



Historic Environment Overview 2022-23

A report by the Historic
Environment Forum

Heritage Counts

Contents

03 [Foreword: The Historic Environment in 2022-23](#)

.....

05 [Policy, Legislation & Guidance](#)

.....

15 [Funding & Investment](#)

.....

22 [Resilience & Skills](#)

.....

32 [Climate Change & the Environment](#)

.....

46 [Place & Engagement](#)

.....

59 [Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing](#)

.....

71 [Events & Awards](#)

.....

78 [Thank You](#)

Foreword: The Historic Environment in 2022-23



The Historic Environment Overview is part of Heritage Counts, the annual audit of England's heritage, first published in 2002. This edition of the Historic Environment Overview has been produced for the sector by the [Historic Environment Forum](#), with support from Historic England and the National Trust.

2022-23 has been another year of challenge and opportunity for the historic environment sector. As the sector continued to respond and adapt to the longer-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, it also grappled with the uncertain economic landscape brought about by the war in Ukraine, ministerial and machinery of Government changes, and the growing risks presented by climate change. But as this report showcases, there has also been much to celebrate and reflect on over the course of 2022-23. It has been a year of milestones in many ways, from the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall to the 20th anniversary of The Heritage Alliance, from the Council for British Archaeology's national youth consultation, to the new project partnership made between Age-UK and Historic England. Across the year – and despite operating in difficult circumstances – the sector has shown up and provided opportunities for people to learn, experience and benefit from England's historic environment.

In this edition of the Historic Environment Overview, the Historic Environment Forum has captured some of the key changes that happened during the last financial year under seven main sections:

- Policy, Legislation & Guidance
- Funding & Investment
- Resilience & Skills
- Climate Change & the Environment
- Place & Engagement
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing
- Events & Awards

This year, the Historic Environment Forum has also considered ways to shape the content of this report to reflect the collaborative priorities the Forum has agreed to focus on in its [Strategic Framework for Collaborative Action 2020 - 2025](#). Three of the Forum’s themes for collaboration have been used throughout this report to identify and highlight some of the positive outcomes achieved across sector activity this year. The themes are:

	<p>Places & People</p> <p>News and outcomes which relate to peoples’ relationship with the historic environment</p>
	<p>Conservation & Stewardship</p> <p>News and outcomes which relate to how the historic environment is managed and supported</p>
	<p>Skills & Capacity</p> <p>News and outcomes which relate to the sector workforce, including training and volunteer contributions</p>

These themes are referenced with particular symbols across the content of this report, with many updates showcasing positive outcomes that relate to multiple themes.

The content of this report was compiled in early 2023 and represents only an overview of the wide-ranging activities and changes that took place across the year. The updates featured cover the period relating to the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The main contributors of this report are organisations within the [membership](#)

of the Historic Environment Forum, with a few additional updates provided from colleagues working in the wider sector; the Forum will be looking at ways to develop and improve its approach to compiling information for future editions of the Historic Environment Overview.

Policy, Legislation & Guidance



Heritage Policy highlights from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS):



2022-2023 has been a challenging year for many, with rising costs putting additional pressure on the heritage sector following a challenging period of recovery from Covid-19. The Government has supported organisations through the Energy Bill Relief Scheme and from April 2023 the Energy Bills Discount Scheme will support businesses for a further year, with additional support for trade-intensive industries, which includes some heritage sites and organisations.

The Government has affirmed that it remains committed to convening the [Heritage Council](#) to ensure that close collaboration on key issues continues and that heritage is fully integrated into wider cross-government dialogue. The Council met in June 2022 to discuss the Energy Security Strategy, Levelling Up, and Covid-19 recovery.

A review into Adapting Historic Homes for Energy Efficiency was announced in the British Energy Security Strategy in April 2022. The review is examining the actual and perceived barriers

facing homeowners in installing energy efficiency measures in historic properties to reduce energy consumption and lower bills. A number of heritage organisations presented evidence as part of the review, and many attended the evidence gathering round table meetings. The findings of the review will be published in due course.

The Museum Estate & Development Fund provides grants for vital infrastructure and urgent maintenance backlogs for non-national accredited museums in England. £18.8 million of funding was awarded in early 2022 to successful applicants with a further £63.4 million to follow over the next two years.

The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund is investing in local infrastructure projects that improve everyday life for people across the UK, focusing on regenerating town centres, upgrading local transport, and supporting cultural and heritage assets such as museums, libraries, heritage sites, theatres, sports facilities, and visitor attractions.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill was introduced in May 2022 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Several heritage provisions in the Bill aim to provide greater clarity on requirements, standards, and processes when dealing with heritage and to enable a more streamlined approach to be taken in the new planning system. More details on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill can be found later in this report.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill



The English planning system covers the built, natural and historic environment. It influences the places we live, work and visit.

The most significant planning reform in 2022 was the publication of the [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#). It follows on from the [Planning White Paper](#) of 2021 but is wider in scope. It makes provisions for a wide range of matters, including aspects of planning, local democracy and devolution, and levelling up measures. Amongst other things the Bill makes provision for:

- National development management policies to sit alongside local development plan policies;
- A replacement for the Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Environmental Outcome Reports to replace Environmental Impact Assessments;
- Changes to compulsory purchase and enforcement powers;
- Powers in relation to planning data;
- A requirement for local authorities to have design codes for their area.

The Bill contains five clauses relating to the historic environment:

- A duty to have special regard to the preservation or enhancement of heritage assets and their settings will apply to a wider range of designated heritage assets;

- Enforcement powers introducing Temporary Stop Notices for listed building works, aligning them with general planning enforcement powers;
- New powers to enable Urgent Works Notices to be served on occupied buildings, and any costs to be entered as a land charge;
- Removal of compensation for local authorities when they serve a Building Preservation Notice on a historic building under threat of damage whilst it is considered for listing;
- A statutory underpinning for Historic Environment Records, enabling them to be a strong evidence base for the new planning system.

The Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons in May 2022 and had now progressed to the House of Lords.

In addition to the Bill, the Government announced the intention to publish consultations on a number of detailed aspects of planning reform, as set out in the Bill itself. These include:

- Details of short-term changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and on the longer term structure of the NPPF, including the introduction of National Development Management Policies (NDMPs);
- Environmental Outcome Reports replacing Environmental Impact Assessments and Strategic Environmental Assessments;
- An Infrastructure Levy to replace the Community Infrastructure Levy, including possible amendments to the use of Section 106 Agreements;
- Increasing planning fees for planning applications;
- Reforms to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process (Development Consent Orders).

General changes to the Planning System



In addition to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, another key development that is of interest to the heritage sector is the [Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Order 2022](#), which came into force on the 4th April 2022. The Order included amended provisions for:

- The deployment of taller and wider masts;
- Building-based masts located nearer to highways; and
- Deployment of radio equipment housing required alongside new antennae.

The changes also provided increased scope for telecommunications equipment development without the need for full planning permission in areas of Article 2(3) Land (conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, etc.).

Alongside changes to the planning system and related reforms, there were a number of other initiatives and announcements with the potential to impact on the planning system and heritage protection framework.

On 2nd February 2022, the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper, entitled [Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#). The Paper set out twelve national missions to be achieved by 2030. These will be the policy objectives for levelling-up and include those related to planning, heritage and culture.

On 7th April 2022, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) published the [British Energy Security Strategy](#). The Strategy

is intended to set the direction for future energy production within the UK including objectives for oil and gas, nuclear, renewable energy and energy demand. Key measures in the strategy included:

- Reviewing the planning restrictions relating to householder energy efficiency measures including glazing in conservation areas and listed buildings;
- The ambition for 50GW of new offshore wind energy resource by 2030 with up to 5GW of floating wind;
- Consulting on amending planning rules for ground-mounted solar to strengthen policy in favour of development on non-protected land;
- Potential for revised permitted development rights in relation to rooftop solar to increase scope of new development without the need for an application for planning permission.

The [Protection of Wrecks \(Designation and Amendment\) \(England\) Order 2022](#) came into force on 2nd June 2022. The Order introduced or amended a number of provisions concerning Protected Wreck sites. These include:

- Designating two wreck sites in the Needles Channel, Isle of Wight, and one in the Swash Channel on the approach to Poole Harbour, Dorset;
- Designating a wreck site in the Hanover Cove on the North Cornish coast;
- Amending a previous designation of a wreck site in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex to correct a factual error in its coordinates.

The Church of England's Ecclesiastical Law, England, [The Faculty Jurisdiction \(Amendment\) Rules 2022](#) came into force on 1st July 2022. These amended Rules give greater force to the need to have due regard to advice from the Church Buildings Council on Net Zero Carbon. New [guidance](#) sets out what is required to fulfil the requirement to have 'due regard'. Practical information was also [published](#), to support congregations trying to achieve Net Zero Carbon by the Church's target date of 2030.

Marine Heritage in England



The approaching 50th anniversary of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 – which was critical to the development of shipwreck archaeology and remains central to heritage protection today – prompted Historic England to call for project proposals to mark the occasion. Successful projects in the PWA50 programme are expected to generate a great deal of engagement, research, and public awareness over the rest of 2023.

Several significant discoveries protected under the 1973 Act were announced during 2020-23, including the extraordinary 13th century [Mortar Wreck](#) discovered in Studland Bay, Dorset and the wreck of the 17th century [Klein Hollandia](#) off the coast of Sussex.

The application of scheduling shipwrecks under the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979 continued to develop, including the wreck of the [Josephine Willis](#), which was lost off the coast of Folkestone en route for New Zealand in 1856 with a cargo of rare Staffordshire ceramics.

Unusually, a 16th century shipwreck was also discovered in a gravel quarry near [Dungeness](#). The location of the wreck several hundred metres from today's shoreline underscores the propensity of the coast to change, requiring innovative solutions to address the heritage issues accompanying such changes.

The growing implications for heritage of shoreline change – accelerated by the climate crisis – has encouraged greater collaboration with the National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes over the course of 2022-23. Shoreline change encompasses a wider range of heritage than shipwrecks, so this collaboration – reflecting other casework – considers a variety of monument types, designations, and environments.

Attention to shoreline heritage, coastal places and their changing environmental, economic and social context has also gathered momentum this year through the [Heritage Harbours](#) initiative by the Maritime Heritage Trust, National Historic Ships UK and Historic England.

Addressing change on far longer temporal scales resulted in a major revision to the [North Sea Prehistory Research and Management Framework](#), part-funded by the Crown Estate through its Offshore Wind Evidence and Change programme. Further afield, but again reflecting the widening implications of climate change for heritage, Historic England is partnering with UK Antarctic Heritage Trust to develop a Conservation Management Plan for the wreck of Shackleton's [Endurance](#), as sea ice diminishes.



Historic Environment Protection Reform Group



The [Historic Environment Protection Reform Group](#) (HEPRG) is a body of heritage sector representatives from a range of organisations. HEPRG is a topic group of the Historic Environment Forum (HEF), and is charged by HEF with suggesting, examining,

recommending, and helping to implement proposals for the reform of the planning and heritage protection system in England. This is achieved through scrutiny of the existing system, exploration of alternatives and improvements, evidence-gathering, and the development of solutions, which are then presented to Government and to the sector.

HEPRG reconvened in late 2022 and the first phase of the Group's current work programme has a planning reform focus, looking at both policy and legislation, across the full range of heritage assets. The Group looks forward to progressing with its focussed work programme into 2023.

The Heritage Alliance: Spatial Planning Advocacy Group



The Heritage Alliance's Spatial Planning Advocacy Group (SPAG) acted as a forum for the sector to agree an approach around the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, collating views and discussing areas of consensus or variance. Discussion was facilitated for organisations of all sizes interested in planning, placemaking and regeneration enabling them to present as united and informed a response as possible. The Heritage Alliance Chief Executive, Lizzie Glithero-West, spoke at an oral evidence session of the Public Bill Committee following written evidence submitted. Recently, a [briefing](#) has been provided to the House of Lords.

During the Truss Government, announcements around cost of living, planning and investment zones and potential U-turns on environment (including Environmental Land Management policy),



required prompt action from the breadth of the sector to identify where any threat might lie for heritage. The Alliance's Spatial Planning and Rural Heritage Advocacy Groups were important forums for consideration. Following the release of the Levelling Up White Paper and then the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) prospectus and consultation, The Heritage Alliance provided the sector with easy to digest summaries, fostered collaboration around the consultation response and facilitated a meeting between Historic England and DLUHC to raise questions surrounding the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

The Heritage Alliance, alongside Historic England and the Heritage Trust Network, also provided a critical perspective on the value of heritage as part of the launch of the first report of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Conservation, Places & People, *The Value of Heritage*. This equipped decision makers with evidence on the sector's contribution to many national priorities such as Levelling Up, climate change and the challenges around VAT incentives on maintenance

and repairs. More on *The Value of Heritage* can be found later in this report.

Regular attendance at other APPGs from Heritage Rail to Waterways and archaeology, as well as regular attendance at Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) environmental land management and environment groups continue to offer an opportunity for sector advocacy beyond DCMS.

CPP APPG Inquiry Report: The Value of Heritage



Targeted cuts to the VAT rate on listed building refurbishments and a presumption against demolition of existing properties are amongst the recommendations in the first report of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) heritage group on [Conservation, People & Places](#) (CPP), [The Value of Heritage](#), supported by the Institute for Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) as the APPG Secretariat.

Evidence presented to the inquiry demonstrates the economic, environmental, and social value that heritage delivers.

The inquiry found that businesses, particularly those in the creative sectors, are often drawn to the distinctive character of historic buildings and neighbourhoods. They are also attracted by the cheap rents and flexible floor spaces offered by heritage buildings, like historic factories and warehouses.

The new uses businesses have found for redundant, historic factories and offices has often spurred the regeneration of peripheral former

commercial and industrial, inner-city areas, like in Liverpool's Baltic Triangle.

The report found that supporting efforts to refurbish historic buildings would also provide a valuable fillip at a time of grave uncertainty in the construction industry, especially for the smaller firms that tend to focus on this kind of work.

The inquiry also heard that encouraging the reuse and retrofit of heritage will help to avoid the release of the embodied carbon tied up in the materials that make up existing buildings.

In addition, the APPG heard extensive evidence about how heritage can help to provide the glue which bind communities together and help to foster stronger local identity.



Changes to the Treasure Act



On 30th March 2023, Parliament passed secondary legislation to designate an additional class of treasure for the Treasure Act 1996, based on significance. The new class will, for the first time, mean that objects that are of exceptional archaeological, historical, or cultural significance are treasure and able to be acquired by museums. This applies to any object, which is partly metal, at least 200 years old and does not fall within the existing classes of treasure.

The secondary legislation also exempts from the Treasure Act 1996 finds which fall under the Church of England's statutory system for moveable objects. The aim is to simplify the treasure process as currently these finds fall under both the treasure process and the Church of England's process.

Parliament also agreed a Code of Practice, which has been revised to make it easier to use and understand, and includes guidance on the new class of treasure. After agreement there will be a four-month implementation period to allow for familiarisation and training for treasure process users, and the legislation will come into force on 30th July 2023.

Portable Antiquities Scheme



A further 53,490 archaeological finds were recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in 2022 – of which the majority (94%) were found through metal-detecting. This includes 1,298 Treasure cases from England.

As part of the Spending Review 2022, further funding (£350k) was made available for the PAS in England, including extra support for the administration of Treasure (£165k) and funding (£830k) for the development of the PAS database. As a result, the PAS now consists of 40 Finds Liaison Officers (many full-time) and 12 Finds Liaison Assistants (all part-time).

Extra funding has been justified in the context of Treasure reform, notably the extension to the definition of Treasure to include items of any metallic composition over 200 years old that are of 'outstanding archaeological, cultural or historical significance', as well as updating the Treasure Act Code of Practice to reflect current practice and the fact the PAS exists as an essential mechanism in the delivery of the Treasure Act 1996. Both the changes to the definition of Treasure and revisions to the Code of Practice were agreed in both houses of Parliament in March 2023 and will come into force in July 2023.

The British Museum touring exhibition 'Gathering Light' has been showcasing the 'Shropshire Sun-pendant' (PAS: HESH-43148A), an outstanding example of Bronze Age gold craftworking, which has already been toured to Truro, Lincoln and Sunderland, following display in Shrewsbury and London. Another find of note is an enamelled gold chain and pendant with a 'rose and pomegranate' motif (WMID-A51F34) from Warwickshire associated with Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon: Historic England investigated the findspot.

Historic Environment Overview 2022-23

The main purpose of the PAS is to record archaeological finds to advance knowledge. This data is used by Historic Environment Records (HERs) for development control and other archaeological works, besides other sorts of academic research. In 2022, the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) awarded Roberta Gilchrist (Reading University) with Michael Lewis (British Museum) funding to explore the 'Medieval Ritual Landscape' using PAS data alongside other archaeological data, and Duncan Wright (Newcastle University) to examine 'Where Power Lies: the archaeology of transforming elite centres... AD 800-1200'. Historic England also commissioned Adam Daubney to investigate 'the Afterlife of Private Collections', including metal-detector finds recorded by the PAS.



Historic England Guidance and Advice



Historic England produces a wide range of free advice and guidance for the public and heritage sector. While PDFs remain a well-received format for guidance publication, Historic England continues to work on improving accessibility and format diversity across the website, by using case studies, web pages, hybrid options as well as other types of knowledge sharing products such as training courses, e-learning and research reports. Focused research and work has been undertaken for the climate change adaptation guidance web pages on the 'Your Home' website section, with a first set of updates published in December 2022. Work on these pages continues as part of the climate change programme, as described in the update below.

Over the reporting period April 2022–March 2023, Historic England has published:

- [Temporary Protection of Historic Features guidance \(April 2022\)](#)
- [New Energy Performance Certificate Case Studies \(April 2022\)](#)
- [Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment: Advice Note 11 Second Edition \(April 2022\)](#)
- [Church Roof Replacement Using Terne-coated Stainless Steel \(April 2022\)](#)
- [Conserving Metal Statuary guidance \(June 2022\)](#)
- [Introductions to Heritage Assets: Science Laboratories to 1900 \(August 2022\)](#)
- [Introductions to Heritage Assets: Interwar Theatres \(September 2022\)](#)
- [Radiocarbon Dating and Chronological Modelling: Guidelines and Best Practice \(September 2022\)](#)
- [Overheating in Historic Buildings guidance \(September 2022\)](#)
- [Installing Fire Alarms for Historic Buildings guidance \(October 2022\)](#)
- [Installing Heat Pumps in Historic Buildings guidance \(November 2022\)](#)
- [Building Regulations and Approved Documents Updates guidance \(November 2022\)](#)

Image: An important find: a gold chain and pendant with a 'rose and pomegranate' motif, found in Warwickshire and associated with Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. Copyright: © Trustees of the British Museum.

