

Historic England North East and Yorkshire Regional Grants Strategy 2022/23



Introduction

This paper summaries Historic England's approach to grant-giving in the North East and Yorkshire Region, identifying the headline criteria we will use when assessing grant applications and four regional priority activities that we will actively pursue.

We hope that it will help potential applicants to understand our priorities, which arise from our intention to use our resources as efficiently and effectively as possible in pursuit of our Corporate Plan objectives and our Future Strategy areas of focus: **thriving places, connected communities and active participation**.

Historic England Grants

Our grants are an essential part of our work to improve people's lives by championing and protecting the historic environment and the link to further information about our programmes can be found [here](#).

The grants we offer are intended for:

- People who own or manage individual historic sites and need to repair them or understand them better
- Local authorities, for sites and buildings in their area
- Organisations who want to encourage better understanding, management and conservation of the historic environment in its many and varied forms.

In all cases we expect to have a dialogue with the applicant and we cannot grant-aid work which has begun before a written grant offer has been made and accepted.

Regional Grants Assessment Priorities

Our overall priority is to generate outcomes that deliver **public value** for people and communities. All applications are assessed for their contribution to public value using our [Public Value Framework](#).

While we will consider supporting work that meets these aims from anywhere in the region, we will prioritise grant projects that help to deliver the Government's **Levelling Up** agenda which aims to improve the lives of people living and working in the priority areas identified [here](#).

We will also assess how applications bring benefits to the most **disadvantaged communities**, identified in the most recent [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#).

We will additionally look for projects which maximise the return on investment, levering-in further public and private funding and creating **lasting impact**.

Finally, we would normally expect all projects for which a grant is sought to meet one of our **national priorities**:

- Significant elements of the historic environment **at risk**; and
- Activities that strengthen the ability of the sector to **reduce or avoid risk** to the historic environment by understanding, managing and conserving.

Proactive Grant Engagement Priorities

We will take a pro-active approach in bringing forward project proposals under the following themes:

- 1. We will invite applications for capacity building, project development or repair and adaptation, which will improve people's lives by addressing heritage at risk associated with our Heritage Action Zones and in Levelling Up Tier 1 areas.**

We will look to existing and new partners for new funding opportunities which will make the most difference as we strive to enable historic places to thrive. We will alert local authority partners to the opportunity for further funding in their areas, particularly in conservation areas.

- 2. We will invite applications for capacity building projects which create opportunities for volunteers to actively participate in understanding, managing and conserving heritage, in ways which reduce or avoid heritage being at risk.**

We are interested in creative ideas to engage communities with their historic environment and to grow their active participation. These can have a focus around urban settings, conservation areas or rural areas and landscapes. We are interested in growing the number and diversity of volunteers and to raise the capacity of organised groups, targeting Levelling Up Tier 1 areas.

We will focus our work with field monuments on large, community-focused projects which engage people with multiple sites, led by partners, employing project staff where necessary.

- 3. We will invite applications from local authorities for grants towards the costs of producing conservation area management plans (CAMPs), heritage asset management plans and options appraisals. We wish to help to bring forward proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas which are at risk.**

In order to respond to the increasing emphasis on place regeneration and to inform opportunities for future place-based investment by us and by others, we will encourage local authorities to look at their conservation areas at risk (CAARs) and to prepare plans to manage and improve them. We will alert all local authorities with CAARs to the opportunity for support and roll-out a pilot programme of CAMPs during 2022. Evaluation of this programme will inform best practice advice and training. Building on this experience, we will seek further proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas.

Local authorities continue to dispose of surplus heritage assets and community groups and others continue to acquire them and seek public support for repurposing. In order to support this process strategically rather than reactively, we will encourage local authorities to take a strategic approach to asset management and to invest in de-risking assets prior to disposal. We will therefore consider applications for funding towards heritage asset management plans and options appraisals for potential heritage asset disposals identified through heritage asset management plans. We will seek to liaise with the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) on such cases. We will consider support for urgent works notices where they are part of a strategic approach to heritage management.

- 4. We will invite applications for project development for, or repair and repurposing of, historic textile mills.**

Through our Engines of Prosperity campaign we wish to see underused and vacant mills transformed to serve their local communities, as outlined in our recent report [Driving Northern Growth through repurposing Historic Mills](#). We wish to support owners and developers with grants to deliver these aims.

We will consider all unsolicited approaches for grant aid on their merits, against our agreed criteria.