole building approach’ to support sustainable decision making in the built historic environment.



Scientific tidal measurements are taken at the Tidal Observatory, Newlyn, Cornwall. © Historic England Archive

- Several Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded research projects are now underway examining the impact heritage can have on climate resilience. The AHRC has awarded follow-on funding to the Landscape Futures and the Challenge of Change (LFCC): [Towards Integrated Cultural/Natural Heritage Decision Making](#) project. The original Heritage Futures project (2015-2019) sought to understand the challenges associated with managing change and loss in dynamic heritage landscapes. The new LFCC project has received £100,000 of research funding. The project team is led by the University of Exeter and included UCL Institute of Archaeology, Historic England, The National Trust and Natural England. The main LFCC project outcome will be a decision support framework to facilitate iterative, adaptive landscape management, as heritage and land assets undergo gradual or abrupt change.
- Funding has recently been announced for a new project, [Building Climate Resilience through Community, Landscapes and Cultural Heritage](#). The project, co-developed with partners including Historic England, Fjodr, Staffordshire Record Office & Museum and Tasglann nan Eilean Siar (Museums and Archives of the Outer Hebrides), will investigate how communities have lived with, are living with and are adapting to climate change to build climate-resilient communities. Through the development of a toolkit it will support and facilitate decision making in respect to current landscapes and environments.

3.3 Heritage crime

- As we enter the tenth year of the **Heritage Crime Programme** (HCP) the National Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Working Group (NHCWG) and National Metal Theft Working Group (NMTWG) has made significant progress and has stimulated an enhanced awareness of the existence of and the significance of heritage crime at a national, regional and local level.
- The NHCWG is driven by the structures and processes identified in the National Intelligence Model (NIM) and the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy (MCPS).

Research and Analytical Function

- In order to develop and understand the scale and extent of the problem of crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment, Historic

England has provided funding for a Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Researcher, hosted by **OPAL** – National Intelligence Unit for Serious and Organised Acquisitive Crime; and for a Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Intelligence Analyst, hosted by Kent Police. The ability to undertake research and analysis of intelligence and crime and incident data will provide a range of outputs that will allow members of the two National Working Groups to assess the current and emerging threats and to identify the appropriate resources and interventions necessary to protect the historic environment and to bring offenders to justice.

Heritage Crime Liaison Officers

- The majority of police services in England have now appointed officers to act as the local point of contact for matters relating to heritage and cultural property crime. Known as Heritage Crime Liaison



Northallerton High Street, North Yorkshire. © Hambleton District Council

Officers (HCLO), the role is often aligned to the prevention and investigation of offences that occur within the historic and natural environments, for example Rural, Wildlife and Environmental Crime.

Citizens in Policing

- The network of HCLOs has been complemented by a growing cohort of ‘**Citizens in Policing**’. Citizens in Policing (CIP) is the term used to describe members of the community who offer their time to support the police either directly or indirectly and, in the view of the College of Policing (2017), “provides an excellent opportunity to not only increase additional capabilities, but also to build social capital.”
- Historic England is working in partnership with the **National Volunteer Police Cadets** (NVPC) to develop a heritage and cultural property crime training module which will be delivered to Volunteer

Police Cadets across the country. The module is designed to raise the level of knowledge, awareness and understanding of the threat and impact and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment.

Partnership Strategies

- The integration of the Heritage Crime theme within a number of partnership strategies signifies how important the consequences of Heritage Crime can be for wider sector policies and how locating synergies may help all relevant sectors. Examples include:
 - National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) Rural Affairs Strategy 2018-2021
 - National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) Wildlife Crime Policing Strategy 2018-2021.

Specialist Prosecutors

- The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has identified a ‘Heritage Champion’ and a cohort of specialist prosecutors dedicated to act as Heritage, Wildlife and Rural Crime Coordinators. This role is intended to ensure the specialist knowledge needed to prosecute such offending is readily available.

Sentencing Guidelines

- In October 2019, the Sentencing Council published updated guidelines to assist Courts in England Wales in the sentencing process for offences of criminal damage and arson.
- For the first time the courts will be able to take full account of the harm caused by offences such as damage and arson attacks on national heritage assets including listed buildings, historic objects or unique parts of national heritage and history.

“England’s heritage can’t be valued purely in economic terms. The impact of criminal damage and arson to our historic buildings and archaeological sites has far-reaching consequences over and above what has been damaged or lost.”

- This guideline complements the guidelines for theft and handling stolen goods that was published in 2015.



3.4 Places of worship

- 2020 started promisingly for places of worship. By March the [Taylor Review Pilot](#) had supported 396 listed places of worship in Greater Manchester and Suffolk, including 136 maintenance and repair grants totalling £1 million. The evaluation of the Pilot, with its [report](#) published in 2020, provides DCMS with new data about the impact and value of the recommendations of the Taylor Review. The sector hoped this would provide Government with data to support a strong bid for places of worship funding in the autumn Spending Round or budget.
- During 2020, Theos launched their report, '[The Church and Social Cohesion: Connecting Communities and Serving People](#)', which collated data on social cohesion work of Churches through 361 semi-structured interviews in 14 English local authorities and included conclusions for policymakers and churches. This report complements '[The House of Good](#)' report published by the National Churches Trust, and showcases the socio-economic value of churches for society, finding that church buildings generate in the UK at least £12.4 billion per year which averages around £300,000 per church, raising further awareness about the role and value of churches.
- The contribution of places of worship to community life and social cohesion was also flagged in the Levelling Up report by Danny Kruger MP (2020) and DCMS, including the Secretary of State, Ministers and officers, have been supportive of places of worship and the Taylor Review Pilot. 2020 has shone a light on what really matters and the need for sound evidence to shape how we all respond to the uncertainties.

The inclusion of places of worship in the lockdown shocked many people: the last such prevention of Christian worship in English churches was in 1208. The subsequent instructions/guidance from both Government and faith groups prompted different interpretations. For some the situation was a catalyst to explore how their faith could continue to be expressed socially under lockdown (through food banks, shopping, volunteering) and liturgically by online worship, meetings, prayer groups. With 2020 intended to be the year of the cathedrals, cathedrals have been keeping up with the aspiration to share their role and created a set of [events, including light shows, live streaming services and concerts, pilgrimages](#). Digital innovation suddenly became a valuable tool for faith but it limited audiences to those with technological capacity and access. Another down-side of online connectivity is the difficulty of monetising it to replace regular giving. The financial loss was worsened by the cancellation of essential fundraising events during the spring and summer such as fetes, festivals and exhibitions, and the collapse of the rental market for spaces hired out to third parties. For some, especially cathedrals, the [collapse of the visitor market was catastrophic](#). Concern about the financial future of faith groups and their buildings was the subject of a Parliamentary debate.

The furloughing scheme has been widely taken up by the central offices of faith groups, cathedrals and some individual places of worship. Many have also applied to the various grant schemes for revenue and capital funding released in response to COVID-19. This includes grants totalling over £15m to be administered by the Church of England, Roman Catholic Church, Churches Conservation Trust and Friends of Friendless Churches.

However, despite these extraordinary funding streams, COVID-19 starkly underlines growing fears about future grants for major repairs. The future of the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (VAT off-setting grants) beyond March 2021 was left uncertain in the Spending Round and there was no indication of what, if any, funding would follow from the Taylor Pilot.

The nature of the 'new normal' poses further challenges about the sustainability and funding of places of worship: the size of congregations; the availability of volunteers; the capacity to meet the needs of the community and to fund provision for the most vulnerable, will all need to be addressed.



St Mary Rickinghall Inferior, Suffolk, a round tower church. A Taylor Pilot grant of £7,500 helped with repointing, replacement of roof tiles and new guttering. A community meeting encouraged local residents to offer funding, time and skills, including new volunteers to take care of maintenance in the future. The church team commented that they “now feel they have a clear way forward” to develop their plans and are sharing lessons learned to help support other churches in the area. © Historic England Archive

The Allchurches Trust research [Hope Beyond](#) (July 2020) reported that 58% of respondents considered loneliness and isolation to be the most pressing problems for the next year. Most faith groups will be concentrating, as they did during lockdown, on such social and community needs rather than building maintenance and repair. Efforts will also be made to re-embrace those who couldn't use a place of worship for 'a bit of peace' during lockdown, for funerals or long-anticipated weddings. This may particularly be a question for Church of England buildings, where the legal right of those living in the parish to use their church for rites of passage has been overturned. On the other hand, faith groups can use their buildings creatively to help people remember in an appropriate

way the loss of loved ones for whom no fitting funeral service could be held.