- [Planning and Archaeology \(November 2022\)](#)
- [Curating the Palaeolithic \(January 2023\)](#)
- [Electrical Energy Storage Systems and Batteries in Historic Buildings guidance \(January 2023\)](#)
- [Bird Deterrent guidance \(March 2023\)](#)

The Environmental Improvement plan (EIP)



To provide feedback or to ask any questions about Historic England's guidance, please contact guidance@historicengland.org.uk.

The [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP\) 2023](#) for England is the Government's first revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan, building on this vision with a new plan setting out how Natural England and others will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to improve the environment.

The EIP recognises the role of heritage in nature recovery through Goal 10: Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment, which is measured using data from the Heritage at Risk Register.

Church of England Advice on Contested Heritage



In 2022, the Church of England continued to provide advice to parishes, dioceses, and Chancellors regarding contested heritage cases. In January, work was presented to the Archbishops' Commission on Racial Justice. The Commission gave serious attention to the issue in its [First Biannual Report](#) and [Second Biannual Report](#) and considered the

impact of memorials in churches and cathedrals to known traders in enslaved people and those who were otherwise a party to their brutal exploitation.

A Contested Heritage Committee was established by the Church Buildings Council in July 2022 to bring a broader understanding of the issues, and to provide advice on policy, guidance and cases for the Church Buildings Council and Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England. A review of the published national contested heritage guidance was begun, with a focus on the theology underpinning the guidance and learning from its use in cases at Jesus College Chapel, Cambridge (Diocese of Ely) and Dorchester, St Peter, Holy Trinity & All Saints (Diocese of Salisbury).

Highlights from the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)



The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) is the voice of local government archaeology, representing nearly 100 authorities in England and serving as the Local Government Association's Special Interest Group for Archaeology. It has four key objectives:

- To provide a strong voice for local authority historic environment services and promote these within local government to strengthen and develop their role within local government in delivering local, regional, and national government policy.
- To ensure that local government historic environment services are included within policy (national, regional, and local) for culture and education.
- To ensure that policy aims to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment.
- To promote development of high standards in the historic environment profession.

Recent achievements include:

- With the publication of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, members had already contributed to policy sprints and engaged with sector partners on representations to the Bill. ALGAO is also working directly with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on the details on statutory Historic Environment Records (HERs).
- ALGAO worked with professionals from Historic England and other sector groups such as the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) on the development of the Planning and Archaeology Historic England Advice Note.
- ALGAO is represented on the Historic England 'Future of Archaeological Archives' panel. This project continues to systematically tackle each problematic element of the archiving process.
- The group also participates in the Historic England/CIfA project: 21st Century Archaeology, working with other heritage groups to create an archaeological sector for the challenges of the time. This includes the report on [Understanding Models for the Delivery of Local Authority Archaeology Services](#), commissioned from Landward Research to understand how the variety of mechanisms and structures of service delivery contribute to their success or failure.
- ALGAO sits on the 'Natural Capital and Heritage' working group, which reports to the wider Environment Board at the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT). With the increasing intertwining of the historic and natural environment, this is useful in raising the profile of archaeological matters.
- ALGAO were co-sponsors and part of the judging panel for the Council for British Archaeology (CBA)'s 2022 '[Archaeology Achievements Awards](#)'.

Funding & Investment



Funding Highlights from the National Lottery Heritage Fund



Throughout 2022 and into 2023, the Heritage Fund has continued to deliver funding for heritage projects through National Lottery Grants for Heritage and through specific initiatives. Heritage Innovation Fund, delivered with The Young Foundation, is supporting organisations to explore, test and grow pioneering solutions for making the heritage workforce fit for the future.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and DCMS continued to fund the Covid-19 Response Fund until January 2023 to support heritage assets of outstanding importance which were put at risk due to Covid-19. The funding has been delivered working in partnership with Historic England, Arts Council England, and The National Archives. The Heritage Fund's commitment to social investment continued through the Arts and Culture Impact Fund run by Nesta and the Heritage Impact Fund, run by the Architectural Heritage Fund. A £6 million investment in business support and enterprise development training programmes continued to benefit the sector.

The Heritage Fund's partnership with Historic England and other collaborators including the Heritage Alliance on the UK Heritage Pulse provided valuable insight into the issues faced by the sector and helped shape the Heritage Fund's new strategy and support for the UK's heritage.

The Heritage Fund has continued to work in 13 Areas of Focus, to increase funding for and engagement with heritage in some of the country's most under-served areas. The learning from this is informing the development of the Fund's new approaches to place that will be delivered through its new strategy. The Heritage Fund will be making large-scale, long-term investments to increase people's connection with heritage in their local areas and boost pride in place.

In 2022-23, the Heritage Fund also announced three multi-million-pound awards to address heritage needs across the UK:

New to Nature

A £2 million award to a partnership involving Groundwork UK, The Prince's Trust, Disability Rights UK, Mission Diverse and Youth Environmental Service. Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, funding was announced in July 2022. The programme will run to May 2024. New to Nature will allow young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to gain experiences that could lead to careers in the natural heritage sector, thereby championing greater diversity and youth voice.

Nextdoor Nature

A £5 million initiative announced in February 2023 focusing on the role of communities in nature recovery. The programme, delivered by The Wildlife Trusts, will benefit 200 communities across the UK and will run for up to three years. 50 Community Organisers are in post to support local groups to create and restore wild places. In addition, a range of projects will take different approaches towards community-based nature conservation: from engaging with places of worship to think about their greenspaces to delivering community art and nature projects.

Cherish

A £1.9 million award to the National Churches Trust was announced in March 2023. This three-year initiative will support the capacity of the Places of Worship sector in Scotland, Wales and North West England. The programme combines heritage-focused organisational training and support with a small repair grants programme. The programme will target issues such as community group capacity in identifying new uses for buildings.

Funding highlights from The Architectural Heritage Fund



One of the earliest high streets programmes to launch as part of levelling up efforts, the Architectural Heritage Fund's (AHF) Transforming Places through Heritage programme funded by DCMS, also completed this year with nearly £13.3 million in grants awarded.

Having launched in 2019, this programme provided early-stage viability and project development grants to more than 250 projects located on high streets and in town centres across England, as well supporting around 25 projects through capital redevelopment to completion. Additionally, the programme supported Open High Streets, a workshop series aimed at building capacity among project teams leading heritage regeneration projects, delivered through a partnership with the Heritage Trust Network.

The final core part of Transforming Places was the successful pilot phase of an innovative initiative

providing revenue grants and capacity building support to social enterprise developers (including existing building preservation trusts) termed Heritage Development Trusts; the pilot scheme demonstrated significant potential for an expanded Heritage Development Trust programme to build resilience and skills within the wider UK heritage sector. A final report and external evaluation of the programme are expected in late Spring 2023.

The AHF has also continued to deliver new social investment funding through both the Heritage Impact Fund and its endowment. This has included investments into a variety of heritage led regeneration projects, including Leeds Library. The Leeds Library has occupied the Grade II* listed building on Commercial Street, in the centre of Leeds, since 1808. The AHF awarded the Library a Heritage Impact Fund loan of £220,000 to acquire the neighbouring property of 15 Commercial Street. The loan will enable the expansion of the Library's activities and programmes and help it reach new audiences and readers. Despite a challenging economic climate, the AHF has continued to look to expand the social investment funds it has under management, along with the development of new funds. It has also supported a range of clients through these turbulent times via its RePlan service, which particularly supports organisations with changes to business planning, governance, and financial management.

Environmental Land Management Schemes and rural heritage news



Landscape heritage – stone walls and other field boundaries, and traditional farm buildings – became redundant over many decades of agricultural change and restructuring as the economic basis for its maintenance was lost. Although a vital part of most rural landscapes, and valued by the public and tourists, it is now one of the most threatened parts of our heritage. Archaeology, in the same way, requires regular maintenance to prevent its gradual degradation and loss.

This landscape heritage has therefore been supported since 1986 under the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). It was, however, seen as a low funding priority, because most of the annual €2.3 billion budget was spent in per-hectare direct payments to farmers, and because heritage was outside the competence of the EU, and thus excluded from the EU Directives which drove most environmental regulation and consequent funding under the CAP. Latterly, some £20 million a year has been spent specifically on heritage across the whole of England, under one per cent of the total budget. Heritage has sometimes also benefited from one-off schemes, like the £1.5 million a year spent in 2018-23 under the heavily-oversubscribed Building Restoration pilot grant scheme to fund building restoration in five National Parks.

More detail is now available of the post-Brexit successor schemes, under which the direct payments to farmers are being phased out and will cease in 2027-28, and funding is being shifted mainly to 'environmental public goods', principally under the new Environmental Land Management

scheme (ELM). In principle, this should greatly increase the amount of 'public goods' funding available, including for threatened rural heritage.

Historic England and Natural England, and other heritage sector stakeholders like the Heritage Alliance, the National Trust, and the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) have been involved in developing ELM.

ELM will comprise three main schemes, all relevant to heritage. Firstly, the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will pay land managers to adopt a series of thematic standards intended to help drive more sustainable farming practices. Applicants are provided with an SFI Historic Environment Farm Environment Record (HEFER) that identifies heritage on their holdings and links to guidance on management. Two heritage funding options have been drafted in SFI, with the involvement of Historic England: a Dry Stone Wall Standard for stone walls and boundaries, and a Heritage Standard for archaeology. Government has said that the current Countryside Stewardship heritage options remain open in the meantime.

The second scheme will be an evolution of the existing Countryside Stewardship scheme and the heritage actions within it. The third will be Landscape Recovery, which will fund longer-term, larger-scale, bespoke projects.

A concern with ELM – not limited to heritage – is payment rates which, although significantly increased in early 2023, are still primarily based on the concept of 'income forgone', and often likely to be loss-making for land managers.

Collectively, however, these ELM schemes, with other interim funding schemes like Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) currently operating within all National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, have the potential to greatly improve the condition of landscape heritage alongside other environmental public goods. It will be important for the sector to work with DEFRA to ensure that effective heritage indicators are included so that this is measured and monitored effectively.

In early 2023, the Government published its five-year refresh of the 25-Year Environment Plan, which included heritage as part of its goal for 'Beauty, Heritage and Engagement'. The Environment Act 2021 excluded heritage from its definition of 'environment', but the refreshed 2023 Environmental Improvement Plan continues to recognise heritage under its Goal 10 – 'Enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment'. Under 'targets and commitments', government commits to:

'Conserve and enhance the natural, geological and cultural diversity of our landscapes, and protect our historic and natural environment for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.'

'Protect our landscapes and their heritage – recognising the pride in place that comes with embracing shared histories in communities across the country, and particularly the role that farmers play as the original custodians of the land.'

The Plan also notes that:

'In 2019 England's heritage sector generated an estimated Gross Value Added (GVA) contribution of £14.7 billion to UK Gross Domestic Product, with every £1 of GVA generated supporting an additional £1.50 of GVA in the wider community. Heritage provides people with a sense of belonging and contributes to increasing their quality of life. It also brings tourism, giving local people a sense of pride in their community and place'.

Places of Worship: the impact of Heritage Stimulus Funding



The responsibility for maintaining and repairing 14,700 listed places of worship in England remains largely with local volunteers and small Trusts. Historic England works with colleagues across the sector to articulate the conservation needs of these landmark buildings, their cultural and social value, and to identify positive ways to support their ongoing and priceless stewardship.

The pandemic hit places of worship hard; income reduced and volunteers diverted their energies into emergency support for their local communities. Despite this, 584 places of worship, including cathedrals, received funding from Historic England through Rounds 1 and 2 of the Heritage Stimulus Fund. The determination and speed with which people with responsibility for places of worship rallied to make applications and deliver projects in very challenging timescales was remarkable.

The [Government's Evaluation of the Culture Recovery Fund](#) gives high level analysis; Historic England's list of recipients is also [available online](#).

A [video case study](#) of St Mary's Catholic Church, Great Yarmouth, exploring the impact of the grants on the building and community has also been produced.

Buildings for Mission



The Church of England has launched a new initiative, 'Buildings for Mission', to support buildings management at diocesan and parish level. The overall aim is to remove burdens from hard pressed Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and congregations by pooling responsibility for maintenance and insurance; providing specialist advice on the care and repair of building fabric, fundraising, community engagement and wider use of church buildings; and giving grants for urgent repairs and high priority improvements. The benefits of the project will be that churches with fabric and repair problems are put in better condition, thereby better able to remain open and sustainable. This will help foster robust and flourishing congregations and release resources, energy and potential for mission and outreach. The initiative is funded by the Church Commissioner for the 2023-25 triennium. A total of £11 million is available for:

- Establishing a network of Church Buildings Management Partnerships (CBMPs) across the country by means of start-up grants for dioceses. The CBMP is a new model for the management of certain core services on behalf of parishes (insurance and maintenance, perhaps also others) through the setting up of formal partnerships as CIOs.
- Extending the existing network of diocesan Church Buildings Support Officers by at least 20 FTEs with a view to providing broadly national coverage across England, augmented by specialised officers in relevant partner bodies, and prioritising areas of demonstrable need, if necessary, by means of additional posts.
- Providing a fund from which dioceses can make grants targeted at areas of need and prioritising urgent and necessary minor fabric repairs and 'stitch in time' projects which can save money in the long term, including improvements which are essential to sustaining mission.

These activities will be supported by a Training and Support Officer and specialist advisers on maintenance procurement and insurance. In addition, there will be investment in digital infrastructure to bring about integration and enhancement of the Online Faculty System, Church Heritage Record and other buildings and asset management systems.

An independent evaluation of the project will be commissioned over the course of the triennium.

Development-led Archaeology



For the past several years, archaeological work has been in historically high demand, as the construction sector has been buoyed by Government infrastructure spending and housebuilding. The most recent State of the Archaeological Market survey collected data which suggests that the year to March 2022 saw many archaeological contractors benefit from increased turnover, and there is strong reason to believe that the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic – a time which was extremely busy for commercial archaeology – contributed to an increase in the value of the entire sector. The full data and analysis from this survey was not yet available at the time of compiling the Historic Environment Overview, but the report will be published on the [Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers website](#) in the near future.

Over this period there has been an estimated 2% increase in the workforce, to 4,800 FTE. Given such high demand, the spotlight has continued to shine on sector capacity and skills shortages, with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) convening a cross-sector summit of employers and sector bodies to discuss potential solutions to issues ranging from diversifying pathways into the profession, and the need to improve pay and conditions.

However, as 2022 progressed, there were also signs that a national economic slow-down may have begun to impact the construction industry and developer confidence, with knock-on effects on the role that developer-led funding plays in levering funding for the historic environment. These challenging economic conditions have been illustrated by several high-profile stories such as the announcement by Government of the suspension of the A303 'Stonehenge' dualling project and the delaying of HS2 in 2023 which the sector will hope

are not signals of wider challenges ahead. Thus, a sector focus on sustainable futures – the theme of CIfA's 2023 Conference – appears timely. Sessions at the Conference focused on themes including skills development and career pathways, inclusion and accessibility, professionalism and ethical practice, quality standards and regulations, value, and public benefit, all helping to mitigate and manage external market challenges.

Public benefit, however, remains at the core of the sector's offer of high-quality archaeological services. Government recognition of this public benefit with the inclusion of statutory provision for Historic Environment Records (HERs) in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, is a welcome signal that archaeology is seen as having a deserved place within a vision for good planning. This year the sector has continued the roll-out of a training and Continued Professional Development (CPD) programme for the construction industry. This follows the introduction of Construction Industry Research Information Association's (CIRIA) Archaeology and Construction good practice guidance, and CIfA's Delivering Public Benefit professional practice paper, published in collaboration with colleagues at HS2 and Sadie Watson MCIfA. Watson and Harald Fredheim also published the report Understanding Public Benefit from Development-led Archaeology. These resources emphasise how archaeology can help the construction sector meet many of its UN Sustainable Development Goals. CIfA's external relations work to engage with parallel professions also seeks to promote the demand for archaeological services by promoting these benefits.

Further initiatives, under the auspices of the 21st Century Challenges for Archaeology Programme, have continued to probe towards sectoral collaboration to enhance law and policy, improve sustainable management of heritage assets, increase public benefit from archaeology, improve resourcing and resilience of local authority archaeology services, enhance and promote standards and guidance on archaeological practice to increase public benefit, and turn data into knowledge by synthesising discoveries, and by sharing research findings in more accessible ways.

The Heritage Funding Directory



The Heritage Alliance, with support from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) and funding from the Historic Houses Foundation, continues to maintain the [Heritage Funding Directory \(HFD\)](#). The HFD provides a unique resource, bringing

together funding opportunities for a range of heritage organisations and projects. With support from the Rebuilding Heritage Programme, a complete and comprehensive review and update of the 400+ records held within the main directory has now been completed. The resource is widely used, receiving well over 100k views in the last two years. In October 2022, [website user testing and discussion took place](#), examining how users interacted with the directory, their thoughts on the search function's intuitiveness and ease of use and their overall impressions of the website. This produced valuable insights that will be used to inform further improvements in the future.

Resilience & Skills



Heritage Sector Resilience Plan



In June 2022, the [Heritage Sector Resilience Plan 2022-24](#) was published by the Historic Environment Forum with support from Historic England. Work to draft the Plan had been led by a HEF Task Group, in collaboration with a wide range of sector organisations. A series of online workshops were organised to bring together sector specialists to agree on key priority actions that were needed to make the sector more resilient. Actions for the Government were also identified to support the delivery of the Plan.

The Plan was divided into five key themes: skills; strong governance, business models and capacity; climate change; diversity and inclusion; and embedding heritage in wider public policy.

HEF members have identified a wide range of activities that will contribute towards the delivery of the Plan. An initial Programme of Action has been put together and is being reviewed on a regular basis by HEF to assess progress in making the heritage sector more resilient. Theory of change models have been developed for each theme to identify the desired outcomes from the Plan.

Image 1: Hamish Ogston Foundation Heritage Building Skills Programme apprentice dressing stone to be used onsite at Wentworth Woodhouse's Ionic temple, Summer School 2022. Copyright: © Historic England.

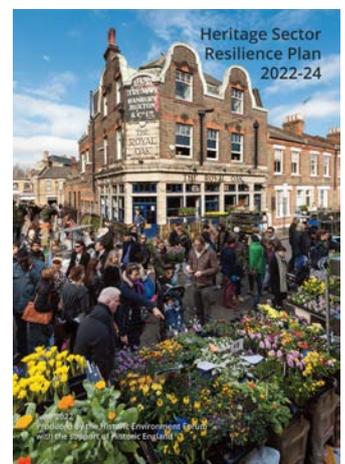
Image 2: Front cover of the Heritage Sector Resilience Plan, produced by the Historic Environment Forum with the support of Historic England. The Plan is designed to act as a road map to a more robust sector. Copyright: Plan (C) Historic Environment Forum & Cover photo © Historic England Archive.

These models are being used to develop indicators of success which can be used to monitor progress.

Crucially, the Plan requires collaboration between HEF members and wider sector partners. In the area of skills, a cross-sector Skills Forum has been set up by Historic England with terms of reference which encourage partnership working. A HEF Topic Group has also been established to boost demand for heritage skills, which will complement ongoing work to boost the supply of skilled labour. Activities relating to both those initiatives are covered later in this report.

Sector capacity-building initiatives, such as the [Rebuilding Heritage](#) programme run by the Heritage Alliance and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, link in with the Plan's priorities and ensure that the benefits are felt across the sector. The Plan aims to benefit sector organisations of all sizes, not just the larger bodies with existing capacity and resources.

The Plan is being kept under constant review by HEF and updated as necessary – for example, additional priority actions were added linked with rising energy and living costs.



Heritage 2033: The National Lottery Heritage Fund launches new 10-year strategy



In March 2023, The National Lottery Heritage Fund launched a new 10-year strategy, '[Heritage 2033](#)' setting out a new vision for the UK's heritage. The Heritage Fund had a strong response to stakeholder and public engagement in summer 2022 with over 2,000 survey responses from stakeholders and the public. The responses, together with the views from a further 2,000 people through research led by Britain Thinks, highlighted four key themes that were important to heritage. These themes shaped the four investment principles which will drive all the Heritage Fund's work over the next 10 years: saving heritage; protecting the environment; inclusion, access, and participation; and organisational sustainability.



Covid-19 Recovery and Cost of Living



As the sector continued to emerge from the pandemic, the Heritage Alliance proactively responded to the need for both guidance and evidence from the independent sector on the impact of the cost of living crisis. The organisation collated significant evidence which was shared with DCMS on a regular basis, and supported time-poor organisations by providing them a

[regularly updated summary](#) of the cost of living announcements, accompanied by key guidance and publications, which equipped the sector with the knowledge and resources to feel informed. The National Lottery Heritage Funded Rebuilding Heritage Programme was also extended and re-focused on training and support [addressing cost of living impacts](#).

Since the autumn of 2022, Historic England has funded a data desk at the Heritage Alliance which is capturing a mixture of qualitative, quantitative and case study data on cost of living challenges facing the sector. Almost 300 contributions have now been received and 11 reports have been delivered to Historic England to support their engagement with Government. Topics which have featured regularly in the data desk's Evidence Log include rising

energy bills, staffing recruitment and retention issues, the need to cut costs, consumer confidence and sentiments, and ongoing Covid recovery. The Heritage Alliance has also hosted two cost of living round tables, gathering important evidence from across the broader cultural sector. The first round table took place in November 2022, whilst the second was held in February 2023 and helped to identify recurring patterns in the themes mentioned above, as well as any changes over the period. A third round table is planned for early summer to address any gaps in the data gathered so far. Data has been received from organisations ranging from museums and historic theatres, to sector support organisations, places of worship, heritage craft organisations, historic buildings, archaeology organisations, charities and more and was gathered in numerous ways including meetings, roundtables, webinars, reports, survey findings, email exchanges, website posts and social media polls.

The Heritage Alliance with Historic England coordinated the heritage sector's response to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) review of the Energy Bill Relief Scheme (EBRS) in the autumn of 2022, drawing profit and loss information from the full breadth of the sector. They also attended a round table organised by DCMS on energy costs and cost of

living to support the collective case on behalf of heritage with BEIS. On New Year's Day 2023, the Heritage Alliance was cited in an [Observer article](#) about Ecclesiastical's barometer report on the current challenges for the sector:

"Some of our members tell us that they have faced energy price increases of anywhere from 200% to 900%, as well as issues recruiting and retaining staff in a historically lower-paid sector," she [Lizzie Glithero - West] said. "Through the pandemic, many heritage organisations received lifeline investment through the Culture Recovery Fund, but we are hearing from many members that the current situation poses a greater risk to heritage than Covid did."

The sector's collaborative evidence gathering efforts had an impact and it was announced that the new Energy Bill Discount Scheme (EBDS) (April 2023 – March 2024) will provide additional support for organisations under the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code 9103, 'Operation of historical sites and buildings and similar visitor attractions'. Whilst questions remained about how this support scheme will be delivered, and who exactly will benefit, it is clear that heritage has been singled out and recognised as an important sector to support.

Digital Skills for Heritage Initiative



The National Lottery Heritage Fund's £4 million [Digital Skills for Heritage initiative](#) has continued to support heritage organisations across the UK develop their digital skills and confidence over the last year. With much needed support given to organisations getting to grips with using digital for the first time, as well as investment in strategic approaches to digital leadership. Some of the highlights from the last year include:

- [A bilingual Digital Heritage Hub](#): an online learning resource providing answers to the heritage sector's top 100 questions about making use of digital to support heritage;
- [A Heritage Digital Academy](#): a series of hands-on training, webinars and events to help organisations use digital within strategic and operational planning;
- [A UK wide Digital Leadership project](#): a piece of work that brought together senior leaders from across the heritage sector and created a Digital Pathways resource to help organisations structure their digital transformation journey.

The NLHF funded [17 projects](#) that have created hundreds of digital volunteering roles across the sector – including a tool kit to help organisations improve their accessibility.

The Heritage Alliance: supporting the sector's digital journey



The Heritage Alliance, as part of the Heritage Digital Consortium, continued to support the development of digital capabilities of the heritage sector this year through the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Digital Skills for Heritage programme.

As part of the Digital Heritage Hub, the Consortium produced 40 resources on 'finding, creating and sharing digital content'. These are time-saving, easy to use tools for small and medium heritage organisations. The Heritage Digital Academy also concluded in the autumn with a large-scale conference which provided insights, skills and

resources for organisations to embed new digital ways of working into their own strategies, processes and infrastructure. The programme helped over 525 heritage organisations through cohorts and open-programme opportunities to use digital as a tool for innovation, enterprise and organisational planning.

The Digital Attitudes and Skills for Heritage (DASH) Survey contributed to thinking around Heritage Skills in the devolved nations and Europe. The survey continued to be used to stimulate discussion around Digital Skills, initially, in Northern Ireland where the Heritage Alliance and their partner Timmus Research delivered a number of workshops with the wider sector and leading stakeholders.

In the autumn, the Heritage Alliance's Head of Development was invited to the Annual Conference of CHARTER, a European Cultural Skills Alliance bringing 28 European countries together. She shared not only the insights the Heritage Alliance gained about the UK Heritage sector, but also the benefits surveying the sector brought to stimulate conversations around digital skills.

Rebuilding Heritage



Rebuilding Heritage is the National Lottery Heritage Funded business support programme run by the Heritage Alliance. Since its launch in 2020, the programme has helped 1260 participants from 890 heritage organisations. An extension and grant uplift from the National Lottery Heritage Fund has supported additional work in 2022-2023. During the year, Rebuilding Heritage Has delivered the following:

- **80 check-ins** offered to previous Rebuilding Heritage programme participants across four core support areas: Business planning, communications and marketing, fundraising, and leadership.
- **75 support sessions** open to all, across three core support areas: Business planning, communications, and fundraising.
- **7 articles written:** Where to look for difficult to fund costs (Core Funds), Fundraising on a budget, Innovation in times of change, Navigating the cost-of-living crisis, Adapting your Business Plan in times of change, Communications on a budget and Digital on a budget.
- **8 infographics** sharing programme insights.

- **6 case studies** developed to reinforce the value of existing Rebuilding Heritage digital resources.
- **5 round tables** to share knowledge and strengthen sector networks.
- **5 webinars** on Communication in Crisis, Adapting business plans for 2023, Engaging Audiences on social media and Repurposing Content.
- **3 recorded interviews** with specialists from Business Planning, Communications and Fundraising sectors.
- **3 focus group sessions** looking at current sector needs in Business Planning, cost of living Challenge and Fundraising.
- **379 records** in the Heritage Funding Directory, a freely accessible resource maintained by the Heritage Alliance and the Architectural Heritage Fund have also been updated as part of the project.
- **2 action learning set training sessions** were also piloted as a new way to engage the sector on Business Planning and Fundraising.

This year, the Rebuilding Heritage programme has sought to enhance [the resources](#) available to sector organisations emerging from the impact of the pandemic and facing cost-of-living challenges. The programme has extended the reach of its resources so that more organisations can benefit from them. The programme has also shared its findings particularly with other sector-support organisations and post-pandemic or Covid-related initiatives. To stay informed about the Rebuilding Heritage programme, follow Rebuilding Heritage on [Twitter](#), visit the website, or sign up to the [mailing list](#).

The Historic Environment Forum's Heritage Skills Demand Group



The aim of the [Heritage Skills Demand Group \(HSDG\)](#) is to underpin supply-side heritage skills initiatives by building heritage skills demand, now very often absent because heritage owners tend use non-heritage-skilled professionals and/or tradespeople for works, or do nothing because they do not know what to do or whom to use. HSDG is examining, recommending, and potentially

helping to implement proposals which ensure that owners of heritage assets in England appreciate when they need heritage skills, can easily find them, and actually use them in practice. The aim of this work is all to improve heritage outcomes and achieve a more sustainable balance of demand and supply and resilience in the market(s) for heritage skills. HSDG is, alongside the Historic Environment Protection Reform Group (HEPRG), one of two topic groups endorsed by the HEF. It was established in 2022 (in succession to the previous Client Demand Task Group) and aligns with Action 1.2 of the Heritage Sector Resilience Plan 2022-24. Representatives from the group have begun to establish important connections with the Cross-Sector Historic Environment Skills Forum to ensure that conversations about the relationship between the supply and demand for heritage skills are understood across each network.

Cross-Sector Historic Environment Skills Forum



There is a great level of concern around skills gaps, shortages, and issues with workforce planning and development across the sector. The issue is acknowledged under the Skills theme of the [Heritage Sector Resilience Plan](#) and in direct response to Action 1.1 of the Plan, a Cross-Sector Historic Environment Skills Forum was launched in November 2022. DCMS is supportive of the aims of the Forum and it is currently chaired by Historic England.

The purpose of the Skills Forum is to bring together employers from across the sector – from archaeology to conservation, construction and craft, to local authority advice – and help the many sub-sector specific forums and individual interest groups coordinate and prioritise activity to achieve maximum impact. The Skills Forum will also be a place for sharing good practice and resources across sub-sectors.

The Skills Forum held its inaugural (virtual) meeting on 9th November 2022, with 35 organisations attending. Overarching strategic challenges that are commonplace across the different branches of the sector were defined and written into the Forum Terms of Reference. This was followed by an in-person workshop on 26th January 2023 to start prioritising common skills and career development challenges and brainstorming approaches to tackle these.



Skills Forum membership is open to all organisations who desire to see improvements to the current skills challenges in the sector; a Steering Group has been formed to guide the activity of the Forum. This currently consists of:

- Phil Pollard – Historic England (Chair)
- Amy Atkins – MOLA
- Brendan Foley – DBR Heritage
- Adam Hickey – Pinnacle Conservation
- Cara Jones – ClfA
- Alice Ullathorne – Heritage Lincolnshire
- Patrick Whife – ICON (also providing a formal link to the HEF Heritage Skills Demand Group)
- Rob Woodside – English Heritage

The next activity for the Steering Group is to develop a strategic statement of intent which includes a route map to delivering a skills action plan. This statement is due to be published in April 2023.

The Skills Forum is being coordinated through a [dedicated online community on Heritage Workspace](#) (part of the Knowledge Hub), which anyone is able to request to join.

Sector Apprenticeship Programmes



This year has seen slow growth in delivery of apprenticeships based on standards developed by the Historic Environment Trailblazer; with low take up by employers and still having limited numbers of training providers.

The Level 7 Archaeological Specialist apprenticeship has one registered training provider who was not able to secure enough employer commitment to commence a second cohort in the 2022/23 academic year; this has therefore been postponed to 2024. Whilst there are currently no training providers or apprentice starts for the Level 7 Historic Environment Advisor apprenticeship, there remains interest in developing this.

More positively, the first Level 3 Archaeological Technician apprentice has undertaken their End Point Assessment, conducted by CfA. Three more will have reached 'Gateway' in March 2023, with a further six Archaeological Technician apprentices and 10 Historic Environment Advice Assistant apprentices due to complete in 2023/24.

Icon has successfully registered to become the End Point Assessment Organisation for the Cultural Heritage Conservator and Cultural Heritage Conservation Technician apprenticeship standards, both developed through the Historic England-led Historic Environment Trailblazer Group.

This is an important step for Icon, ensuring that the organisation can both signal its strong support for developing vocational entry routes into the conservation profession, but also in ensuring that the high standards of practice expected of the conservation profession can be maintained. Icon is in the process of extending its offer by registering for the Museums and Galleries Technician and Stained-Glass Craftsperson apprenticeships.

The Archaeological Technician standard is now being revised as part of the required review cycles of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE), who are also conducting a national research project on apprenticeships with low or no starts; to enable them to identify how they can support sectors to engage more effectively.

Historic England has also commissioned its own specific research to better understand the reason for low take-up of apprenticeships across the sector, to allow us to better target our support in this area going forward.

The Historic Environment Trailblazer is currently developing a Level 5 Heritage Construction Specialist standard. This will allow a much-needed progression opportunity for skilled tradespeople and professionals working in construction who want to specialise in working with historic buildings. This is due to be submitted for approval to IfATE mid-2023.

CfA has been working with sector partners to address skills challenges faced by the sector, including the lack of defined career pathways, increased pressure on higher education, the need to increase and diversify both entry routes and new entrants, and the need to create sustainable, rewarding careers.

Responses include the development of, and support for, apprenticeships delivered in partnership with employers and training providers, accredited degree programmes which enhance the vocational skills taught at university, and employer training schemes which bridge the graduate skills gap.

The Hamish Ogston Foundation Heritage Building Skills Programme



The Hamish Ogston Foundation Heritage Building Skills Programme, launched in June 2021, is a major in-work training and apprenticeship programme that will provide more than 40 heritage construction placements to individuals based in the North of England over five years. The Programme is funded by a generous £4.325m grant from the Hamish Ogston Foundation and is being managed and delivered by Historic England. Its core objectives are to reduce shortages in heritage construction skills, improve the condition of Heritage at Risk sites, and create viable career opportunities for young people from less advantaged backgrounds.

Now in its second year, 26 apprentices and trainees have benefitted so far. Heritage construction trades currently represented in the Programme include stonemasonry, joinery and carpentry,



plastering, roofing, bricklaying, painting and decorating, millwrighting, mosaic restoration, and stained-glass restoration. A new [story map](#) allows interested viewers to explore the listed buildings and Heritage at Risk sites eight of the current Tier 2 ('enter') apprentices have worked on with their host firms over the past year or so. A third phase of recruitment for up to six new apprentices and trainees will take place later in 2023.

Review of Icon Accreditation



Icon has completed a comprehensive review of the delivery of its system of professional accreditation for conservator-restorers. This has been one of the most significant reviews to date, seeking to

streamline the assessment process and to ensure that it is delivered in a fair, transparent and accessible way.

Through the review, the organisation has introduced the use of fully qualified and trained assessors, a simplified application process and a more consistent and robust way of gathering evidence – all which will work to ensure that all professional conservators, whether they are working in architectural conservation or as paper conservators, can come forward and successfully navigate the process.

IHBC Heritage MarketPlace



The Institute of Historic Building Conservation's (IHBC) Heritage MarketPlace is a managed online listing of 'Stallholders' offering services, products, advice, guidance and more on all aspects of buildings and places and their care, including checking on planned changes. Each stall listing includes contacts, locations, descriptions,

references and a unique 'Share Link' so it is easy to keep for reference or send on to others.

Simple interfaces for accessible searches mean that anyone can access the listings they are interested in, using Keyword, Map or Exploring options, or generic heritage-linked processes, of checking, caring for or changing fabric or places.

A [MarketPlace:LIVE](#) option offers access by agreed Stallholders to themed and live online events that are free and open to all. Each MarketPlace:LIVE IHBC MarketPlace Stallholders open their online stalls live, to offer practical advice, services, support and learning linked to a selected MarketPlace:LIVE theme.

Icon Salaries Survey and Roundtable



Icon is committed to supporting professional conservators in subjects that matter to them – salaries and remuneration levels invariably come towards the top of the list of topics on which members want to see Icon taking action. Indeed, years of wage stagnation compounded by the current cost of living crisis have made this a pressing issue for many across the heritage sector.

Gathering reliable data was the starting point of this exercise – Icon undertook a salaries survey in early 2022 to help better understand the true picture

of salary levels across the sector. Among other findings, this survey showed that the average salary for a professional conservator was £31,814 – the typical professional earning this salary was likely to hold a master's degree and have over 11 years professional experience in Conservation. It was clear that Icon members felt that this figure did not reflect the high level of technical skill, training and expertise that is required to work as a professional conservator and that action was needed to support calls for fair pay across the sector.

To delve deeper into this issue, Icon convened a roundtable discussion which brought together practitioners from across the conservation profession alongside representatives from Prospect and Fair Museum Jobs to consider the report and identify the key actions necessary to support professionals advocate for change. Icon has published revised salary benchmarks which are available on its website.

Climate Change & the Environment



The Historic Environment Forum's Sustainability & Climate Change Task Group



The Historic Environment Forum exists to bring people together and the climate change crisis demands immediate and effective collaboration. Heritage Responds, launched by the HEF in 2021 to coincide with COP26, highlighted the positive contribution heritage organisations could make to the climate change debate, and the actions needed to respond to a changing world. Heritage Responds remains an important report for the sector, receiving close to 4,000 views, featuring in international publications and at events such as the V&A Culture in Crisis webinar series in the years since its launch.