York University is currently undertaking research, in partnership with the Church of England, Historic England, the Association of English Cathedrals and the Historic Religious Buildings Allowance, to explore the impact of the lockdown on faith leaders, congregations and the non-worshipping community and also on the relationship of parish churches with their worshipping and wider communities. The aim is to provide evidence to help the sector address these issues and share the many innovative new models that churches have been developing and implementing throughout lockdowns and other restrictions to keep those relationships alive.

3.5 The Post-war Landscapes listing project

- The Post-war Landscapes project was completed within 2020, resulting in 20 newly Registered post-war landscapes on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), and in greater recognition of the value of post-war landscapes as part of our national heritage. The project has been going on for three years as a joint collaboration between Historic England and The Gardens Trust. Post-war landscapes are a fascinating category of site that reflect the optimism, experimentation and new opportunities of the post-war era and cover a whole variety of types from private houses, housing estates, and public parks to commercial, institutional, memorial and industrial sites.
- Listing specialists in Historic England have for many years paid particular attention to the listing of post-war buildings and work has included a prioritised national programme of research and listing assessment. Past themes relating to 20th Century heritage have included post-war commercial

buildings, Post-Modernism, and post-war pubs. The Post-war Landscapes project builds upon this work, bringing the previous thematic programme more up to date, and developing it further to incorporate different asset types.

- The project has almost doubled the number of registered post-war landscapes on the NHLE registered parks and gardens category. A document in the Introduction to Heritage Assets series on post-war designed landscapes was also produced and is now available on the Historic England website.

3.6 Industrial heritage: A new strategy by Historic England

- As the world's first industrial nation the UK's industrial heritage is of major international importance, but many industrial heritage sites remain at risk for various reasons, heightened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Historic England's draft Industrial Heritage Strategy has now been completed with implementation



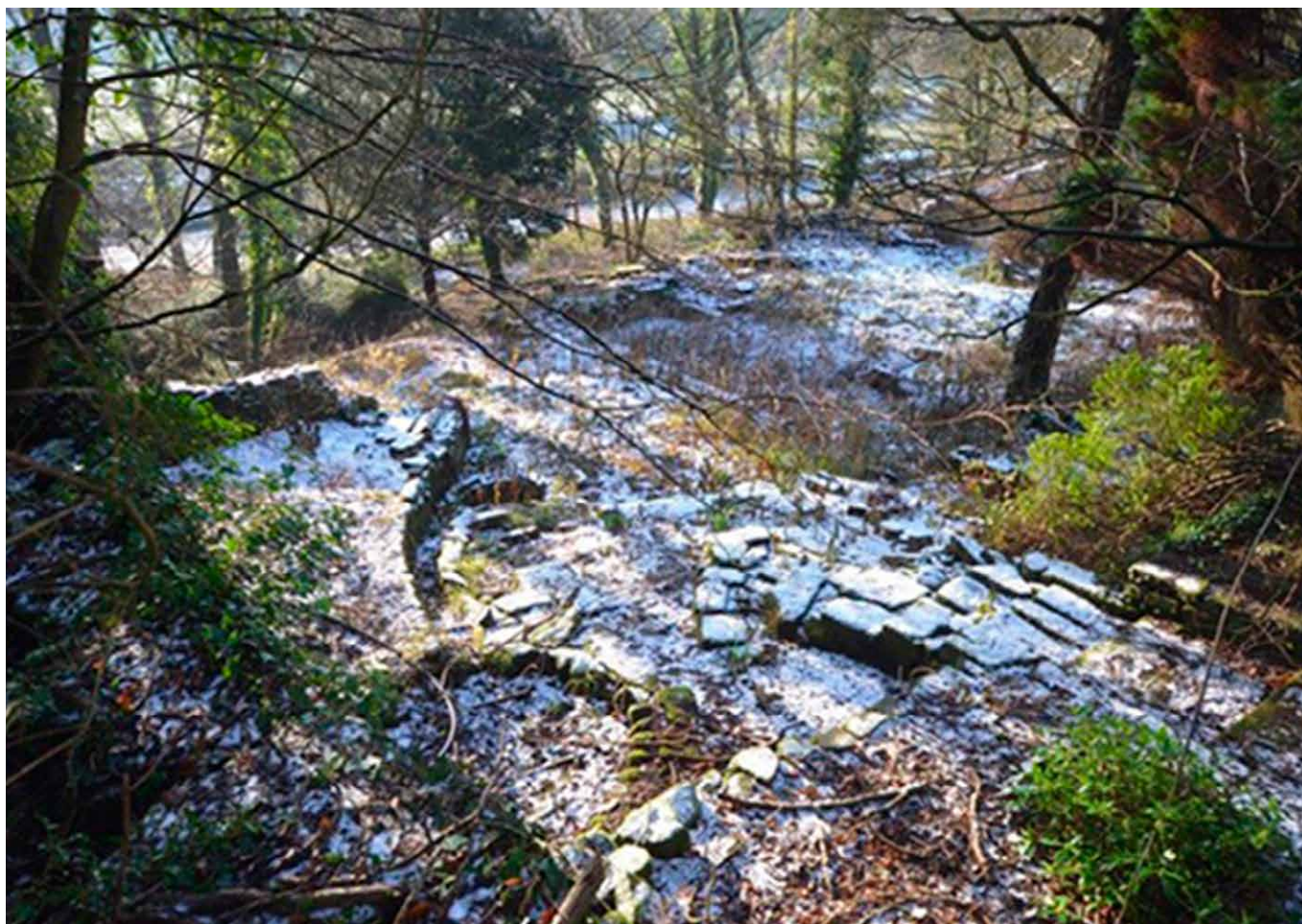
York Gate Garden, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Post-War landscape listed in 2020. © Historic England Archive

underway in a number of areas. The Strategy is divided into four themes and nine issues with the themes including the extractive industries, processing and manufacture, public utilities and telecommunications, and transport. The supporting issues cover protection, planning and conservation, sustainable reuse, charitable trusts/social enterprises, industrial sites preserved as heritage attractions, knowledge and skills, research, and engagement, participation and promotion.

- A number of Historic England's Heritage Action Zones are currently being delivered with a strong industrial heritage component, such as Elsecar, Greater Grimsby, Stockton and Darlington Railway, Stoke-on-Trent Ceramic and the Railway Town of Swindon. In the north of England, as part of the 'Mills of the North' project Historic England is demonstrating the potential of re-purposed historic industrial buildings in accommodating new homes and business, whilst work continues with the ongoing restoration of Shrewsbury

Flaxmill Maltings as Historic England's showcase exemplar in tackling complex long-term industrial heritage at risk. The role of the Historic England funded Industrial Heritage Support Officer, hosted by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, is being refocused following the COVID-19 pandemic to help industrial sites preserved as heritage attractions (including both museums and monuments) recover and strengthen their overall resilience, with meetings of the industrial heritage support networks moving online.

- The need to enhance knowledge and skills is being addressed by a series of industrial heritage focused webinars with the first two presentations in 2020 considering the management of industrial heritage sites through the planning process, the role of enforcement powers in tackling industrial listed buildings at risk, the work of the Industrial Heritage Support Officer and Historic England's developing Industrial Heritage Strategy.



Part of the scheduled remains of Dolphinholme Worsted Mill and Gasworks, Lancashire © Historic England

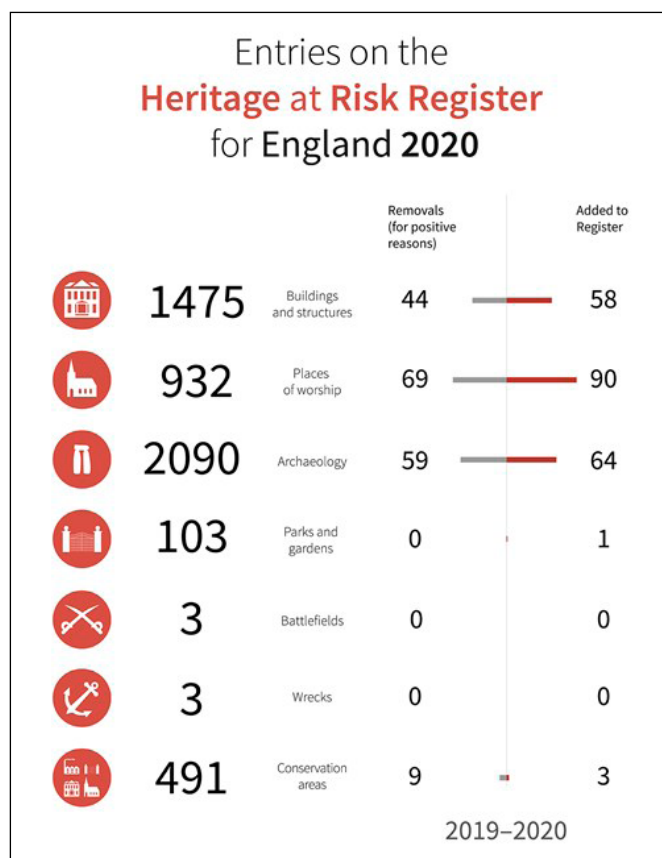
3.7 Heritage at Risk 2020

- There were 5,097 entries on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2020. Historic England published the most recent Heritage at Risk Register in October 2020, identifying sites most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.
- The collection of this year’s data has been affected by COVID-19, with less on-site checking of entries and proposed entries than usual.
- Over the last year 181 historic buildings and places have been saved. In these challenging times our historic places have been providing solace to their local communities. Heritage has a proven positive impact on people’s quality of life and that has hardly ever before been so important.
- Looking after and investing in these historic places is key to the country’s economic recovery. The buildings and places rescued from the Heritage at Risk Register can help level up economic opportunity, support skilled local construction jobs, build resilience in private and public organisations and boost tourism.