Following the success of Heritage Responds and linked to the HEF Heritage Sector Resilience Plan, the HEF agreed to create the HEF Sustainability and Climate Change Task Group in 2022. The Task Group brought together HEF and non-HEF heritage organisations to share knowledge and learning on the path to Net Zero Carbon. 10 expert guest speakers led online webinar sessions during Task Group meetings, covering a range of key topics such

as carbon accounting, calculating Scope 3 emissions and implementing sustainability strategies. The recorded webinars featuring experts from The Carbon Trust, 3Adapt, ICCROM, National Trust, English Heritage and the National Lottery Heritage Fund are available to view on the [HEF Sustainability and Net Zero Resource Page](#).

The Task Group also produced the widely shared HEF Net Zero Resource List, an inventory of materials, links and guidance brought together for organisations to search and explore. The accompanying HEF Net Zero Guide aims to support small and medium sized heritage organisations to create their own Net Zero plans, offering a simple overview of key sustainability principles. Both tools are available to view on the HEF resource page. The Task Group received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the new resources, and the resource page is one of the most viewed areas of the HEF website. The Task Group Manager will create a new HEF Task Group in late spring 2023 which will focus on new ways to support environmental sustainability across the Forum.



Image 1: Brimham Rocks, North Yorkshire. Copyright: © National Trust Images / Chris Lacey.

Image 2: The HEF Sustainability & Climate Change Task Group produced the Sustainability & Net Zero Resource Page to support sector organisations on the path to Net Zero. Copyright: © Historic Environment Forum.

Historic England's Climate Change Programme & Net Zero initiatives



In 2022, Historic England published its [Climate Change Strategy](#), which set out its response to the climate crisis. Over the past year, it has started to deliver the key aims of the strategy through its Climate Change Programme and other key work which delivers against climate change priorities.

The Government has committed to reduce carbon emissions to Net Zero by no later than 2050. Historic England has set out a commitment that by 2040, it will reduce its emissions by at least 90%, or to a residual level that is consistent with reaching Net Zero emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Historic England also published its [Carbon Reduction Plan](#) in 2022, which sets out its baseline and approach to achieving Net Zero. Following assessment of emissions in 2019 (the baseline year), Historic England's emissions were 4,025 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e).

The Carbon Reduction Plan covers: Scope 1, direct emissions from owned or controlled sources such as gas and other fossil fuels; Scope 2, those indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity; and Scope 3, all other indirect emissions that occur in the organisation's value chain.

To reduce emissions by at least 90% (a reduction of 3,622.5 tCO₂e is required) the carbon reduction plan includes the following environmental management projects and measures:

- Reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions;
- Reduce the emissions associated with procurement of purchased goods and services;
- Reduce emissions through sustainable travel;
- Improve waste management at office sites;
- Introduce environmental targets;
- Reduce emissions by improving data and setting targets.

Historic England will monitor and review its plan on a regular basis to ensure it can meet its emissions reduction targets, with progress included in its Annual Report.

Historic England is also working to support heritage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on the journey towards Net Zero. During this year, it has undertaken sector consultation to establish where organisations are on the journey, and to identify key issues they face and types of support they may need. This consultation will inform the roll out of wider sector support in the next phase of the project.



Historic England Climate Change Guidance



As part of its Climate Change Programme, Historic England is working to improve the findability and usability of its climate change adaptation guidance for homeowners and occupiers.

Historic England is also working on sector collaboration, most notably with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to embed guidance into their [energy efficiency tool](#). Further audience research is planned for 2023, as well as promotional activities.

This work has seen a 50% increase in page views, comparing the same month in 2022 to 2023, and an 85% customer review rating.

The organisation continues to prepare [Technical Guidance](#) and advice for homeowners on topics including retrofit and [energy efficiency in historic buildings](#) and continues to run its successful webinar series, [Technical Tuesdays](#). These webinars cover areas including insulation, windows, overheating and low and zero carbon technologies.

Historic England continues to engage across Government departments with ongoing policy work on retrofit and skills to help deliver successful retrofit of traditional buildings.

Church of England: Net Zero Carbon and the Environment



During 2022-3, the Church of England has continued to deliver on its Net Zero Carbon programme. All parts of the Church of England recognise the climate emergency and the necessity of a strong, visible Christian response to what is happening to our world. As a key step towards this, all 42 dioceses have now registered for 'Eco Dioceses'.

At the February 2022 General Synod, amendments to the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules were approved that removed some regulatory measures to proposals which reduce the carbon footprint of a church, whilst also requiring a strong case to be made for proposals that continue or increase reliance on fossil fuels for heating. These came into force on 1st July 2022.

The '[Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030](#)' was agreed by General Synod in July 2022 and is the Church of England's action plan to deliver Net Zero Carbon this decade. It contains milestones and actions for all parts of the Church.

The Church Commissioners have committed an anticipated £190 million of funding over the next nine years towards this action plan, with £30 million for 2023-2025. Work began in 2022 to plan and prepare for the best use of this funding.

The Church of England also launched a new range of case studies, issued new guidance, offered training and webinars, ran two conferences (one for Diocesan Environment Officers and one, in partnership with Fit for the Future and Historic England, on the Future of Heat) and increased its own capacity through creating the Net Zero Carbon and Building Services committee of the Church Buildings Council.

The Church of England also focused on biodiversity, through the Churches Count on Nature (CCoN) project. CCoN is part of 'Love Your Burial Ground Week' and focuses on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. Over its first two years, over 27,000 wildlife records have been submitted, using iNaturalist UK. Many of the records have now been verified and are available to view [online](#).

During the reporting period, the Church of England developed new guidance on climate resilience, published a number of case studies of churches affected by flooding, hotter summers, and wildfires, and ran webinars.

CifA's Climate Change & Net Zero Working Group



Archaeology – like all disciplines – needs to think about changing its working practices to contribute to Net Zero targets. The Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CifA)'s Climate Change Working Group has been supporting the promotion of Historic

England's Sector to Net Zero project by hosting a series of online lunchtime chats and round tables with individuals, representatives from small to medium enterprises, and those from specialist areas.

The purpose of these sessions has been to look at the barriers facing organisations in starting out on their road to Net Zero and how they can be supported in meeting their goals. The Working Group has also been continuing to promote its carbon reduction guide table and looking at where additional information can be added to this. The table and other information are on CifA's archaeologists and climate change [webpage](#).

Development of a climate change risk assessment



Work is ongoing between Historic England, Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw, Northern Ireland's Department for Communities, English Heritage

Trust, National Trust, and National Trust for Scotland to understand the risks posed to heritage assets by climate change by examining climate hazards and the vulnerability of assets to such hazards. Historic England has published an [initial research report](#) on mapping climate hazards to heritage assets in England, based on this cross-organisational work.

The organisation has recently commissioned a literature review of global approaches to climate change risk assessment for heritage assets. Historic England will publish the final review on its website.

Research on Property Flood Resilience Outliers



One in five buildings are at risk of some type of flood event – river, coastal, surface or groundwater. Many such buildings are now at risk of flooding occurring more frequently, flood events lasting longer and the level at which waters enter increasing in height.

A pilot study was commissioned with The Environmental Design Studio to better understand the impact of flooding on historic and traditionally constructed buildings and to examine why some buildings fall out of scope for receiving Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grants.

The study also identified: flood-resilience measures being used which are not appropriate for traditional buildings; types of measure not currently being considered; a gap in knowledge about resilience

and recovery of traditional buildings, particularly listed buildings and those of timber-framed construction.

The outcomes of this project have identified different solutions that could allow continued use of buildings at increased risk of flooding. Although focused on traditionally constructed buildings, these methods could easily apply to modern construction.

The pilot studied Yalding, in Kent, a village which is well-known for being devastated by frequent flooding and has recently received PFR funding. It identified 304 homes as needing to be made more flood resilient, but 46 had no standard measures that would be suitable for PFR funding. This could be due to the building's construction type or constraints related to listed status and conservation principles.

The study considered alternative scenarios to dealing with buildings subject to increased flood risk. Each scenario was assessed against a multi-criteria assessment to include cost over the building's lifetime; suitability for the user; exposure and vulnerability to current and future flood events; recovery time; and finally, impact on the significance of the building.

Identifying such alternative options supports Government's Net Zero target. It can help practitioners understand alternatives to losing buildings with high embodied carbon, homeowners

to keep buildings habitable or mortgageable, and to mitigate against the loss of buildings and communities from flooding. Historic England will publish the project online.

Coastal Erosion and Hurst Castle



In 2022, Hurst Castle was added by the World Monuments Fund to the World Monuments Watch list of the 25 most important heritage sites at risk around the world. The castle – in the care of English Heritage – is situated on a remote and exposed shingle spit which commands the Needles Passage between the Isle of Wight and the mainland. The Hampshire fort is in the front line of the challenges posed to heritage sites by rises in the sea-level and climate change.

In February 2021, a section of wall on the 19th century east wing of the castle collapsed, after the sea exposed and undercut its foundations. It was a wrenching blow for all involved not least as English Heritage was days away from commencing a programme of works to underpin the east wing.

Since then, 22,000 tonnes of shingle and rock armour have been transported along the spit to protect the east wing and a permanent revetment sea defence engineered to provide protection for the next 50 years has been completed. English Heritage has also commissioned specialist contractors to conduct extensive geotechnical investigations around the castle and on the spit

itself. The charity has committed approximately £3 million – with thanks to the Culture Recovery Fund – on works to stabilise the breach and protect the castle.

Climate change is accelerating the issues faced by coastal heritage and creating huge challenges for organisations, like English Heritage, seeking to protect it. Rising sea levels and more regular storms pose a real risk to the future of many of our sites. English Heritage is a founding partner of the UK Heritage Adaptation Partnership, which aims to share expertise in tackling the impact of climate change on our historical sites and cultural heritage and is also working with the World Monuments Fund Britain on its Coastal Connections programme that brings specialists from across the globe together to share experience and support others facing similar risks.

In September 2022, English Heritage launched a Coastal Conservation Appeal to help the charity continue to protect, conserve, and carry out critical maintenance at its most vulnerable coastal sites, sites like Hurst Castle.



Adapting historic and beautiful places to climate change: guidance for conservation approaches to assets and activity for operations teams and consultants



Over the past year, the National Trust launched its first chapters of [guidance](#) on adapting historic and beautiful places to climate change. Supported by UK heritage regulators and other charities looking after historic and beautiful places, 14 chapters of guidance were set out and hosted by the International National Trusts Organisation (INTO) with sections continually being developed, reviewed, and added to this online and globally accessible platform.

Launched at COP27, the Trust has focused on the areas of high vulnerability such as water features, waterlogged archaeological deposits,

and infrastructure, to develop short, operationally useful guidance documents. These sections introduce the user to the asset and its importance in the face of climate change, look at a table of hazards, impact and options, highlight operational thresholds for exploring changes in conservation approaches, and map out example pathways using the Dynamic Adaptation Policy Pathways tool, as explored in detail by the Walker Institute.

The case studies and other signposting in the documents makes them useful resources for others addressing impacts of climate change and in need of decision-making tools when facing uncertainty around conservation approaches.



Engaging people in climate action through places of nature, beauty and history through international connections



The National Trust has stepped up its resource in its RACE for climate action: reduce, adapt, capture and engage, and has really been merging its approaches

across adaptation and engagement to think about audiences and how people connect through place, in order to raise awareness about climate impacts and how sites may be affected in the future and how climate change may require different approaches to conservation.

In 2022, the National Trust successfully partnered in a bid to the British Council with INTO and six near east and African National Trust organisations. The project encompasses hard adaptation to heritage assets severely affected by climate change abroad, and how these could be twinned with National Trust places using innovative interpretative strategies to raise awareness of the plight of heritage assets. The project also looks at how its own places are

beginning to feel the effects of climate change as well. By bringing these stories to its places and supporters, the Trust hopes to connect the message of climate action through what makes heritage places special and enable a cultural shift in how people think about climate action, and how they may come to view the Trust's conservation approaches where decisions need to be made about loss and transformational change in the future.



Solar Panels introduced at historic cathedrals



Permission has recently been granted to install solar panels onto the roof of the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, and the south quire aisle roof of York Minster. In each case it will be possible to glimpse the panels from certain vantage points, and the exceptional significance of these buildings imposed a high bar for justifying this visual impact.

Nonetheless, in both cases, the substantial contribution the panels would make to the buildings' electricity generation, in the context of the target imposed by the General Synod of the Church of England producing Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2030, and each applicants' ability to demonstrate that they had struck the right balance between generating the maximum amount of energy and causing the minimum visual impact, convinced both secular and ecclesiastical decision-makers to support the proposals.

In summer 2022, roof-mounted solar panels were also installed on the South Transept and Nave roofs of Grade I listed Chester Cathedral:

the Cathedral has now started producing and consuming its own electricity.

The 206 solar panels generate 22-25% of the total energy consumption of the building whilst also helping to manage the energy costs incurred by operating such a large historic site.

The Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford said:

"Chester Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Chester and is determined to be responsible and set a good example. For us, sustainability includes ensuring that we are doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint and lessen our negative impact on our planet, and reduced costs mean we can fund the essential work carried out on our magnificent Cathedral.

"The installation of solar panels on the roof will achieve both aims, in reducing the amount of fossil fuels burnt to power our building, and in the longer-term reducing the cost required to provide this fuel," he added.



Image 1: Church at the Site of the Apollo Kaggwa House, Kampala. Copyright: © Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda.

Image 2: Dean of Chester, the Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford, and Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, bless the solar panels on Chester Cathedral. Copyright: © Chester Cathedral.

Natural England's work on Nature Recovery



For the first time, Natural England has been identifying opportunities for nature recovery which integrate marine heritage assets, working in close collaboration with Historic England to jointly develop their approaches.

The organisation has been working hard over the last year to set historic environment standards for Natural England's priorities, including species recovery projects and Biodiversity net gain.

This has involved liaising across Government to provide technical advice to help support cross-departmental projects, including working closely with DCMS in support of World Heritage Sites, and with DLUHC on the role heritage can play in Government's levelling up ambition. Natural England is continuing to work alongside landscape and geodiversity colleagues to encourage an integrated and consistent approach to Nature Recovery and management planning across England's protected landscapes.

The Nature Recovery Network delivery partnership is an exciting step forward in achieving the ambition of leaving the environment in a better state than it was found in. Natural England is actively seeking input from heritage sector organisations to get more voices heard, and to incorporate a wider range of views. They are welcoming imaginative solutions to integrated delivery for heritage and nature and seek to embed heritage into tools like Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).

National Trust and rural estate developments



Across the National Trust there is a lot of activity and change on the rural estate. The rural estate is critical for climate change and biodiversity action and in achieving these objectives the curatorial management of the landscape and buildings collections is fundamental. Much of it is let for agriculture. Whether connected to a designed landscape or not, the heritage-lens is key and is inseparable from our appreciation of and joy in its nature, value and beauty.

The large lowland estate projects are underway in the southwest alongside the national programme for nature recovery. Towards the end of 2022, Killerton's Spatial & Audience Development Plan won an award from the Landscape Institute under the 'Excellence in tackling Climate Change' category. At Arlington, the project team now have an exemplary understanding of the farmsteads that managed the land alongside a review of its significance, which is embedded into a Spatial Framework developed by the Trust's Placemaking & Design team. Appreciating how previous custodians oversaw changing farming needs, land use and enclosure is key. There is a commission underway at Studland to understand the World War II phase of history – of defence and attack during war and in the preparation for the D-Day landings. This assessment is ground-breaking and takes a collections-based approach to assets and the landscape.

As land use changes, farmsteads are coming back in hand and nationally the Trust has done much work on adaptive reuse. Where there is scope and a viable proposition for a visitor facing offer, teams are looking at their farm buildings, developing farmstead assessments and then developing uses with National Trust community consultants, estate managers and operational colleagues.

In the Midlands, the farmstead adaptation project continues to excel. Focusing on estates such as

Dunham Massey, Attingham, Dudmaston and the Peak District, the project team, working with architectural and technical consultants, have continued to deliver new uses for formerly redundant buildings. By November 2022, a total of 16 projects had been completed. This has been achievable through an efficient blend of National Trust and external consultancy, building on a fundamental baseline understanding of what makes these places special.

Lost Blossom



As part of the National Trust's 2022 'Blossom' campaign, the Trust sought to understand how the blossom in people's lives and landscapes – particularly embodied in orchards – has changed over time. Research to map the historic extents and distributions of orchards across England and Wales was delivered with Artificial Intelligence (AI) firm ArchAI (and drawing on input from the People's Trust for Endangered Species). AI has been applied to digitised and georeferenced historic mapping (Ordnance Survey 25 Inch 1892-1914) – supplied by the National Library of Scotland – to generate polygons around the distinctive orchard symbol and its gridded layout.

These results were compared to modern distributions of orchards in current Ordnance Survey mapping and surviving 'traditional orchards' – mapped by Natural England and Natural Resources Wales – to understand change and continuity in orchards. Where orchards mapped from the beginning of the 20th century had not survived, these were compared against the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology Land Cover 2020 mapping to determine the land use which replaced the orchard.

*Image: A visitor photographing blossom at Cliveden, Buckinghamshire.
Copyright: © National Trust Images / Arnhel de Serra.*

In total over 200,000 orchard areas were identified from historic mapping in England and Wales, covering nearly 100,000ha, of which only around 6,000ha are still present (with a further 11,000ha created since 1914). This change highlights a dramatic loss in these important heritage assets, which provide valuable habitats for wildlife, embody valuable intangible cultural heritage, and contribute to landscape character and sense of place. The loss of orchards recorded from historic mapping appears to have been driven particularly by the expansion of improved grassland for livestock grazing, and by the expansion of UK towns and cities. While the mapping has highlighted opportunities for the restoration of lost orchards, the core message of the project was not an attempt to 'turn back the clock', but instead to raise awareness and prompt discussion about the future of our landscapes and how we might seek to incorporate the beauty, nature, and history of orchards in that future. Research themes in the National Trust's 2023 Blossom campaign include place names and hedgerows.



National Trust research partnership with the University of Exeter



Researchers at the National Trust and the University of Exeter are working together to improve the UK's biodiversity and manage precious landscapes.

The National Trust and the University of Exeter became strategic partners in May 2021, and since then, a series of projects have been developed bringing the expertise of a variety of researchers together to look at ways to tackle the urgent environmental challenges being faced in our landscapes. Within the scope of this partnership, there are major biodiversity projects such as RENEW and Net Zero Plus – funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) – the principal aim of which is to generate much-needed resources to aid and accelerate biodiversity renewal and the transition to Net Zero.

The five-year RENEW programme focuses on harnessing popular public support for biodiversity, by looking how different populations can not only get involved, but also benefit from, renewing the UK's wildlife. Over the ten years, Net Zero Plus will play a critical role in understanding how trees can support the UK Government's Net Zero ambitions, by identifying the most appropriate trees to plant and the best places to plant them.

Central to this partnership is a commitment to reconsider the ways in which the relationship between natural and cultural heritage landscapes are considered and use this understanding to reimagine management practices for landscapes now and in the future.

The project 'Landscape Histories for Landscape Futures', for example, is exploring how greater understanding of archaeology and history can inform decisions about nature recovery and restoration and open new perspectives and opportunities for visitors and communities.

The partnership is a key route to delivering research ambitions at the National Trust as well as developing its role as an Independent Research Organisation. By joining forces with experts at the University of Exeter, the organisation can work towards making a real-world difference for its natural and cultural environments.

The partnership will help to bring together shared expertise in biodiversity, conservation and heritage, important steps towards securing a sustainable future for everyone, forever.



Monitoring and Improving Biodiversity at Lichfield Cathedral



Lichfield Cathedral is working with local partners to monitor and improve biodiversity in its ancient grounds. The land around many of the country's churches is an oasis of precious biodiversity, ground that has never been ploughed, nor subjected to pesticides or fertilisers. The ancient lowland grassland around Lichfield Cathedral was a primary asset for the Cathedral as it becomes a [Partner in Action with A Rocha](#), who awarded Lichfield Cathedral a Silver Eco Church award in 2022.

To care for this grassland, expert advice was taken from [Caring for God's Acre](#), a charity dedicated to the environmental potential of burial grounds. Central to the response was a new grass mowing regime. The first experiment was in Spring 2022, where a strip of grass to the north of the Cathedral was left uncut until July. Speedwell, lady's bedstraw, catsear, black medic, and yarrow were all found to be all naturally present in the ground. In 2023, more areas around the Cathedral have been designated for short and medium grass, whilst other areas are being managed to become spring and summer meadows.

Scything grassland to the southeast has been delayed until the start of July, to allow those spring flowers already present a chance to flourish and establish themselves. To boost this response, with support from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and help

from a [Forest School class from Lichfield Cathedral School](#), a patch of ground was vigorously raked and a carefully chosen selection of over twenty local wildflower seeds sowed over the area.

The edge of the area is being mowed and signs are in place to help people understand the purpose of long grass as wildflower meadow. QR codes provide people with greater detail. March 2023 sees the Cathedral planting 55 metres of mixed hedge consisting of hazel, blackthorn, yew, dog rose, field maple and hawthorn which will benefit both visitors and wildlife.

During [Churches Count on Nature](#) week in June 2022, Forest School classes, assisted by volunteers, recorded the species in the grassland, with the data featuring on the [Natural Burial Grounds](#) register. The same will be completed in June 2023.



Changing Chalk



This year has seen the Partnership of Changing Chalk enter its delivery phase. Focusing on the restoration of Chalk Grassland, an internationally rare habitat, and one found only in north-west Europe. Funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, players of the People's Postcode Lottery and The Linbury Trust, it seeks to engage more people with the eastern South Downs. The National Trust is the lead partner, working alongside a variety of organisations to engage the public. The focus is especially on communities from more deprived areas, who perhaps do not get to appreciate the wellbeing benefits that spending time in the downland can have, either through physical or financial access barriers, or a lack of a sense of belonging.

There are three main themes which themselves contain several projects:

- **Restoring Chalkland Biodiversity** seeks to improve the habitat, species richness and connectivity of chalk grassland. This includes re-wilding, grazing projects, and reconditioning dew ponds, as well as work on many Local Wildlife Sites.

- **Connecting Downs and Towns** inspires changes in ideas and actions to encourage active participation in caring for the Downs and sustaining its long-term future.
- **Heart and Histories of the Downs** engages communities as active participants in the discovery, interpretation, and celebration of the cultural heritage of the Downs.

There are three projects specifically dealing with the discovery and interpretation of physical heritage. 'Monument Mentors' seeks to establish a network of volunteers to instigate condition surveys on some of the c.230 scheduled monuments that exist within the Changing Chalk Area. Lots of these monuments are frequented by people on walking and cycling routes, the team hope to use these visits as opportunities to gather data. The 'Big Dig' seeks to engage the people of Eastbourne to excavate test pits in their own back gardens, to increase understanding of the development of this downland settlement. This will be rolled out in other towns within the project area. Over 190 kmsq of the downland have had their archaeology mapped from aerial photos and LiDAR data as part of Downs From Above and will be ground-truthed by volunteers. The project will run until 2026.

Bat mitigation in historic churches



At Egleton church in Rutland, the Church of England helped fund repairs to the nave ceiling and blocked gaps where bats were getting in from their roost space in the nave roof void, at Low Catton in North Yorks. Two heated bat boxes were installed in the tower to provide alternative accommodation for a maternity colony of Natterer's bats who had been roosting in the nave, and at Thornham and several other churches in Norfolk rafter boxes have been installed for in situ colonies of Common and Soprano Pipistrelles.

Major mitigation works have continued at West Grinstead in West Sussex to create a new bespoke red cedar ceiling with a bat void above.

At Saxlingham a new bespoke bat loft has been created for the colony of Natterer's bats. This was made possible by extending the existing vestry screen to the level of the transept arch, roofing over the vestry and then creating a range of new roost spaces within the transept ceiling.

This year the project has developed to focus on creating more simple and affordable options to reduce the impact of bats. At Brampton in Huntingdon, two bespoke sails have been installed beneath the chancel arch to catch bat droppings falling from their roost. The sails can be winched down from ground level for ease of cleaning and for the fabric replaced if necessary. A similar approach at Coston in Leicestershire saw the installation of removable metal trays beneath the bat roost in the south aisle.

At Keyston in Cambridgeshire, funds have been raised to help supply a brand new, bespoke protective case for the unique 15th century wooden cadaver of William Stukeley. This has been restored to its original position in the chancel after a rededication service led by the Bishop of Huntingdon.

Other churches have been supported through a series of regular cleaning workshops, cleaning guidance, and by providing cleaning kits and protective covers for pews, floors, and brasses. The project continues to support churches with events, fairs, fetes, nature workshops and bat walks. Engagement with the local community around bats roosting in Wintringham church in North Yorkshire, which is vested with the Churches Conservation Trust, has increased the number of volunteers from one or two to more than 25 and the establishment of a Friends group.

A new children's book 'The Little Church Bat' has been published to help raise awareness of bats in churches. In addition, a Challenge Badge pack of church-based activities for uniformed groups has been developed, nine schools' workshops for over 200 children have taken place, and a new art installation 'On A Wing & A Prayer' has been commissioned and is currently touring project churches.

The project has had national press on Songs of Praise featuring the successful mitigation at Radstone church which was completed in 2021, and on Radio Five Live about the discovery of a Grey Long-Eared Bat during National Bats In Churches and Church Bat Detectives survey.

Place & Engagement

Heritage at Risk Register 2022



On the 10th November 2022, Historic England published its [latest Heritage at Risk Register](#). The Register gives an annual snapshot of the health of England's most valued historic places and those most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

175 historic buildings and sites have been added to the 2022 Register because of their deteriorating condition and 233 sites have been saved and their futures secured. Many have been rescued thanks to dedicated teams of volunteers, community groups, charities, owners and councils, working together with Historic England.

Significant additions to the 2022 Register include the Victorian Papplewick Pumping Station in Nottingham – England's only pumping station to still have all its original features. It is suffering from age-related deterioration. Another addition was King Arthur's Great Halls in Tintagel, Cornwall, which has stunning artworks and is synonymous with the legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. It faces major repairs.



Highlights of sites saved include two picturesque and well-known sections of the 73-mile long Hadrian's Wall known as Steel Rigg in Northumberland and Port Carlisle in Cumbria which have been protected through conservation work and removed from the Register.

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England said:

"It is central to Historic England's mission that we pass on to future generations the rich legacy of historic buildings and places that we have inherited from previous generations. Our Heritage at Risk programme is a key contributor to this ambition. With the help of local communities and partners, imaginative thinking and business planning, we can bring historic places back to life."



Image 1: Tyldesley High Street Heritage Action Zone. Copyright: © Historic England Archive DP276474.

Image 2: Papplewick Pumping Station has been added to the Heritage at Risk Register as areas have suffered age-related deterioration, including the Boiler House's chimney, the Engine House porch and boundary walls flanking the entrance. Copyright: © Historic England.

Heritage Action Zones and High Street Heritage Action Zones



The historic environment is an echo of our past and a vital part of our sustainable future. It not only provides workspaces, homes, community and leisure spaces, jobs and training opportunities; but it also supports the economy and encourages tourism.

Historic England's [Heritage Action Zones \(HAZ\)](#) and [High Streets Heritage Action Zones \(HSHAZ\)](#) programmes are designed to unleash the power of the historic environment, creating conditions for economic growth, and improving the quality of life in villages, towns and cities across England.

Since 2016, 10 HAZ schemes have been completed, with a further 10 currently being delivered. Historic buildings that were deteriorating through decades of neglect have been restored and put back into use, providing employment and volunteering opportunities; conservation areas have been improved, kick-starting regeneration and renewal that has helped to attract significant investment and meet local housing targets; and unsung places are now being recognised and celebrated for their unique character and heritage.

Together, the first 10 HAZ schemes achieved:



82

Heritage buildings repaired/restored



9,847m²

Commercial floor space brought back into active use



£71.5m

Public funding leveraged



26

Housing units brought back into active use



35,117

People engaged with heritage

Throughout this work, Historic England has championed research to enable positive change. 83 heritage guidance documents have been commissioned and over 800 hours of heritage training sessions have been provided which have benefited 14,000 people.

The HSHAZ programme has Historic England working with local partners in 67 high streets across England. As it enters its fourth and final year (in 2023-24), the programme continues to make real progress, working with local partners and communities and using the historic environment as a catalyst for economic and cultural recovery and growth.

The programme is funded by over £92 million of funding from Government and £3 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Over £56 million has now been invested and we are seeing the impact of the programme on the ground with vacant space brought back into use, historic buildings restored and repaired, and improved public realm projects transforming high streets for local communities and visitors.

Through the HSHAZ Cultural Programme, Historic England is delivering one of the biggest ever community-led arts and heritage programmes in more than 60 high streets across England. This is reconnecting communities to their high streets, and to one another, with projects covering a wide range of activity from poetry to film, animation and music, performance and photography.

Networking powers High Street revival



A successful three-year programme of networking and learning events aimed at anyone involved in high street regeneration concluded at the end of 2022.

The decline of the High Street has been a constant theme of public debate and policy in recent years and the heritage sector has been a major player in developing initiatives to address the problem. Historic England's HSHAZ programme has supported over 60 high streets and the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) have provided support to not-for-profit organisations restoring and reusing historic high street buildings.

With so much happening through these programmes and other Government Levelling Up initiatives, there was a need for those involved – local authorities, local partnerships such as business improvement districts, community organisations and professional practice – to get together, share their experiences and hear from the experts. As such, the AHF commissioned a programme of events as part of its Open High Streets: Transforming Places through Heritage project. Delivered by the Heritage Trust Network in partnership with Locality, the programme drew on the experience of both organisations' members who are leading high street regeneration throughout England.

The programme had been due to start in the spring of 2020, but as Covid hit, planned in-person events had to be switched to online. Since then, 20 events have taken place with 601 people taking part from a wide variety of backgrounds. A variety which was reflected in the presenters who came from heritage trusts, local authorities, funders, professional practices, and national bodies. Topics covered included funding and investment, project management, community engagement, partnerships, end-uses for high street buildings and the role of cultural activities.

The programme demonstrated the value of bringing this rich mix of people together with a lively discussion taking place in the Q&A sessions as well as the online 'chat' function and delegates arranging to support one another afterwards. As restrictions eased in-person events became possible enabling face-to-face networking and visits to exemplar projects. Delegates were able to explore inspiring regeneration initiatives in Lincoln, Halifax, Plymouth, London, and Birmingham. Recordings of many of the events can be viewed on the [Network's website](#).



Historic England's Industrial Heritage Strategy & Highlights



Work continues to develop and implement Historic England's [draft Industrial Heritage Strategy](#).

This includes several Heritage Action Zones with a strong industrial heritage component, such as Greater Grimsby, the Stockton & Darlington Railway, Stoke-on-Trent Ceramic and the railway town of Swindon.

The Elsecar Heritage Action Zone finished in 2020 and in March 2022, Barnsley Museums was awarded £3.93 million through the government's Cultural Development Fund to support Elsecar in becoming an internationally recognised visitor destination. A recording on the Elsecar Heritage Action Zone is included as part of the Historic England industrial heritage series of free [Historic Environment Local Management \(HELM\) webinars](#).

Historic England's '[Mills of the North](#)' project aims to raise awareness of mill reuse, promote strategic engagement and target priority mills. [The Oldham Mills Strategy](#) commissioned by Oldham Council and Historic England was published in November to develop a positive strategy for the sustainable future for the surviving textile mill stock across Oldham. In April 2022, the iconic Temple Works, Leeds, was awarded more than £1 million in grants from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund and Historic England, as the potential home for the British Library of the North.

The important work of the [Industrial Heritage Support Officer](#) (IHSO) hosted by the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust continues. With its emphasis on nationally designated, publicly accessible and interpreted industrial sites, the IHSO post provides direct face-to-face support, promotes resources, such as advice and grants, and manages the 10 [Industrial Heritage Support Networks](#) that cover England. Following an announcement in November 2022 by Arts Council England, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust will receive £2.2 million in funding over the next three years, which follows on from an earlier award of almost £10 million allocated by the National Heritage Memorial Fund to help conserve and repair 49 historic buildings and structures across the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.

2022 also witnessed the opening of the Main Mill and Kiln at [Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings](#) – an industrial heritage site of major international importance that has been at risk for many years. Owned by Historic England, the Main Mill and Kiln includes a visitor experience and café on the ground floor, with high quality office space on the top four floors.



More progress made in tackling Heritage and Cultural Property Crime



2023 marks the 12th anniversary of the Historic England Heritage Crime Programme and the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH). Significant progress has been made in this time to protect the historic environment from the threat and impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. Highlights during this reporting period include:

- In March 2023, Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, joined forces with Historic England, the National Police Chiefs' Council, and the Crown Prosecution Service by becoming a member of ARCH and a signatory to the [Memorandum of Understanding on the Prevention, Enforcement and Prosecution of Heritage and Cultural Property Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour](#). The joint initiative provides an undertaking to tackle and reduce offences such as architectural theft, including the theft of metal and stone, criminal damage in particular vandalism, graffiti and arson, unlawful metal detecting and anti-social behaviours such as vehicle nuisance and the dumping of waste.



- A growing number of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners have identified heritage and cultural property crime within their local Police and Crime Plans. This marks a significant step forward in the ability of heritage professionals to work in partnership with police services across the country to prevent and investigate loss or damage to historic sites and buildings wherever it occurs within the historic environment – whether urban, rural, coastal, or maritime.



- The National Rural Crime Network has continued to grow and is now supported by over 30 Police and Crime Commissioners and police forces across England and Wales. The Network includes a wide range of partnership bodies who have a deep interest in community safety and rural affairs, including Historic England and Neighbourhood Watch. By collaborating and working at national level, the Network seeks to highlight the key issues that affect rural communities, rural businesses and the impact of rural crime and anti-social behaviour and the protection and preservation of heritage assets and their settings.
- The Heritage Watch programme continues to develop. Heritage Crime is now identified as a core thematic by Neighbourhood Watch. Heritage Watch Volunteers in Leicestershire and Rutland devote their time to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour relating to historic sites and buildings. The volunteers have received support by the Police and Crime Commissioner Rupert Matthews who has identified heritage crime as a priority within his local police and crime plan.



Image 1: Representatives from Historic England, National Police Chiefs' Council, Crown Prosecution Service and Welsh Government at Chepstow Castle, March 2023. Copyright: © Historic England.

Image 2: PC Ashley Tether, Heritage Crime Officer, Cheshire Rural Crime Team, inspecting graffiti on Chester City Walls. Copyright: © Cheshire Constabulary.

Image 3: Rupert Matthews Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire and Rutland visiting archaeologists and Heritage Watch Volunteers at Rutland Roman Villa. Copyright: © Leicestershire Police.

- During the pandemic, Historic England developed the capability to deliver online training for law enforcement and heritage professionals and community volunteers.
- Historic England has continued to fund the Heritage and Cultural Property Crime Intelligence Analyst based within Opal – the National Acquisitive Crime Intelligence Unit. The analytical function is helping to develop the capability to identify the active and emerging threats to heritage assets and the historic environment. This process is leading to the effective allocation of resources necessary to prevent, investigate and deliver an appropriate and effective intervention.
- In September 2022, the National Police Council published a new strategy to tackle Serious Organised Acquisitive Crime (SOAC). This form of criminality is defined as – ‘individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences that involve property, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of national or international networks, where material gain is derived.’ Heritage crime and metal theft are identified as key themes within the strategy.

Community helps recreate Roman gatehouse on Hadrian’s Wall



In 2022, to mark the 1900th anniversary of the building of Hadrian’s Wall, English Heritage commissioned artist Morag Myerscough to create a contemporary, colourful take on the original Roman gatehouse at Housesteads Roman Fort – a monumental sculpture that would bring people together.

‘The Future Belongs To What Was As Much As What Is’ was a temporary structure built on the North Gate’s original footprint, echoing the Roman structure’s size. Visitors could climb to the top and stand in the spot where Roman soldiers would have looked out and enjoy a view people have not seen for 1,600 years.

The artwork was created as a community effort led by Morag and local poet Ellen Moran that harnessed the enthusiasm, expertise, and talent of diverse local communities, including young people



with disabilities. English Heritage wanted to listen to and work with communities along Hadrian’s Wall, rather than imposing a significant feature in their landscape, and to build new and lasting relationships with them.