- The 2020 Heritage at Risk Register includes:
 - 1,475 buildings and structures
 - 932 places of worship
 - 2,090 archaeology entries
 - 103 registered parks and gardens
 - 3 registered battlefields
 - 3 protected wreck sites
 - 491 conservation areas.
- This year has seen an increase in the number of places of worship on the Register. Possible reasons could be the increase in metal theft, a reduction in the number of local people able to do maintenance, or lack of understanding about how valuable it is to do small maintenance and repair jobs to stave off decay.

- **Grant aid:** Grant aid from Historic England and other funders is one reason for removals. This year Historic England gave grant aid of £8.96 million to 186 projects. This grant aid is often the first step to securing the future of a site and helps give confidence to other funders as their support is sought.
- **Challenges:** Heritage sites continue to be added to the Register every year. In 2020, there were 216 new entries, made up of 58 buildings and structures, 90 places of worship, 64 archaeology entries, one cemetery and three conservation areas.
- **Finding solutions:** Through advising funders on which sites are most at risk and targeting grants to areas that are far more difficult to fund in general, the organisation will continue to reduce heritage at risk.

- The great majority of heritage is maintained by its owners. In cases where owners are unable or unwilling to do that, Historic England can assist local planning authorities in helping owners to find solutions, or if appropriate exercising their **statutory powers** to prompt action, and can offer grants to support the cost of doing so.



In 2020, 181 entries were removed from the Register for positive reasons, but 216 were added.



Thaxted Guildhall, Essex © Historic England Archive



Dudley Castle, West Midlands © Historic England Archive

3.8 Heritage tourism

- Owing to the cancellation or postponement of major festivals and events and to restrictions on public gatherings (indoor and outdoor) that affected visiting historic places, the impact of COVID-19 on global tourism has been overwhelming and immediate. National forecasts reflect the scale of the expected impact on tourism in 2020 and highlight the challenges in making predictions in a fast-moving and uncertain situation.
- In the United Kingdom, Visit Britain has developed a scenario-based approach based on assumptions and approximations which point to different possible outcomes:
 - The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) has estimated that **the UK could lose £22 billion** as international tourism plummets, putting almost three million jobs at risk and affecting London in particular.
 - The Knowledge Quarter has published **the results** of its survey on the impact of COVID-19 on visitors of cultural institutions. Responses indicated that there was a high degree of digital engagement with cultural institutions during lockdown, but they also reveal a broad reluctance to visit cultural venues until at least three months after reopening.
 - The **World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) 2020 economic impact report** estimates the travel and tourism industry is responsible for almost four million jobs, 11% of the country's total workforce, and generates nearly £200 billion annually, 9% of the UK economy.
 - The **COVID-19 consumer sentiment tracker survey** by Visit Britain informs analysis of the trends. It is based on a U.K. nationally representative sample of 1,500 adults aged 16+. This initially ran across a 13-week period between May and August 2020. A second phase of the survey, running on a fortnightly basis, commenced in September and will continue until at least early February 2021.

3.9 World Heritage

- Like other parts of the heritage sector, England's UNESCO World Heritage Sites (WHS) have been impacted by COVID-19. The Lake District National Park Authority, a lead organisation in the care and management of this WHS, generates over 50% of its income from business activities. Most of this income was lost as a result of lockdown and this will inevitably impact on resources for the future management of the WHS. However, when lockdown was eased, the Lakes WHS attracted a wide range of visitors, including from sectors of society which had not previously engaged with heritage, providing a basis from which to widen future participation.
- In addition, World Heritage UK, the independent umbrella organisation for world heritage in the UK, organised a series of online forums which enabled WHS co-ordinators to share experience and good practice in the management of our globally significant properties in the COVID environment. Combined with vitally important government measures to support the culture sector, these forums are helping to build a measure of resilience in the WHS sector in England and the UK more widely.
- World Heritage UK's review of the current condition of the UK WHS, supported by Historic England and sister heritage agencies, shows that amongst other things: there is relatively little public understanding of "Outstanding Universal Value" (OUV), the concept that is central to the World Heritage Convention. Half of the UK's WHS are at risk of having insufficient resources to sustain their OUV. It is also argued that links to the tourism industry could be strengthened to mutual advantage.

Archer Pavilion, Wrest Park, Bedfordshire. © Historic England



4. Planning system

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4.1 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 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elsewhere, housing-led planning reforms have continued, with further revisions to Permitted Development Rights and the Use Classes Order. The following changes are of particular interest:

- Legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic included temporary measures to operate the planning system under the [Town and Country Planning \(Development Management Procedure, Listed Buildings and Environment Impact Assessment\) \(England\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#). This was supported by additional funding, including a £900 million [Getting Building Fund](#) to deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure across the country and the [Culture Recovery Fund](#) for Heritage and Culture.
- Implementation of [The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Order 2020](#) and [The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) \(No.3\) Order 2020](#). These extended Permitted Development Rights to allow construction of additional storeys to residential and commercial buildings for self-contained houses and demolition of certain types of buildings to be replaced by residential dwellings. Listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and Article 2(3) land are excluded, with Historic England to be consulted on prior notifications for development which impacts on protected views.
- [The Town and Country Planning \(Use Classes\) \(Amendment\) \(England\) Regulations 2020](#) also created a new (E) class for commercial and business service uses, allowing for transition between commercial and business uses.

- In October, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced further details of the [Local Heritage List Campaign](#). This included confirmation of the £700,000 budget to support the preparation/ completion of local lists in ten county areas and the appointment of an independent heritage adviser to guide this work. The Campaign is being supported by Historic England.

Latest updates on Historic England Advice Notes In June, [Enabling Development and Heritage Assets \(GPA4\)](#) was published. It replaces Historic England's 2008 advice on the subject.

Following public consultation in 2019, HEAN 12 [Statements of Heritage Significance](#) has been published along with HEAN 13 [Mineral Extraction & Archaeology](#) and HEAN 14 [Energy Efficiency and Traditional Homes](#).

- In 2020, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) conducted a public consultation exercise on the four remaining draft marine plan areas around England. For the first time, there are either published plans (East marine plan area and South marine plan area) or draft plans for all the inshore and offshore marine planning areas the fall within English jurisdiction.
- Historic England has contributed throughout the marine plan production and provided advice on how marine plans include policy for cultural heritage and seascape. A key part of HE contribution therefore has been to look carefully at how policy can best support a joined-up approach from offshore to inshore and with terrestrial planning authorities where the two systems meet on the coast, within estuaries and throughout tidal waters.



Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. © Historic England Archive

4.2 Proposed Planning Reforms

■ Planning White Paper - Planning for the Future:

The government consultation on the Planning White Paper, entitled Planning for the Future closed at the end of October 2020. Its stated aim is ‘to streamline and modernise the planning process, bring a new focus to design and sustainability, improve the system of developer contributions to infrastructure, and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed’. The planning white paper is structured around three pillars:

– *Pillar One: Planning for Development.* This includes proposals for:

- * Simplified local plans, with land allocated into one of three categories: *Growth Areas, Renewal Areas, or Protected Areas*
- * A *Standard Method* for establishing the housing requirement
- * A streamlined development management process.

– *Pillar Two: Planning for Beautiful and Sustainable Places.* This includes proposals for:

- * The use of local design guidance and codes, and a national body to support their delivery
- * A ‘fast track for beauty’ for applications which comply with design principles
- * An intention to review and update the planning framework for listed buildings and conservation areas to ensure their significance is preserved
- * Improvements to energy efficiency standards for buildings.

– *Pillar Three: Planning for Infrastructure and Connected Places.* This includes proposals for:

- * A consolidated Infrastructure Levy, expanded to capture changes through *Permitted Development Rights*
- * A reformed Infrastructure Levy to deliver affordable housing.

- Many sector bodies responded to the White Paper to address impacts and opportunities, including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa), Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO). Briefings were prepared for government and all-party parliamentary groups, seminars were organised with the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI). Sector representatives attended meetings with ministers and civil servants to address both principles and detailed practical responses to the opportunities and risks presented by the proposals.
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) also consulted on [Changes to the Current Planning System](#) in October. Secretary of State Robert Jenrick MP met with sector bodies to discuss the implications of the changes. In addition, there has been a renewed focus on design quality in the built environment, such as through the work of the [Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission](#), which published its final report [Living with beauty](#) on 30 January 2020 setting out its recommendations to the Government.

4.3 Legislation and Bills

- The [Environment Bill](#), which has nearly completed its progress through Parliament, is intended to put in place a domestic system to maintain and improve environmental protection now that we have left the EU. Historic England and the sector welcomed the commitment to “enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement” within the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and would like to see this continue in future Environmental Improvement Plans – one of the key elements of the proposed legislation. To date, however, cultural heritage only figures within one provision of the Bill – conservation covenants – and is excluded from the rest of the Bill. The sector argued that this might create an artificial and unhelpful distinction between the historic and natural elements of the wider environment. The Heritage Alliance and its members continued to voice these concerns through The Heritage Council, briefings and direct engagement with the relevant DEFRA departments.

- In parallel, the [Agriculture Act](#) has put in place a domestic successor to the Common Agricultural Policy. Existing agricultural support will be replaced by a new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, which rewards farmers and land managers for the provision of environmental public goods. The Act recognises the historic environment as an environmental public good, and Historic England and The Heritage Alliance, representing the sector have been working with DEFRA and DCMS to develop the profile of heritage within the ELM Stakeholder Group. After successful collaboration with the Group, the Rural Heritage Advocacy Group and Historic England has been asked to deliver a collaborative Test & Trial for heritage, the pilot for which will begin in 2021, with the scheme expected to be fully in place by 2027.
- The 2020 [Fisheries Act](#) provides a framework for fisheries management after the transition period ends on 31st December 2020 and the UK is no longer part of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Fisheries Act includes measures for the conservation, restoring, enhancing and protection of the ‘marine and aquatic environment’ which is defined as inclusive of features of archaeological or historic interest. This approach helps to build on the mechanisms put in place through the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 and the recognition of cultural heritage as part of sustainable marine planning and management.

4.4 Heritage and Major Infrastructure updates

- National infrastructure remains a key Government priority, although the publication of a National Infrastructure Strategy, to accompany the UK’s first-ever [National Infrastructure Assessment](#) which was published in 2018, is still awaited. It is unclear how – if at all – the COVID-19 pandemic will affect plans for future infrastructure.
- This section gives updates for a number of infrastructure projects which have significant impacts on the historic environment.



Fishing boats on the beach at Hastings, East Sussex. © Historic England Archive



Construction work at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, Shropshire. © Historic England Archive

High Speed 2 (HS2)

- In April 2020, the Department for Transport gave HS2 Ltd approval to issue its contractors with Notice to Proceed to full detailed design and construction of the 225 km London to West Midlands Phase 1 of the high-speed network. This gave the formal approval for the launch of the construction phase.
- As Europe's largest infrastructure project, the proposals have a significant effect on the historic environment, and [HS2's archaeology programme](#) is currently Europe's biggest dig. Excavations on the Phase One section from London to Birmingham are providing insights into the people and communities of England. They are also bringing new people into the archaeological sector via apprenticeships and training programmes. In total, more than a thousand archaeologists will excavate more than sixty separate sites, including prehistoric and Roman

settlements and later sites from the Industrial Revolution and the Second World War. The complete excavation of the site of a medieval church and its surrounding graveyard at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire is underway. Archaeological work has continued throughout the pandemic.

Heathrow Airport Expansion

- Parliament approved the Airports National Policy Statement (ANPS) in July 2018, which included the Government's preferred option for increased aviation capacity through a new North West Runway at Heathrow Airport, which would have a significant effect on the historic environment. However, campaign groups took out five judicial reviews against the ANPS on grounds such as air, noise, pollution and traffic. Early in 2020, the Court of Appeal ruled that the ANPS is now "of no legal effect" unless and until the government



Heathrow Airport as seen from the air. © Historic England Archive

reviews it, although Heathrow has been granted permission by the Supreme Court to appeal. Expansion plans for the airport are therefore on pause and there are no plans to submit an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) in the near future.

Stonehenge Tunnel (A303)

- In October 2018 Highways England submitted an application for a Development Consent Order to upgrade the A303 between Amesbury and Berwick Down in Wiltshire, which passes through the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites WHS. The scheme would provide a two-lane dual carriageway, with a two-mile tunnelled section past Stonehenge. The Secretary of State granted consent for the Stonehenge A303 scheme on 12th November 2020. Historic England has now issued a statement on the topic which can be found [here](#).

Offshore Windfarms

- Numerous offshore wind farm projects are under construction, for example on the Dogger Bank (North Sea), with others subject to determination by Secretary of State, BEIS. Several projects are at the pre-application stage including projects that will expand existing offshore infrastructure including Rampion II off the Sussex coast. All the projects assess possible impact on the marine historic environment, and on where the scheme makes landfall through to the onshore National Grid connection location. To maintain and service operational offshore wind farms, facilities are being built within ports, especially on the North Sea coast so opportunities should occur for sympathetic new developments in historic ports such as Grimsby, a factor recognised in the [Offshore Wind: Sector Deal](#).



Offshore windfarm near Thanet, Essex. © Historic England Archive

Nuclear Power Stations

- Work continues on the construction of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station in Somerset, England, where significant archaeological remains have been discovered. The government remains committed to “new nuclear” and is considering a new nuclear power station at Sizewell in Suffolk which will also have implications for the historic environment.

Visual Impact Provision (VIP)

- National Grid’s VIP project makes use of a £500 million fund to reduce the impact of existing power lines in English and Welsh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks. Historic England and others advise on the VIP. A project is well underway in the Dorset AONB to replace 8.8km of overhead line near Dorchester with an underground connection, permanently removing 22 pylons from the rich archaeological landscape. Recently, another undergrounding project in the Peak District National Park has been given planning

permission to replace a 2km section of overhead line with an underground connection, permanently removing seven pylons and a sealing end compound from the landscape, thereby enhancing the historic environment.

Highways England Designated Funds

- From 2020 to 2025, Highways England has been given £936 million for standalone (designated) funding, allocated to four funding streams. The previous five-year fund from 2015-2020 helped to improve the historic environment at Gunnersbury Park in London, the Wellington Monument in Somerset, and Stoke Park in Bristol.
- There are four new funds, including one for Environment and Wellbeing (£340 million), which aims to help the environment including cultural heritage by preserving sites of special historic or cultural interest near Highways England’s roads, so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.



Visual Impact Provision (VIP), project to remove overhead electricity cables and pylons. © Historic England Archive

4.5 Local authority capacity

- A [survey of local authority capacity](#) and skills of planning departments was carried out by PAS on behalf of MHCLG and the LGA in 2019. A total of 123 councils responded, giving a rich picture of how departments of various shapes and sizes view their skills, capacity and longer-term outlook. The scope of the survey was in part to gauge the effect of the recent 20% increases in planning fees.
- An overview of the survey, which includes regional variations and information on recruitment, shows that:
 - 44% of the participating LPAs considered that planning is well represented in their council; while 60% agreed that the ring-fence of 20% was helpful, providing various reasons for that.
 - Resource issues identified suggest that capacity building in the sector (skills development) as well as high average age of planners indicate that the workforce needs constant support to ensure councils are resilient to changes in planning and that they can maintain high quality service provision.
- A [London-based place shaping capacity 2020 survey](#) looked at staffing capacity for handling planning applications. The survey asked about those developing strategic plans for areas, regeneration experts, heritage and conservation specialists and those negotiating with developers on the authority's behalf. Responding in September 2020 it found that:
 - The capacity in placemaking skills in London authorities is already stretched, especially those dealing with strategic thinking such as long-term planning. Compared to 2014, average place shaping teams are 19% smaller.
 - The sector does not reflect London's population and the sector is not equipped to respond to the climate emergency – three-quarters of authorities are lacking capacity in the environmental, sustainability and zero carbon knowledge needed.
- The events of 2020 have highlighted more clearly than ever the huge importance that local authorities have in the care and maintenance of the historic environment. Local authorities and other sector-lead bodies are looking for clarity in the services Historic England provides. Given the resources available it is crucial that Historic England targets support in a way that achieves maximum impact in any local situation, based on understanding the authority's responsibilities, priorities and vulnerabilities. Its regional structure helps to do this in a targeted way. Historic England's emerging [Local Authority Strategic Framework](#) (LASF) aims to guide its engagement with local authorities beyond site-specific casework and take account of the organisation's new structure. Consultation on a draft strategic framework ran from 9 March to 25 May 2020. A Local Authority Prospectus due for publication in early 2021 summarises these services and how to access them.