Local volunteering teams were expanded, and links strengthened with a wide range of local organisations and project partners. New and existing partnerships were essential, creating multiple pathways for local communities to contribute and enjoy the work, from production through to de-install and beyond. After the gatehouse was taken down, 350 of its panels – painted by the local community – were returned to the community, to be used in the village halls, school libraries and playgrounds, forest school groups, as theatre props and in a secondary school LGBTQ+ room.

Image: The local community joined forces with English Heritage and artist Morag Myerscough to create a contemporary - and colourful - take on the Roman gatehouse on Hadrian’s Wall. Copyright: © English Heritage.

Historic Environment Overview 2022-23

English Heritage acted as a catalyst for activity, and with multiple community partners including Zig Zag and Prism Arts we were able to ensure we were serving communities and under-served groups. Though the installation at Housesteads was ephemeral, the artwork is permanently embedded

locally, from the building materials now in use on local farms, to the panels on display across the community. English Heritage would like to thank The National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Lottery players for making this project possible.

The Joint Committee for National Amenity Societies' Planning Casework Database



The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) maintains a [publicly accessible database](#) which tracks proposed changes to historic buildings across England and Wales. Thousands of applications are logged annually (11,000 in 2022), and anyone can find them and read the advice given by expert caseworkers.

Members of the Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies (JCNAS) include Historic Buildings & Places, The Georgian Group, The Victorian Society, The 20th Century Society, the CBA and Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and must legally be notified about applications for Listed Building Consent by planning authorities in England and Wales. They are also consulted on other planning applications that would impact on the historic environment and it is hoped The Gardens Trust will soon be able to utilise the database.

The shared database allows Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to send all consultations to a single point of contact, without needing to understand our specific (but overlapping) remits for comment. Applications are then forwarded on to the relevant societies for assessment and comment. This makes the process easier for planning authorities and ensures that all consultations are seen by the right expert consultees. It also helps communication between the societies so our responses can be well coordinated and focused on their specific interests.

A team of more than 40 volunteers helps the CBA log consultations onto the database. The record for each site includes its age, location, heritage protection status and a list of applications received which affect it.

In 2022, a new database designed by Heritage 360 and supported by Historic England funding, was launched. It allowed several improvements in accessibility and functionality to be made, including zoomable satellite views of the sites.

The database is [available online](#) for anyone to view and acts as a record of proposed changes to the historic environment across England and Wales. Anyone can use it to find a site or a listed building application or relevant planning application, searching by location, address, or type of building, and read the responses made by the Societies. This makes the database unique as a publicly available national record of changes to the historic environment.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' Old House Project



The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' (SPAB) [Old House Project](#) (OHP) is now well into its five-year programme and has won a Museums & Heritage Award for its digital outreach and community engagement.

The project involves repair for sale of a 'building at risk' – a medieval, Grade II* listed, former monastic chapel on Historic England's register – but aims to achieve more. Crucial to the SPAB's vision are the investigation, discussion, training, research, and community engagement that the project's extended time frame has allowed.

Work so far has greatly increased understanding of the building's origins and development – thanks in part to Dr Martin Bridge's dendrochronological work funded by Historic England, and through archaeological investigation by consultant Graham Keevill. The project work has tackled repairs of the roof, structural masonry, and timber frame under the direction of architects Malcolm Fryer Associates, with the additional help of many Specialist SPAB members and volunteers. This just leaves the need to finish the building's interior with sustainable insulation and services included and landscape the once-overgrown garden.

The project has allowed the SPAB to invite a wide range of audiences to the site, or at least let them explore it digitally. New links have been forged with

archaeological and professional groups, individuals and organisations from the locality and region, as well as academic institutions. Some of the people most committed to the project have simply walked off the street and found it by chance.

Two additional factors have made the project particularly fruitful. The site's close proximity to a country house with a range of highly graded structures 'at risk' has allowed scope for training and participation on an expanded scale. The project team has also constructed an experimental lime kiln and worked with nearby quarries. Sustainability is central to the works and the SPAB are keen to demonstrate that local production of materials can be revived.

The team is extremely grateful to the organisations that have offered the project support – especially the Pilgrim Trust, Architectural Heritage Fund and Historic England – and to the SPAB members and local people who have provided invaluable help.

The OHP is expected to be available to purchase in 2024.



Putting community at the heart of historic designed landscape conservation



The Gardens Trust's chief contribution to the conservation of historic parks and gardens is delivered through the planning system as a statutory consultee.

The Gardens Trust enjoys loyal, generous, and skilled support from its members and core supporters. These include academics, landscape architects, conservation professionals, and those with a serious but unpaid interest in garden history. Amongst the most proactive have been volunteers from the 37 affiliated [County Gardens Trusts](#). These are incredibly hardworking in activities such as commenting on planning applications and delivering research and recording projects.

The delivery of the Trust's work depends on securing active participation across a broad spectrum of the community at large – from all generations and backgrounds. In 2023, The Garden's Trust is relaunching its Volunteer Award to recognise the invaluable contributions made by volunteers such as these.

During 2022-24, Gardens Trust [Volunteer Support Officers](#) will be continuing to work on a Historic England-funded project called Volunteers Save Space! This continues pre-existing capacity building work for County Gardens Trust volunteers, whilst looking for ways to engage new audiences as active participants. The desire is to achieve this

through activities such as conservation-focused Heritage Open Days, digital interaction, research and recording projects for absolute beginners, and better relationships with Friends groups.

This work aligns with a current county initiative called [Suffolk's Unforgettable Garden Story](#). As part of this project 30 new volunteers have been recruited to research and record historic parks and gardens, and improve their designation representation.

The Trust's work on outreach continues through the Engaging with our Future project, made possible thanks to Lottery players. This project has enabled the Trust to employ an Audience & Engagement Officer, who has been developing ways to introduce 'beginners' to garden history through light touch activities such as 'Make your own Terrarium' and our 'Garden History Lucky Dip'. Five such events were successfully staged during 2022, including at a community garden and a refuge for those who have been victims of modern slavery. For 2023, a team of volunteer '[Community Champions](#)' will promote these activities at local events across the country in the coming months.

Thanks to generous donations, the Trust has also launched [The Gardens Trust Community Grant Scheme](#). In 2022, a grant was awarded to Northamptonshire Gardens Trust to enable them to set up a Friends of Billing Road Cemetery, and to Bradgate Park Trust for new tools and equipment.

Throughout 2022, this range of activities enabled the Gardens Trust to train 548 volunteers, deliver outreach activities to 35 people from diverse backgrounds, and recruit six young volunteers to support the Trust's digital activity. The Trust views this work as just the start of its long-term objective for growing and sustaining inclusive engagement in the conservation of historic parks and gardens.

Archaeological discoveries by the Church of England



Development works at several cathedrals have revealed fascinating archaeological evidence. At Leicester Cathedral, excavations in preparation for a new exhibition and learning centre have unearthed

a Roman room with painted walls containing an altar stone, theorised to be a space for cultic worship. The dig has also discovered more than 1,100 burials dating from the 11th to the mid-19th centuries.

Whilst at Exeter Cathedral, the construction of a new link building on the site of part of the long-demolished medieval cloister has also uncovered burials belonging to the period 400-700 and therefore likely to cast light on the origins of the Christian community at Exeter, first documented c.670-80.

Historic Houses Surveys



Historic Houses regularly surveys its member properties. The headline figures from the 2022 survey are:

- Historic Houses member properties welcomed over 21.2 million visits in 2022 (of which just over half were made locally).
- Member properties supported 32,450 FTE jobs across the UK and employed 330 apprentices to help train up a new generation.
- Historic Houses member properties generated over £1.3 billion for the UK economy.
- The backlog of repairs and maintenance across all Historic Houses member properties is estimated to be around £2 billion.

Between them, in 2022, Historic Houses member properties hosted:

- 7,700 volunteers for over 54,000 days of volunteering

- Around 26,000 cultural events, including festivals, theatre, art exhibitions and recitals.
- Over 141,000 students of all ages.

In 2022, Historic Houses conducted another survey jointly with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) of their members' attitudes towards the planning system:

- 98% of respondents believed heritage in the planning system was 'important' or 'very important'.
- However, 48% of these respondents thought that the heritage protection system worked 'poorly' or 'very poorly' in practice.



Image: Children outside Burton Constable Hall & Grounds, a Historic Houses member property.
Copyright: © Burton Constable / Historic Houses.

- 90% viewed reducing their carbon footprint as either 'quite' or 'very' important'. 87% of those who actively wanted to carry out decarbonisation works viewed planning permission and listed building consent as a barrier to doing so.
- 75% thought it would be a good idea to streamline aspects of the listed building consent and planning systems for heritage.
- 69% reported a rise in their heating bills in 2022 – with a further 7% on fixed contracts who are expecting significant increases when this ends.
- 11% said that 'the cost of heating is so prohibitive that it is putting the fabric of my house and/or collection at risk'.

2022 Surveys of Listed Building Owners and Occupiers



In 2022 Historic England commissioned new research into the experiences of residents of listed buildings and conservation areas, updating a survey last carried out in 2017. Over 1,600 listed building owners and occupiers shared their views. The survey found that living in a listed building can foster feelings of pride and local identity. Nine in ten (89%) residents said they felt proud of their home and agreed it was important to the character of their local area.

Most respondents (86%) said that they kept on top of necessary repair and maintenance works. Many had encountered challenges, however, with just over half (57%) agreeing that it was difficult to afford the maintenance of their home. An overwhelming majority of residents (81%) supported Listed Building Consent although overall satisfaction with the process had declined to just 35% in 2022 from 51% in 2017).

The survey mirrored the findings of a survey commissioned by the CLA and Historic Houses of their own members' experiences. Over 80% said that their listed buildings were in 'good' (46%) or 'reasonable' (37%) repair. This reflected the amount of money spent by private owners on the maintenance of important heritage assets. The total spend per year on heritage by the 396 respondents to the survey was in the region of £43 million.



The Liverpool Street Station Campaign



The Victorian Society has worked with partners to initiate ongoing campaigns that intend to use the collective influence of multiple heritage organisations for maximum impact.

In November 2022, the Society launched a campaign which aims to protect grade II listed Liverpool Street Station from potential development threats. The initiative was inspired by the original Liverpool Street Station Campaign, first formed in 1974, and the new Liverpool Street Station Campaign (LISSCA) is now headed by The Victorian Society President Griff Rhys Jones OBE.

The Victorian Society chairs the Campaign Committee which includes Save Britain's Heritage, The Twentieth Century Society, Historic Buildings & Places, The Georgian Group, The Spitalfields Trust, Civic Voice, The Betjeman Society, the Council for British Archaeology and London Historians. The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are also supporting the campaign along with 8,445 members of the public who have signed a petition.

Griff Rhys Jones launched the campaign in the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme studio, followed by interviews with ITV London 6pm News, BBC Radio London, Suffolk, and Essex, The Guardian, and The Daily Telegraph. The Evening Standard and others also covered the story.

More information and a summary of the campaign can be found on the [Victorian Society's website](#).

Common Ground in Sacred Space - Reimagining Newcastle Cathedral



The ground-breaking Common Ground in Sacred Space project at Newcastle Cathedral (funded through a significant grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund) has transformed the interior and exterior of the Cathedral and is enabling a new culture to flourish in this historic building at the heart of a thriving city.

Over a period of 18 months, main contractor Historic Property Restoration Ltd worked closely with project architects Purcell to remove Victorian pews, take up the crumbling floor, replace leaking heating pipes to install new underfloor heating, install Air Source Heat Pumps, move and conserve over 100 historic ledger stones (some weighing over a tonne) and replace the floor with beautiful local-quarried stone and marble. New LED lighting was installed throughout, together with a new audio-visual system (perfect for the new live-streaming requirements brought on by the pandemic and enabling the Cathedral's community to be kept nourished and supported).

Externally, the grounds have been sympathetically landscaped which blended modern urban design with thoughtful historic elements – a Corten steel grille etched with motifs found inside the building, a ribbon of words flowing from the Cathedral door to the expansive terracing underneath the eastern stained glass window, and a new suite of seats (with under-seat lighting). The landscape design by Harrison Stevens enabled the spirit of the Cathedral interior to be expressed in a modern way externally. As in all great projects, the heart of it all was to enable the Cathedral to reach out to a much wider community – from worshippers and tourists, to those seeking refuge from hardships or struggles and local people wanting to enjoy learning more about the history of their city's Cathedral.

A civic icon for all to be proud of, the Cathedral's new spaces are about using the past to embrace the challenges of the present and opportunities of the future.



Equality, Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality at Historic England



Historic England's first Strategy for Inclusion, Diversity & Equality (IDE) has come to an end, with the new version having a focus on influencing and supporting the wider sector. Over the reporting period, 57 diverse projects were funded that celebrated working class histories through the new Everyday Heritage Grants scheme which mainly attracted organisations that had not previously applied for Historic England funding.



In 2022, the 10th anniversary of Heritage Schools was celebrated – a programme that embeds local history and heritage studies into school curricula and develops a sense of civic pride in pupils. This has reached almost 2 million children since it began. Early Careers programmes have also been developing successfully. 31 apprenticeships have been set up and 23 Kickstart placements hosted. The positive action training placements scheme was taken up by 13 young people and 140 young people have received virtual work experience. More information on Historic England's work on apprenticeships can be found later in this report.

Inclusion, Diversity and Equality resources for the sector



Heritage organisations have continued to work hard to provide IDE resources to support the sector.

IDE training has been provided for the sector by Historic England and research commissioned on board diversity and workforce data collection. A new IDE Advice Hub has launched, providing guidance, toolkits, and case studies to support sector organisations to be more inclusive.

Following a two-year period of consultation and engagement, the Heritage Alliance is also working with Historic England on how both organisations can jointly support the sector in this space, with the Alliance gathering case studies from its membership to be featured on the IDE Advice hub.

Over 2022-23, The National Lottery Heritage Fund has led events and produced resources to promote best practice among heritage sector organisations in their aim of strengthening inclusion, diversity and equality.

Following the [successful report](#) *Creatively Minded & Heritage* by Baring Foundation, The Restoration Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund in November 2021, the Fund led a well-attended public event looking at the report's recommendations in June 2022. Sustainable partnership models and co-production best practice were presented

by Culture& and the Culture Health & Wellbeing Alliance. The Restoration Trust highlighted the significance of participants' lived experiences of mental ill health underpinning the aims and outcomes of heritage projects. Participants demonstrated how their increasing skills and confidence have led to active volunteer involvement within Restoration Trust governance, further embedding equity within strategy and impact.

In 2022, responding to the significant under-representation of People of Colour across the landscape and nature sector, the [Racial Equity in Nature toolkit](#) was developed in co-production with stakeholder organisations including Groundwork, The Wildlife Trusts and Sheffield Environmental Movement. Many of the equity in recruitment recommendations are transferable across wider areas of the heritage sector. The guidance has been viewed by over 2,000 people, with 1,473 downloads of the guide since May 2022.

VocalEyes [heritage sector research](#) led by disabled, neurodivergent people including blind and partially sighted volunteers has identified urgent actions needed across the heritage sector to increase accessibility, including improved digital resources and website information. The research includes extensive access resources, applicable across the heritage sector in promoting inclusive public engagement and in facilitating the cultural rights of disabled people. Following on from a focused set of support through Rebuilding Heritage's programmes between 2021 and 2022 on Equality, [Diversity and Inclusion](#) and on [Wellbeing](#), the Heritage Alliance also worked with VocalEyes to create a 'gif series' and Twitter thread to share their guidance on [10 ways to encourage deaf, disabled and neurodivergent visitors to your heritage site](#).

CIfA's work on Inclusion, diversity & equality



Making the archaeological discipline more inclusive is an integral part of CIfA's Strategic Plan. Using the Royal Academy of Engineering and Science Council Diversity and Inclusion Progression Framework for professional bodies, CIfA has undertaken a benchmarking exercise to measure its performance against the four-level maturity model for seven areas of the organisation's work.

This has resulted in a series of recommendations for future priorities for CIfA to progress across the maturity model. Alongside this, with funding from Historic England, CIfA has been carrying out [qualitative research](#) to improve its understanding of the issues affecting equality of access to careers within the archaeological sector, and to identify the barriers to entry and progression within the profession.

The project will be completed in April 2023 and the recommendations will focus on actions within the remit of CIfA, and areas where its strategic intervention or requirements from members can make a difference.

Developing a set of CBA Organisational Behaviours



In 2021, the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) undertook a diversity review of its vision, mission and values, and of activities and approaches. The development of a set of CBA behaviours is a direct result of this work and the organisation is now in the process of implementing them. It is hoped that these behaviours will act as a set of principles for staff, volunteers and Trustees, and over time, through engagement and collaboration, will influence broader perceptions of archaeology.

The CBA believes that wider accessibility and participation is essential to archaeology, and this belief underpins its core values and work. Interactions with people are at the very centre of the CBA's approach:

"Archaeology enables us to connect to the world around us. Archaeology helps us question what it means to be human by exploring the traces people leave behind."

Work on these new values is part of the CBA's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and aims to address three issues in particular:

- **Othering:** othering can be defined as, 'the act of treating someone as though they are not part of a group and are different in some way'. The opposite of othering is not 'saming', it is belonging. Belonging does not insist that all people are the same; it means a recognition and celebration of difference. The CBA will focus on how it can build belonging, while avoiding the possibility of othering.
- **Legacy:** history shapes the present, and that includes the aspects which have led to inequalities and prejudices in modern society. Many aspects of heritage values and meaning are contested. While some people draw positive associations from them, others find them painful, traumatic, and difficult. Archaeology has been used in the past to justify and support dominant and sometimes oppressive narratives around race, nationalism, and imperialism.

The CBA acknowledges this and aims to change how it reflects, describes, and uses that legacy in its work. It also aims to help others understand these issues and to help create new perceptions about archaeology.

- **Representation:** more needs to be done to ensure archaeology and heritage is fully representative of wider society. The CBA's work in this space includes addressing organisational actions, policies, practices, and procedures, and ensuring that the adopted CBA behaviours are fully reflective of society today.