5. Participation and capacity-building

5.1 Building capacity and resilience in the sector

The National Lottery Heritage Fund's Resilience campaign and Business Support and Enterprise Development Awards

- A key commitment in The National Lottery Heritage Fund's current Strategic Funding Framework is to focus on a programme of activity to boost the capacity and resilience of funded organisations, to spread good practice in governance, fundraising, business planning and financial management and to foster enterprise, social investment, philanthropic giving and innovation in the sector.
 - The Fund's programme encourages the development of more resilient and sustainable organisations across the heritage sector through a combination of advocacy and sharing good practice, strategic collaborations, regular communication of key campaign messages and funding for capacity building training, networks, enterprise development and entrepreneurship, and innovation in business models.
 - Much of this work needs to be reshaped as the impact of COVID-19 is felt by organisations working across all aspects of heritage. The funding element of the campaign proceeded as planned, and in March 2020 the Fund awarded over £4 million to six partnership projects covering Enterprise Development and Business Support training programmes, as well as additional funding to support a programme of more immediate business support in response to the pandemic.
 - These programmes have had to undergo significant redesign to ensure they meet the changing needs of organisations, including switching to digital delivery. The funded projects, which will start delivering in late 2020 and early 2021, are detailed below.
- Heritage Alliance – this additional programme '[Rebuilding Heritage](#)' has begun and is already supporting individuals and organisations to overcome immediate challenges and plan for a sustainable future.
 - Two UK-wide enterprise development programmes, which aim to develop a stronger culture of successful enterprise in the heritage sector, are led by the [Social Enterprise Academy](#) and [School for Social Entrepreneurs](#).
 - Business support programmes across the UK, will focus on business and leadership skills - including diversifying income, developing supporters, volunteers and audiences, responding to new opportunities and withstanding threats and building stronger networks. These are led by:
 - * Cause4 – England
 - * Museums Galleries Scotland – Scotland
 - * Thrive Audience Development – Northern Ireland
- A further award is expected for Wales in early 2021. Resilience and support for the sector to adapt and recover from the effects of COVID-19 will continue to be a key focus for the coming 18 months, including support for skills, economic regeneration, wellbeing, inclusion and thriving places and communities.

Cathedrals' craft training

- Our cathedrals stand as testament to the skills of the craftspeople that built and have maintained them for a thousand years. Between them, nine Anglican cathedrals deliver craft education and training through the [Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship](#) (CWF) and they strived to continue supporting students and the schemes during the pandemic through possible alternatives.



Watergarden at Ramsgate, Kent. © Historic England Archive

■ The CWF delivers a work-based, practical, foundation degree for craftspeople in cathedrals and commercial conservation companies. The underpinning philosophy is that cathedrals' own master craftspeople are best placed to develop the knowledge and skills of the next generation in the traditional 'master to apprentice' way. The challenges for the cathedrals and the CWF were significant, but there are some silver linings. Craftspeople tend to prefer communicating in person rather than through IT. However, several tutors have tried web conferencing tools, and acknowledge that it is an effective and economical

way to do business, adopting it for further use. Students on the other side have admitted that they are reading more and using the time to reflect on their progress and previous feedback instead of just focusing on the current task.

SECTOR PERSPECTIVE: COMMERCIAL-ARCHAEOLOGY AND EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Rob Lennox, Senior Advocacy Coordinator, CIFA.

In a short space of time, COVID-19 has developed from a far-off concern, with little relevance to archaeology in the UK, to an issue having unprecedented short-term **impacts on the ability of archaeological businesses to operate**. It will re-shape commercial archaeology practices in the medium- to long-term future.

Commercial archaeology employs around 5,000 people in the UK and is worth £239 million per annum. It draws the majority of this funding from developers in return for providing services to support sustainable development in compliance with the planning system. Commercial archaeology is closely aligned with the construction sector. For this sector, the safety and effectiveness of procedures for working on construction sites during the initial phases of the COVID-19 crisis has been a major concern.

Safety concerns in construction were prompted before lockdown began in March, but it was the announcement of lockdown that spurred many archaeological companies to call a halt to site work. Construction was impacted by similar decisions up and down the supply chain, with many projects paused or cancelled.

Taking advantage of government emergency support mechanisms has allowed archaeological companies to mitigate much of the immediate financial impact of this disruption.

While the UK Government never encouraged construction sites to close, many archaeological companies used the period of disruption to pull workers from site and furlough where needed. They used the time to put in place new safety measures to make social distancing on site possible. By mid-May most archaeological companies were back working on site, and work is – on the whole – building back up. Social distancing will continue to have an impact on speed and efficiency. Businesses will be especially stretched as the wider construction industry tries to soak up potentially more costly practices. Comprehending and preparing to tackle these longer-term impacts of COVID-19 will be a key challenge for the archaeological sector for years to come.

These new working practices have been influenced by excellent work done by trade union Prospect to ensure that safety could be assured for workers and the public.

Digital Skills for Heritage Initiative

- Launched in February 2020, Digital Skills for Heritage is a two year, £2.6 million initiative from The National Lottery Heritage Fund designed to raise digital skills and confidence across the whole UK heritage sector. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the need for organisations to understand and make use of digital more pressing than ever before for keeping staff, volunteers and communities connected. But making use of digital has required many organisations to upskill quickly.
- So far, Digital Skills for Heritage has directly supported over 6,000 individuals and organisations working in heritage through **online training, workshops and other activities**. Many more have made use of the new online resources created by the initiative that provide practical advice on a wide range of topics.
- The initiative is made up of a range of projects, including the **Digital Heritage Lab** led by the Arts Marketing Association and **Heritage Digital**, led by The Heritage Alliance. These two projects are providing free digital skills training to heritage organisations across the UK, focusing on marketing, working with audiences, e-Commerce, intellectual property, data protection, and access and inclusion online.

DIGITAL SKILLS AND VIRTUAL HERITAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES WORK

Sarah Cary, Executive Director – Place, [Enfield Council](#), provides an example from Enfield council [here](#):

It is still too early to know the full [impact of COVID-19](#), but there are two areas where COVID-19 implications are expected to have a long-term effect on heritage.

- The first is in how local authorities – and others working in the built environment – approach consultation and engagement with residents and communities. Social distancing and isolation during this time have driven new ways of working out of necessity. Meeting halls have moved to online webinars and question and answers. Museums and arts organisations have opened collections for free in virtual environments. Discussion forums are not limited to an hour’s meeting but stretch throughout the week to accommodate different working times.

Enfield has held virtual planning committees, with public representation, and is working to broadcast them live. There is a danger that some communities without digital skills or access could be left out, but as an industry they are working to accommodate those groups.

A ‘virtual’ visit cannot replace the multi-sensory quality that is so much a part of experiencing a heritage asset. But on the whole, I believe that more virtual and digital communication can only lead to a broader range of communities and individuals engaging and being involved in heritage and design.

The second area of change is in the use of heritage assets, arising from either pandemic measures or the likely severe economic shock we are all facing. At a basic level, many heritage buildings have been vacant and unused for months, locked up and inaccessible. Authorities have reported forced entries of listed buildings and thieves taking advantage of lockdown to steal lead from church roofs.

But more excitingly, heritage buildings might now come into alternative uses. In Enfield, the mortuary service enquired about setting up a temporary morgue in Lavender Hill Chapel, a long-vacant 19th century building on the Heritage at Risk Register. Officers took a pragmatic approach to ensure works would not cause irreversible harm to the fabric of this listed building. While this particular building was not in the end utilised, there are opportunities for other disused buildings to get a new lease of life in this emergency, and in the recovery that will come.

- Other partnerships within the initiative include
 - Culture24 who are running the [Leading the Sector](#) digital leadership course
 - 1:1 support from The Funds digital ROSS consultants for 20 organisations in our Areas of Focus to develop their digital skills and confidence through the delivery of practical projects.
 - Timmus Ltd who have completed the first ever [digital confidence benchmark survey of the UK heritage sector](#), which provided evidence on heritage organisations’ use of digital.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund recently received [an additional £1m funding from the DCMS](#) as part of the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to support the next stage of the digital skills work – helping organisations increase resilience, attract new members and volunteers and provide new digital services.

Online training resources development: Historic England

- **Historic England**, working in pursuit of its **Corporate Plan's** strategic activity to “invest in knowledge creation, skills and organisations where help is most needed”, has continued to work in partnership and collaboration with many other organisations to build the sector’s capacity.
- Historic England has, for a number of years, offered e-learning resources and webinars to predominantly support the existing face-to-face training offer, with up to thirty webinars being delivered each year. With the collaboration of Historic England’s many and varied subject experts, it was possible to increase the webinar programme substantially, delivering several webinars per week on a variety of topics from the High Streets Heritage Action Zones to heritage science and climate change.

Apprenticeships programmes

- The first national cohort of twelve Historic Environment Advice Assistant (HEAA) apprenticeships started work with Historic England in September 2019. Apprentices undertake a mix of “on the job” learning and a formal training programme. From mid-March 2020 all Historic England staff were required to work from home, including the apprentices, and all face-to-face training was suspended. The main training provider for this apprenticeship, Strode College, worked in partnership with Historic England’s own training delivery team to rapidly develop an action plan to adapt the week-long face-to-face courses that had been planned for April 2020 into a series of webinars and online learning events. This achieved the required learning outcomes for the apprentices, but also provided useful learning that will be shared to inform future delivery of apprenticeships across the sector.



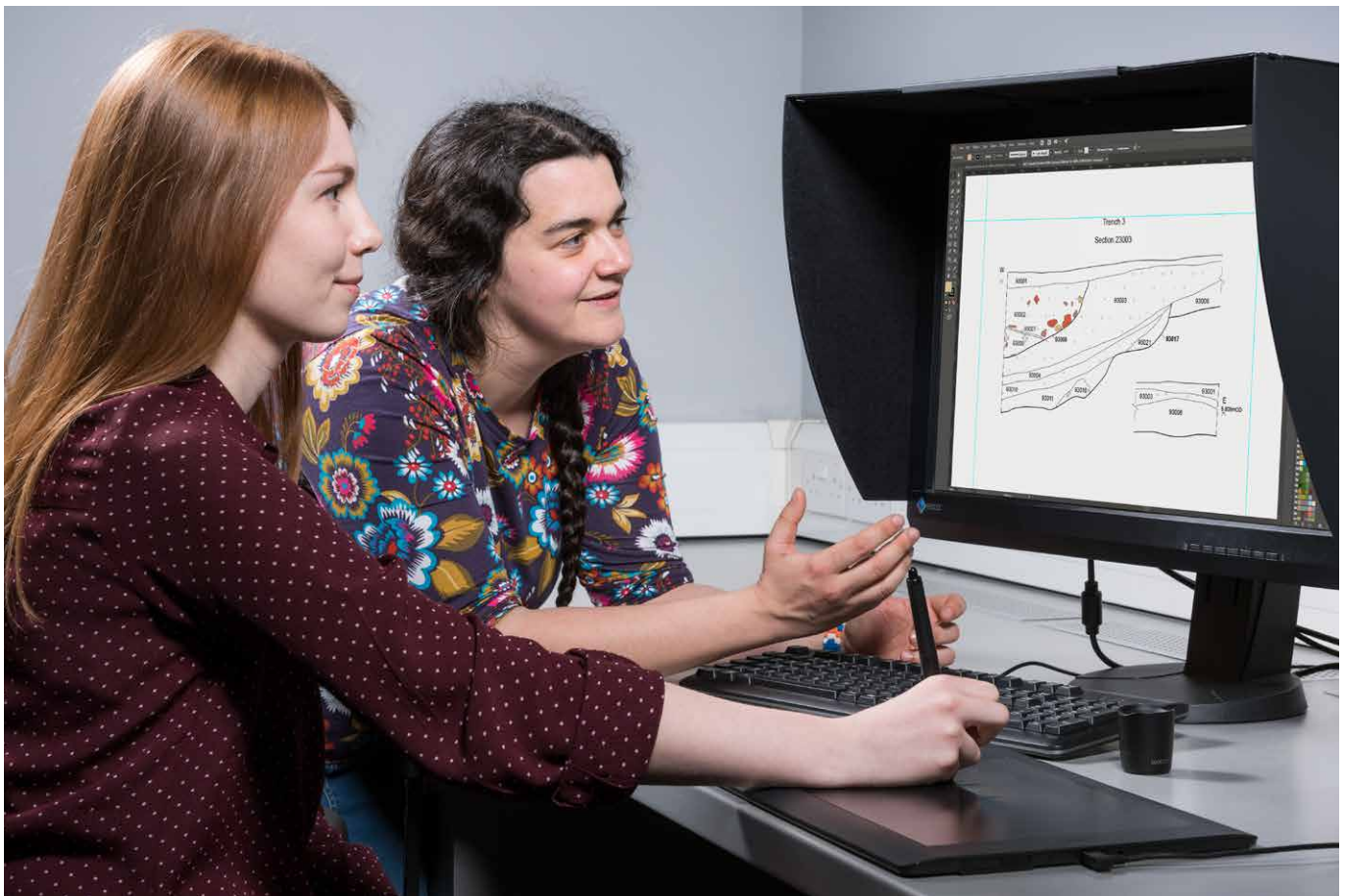
Meetings and activities at home using Zoom during the COVID-19 lockdown © Historic England Archive

- Historic England have engaged consultants Wavehill Ltd to establish, design and implement an independent process review and impact evaluation of the HEAA apprenticeship at Historic England programme.

Professional development and accreditations

- The [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists \(Cifa\)](#), continues to encourage professionals to apply for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in archaeology. In 2018 they invited training providers to submit training courses as part of a project funded through Historic England's National Capacity Building grants. The project aims to improve access to accredited training and career development opportunities by supporting Higher Education and training providers to align their training offer to industry needs.

- Cifa has been working with sector partners to widen access to careers in heritage, by developing new entry routes (through apprenticeships) and by strengthening existing ones (through accreditation schemes). Over the last year Cifa has been accepted as an end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) for the Level 3 Archaeological Technician and Level 4 Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprenticeships
- Cifa also submitted an application to provide end-point assessment for the Level 7 Archaeological Specialist apprenticeship, launched a programme, in partnership with University Archaeology UK, to accredit degree courses as part of a formal Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) recognition process. Finally, the body developed processes to ensure that apprentices' and graduates' skills can be recognised through professional accreditation by Cifa.



Hannah Kennedy (Graphics Manager, right) training Amy Wright (Specialist Work Based Training Placement, left). © Historic England Archive

Icon: The Conservation Register and Environmental Network

- The [Institute of Conservation \(Icon\)](#) similarly consulted on the way it promotes its professional accreditation framework to understand the sector's awareness and endorsement of professional accreditation for conservation work. It has introduced a set of internships to cover needs of those needing a first step to enter the sector – an academic qualification followed up by structured internships and work-based placements as a way to build experience, skills and contacts. For others there is of course the opportunity to take a more vocational route and this will be enhanced immeasurably through the development of the Trailblazer Apprenticeships.
- In 2020, Icon reached a milestone with the relaunch of the [Conservation Register](#), the online directory of Icon Accredited Conservators. The redeveloped Register is a modern, engaging, and visually-oriented platform helping the public more easily to find a conservator that they can trust to care for their precious objects. [Icon Professional Standards](#) have also been revised and new Icon Ethical Guidance published – key documents through which Icon champions excellence and high professional standards in conservation.
- Supporting the conservation profession to be environmentally sustainable has been a key strand of Icon's recent work. Icon aims to promote best practice and share resources through a newly established Environmental Network for Icon members and enhanced relationships with like-minded organisations, including Fit for the Future, Sustainability in Conservation and Ki Culture. Icon has continued to play a leadership role through its work with the Climate Heritage Network and is co-ordinating the communications activity of the Madrid-to-Glasgow Arts, Culture and Heritage Climate Action Plan (COP26).
- Icon also delivered a roundtable event to consider the current and future state of conservation education. The post-event report's recommended actions are now being pursued with support from the Conservation Higher Education Institutions Network. In response to financial restructuring announcements from various sector organisations, Icon asserts how investing in conservation is an act

of responsible custodianship and it will help support people and the places they care about as we face a challenging and uncertain post-COVID future.

The Labour Market intelligence toolkit

- Collaboration across the sector between Icon, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), Historic England and Loud Marketing led to the development of a Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) Toolkit to enable the collection, analysis and reporting of LMI within the heritage sector. The [Toolkit](#) is freely accessible as a mutual resource for all sector organisations. It has already been used for collecting data on the impact of COVID-19, producing an independent survey that captured the pandemic's impact on the conservation profession.

Traditional construction skills training

- Historic England continues to help the sector develop skills in traditional construction through its work at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, in partnership with the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Prince of Wales' Building Craft Programme. Historic England [publishes](#) the latest updates about Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings HE aims in particular to:
 - Support attainment of qualifications
 - Attract groups usually underrepresented in construction trades
 - Provide work experience for young learners.