Inclusive Archaeology at the National Trust



The archaeology team at the National Trust has been focusing on its 'Everyone Welcome' ambition to ensure that inclusivity and engagement form a major component of fieldwork, research, and historic environment management. With a bigger drive to increase Heritage and Archaeology Ranger Team (HART) volunteers, the Trust is increasing its capacity to monitor the 90,000 archaeological sites already recorded in its database, as well as discovering more.

By encouraging people of different ages and abilities to get involved with the Trust's archaeological work, groups can be brought together to learn, take notice, be active, feel connected to others, and gain a sense of responsibility and ownership of our shared historic environment. This work strongly aligns with the five recognised steps towards improving personal wellbeing and the Trust is committed to continue this initiative.

The Trust has run a series of 'Inclusive Archaeology' projects to bring diverse groups of people together

Above all, the CBA has recognised the need to continuously reflect and learn from what it's doing to address these issues and to demonstrate its commitment to addressing them. The organisation's vision, mission, values and behaviours underpin its approach, and you can read more about them on [the CBA website](#).

to get involved with a range of archaeological research. The team at Oxburgh Hall, worked with partners to bring members of the local community together with local metal detecting groups to learn more about newly acquired former parkland around the wider estate. In partnership with Leicester University at Attingham, a group of young carers returned to continue their excavations of the summer house, in an experience designed to enhance their individual wellbeing. In a collaboration at Smallhythe Place, the team worked with a variety of local archaeologists to deliver excavation training for members of the community aged between 16 and 65, as well as a series of workshops and evening lectures increasing local knowledge about the archaeology of the area.

A fifth project – Footprints – taking place at Wicken Fen, has enabled the Trust to bring in and train nine new archaeological volunteers through a series of fieldwork days, workshops and training sessions focusing on the deep-time archaeology and the changes in geology beneath the peatlands. In turn, these volunteers have been able to help others in the community to understand more about the significance of the historic environment at Wicken.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and the experiences have impacted people in ways that go beyond just enjoying themselves. The Trust will continue to increase the engagement opportunities for archaeology and the historic environment – and look for new and exciting ways to deliver this ambition.

The Heritage and Archaeology Ranger Team (HART) initiative within the National Trust



The National Trust has a core belief that its volunteers bring energy, skills and inspiration to the organisation, that they are fundamental to its ability to deliver its conservation ambitions. Within the Trust's Archaeology Team, volunteers have over many years helped to explore and understand the historic environment assets that it cares for through survey and investigation. The Trust is now seeking to grow the Heritage and Archaeology Ranger Team (HART) volunteers, recognising that to care for places it is critical to understand what is happening on the ground.

Volunteers working in HART teams visit archaeological assets on the land the Trust cares for to ensure that their condition is recorded and that any current threats and vulnerabilities are understood. When visiting an asset, they record, through notes and photography, any damage agents present. This information is fed into the Trust's Historic Buildings, Sites & Monument Record database and any issues or concerns can easily be flagged with the local Archaeologist. Working alongside the Trust's Countryside Ranger teams remedial works or asset management plans can then be devised and undertaken.

HART volunteers may then assist with any actions agreed. A great example of this process is the Hillforts & Habitats project in Dorset and Wiltshire, where HART volunteers identified a range of issues that resulted in a programme of management works. As a result of this work, four hillforts were

removed from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register and all are now in improved condition. Following initial survey work a suitable programme of cyclical visits are established, ranging from one to five years. Scheduled Monuments, other sites of national importance or sites where particular threats or vulnerabilities are identified see the highest frequency of monitoring visits.

As the volunteers themselves say "The joy comes from being with like-minded people in such special places with spectacular views, hearing the skylarks, admiring the cowslips and feeling we are doing something worthwhile." (North & East Dorset HART). The Trust's current objective is to roll out HART so that all of its places benefit from the invaluable support that these volunteers contribute.



Image: The North & East Dorset HART undertook baseline survey of a number of hillforts to inform the management works undertaken under the Hillforts and Habitats project and are now returning as part of a programme of regular cyclical of condition monitoring. Copyright: © National Trust / Duncan Coe.

Embedding environmental and social value into archaeological research and practice



As a material consideration in the planning process, planning authorities are required to take archaeology into consideration when determining planning applications. These considerations, or protections, are set out in legislation, policy and other guidance and often take the form of commissioned works such as desk-based assessments, field evaluations, excavations, watching briefs and building recordings.

While such work is invaluable to enhancing our understanding of the human story in England, the work of an archaeologist can also contribute to the pursuit of sustainability and the creation of meaningful anchors for communities, given that archaeology offers connections with place. Through the capacity to learn from the past, Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) is focusing on the recognition that archaeology and heritage are enablers of sustainability through their social and environmental values, in addition to collaborative initiatives through their long legacy of participatory and community-based activities.

The [Public Benefit Project](#) and the MOLA Sustainability team have been working closely with partners and communities through [research, workshops, meetings and conversations](#) to think about perceptions of archaeology across industries, the impacts of projects on communities, and ways in which heritage can be critical for [building resilience](#).

The MOLA Public Value Team – tasked with delivering charitable or developer-funded projects – has been developing best practices for engagement, building connections with local communities through their work and identifying opportunities for deeper legacy. Collectively, MOLA is harnessing ways in which archaeology can act as a resource for [public benefit and social value](#) as a means to ensure [community inclusion](#) in their work and provide alternative sustainable futures and [adaptive thinking](#) for heritage land – and sea – scapes, as well as assets.

A key message from this work is that collaborations should begin at the start of project designs, with the premise that all voices are equally valuable in terms of delivering social and environmental benefits. Language and communication are at the heart of better understanding how the archaeology profession can level existing planning and other policy frameworks to enable sustainability. As a start, this involves addressing impacts on society and the environment, and enabling the delivery of an ethical archaeological practice.

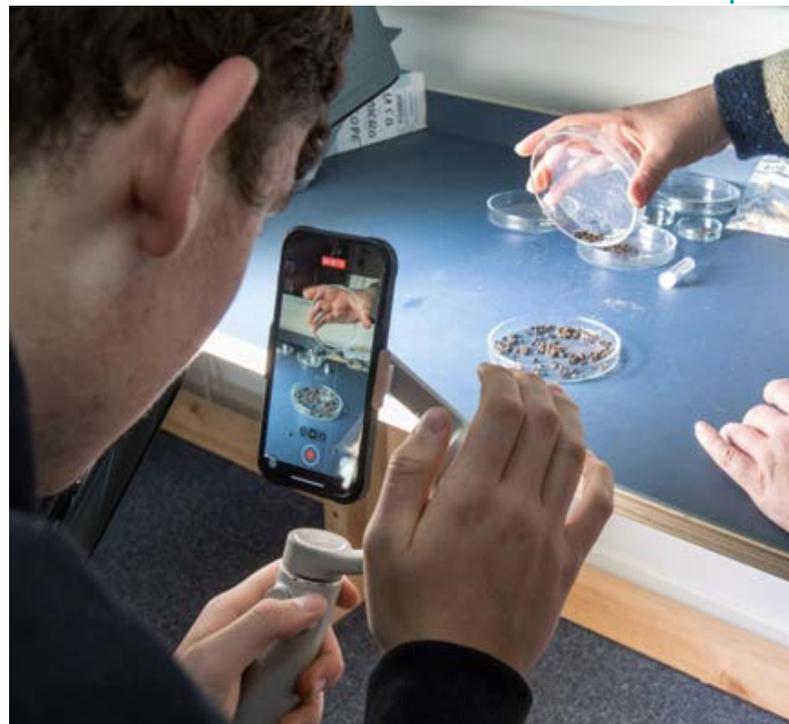


Image: 15 year old entrepreneur at work, briefed with creating a '60 seconds Science' film about archaeobotany. Organised as part of the community engagement work contracted by the National Highways scheme for the improvement to A428, delivered by the Public Value Team. Copyright: © MOLA.

Volunteer Training with the Young Archaeologists' Club



The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), managed by the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), has been running for over 40 years. Volunteers have, and continue to be, the lifeblood of the YAC network, with over 500 supporting branches across the UK in 2023.

Branch leaders come from all walks of life, aged 16 to 70+, bringing a whole gamut of experience to the wider network. Some have been historic environment professionals for 30 years, while others are there not because they have a particular interest in archaeology, but rather to ensure that young people have an exciting and safe place to explore their own interests in the subject.

The CBA firmly believes that volunteers should be provided with the opportunity to develop their interests and skill sets alongside the assistance they offer to their respective clubs. To support our volunteers, they run online and in-person training activities, many of which are geared towards enhancing knowledge of particular archaeological periods and coming away with ideas on how to run a session on the topic. For example, after a day at Creswell Crags on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border, leaders left with a bumper resource pack and a newfound love of the period. CBA also runs themed training days such as 'Marvellous Metals', which took place at Bradford Industrial Museum last year. At this event, the team were joined by the PAS, had an opportunity to practise early medieval gilding and took part in demos by the local blacksmith and Ancient Craft UK, who explored Bronze Age metalworking with the YAC leaders.

Another training strand focuses more on the pastoral side, ensuring YAC leaders feel equipped to support the young people (and their fellow volunteers). Training includes safeguarding, health and safety and awareness workshops covering various topics. Recent online sessions have included Trans Awareness and Neurodiversity, for example.

The CBA is only able to offer such a wide-ranging training programme through funded support and the generosity of other organisations and projects which they hope will continue to grow over future years.

The CBA wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported our training programme and specifically say a huge thank you to all of their YAC volunteers, from Orkney to Jersey, Belfast to Great Yarmouth.



Youth Voice at The CBA



Over the past two years the CBA has been working towards embedding ‘youth voice’ within the organisation. Youth voice is about young people having a say (and being heard) in decisions that affect their own lives, from their education and wellbeing to the opportunities and services they access. It is the distinct ideas, attitudes, knowledge, and opinions of young people. The delivery of youth voice is being taken via a youth participation approach, which is about young people taking part and being included during the development and/or delivery stage – in partnership or as the lead in projects and wider organisational development. This approach is going to be replicated at the CBA. There is also a plan to co-create a post-16 offer with those who it would primarily benefit.

Over the last year, the CBA have undertaken a [national youth consultation](#) with youth voice specialists, Sound Connections, to explore what young people wanted from the CBA and the archaeology and heritage sector more broadly. Buy-in was from staff, stakeholders and the wider network through free training opportunities and resources, and the CBA is now in the process of developing a Youth Advisory Group to embed young people at the heart of the organisation.

Thanks to funding from Headley Trust, the CBA will be welcoming a new member of staff to lead the day-to-day delivery of this strand of work for the next two years. Funding from Historic England has also provided the opportunity to develop a six-month training course for staff, stakeholders and new Youth Advisory Group members, delivered by sector specialist, Participation People, and their own cohort of youth consultants. The initiative will also coach staff on facilitating a youth governance programme and supporting young people during the process.

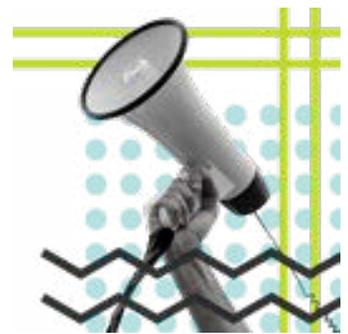


Image 1: List of suggested activities the YAG should undertake based on results of the CBA's Youth Consultation in 2022. Copyright: © CBA.

Image 2: List of suggested reasons why young people would join the YAG based on results of the CBA's Youth Consultation in 2022. Copyright: © CBA.

Image 3: List of suggested changes young people think archaeology needs to make based on results of the CBA's Youth Consultation in 2022. Copyright: © CBA.

Image 4: Youth Governance at the CBA: have your say. Copyright: © CBA.

Amplifying Young Voices in the Heritage Sector



The Heritage Trust Network has identified a lack of awareness of the UK's building preservation trusts and heritage-led regeneration amongst young people at university and entering the heritage sector. In order to diversify the sector and make it more accessible to young people, the Heritage Trust Network developed the 'Unlocking the Power of Communities' project. This UK-wide youth forum was co-designed with 18-30 year olds and aimed to achieve the following:

- Enable young adults' voices to be heard in the heritage sector;
- Involve young adults in the Network's branches around the UK;
- Investigate how to better involve young people in the heritage sector and make it more accessible to them;
- Write blogs and vlogs and produce podcasts;
- Enable volunteering opportunities with members or the central Heritage Trust Network staff team;
- Co-design and run a workshop during the Network's annual conference.

Until March 2023, the forum was led by the Network's graduate trainee who organised monthly meetings and co-ordinated activities via the Discord platform. Since its inception, members of the youth forum have:

- Produced their own podcast 'Brick by Brick: Understanding Heritage Projects';
- Spoken at Heritage Trust Network's annual conference in Caernarfon;
- Delivered a speed mentoring event online that matched heritage professionals with young people;
- Spoken at Historic Environment Scotland's Heritage Conversations event;
- Published blogs;
- Delivered a careers panel event;
- Developed a set of goals for the forum.

Going forward, the youth forum will be coordinated by three of its 50+ members in a voluntary capacity and supported by a graduate trainee, a member of staff who will work on the National Lottery Heritage Fund supported Essential Networks project.



Historic England launches Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy



Historic England published its [Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy](#) in May 2022, aiming to help the organisation to enhance the social impact of its programmes, highlight inequities that heritage can challenge, and help communicate the value of heritage. The Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy marks an important shift in policy and priorities setting in the heritage sector and is a commitment

for Historic England to put individual and community wellbeing and levelling up inequalities at the core of its organisational ethos and work.

The Wellbeing and Heritage Strategy has four priority areas – Younger people, Older People, Mental Health and Loneliness, which will help Historic England to learn from new partnerships and understand the needs of specific groups. Advocating for a ‘people and heritage-led’ approach, the strategy encourages heritage professionals to listen to people’s needs and experiences, learn from others and build shared approaches. This principle aligns closely with Historic England’s Inclusion, Diversity and Equality strategy, with its emphasis on inclusive practice. By actively working on wellbeing heritage professionals and organisations will deliver greater social inclusion and more diverse ways to interact with heritage.

Age UK Heritage Project



The Age UK-led Heritage Project** is marking the start of a new partnership between Historic England and Age UK Oxfordshire, exploring how marginalised communities of older people can lead delivery in their own historic places to support wellbeing. Working in one place, Age UK will co-design their Heritage Project** with participants that will provide Historic England, and the wider heritage and age sectors, with a blueprint for national scalability.

Age UK’s Index of Wellbeing in Later Life research shows that older people themselves believe ‘creative and cultural participation’ is the number one positive influence on their own sense of wellbeing, whilst ‘visiting historic parks or gardens’ and ‘visiting towns or cities with historic

character’ are the second creative activity that older people participated in after ‘reading for pleasure’. The research also revealed that the barriers to engagement in these activities are significant, particularly in terms of transport, caring responsibilities, and poor health, exacerbated for those who experience inequality in other aspects of their lives too. In addition to those ‘real’ barriers, there are also ‘perceived’ barriers, such as feeling that ‘it wasn’t for people like them’.

**Heritage Project is designed to work with older people who are not currently engaged in heritage and co-design a project that is not only ‘for people like them’. The results of its evaluation are due by October 2024 and together with the evidence gathered from the other HE wellbeing pilots, it will bring priceless data for the health and social impact of engagement with heritage and the historic environment, will provide models for connecting to health and social prescribing provision locally, blueprints for scaling up nationally, and insight on addressing big societal issues, such as health inequity and the worsening mental health and loneliness crisis.

Heritage and Social Prescribing



Historic England continued its strategic partnership with the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) through the work of the National Lead for the Historic Environment, who works with a wide range of cross-sector partners to raise the profile of heritage in social prescribing, while also supporting heritage and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to develop their knowledge about social prescribing, exchange ideas and projects, and link to local social prescribing infrastructure.

The partnership with NASP in 2022 led to the development of two pilot projects testing the 'whole-community approach' to social prescribing – Heritage Connectors and Heritage Buddies. This approach is looking to develop the wider social prescribing ecosystem in a place, by strengthening the connection between people, information and access to wellbeing activities and social prescribing referral pathways.

Historic England commissioned the pilots in 2022 as test and learn projects, building on successful models of utilising volunteering and befriending services to link people to the heritage activities available locally to improve their health and wellbeing.

Heritage Connectors, delivered in Frome (Somerset) by the Frome Medical Practice is training local residents in signposting people in need to points of information about local heritage wellbeing activities, while Heritage Buddies, delivered by the Nottingham Community and Voluntary Services (NCVS), is training existing local volunteers to inform, befriend and support people in need to learn about and access confidently heritage

wellbeing activities available in their city. In parallel with these two pilots, Historic England commissioned the HerWellNHS feasibility study, led by the University of Southampton, looking at the impact of engagement with local heritage through supporting 250 members of NHS critical staff in Portsmouth to improve their own health and wellbeing. The project is developed in partnership with the Research Unit of the local NHS Trust and the Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth. The collated data will be a step towards a subsequent longitudinal research study and a Clinical Randomised Trial (CRT), aimed at filling the existing research gaps in this field and providing robust evidence for the wellbeing effects of heritage interventions.

These three pilots add to Historic England's existing portfolio of investment in trialling ways to connect local heritage and place to social prescribing, such as the ongoing Heritage Link worker project in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft (East of England), delivered by the Restoration Trust.



Project Rejuvenate



Historic England's 'Project Rejuvenate' seeks to explore and establish the practical methodologies of how heritage-based activities can deliver sustained positive outcomes on the wellbeing of young people. In 2023, the project is delivering its main pilot phase with two separate programmes of activities delivered for young people. The programmes will provide activities for young people at risk of falling out of the mainstream school system and for those already involved in the criminal justice system. By equipping them with a variety of transferable skills, the project aims

to enhance participants' wellbeing and empower them to assert a positive control over the direction of their lives. From archaeological digs and rebuilding prehistoric homes, to excavating Second World War structures and exploring our military defences, the young participants will leap into a hands-on practical exploration of our nation's story. Rejuvenate seeks to use the power of history to provide meaningful change in the lives of young people.

The project demonstrates pioneering cross-sector collaborations between the public, private and charitable sector. Wessex Archaeology and Isle Heritage have been integral partners in developing the project and will be delivering the two pilot programmes of activities. The project hopes to not just leave a legacy of change for the young people but provoke a compelling conversation on the vital role and potential social impact the heritage sector can deliver within our communities.

Events & Awards

Historic Houses Awards



Historic Houses' 2022 awards were presented at the organisation's national AGM in November. The winners were:

- [Restoration Award](#) – Lytham Hall and Wolterton Park (joint winners)
- [Sustainability Award](#) – Penpont
- [Frances Garnham Award for Innovation in Education](#) – Chawton House

CBA Festival of Archaeology



The [32nd Festival of Archaeology](#) was held from 16th July to 31st July 2022. The theme was 'Journeys' and over the course of the Festival there were 439 events, providing 794 unique opportunities to engage in archaeology across the UK.



- [Garden of the Year](#) – Wentworth Woodhouse / Judges' Choice, Garden of the Year – Upton Wold
- Historic Houses also launched a new Collections Award, in partnership with the auction house Dreweatt's:
- [Collections Award](#) – Caerhays Castle (specifically for the Williams Caerhays Mineral collection).

More details about these worthy winners can be found [online](#).

CBA-led events included in-person events at Segedunum Roman Fort in North Tyneside, Bradford Industrial Museum and Corfe Castle in Dorset. It also delivered a range of online events including a theme day; online lectures; youth day; A Day In Archaeology and #AskAnArchaeologist Day.

Alongside CBA activity, an incredible range of events were delivered by a wide range of groups and organisations across the sector. Events included family fun days, re-enactments, hands-on crafts, skills training including opportunities to participate in archaeological fieldwork, guided walks, lectures and workshops. Updated event organiser materials

Historic Environment Overview 2022-23

provided support and guidance to event organisers including a new guide from the Enabled Archaeology Foundation on making events more accessible.

The Festival was once again well supported by a wide range of organisations across the sector including our principal partners Historic England; Cadw; the National Trust; Wessex Archaeology; Forestry England; Bradford Museums; Antiquity Trust; CifA; Career in Ruins; and the Royal Archaeological Institute.

Online Festival resources continued to grow, enabling organisers to share material that could be accessed by the public at any time. Resources include lectures, craft activities and self-guided walks. The development of this area of the website

has enabled the CBA to share over 200 resources on demand throughout the year.

During the two-week Festival period, the #FestivalofArchaeology hashtag reached over 8 million users with the Festival's digital reach estimated at over 65 million.



National Trust celebrates the Festival of Archaeology



Following the success of digital engagement as part of the Festival of Archaeology in 2021, the National Trust was pleased to offer face-to-face engagement at several places during the Festival of Archaeology in July 2022. One of the standout property moments was hosting the closing weekend of the festival at Corfe Castle in collaboration with the CBA. On the Saturday, the team ran several bookable workshops including landscape tours, finds identification and geophysics. On the Sunday, the Castle hosted a free access family day with stalls offering information

from local universities, groups and societies alongside the National Trust and the CBA. The property had over 2,500 visitors to the event – one of their highest visitor numbers for a single day.

There were 40 other National Trust property events which happened over the fortnight ranging from self-led spotter sheets at Sheringham Park, guided tours at Sutton Hoo, family activities at Knole, archaeology talks at Seaton Delaval and excavations at Ankerwycke and Max Gate. This was coupled with digital engagement through the National Trust website and social media.

National Trust archaeologists took part in #AskAnArchaeologist day on Twitter and ran another 'Evening with National Trust archaeologists' event, featuring three presentations around the Festival theme of journeys, followed by a live question and answer session.

Ruins Reimagined



Alongside other Festival of Archaeology activities, Corfe Castle starred in the online world of Minecraft. In celebration of Minecraft launching 'The Wild Update', which allows players to access ancient cities alongside mangrove swamp biomes, the Trust partnered with Xbox to rebuild the iconic castle within the game.

With the help of historian Alice Loxton and advice from National Trust archaeologist Martin Papworth, YouTuber Grian reimagined the castle – restoring it to its former glory within Minecraft. Minecraft also launched a '[Ruins Reimagined](#)' film showing how Grian recreated the castle out of the ruins that survive to this today.

To further Minecraft's mission to improve learning through technology, a Minecraft Education Edition package of the experience was also launched. This is available to teachers across the UK as a creative toolkit to help Key Stage 2 pupils engage with traditional curriculums such as History, Science, and Design & Technology.

Heritage Day 2023 and the Heritage Alliance's 20th Anniversary



A hybrid [Heritage Day 2023](#) was held in two parts on 1st and 2nd March 2023. Heritage leaders, professionals and volunteers gathered online and in-person at the historic venue, The Charterhouse, London. The Heritage Alliance's cornerstone annual event provides attendees with an invaluable opportunity to hear from leading voices, gain skills and foster connections with each other and key policy makers.

This year, celebrating the Heritage Alliance's 20 years of existence, the event created a space for heritage organisations within and beyond our membership to reflect on the skills and leadership



required to make our sector fit for the future. The keynote speech from Lord Parkinson, Minister for Arts and Heritage, emphasised the importance of heritage to the economy and communities and reflected on his own personal interest in history, arts and heritage. René Olivieri, Chair of the National Trust advocated that heritage sector organisations:

"can and should exercise our collective might to do more good, to think now and long-term, and promote conservation beyond our individual boundaries."

Additionally, attendees joined panels of heritage leaders and young trustees in conversation. The virtual day featured a political panel looking at manifesto creation, a funders'-eye view of challenges and opportunities and skills-building sessions on risk and crime, fundraising and copyright.

Ecclesiastical's Heritage Heroes Awards is a regular feature of Heritage Day. These awards, which celebrate the significant contribution of volunteers, are now in their 13th year. David Kennedy at Coombe Conduit was our 2022 Heritage Hero,

and the winners of the special category for 2022, the Heritage Storyteller Award, were China Exchange History Champions. Among other things, David developed an online tour that ensured the Coombe Conduit, an ancient waterworks, was still accessible online during the pandemic through storytelling and walking tours and contributed to anti-racism work. Meanwhile, commendations were awarded to the Volunteer Wreck Custodians who look after 64 protected wreck sites and A Thames Lark for engaging young people with research through an immersive event along the Thames.

CifA Innovation Festival



In 2019 the Chartered Institute for Archaeology, in collaboration with the Association of Local Government Archaeologists (ALGAO), was commissioned by Historic England to undertake the Building Capacity Through Innovation project.

One of the recommendations from this was for CifA to organise an event focused on promoting innovative practice, facilitating knowledge exchange, and encouraging network opportunities, and to consider how this could be repeated in the future to engage a wide-ranging audience.

As a result, the [CifA Innovation Festival](#) has become a regular feature in the organisation's events calendar, now taking place each October. To ensure accessibility, this is run as a digital CPD event hosting a range of sessions varying from short 'lunch and learns' to half or full day features with innovative topics chosen to attract delegates in all stages of their archaeological careers. Sessions are recorded and hosted on the CifA website as an ongoing CPD resource.

Heritage Debate



In December 2022, the Heritage Alliance held its Annual Heritage Debate as part of its 20th Anniversary celebrations, which invited a spirited discussion on the topic: 'Heritage in 20 Years: what will matter most?'

Five experts made the case for a particular priority for 2042: Community value: Dr Wanda Wyporska (CEO, Society of Genealogists); Inherent value: Dr Mike Nevell (Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England); Business value: Julie Montagu, Viscountess Hinchinbrooke (Mapperton House); Climate Crisis: Rab Bennetts (Co-founder of Bennetts Associates, architect and a Founder of the UK Green Building Council) and Skills & workforce: Kate Geary (Head of Professional Development & Practice, CifA). Participants were invited to allocate their fictional £1 million in funding to one of these priorities with Community Value and Climate Crisis topping the polls.

Whilst the Heritage Alliance set the speakers the challenge of arguing for one priority over all others, the discussion between panellists and attendees demonstrated just how intertwined the present challenges and opportunities facing the sector are, and how that will continue to be true in the future. 92% of post-event survey respondents said they would consider the discussions further in the context of their job or organisation.

A set of [20 blogs](#) which responded to the topic were produced by guest authors from across the sector, and the Heritage Alliance pulled together an [article](#) with related resources. The event was sponsored by [Ecclesiastical Insurance](#), with additional support from the [Youth Hostel Association](#) (YHA) and an in-kind sponsorship from [VocalEyes](#), providing support to make Heritage Alliance events more accessible.

Heritage Open Days



In September 2022, 2,150 local organisers, c.100 coordinators, and 43,500 volunteers planned 4,945 events that attracted 1 million visits. Together they made a valuable difference to their communities and the wider heritage sector.

[Heritage Open Days](#) is England's largest annual community heritage festival. Co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery. 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.

2022 was a year of growth – with a 28% increase in event numbers, 34% growth in event attendees, and the festival community itself growing by 40% with new and returning organisers. Although it coincided with 10 days of national mourning, over 85% of the programme went ahead in some form.

“They made me feel more connected to my local area and incredibly proud of the ingenuity and skill of the people involved” Festival Visitor 2022
At a time of economic hardship, the festival's policy

of free admission was particularly valued and helped new audiences to engage with the heritage sector: 31% of visitors had not been to a heritage site in the past 12 months, 32% were from a C2DE background.

“We are a low-income family and I'm disabled so I often have to consider any walking involved. To be able to experience something like this as a family and also be offered the use of a mobility scooter onsite was fantastic and something we can't normally afford.” Festival Visitor 2022

“Nice to be able to go out as a family, meeting up with other generations, without worrying about cost – especially to somewhere that was both fun and educational.” Festival Visitor 2022

Partnership working is a key part of the festival and in 2022 the national team started working with Icon to raise awareness of the work of conservators, particularly through matching local sites with experts and encouraging cross-team working. 46 events with a conservation focus were registered creating interesting new offers for visitors and providing a valuable promotional platform for individual conservators and the work of the profession.

“Children and young people asked lots of questions and gained a positive first experience of archaeology and conservation. A constant flow of families and over 150 people made the Conservation Station into a real success!” Participating Conservator.

Historic Environment Overview 2022-23

An annual theme provides inspiration and encourages new connections and research. 623 events took part in 2022's 'Astounding Inventions', including a series of offers around Beverley Civic Society's discovery that their town may have the oldest in situ street lamps in the world.

The festival's capacity building programme, [New Wave](#), completed its pilot phase, with one participating group (Thames Discovery Programme)

receiving a special commendation in The Heritage Alliance's Heritage Storyteller award. The success of this youth engagement programme means it is now embedded within the festival as an annual scheme for local organisers.

The overall support the festival provides for the sector, building local capacity and bringing in new audiences, was recognised in its shortlisting for the new Museums+Heritage Sector Support Award.

Archaeological Achievement Awards



The Archaeological Achievement Awards are coordinated by the CBA with a judging panel of representatives from across the archaeology and heritage sector. The awards celebrate the very best of archaeology across the UK and Ireland and provide an opportunity to recognise the achievements of our sector over the last year, from contributions to knowledge development and research, work with local communities, to the achievements of those at the start of their careers, the dissemination of archaeological knowledge and exciting innovations.

There are five award categories:

- Archaeological Innovation;
- Engagement and Participation;
- Early Career Archaeologist;
- Public Dissemination or Presentation; and
- Learning, Training and Skills.

There is also an overall Outstanding Achievement Award which in 2022 was won by the Uist Virtual

Archaeology Project delivered by UHI Outer Hebrides and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. Bristol's Brilliant Archaeology Programme 2021-22 delivered by Bristol Museums were highly commended in the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Hosted by Ireland's National Monuments Service and Office of Public Works, the event was held at Dublin Castle and attendees at the prestigious event were welcomed from Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan T.D.

The awards were supported by a number of sponsors including Transport Infrastructure Ireland, National Museums Ireland, Dublin City Council, Past Preservers, Royal Archaeological Institute, Archaeology & Palaeoecology Queen's University Belfast, Archaeological Management Solutions, University Archaeology UK, AOC Archaeology Group, and CiFA.

Information about all of the 2022 shortlisted nominees and winners is available [online](#), as well as a [recording of the awards ceremony](#).

The 2023 awards will be launched at the Festival of Archaeology opening event on Saturday 15th August at Powis Castle, Wales and the awards ceremony will be held in autumn in England.



Marsh Community Archaeology Awards



The annual Marsh Community Archaeology Awards are delivered in partnership by the CBA and the Marsh Charitable Trust. The awards showcase excellence in archaeology, celebrating the passion and dedication of individuals and the outstanding contribution of archaeology projects which create social, cultural, and environmental benefits.

There are four award categories:

- Community Archaeologist of the Year;
- Community Archaeology Project of the Year;
- Young Archaeologist of the Year; and
- Youth Engagement Project of the Year.

The awards ceremony took place at the launch event of the Festival of Archaeology in July 2022. The ceremony took place at Segedunum Roman Fort and was hosted by CBA President Raksha Dave and followed by a talk by archaeologist and TV presenter, Dr Chloe Duckworth.

The 2022 winners were:

- Community Archaeologist of the Year Andrew Mayfield, a Community Archaeologist with the Royal Parks in Greenwich, and Kent County Council, committed to sharing his passion for and knowledge of archaeology with others.

- Community Archaeology Project of the Year Uncovering Roman Carlisle, a community excavation which centred around the site of a Roman bathhouse and provided a unique opportunity for residents to connect with the Roman history of the city.
- Young Archaeologist of the Year Jack Goodchild, who has been interested in archaeology from a young age and enjoys exploring heritage sites around the UK and around the world. Jack is a YAC member and Cub Scout who recently achieved his archaeology badge.
- Youth Engagement Project of the Year The Stiances Archaeology Project, based at Newick Primary School, is an annual archaeological project that has been running since 2010. It has enabled students aged four to eleven to have a go at geophysics, excavation and other activities and supported them to learn about the history of their local area.

Further details on the Marsh Community Archaeology Awards including all the 2022 winners is available [online](#).



Thank You

The Historic Environment Forum would like to thank all contributing organisations for inputting into this edition of the Historic Environment Overview.

Architectural Heritage Fund

Association for Local Government

Archaeological Officers

Association of English Cathedrals

British Museum

Chartered Institute for Archaeology

Church of England

Council for British Archaeology

Country Land and Business Association

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

English Heritage

The Gardens Trust

The Heritage Alliance

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Skills Demand Group

Heritage Skills Forum

Heritage Trust Network

Historic England

Historic Environment Forum

Historic Environment Protection Reform Group

Historic Houses

Institute for Conservation

Institute for Historic Building Conservation

Museum of London Archaeology

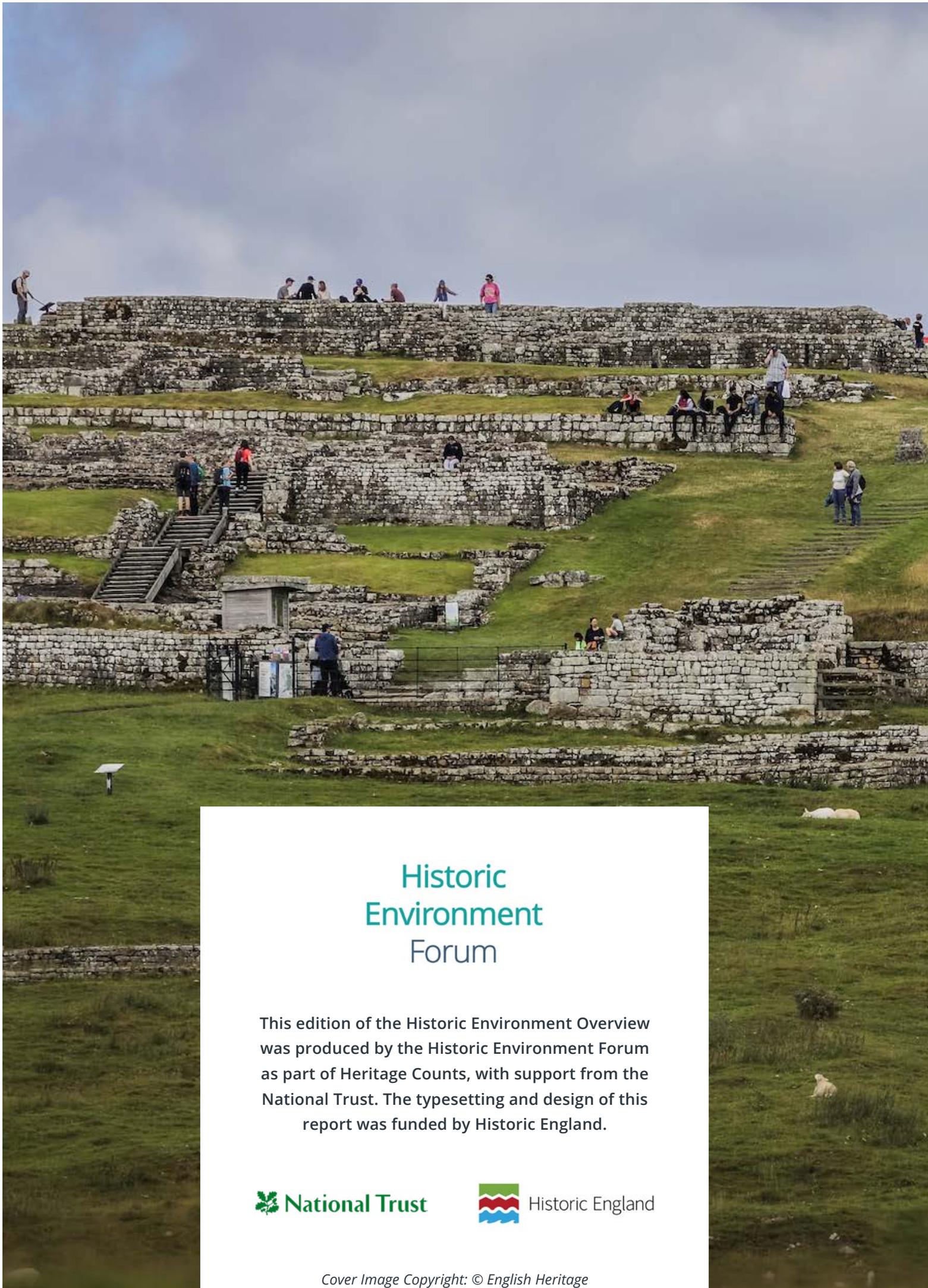
National Lottery Heritage Fund

National Trust

Natural England

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

The Victorian Society



Historic Environment Forum

This edition of the Historic Environment Overview was produced by the Historic Environment Forum as part of Heritage Counts, with support from the National Trust. The typesetting and design of this report was funded by Historic England.



Historic England