5.2 Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships

- In May 2019, the Arts and Humanities Research Council confirmed funding for Round 3 of the Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP) scheme. This is a three-year funding agreement which will support 150 students to undertake four-year PhD degrees between 2020 and 2024. The students will be co-supervised by a university and by one of the cultural institutions that make up the [CDP Consortium](#), which includes Oxford University Gardens, Libraries and Museums, Historic England, The English Heritage Trust, [The British Museum](#), [The National Archives](#) and others. A significant feature of these degrees is that the students will work closely with Consortium partners on applied research topics. They will develop practical, applied skills and gain experience to complement their studies, preparing them to work as specialists in the sector in future.

CASE STUDY: WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GET WORK EXPERIENCE AT SHREWSBURY FLAXMILL MALTINGS

Luke had visited the [Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings](#) site in 2018 on a tour for members of the public organised and led by the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings, when in his first year of GCSEs and was inspired to look for work experience opportunity within the project to restore the Mill. His family approached the Friends of Flaxmill Maltings and Historic England project team about potential opportunities for completing a work experience period there and a week-long placement was designed to allow him to work with an architect.

Luke undertook a week-long placement through the [Construction Training Activities Project](#) in summer 2018. He spent two days working alongside the architects in their practice office in Bath, learning more about the role of the architect, how they work, the tools that they use to create their designs, and their relationship with the client.

The work experience programme ended with the final three days of his placement at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings itself, learning more about the variety of buildings on the site and the repair work that had been carried out, and applying the new skills that he had learnt. He was able to meet a variety of people working on the project including the Senior Building Surveyor, Site Manager for the Contractor, and Sector Skills Adviser, to gain a better understanding of the different roles at site and how

they work together. Insight was given into career paths and options for apprenticeships for a range of roles, including architecture.

“I got a lot out of my placement” said Luke. “I got to talk to a lot of people and I learned a lot of transferrable skills. I would recommend something like this to others – it is worth doing, especially if you are interested in design. Every day was enjoyable.”

During this time, he was set a challenge to produce three suggested designs for the creative reuse of the [dyehouse](#) (a grade II* listed building formerly used for dyeing thread produced in the Flaxmill). Luke created plans, drawings, and mood boards to support his ideas. He also had to take into consideration the limitations placed on his designs by the history and listed nature of the building, as well as working to a defined budget. At the end of the week he presented his ideas back to the architect and Historic England Senior Building Surveyor via video call, showing them his designs and explaining his choices.

“I enjoyed the practical design and presentation the most. It was definitely more expensive than I thought to carry out changes, and it was a challenge to balance creativity and style against budget.”

Luke performing a design task as part of his work experience at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings. © Historic England



5.3 SPAB work on capacity building

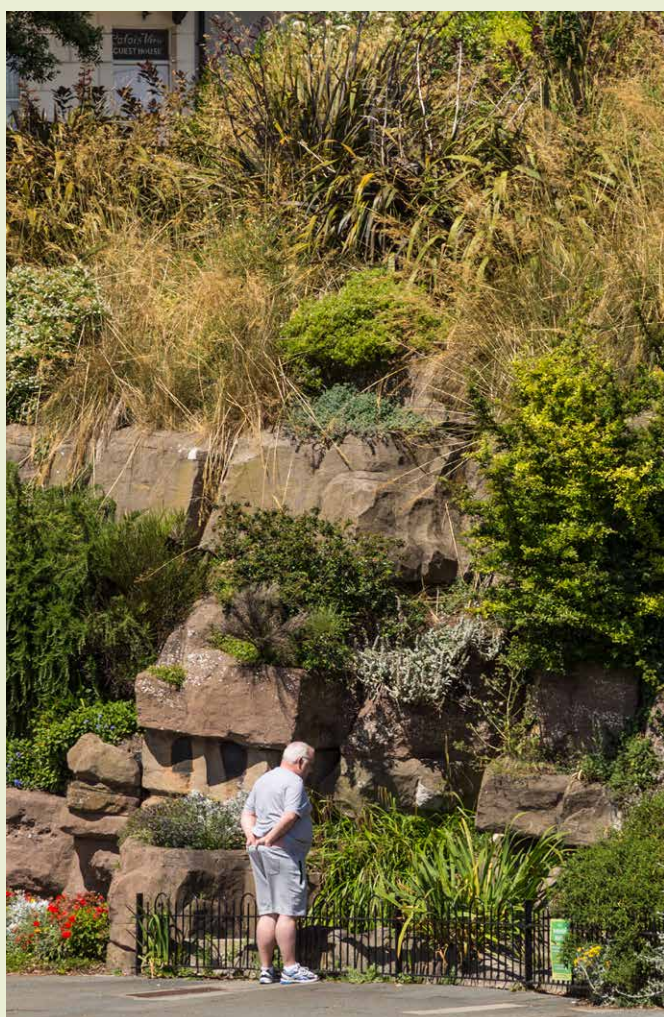
- The SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) offer a unique opportunity to learn from some of the country's leading craftspeople in a relaxed setting. For example the Old House Project at the former chapel of St Andrew near

Maidstone, Kent, involves attendees carrying out a wide range of activities including roof repairs, lime burning in their own field kiln, 3D laser scanning, archaeological surveys and gauged brickwork repairs.

CASE STUDY: RAMSGATE HERITAGE ACTION ZONE'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

The [Heritage Action Zone in Ramsgate](#) aims to achieve economic growth by using the historic environment as a catalyst. Over the five-year project, teams within Historic England are working in partnership with local organisations to understand what makes the heritage in Ramsgate really special, to share the findings and stories, and to protect and improve places for the future. The Heritage Action Zone is delivering a range of projects that are engaging the local community and is increasing our understanding of the rich local heritage, including the exciting maritime story.

During 2019 a group of community volunteers contributed to the [Conservation area appraisal](#), as part of the Heritage Action Zone projects, by completing surveys of Ramsgate's conservation area following training provided by Historic England. Volunteers assessed their local area to understand the history and character of the place and to understand what was unique and special about the area. Many volunteers said that the project allowed them to view their surroundings with fresh eyes and a new perspective and that they now had a deeper appreciation of the town and its conservation area.



- Through practical works and training, the careful repair of St Andrews demonstrates SPAB approach to conservation and return this important ‘at risk’ building and its history to life. Alongside resources and top tips for keeping buildings in good

condition, SPAB’s [National Maintenance Week 2020](#) (November 2020) included a number of free online events to help owners and users get to know their old buildings better and take practical action to look after them.

To support this project the Ramsgate Coastal Community Team gained £50,000 of funding towards a condition survey of the nationally important collection of Pulhamite rockwork gardens and structures in Ramsgate. The entire collection of Pulhamite is listed at Grade II on the [National Heritage List for England](#) and forms part of the place identity and history that the community aims to protect. It spans the town from West Cliff to East Cliff and includes formal gardens, waterfalls and walkways. A group of community volunteers, including both the Friends of Winterstoke Gardens and Albion Place, assisted in the survey, and

engaged in activities like marking the rocks with tape, taking photographs, clearing vegetation and supporting the surveyor as he surveyed the rock from a mobile platform. The volunteers developed strong bonds as a group and were pleased to learn more about the history and heritage of the Pulhamite, gaining both skills and knowledge that will assist them in future planning and place-making projects for the area.

Below: Views of Pulhamite rockwork gardens and structures around Ramsgate; Community volunteers. © Historic England Archive



5.4 Heritage Open Days 2020

- **Heritage Open Days** (HODs) is England's largest annual festival of history and culture, taking place each September. This year, the theme of Hidden Nature and a new digital programme allowed communities across the country to celebrate the stories of the places and spaces that are important to them in different and innovative ways.
- The festival has grown from 701 events when it launched in 1994, to typically more than 5,000 in recent years. While unprecedented challenges this year naturally led to a reduced programme, events were held in every region of the country, with 717 organisations producing over 1,700 events. And, as ever, all events were free, including access to participating sites which normally charge.

“Creating the festival this year required us all to adapt, whether that was embracing digital options or implementing new safety measures on-site. It’s a real credit to the enthusiasm and dedication of our organisers, volunteers and everyone involved that we’ve been able to share over 1,700 stories, places and experiences, in a year where feeling part of a community has never been more important.”

Annie Reilly, Head of Producing

- 2020 is the first year the festival has included virtual tours and digital experiences, marking a significant shift for both HODs and its network of event organisers, of which usually around half (47% in 2019) are aged 65 or over. New written guides, marketing materials and webinar sessions offered ideas and support, with the digital programme launching with around 700 online entries.

“When I see what other people have done I get inspired. You don’t need to be a computer whizz kid - nothing we have done entails any coding at all. We have looked at the tools that are out there and played around until we have got to grips with them.”

Retired organiser

- Online events created new accessible opportunities for visitors from across the country to explore places and stories from home. Pre-recorded events, such as 360-degree tours of Dudley's historic buildings and performances of the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ in County Durham, premiered for the festival and were made available at any time. Other events were live or interactive, including a historical recipe demonstration of non-alcoholic drinks from a cafe in Winchester and tours of the **Virtual Arts Trail in Wisbech** created within the video game Minecraft.
- Heritage Open Days has always encouraged a broad understanding of heritage, and this year the Hidden Nature theme supported over 300 places exploring their natural history. Gates, as well as doors, were opened with events at gardens, urban green spaces, farms, woodlands and waterways celebrating the great outdoors. Other events uncovered a myriad of natural topics in their spaces and collections, from a geology walk explaining rock types used in Liskeard's architecture, to online storytelling sessions featuring the animals found in historic legal cases at **Otley Courthouse**.
- Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the **National Trust** with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, and 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.

Facing page top: A visitor takes a picture at Crowland Abbey, Lincolnshire. © Oskar Proctor, Heritage Open Days

Below: Exploring the nature at Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire. © Chris Lacey, Heritage Open Days





5.5 Picturing lockdown – A record of an extraordinary time

- Seven days during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in spring were captured by members of the public, contemporary artists and Historic England photographers after an open call for a [Picturing lockdown campaign](#). The call-out was the first time the public have been asked to capture photographs for the Archive since the Second World War. It aimed to spark conversations about identity and has now created a unique and reflective record of a week across the nation, during this extraordinary moment in history.
- These unique responses have formed a visual record in Historic England's Archive, the nation's archive for records of England's historic buildings, archaeology and social history, which will help shape what we remember about this time.



- The public call-out received an overwhelming reception from across England, with **2,984 submissions from across the country received** over the course of seven days. Historic England selected the 100 most evocative, informative and inspiring, added 50 newly commissioned works by 10 contemporary artists and 50 more from Historic England's photographers to create a final collection to be added to the Historic England Archive.

Left: Social distancing – a daughter speaks to her mother by phone whilst looking through the window at her. © David Taylor. Source: Historic England Archive
Centre: Two girls play on a garden path. © Joanna Nightingale-Slade. Source: Historic England Archive
Right top: A girl talks to her friends via video link. © Helen Roberts. Source: Historic England Archive
Right bottom: A scout participates in a meeting via video link. © Jin Tong. Source: Historic England Archive

5.6 Heritage schools

- The [Heritage Schools programme](#) is now in its ninth year and continues to support schools by providing training and resources to teachers and trainee teachers to help them embed local heritage into the curriculum. During 2019-2020, training was delivered to almost 2,000 teachers and a further 1,000 trainee teachers, reaching an estimated 400,000 pupils through engagement in local heritage projects and activities accessed via their schools.
- Training was provided to support schools in developing a curriculum that is relevant to their pupils in the context the school setting and the local area. This approach supports Ofsted's current guidance as set down in the 2019 framework and explained in the latest School Inspection Handbook:

'The curriculum reflects the school's local context by addressing typical gaps in pupils' knowledge and skills.'

- **Resources** to support schools in embedding local heritage into the curriculum have been created and are available for free download from the Historic England website. Many school projects are developed in partnership with local heritage providers and these often involve clusters of schools:
 - In Bristol over 300 local primary school children took part in a community archaeological dig at Ashton Court. Every child was able to find fragmentary artefacts such as clay pipes and pottery. They then explored the interior of the



Pupils at their architecture exhibition in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. © Historic England

- house creating their own visions for the future use of the mansion.
- Heritage Schools in Bradford have been working with Saltaire Stories to learn about the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage site on their doorstep. **Films** have also been produced to inspire other schools to use the site as a resource to connect pupils to their local heritage, and to learn about its significance in the wider world.
 - Schools in Ramsgate visited the home and church of architect Augustus Pugin as part of an art and design heritage project. Pupils, enthused by volunteers from the Landmark Trust and Pugin Society, returned to school keen to create their own Pugin-inspired tiles to decorate a local landmark.
 - In Rochdale, schools worked with the Manchester School of Architecture on a project called Rochdale Reimagined. Pupils investigated historic buildings that have deteriorated through decades of neglect and are now part of the Rochdale Heritage Action Zone. Following this, they created their own proposals for how the sites should be redeveloped and put back to use, helping to instil a sense of local pride.
 - The production of bespoke school resource packs continues to be in high demand. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the majority of the Heritage Schools training sessions have moved to a virtual delivery model. This has included delivery with local heritage partners to clusters of schools and to whole-school staff groups.



Pupils working with Historic England archive maps in London and South East. © Historic England

5.7 Enriching the list and ‘Connecting people and places’

- Since 2016, members of the public have been encouraged to add photographs to the National Heritage List for England. Over 20% of the List has now been enriched. This means that over 80,000 List entries have had enrichments added and 150,000 contributions have led to over 230,000 published photos.
- **Enriching the List** formed a partnership with the **Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust** and the first phase of the programme **Connecting People and Places** was completed in February 2020. The partnership provided a novel way of working with young people of diverse backgrounds while it also enriched the inputs in the List.
- The **Connecting People and Places Research Report** describes the work done by Stephen Lawrence Trust and Historic England. The aim was to inspire young people from BAME backgrounds and give them the confidence to pursue a career in architecture but also to enrich our understanding of the buildings and places that are important to our national history, highlighting the histories and places that are important to people from diverse backgrounds. This included researching and visiting buildings and places of historic interest that have significant importance for members of the BAME community.
- The second phase will be a touring exhibition, with the final findings of the project being published once finished. These will be a permanent and accessible public record. The recording and acknowledgment of these buildings showcases the positive impact BAME communities have had on the environment we live in.
- The Stephen Lawrence Trust made 24 contributions for the Connecting People and Places project. All of the applicable recording in the online **British Library Oral History Sound Recordings** have been added. This led to 525 contributions, covering subjects including **Pioneering Women, Artist and Architects**.

5.8 Heritage awards 2019/20

Ecclesiastical’s Heritage Heroes Awards

- On Heritage Day, in February 2020, the **Ecclesiastical’s Heritage Heroes Awards**, run by the Heritage Alliance, celebrated their 10th Anniversary. The awards were set up to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Heritage Volunteers to society.
 - Ecclesiastical’s Heritage Hero Award 2019, recognised Diane White’s amazing contribution in transforming an area of wasteland into a sensory garden in the heritage centre of Buxton, Derbyshire. From designing the garden and leading clearance parties to fundraising for the project, Diane’s volunteering and fundraising efforts have made a real impact in her local community.
 - Ecclesiastical’s Heritage Hero Lifetime Award went to Stephen de Silva and celebrates Stephen’s dedicated and transformative volunteering efforts for St. Albans Cathedral during the past 40 years. From co-ordinating the launch of a new exhibition in order to bring more visitors to the cathedral to fundraising in order to future-proof the cathedral, the award celebrates the many hours Stephen has volunteered.

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards

- A UK project was one of 21 winner projects in the Conservation category of the **Europa Nostra Awards** for 2020, recognising the exceptional approach to the multi-agency conservation programme, which addressed all elements of the Iron Bridge within **The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site**.
- The bridge was in full use for over 150 years by ever-increasing traffic before being designated a Scheduled Monument and closed to vehicles in 1934. The great significance of the bridge was further recognised in 1986 when the bridge and other sites in the area of the Ironbridge Gorge were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Museums Association Awards

- In November 2020, the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Kick the Dust project *Reimagine, Remake, Replay* won the prestigious **2020 Museums Association Museums Change Lives Award**, demonstrating the strong leadership role of young people aged 16-25 across Northern Ireland and achieving multiple outcomes including increased interpersonal, communication and digital skills, confidence and contributing to a more cohesive society ahead.

Museums and Heritage Permanent Exhibition of the Year

- English Heritage's Tintagel Castle Bridge and Landscape Project was named Permanent Exhibition of the Year 2020. The judges described

it as 'extraordinary, bewitching and beautiful and has enabled the genuine story of place to be told in an astonishingly original way'.

UK Heritage Awards

- Amongst the winners of the **UK Heritage awards** was Winchester Cathedral's 'Kings and Scribes: The Birth of a Nation' exhibition, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Bletchley Park won a UK Heritage Judges' Discretionary Award for all-round achievement. A partnership involving local volunteers and the Northumbrian Coast AONB won in the 'hidden gem' category for the Accessing Aidan Project; the judges were impressed with the project being volunteer-led and praised the interactive digital ossuary and interpretive display.



Ironbridge, nr Telford, Shropshire. © Historic England

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Front cover: Great Hall, Eltham Palace, Greenwich, Greater London. © Historic England Archive



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