

HERITAGE COUNTS

The Historic Environment in 2017: An Overview

2017 has been a commemorative year for the historic environment marking both the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Civic Amenities Act which introduced the concept of conservation areas, as well as the 70th anniversary of the Town and Country Planning Act, regarded as the foundation of modern town and country planning in the UK.

In addition major changes have also taken place affecting the country's political landscape. Negotiations following the UK's decision to leave the EU commenced after the invocation of Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union in March, the impacts of which remain uncertain for the heritage sector. Against this backdrop the snap general election in May 2017 resulted in a hung parliament leading to the Conservatives remaining in power but as a minority government. Karen Bradley remained as secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with John Glen being appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts, Heritage and Tourism following the cabinet reshuffle.

There have been a number major success stories this year including the Humber Bridge being granted Grade I listed status, the awarding of UNESCO World Heritage Site status to the Lake District, the continued successful collaboration within the heritage sector under the Heritage 2020 initiative, and the launch of Heritage Actions Zones. It has also been a successful year for participation in heritage which experienced record numbers of Heritage Open Day events, the launch of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Kick the Dust Programme, the continuation of events marking the centenary of the First World War, and an increase in the number of heritage volunteers.

The heritage sector has however continued to face challenges from inappropriate planning, neglect, further decline in the numbers of historic environment specialists, and additional cuts to funding, all of which have placed added strain on the preservation of our historic environment. Nevertheless, remarkable resilience and determination has continued to be displayed by the sector in working to save and preserve our national heritage, acknowledged through multiple heritage awards.

This paper is divided into five main sections:

- **Management of Heritage** – covering major heritage-wide developments over the past 12 months.
- **Changes to the Funding and Resource Landscape** – concerning the financial situation of the sector.
- **Planning System Changes** – overviewing changes to heritage planning on both local and national levels.
- **Participation** – regarding voluntary work and events in 2017.
- **Sector Insight** – providing insight into heritage research and awards.

Heritage 2020: Collaboration in the Historic Environment Sector

Heritage 2020 is the mechanism for collaborative working by the historic environment sector in England. It brings together organisations from across the sector, to tackle priority issues that will benefit from a shared approach and add value to the work of individual organisations.

Guided by the Heritage 2020 Framework, the five Heritage 2020 working groups set out their areas of focus at the end of 2016 and consulted the sector on these priorities. The input to this consultation helped the groups to shape their action plans which have since been published on the Heritage 2020 website and are complemented by regular updates on group activities on the website, through social media and The Heritage Alliance's 'Heritage Update' e-bulletin.

Highlights of the last year summarised for each of the working groups include:

The **Capacity Building** group has delivered an event that brought together employers, professional bodies and higher education organisations in the sector to share knowledge and experience of Apprenticeship reform. This is one action in support of the group's goals of: 'achieving an integrated approach to the education, training and continuing development of heritage professionals', and 'increasing the uptake of training and qualifications among the skilled and semi-skilled working in the sector'. The collaborative approach to Apprenticeships is being continued by the employer-led Historic Environment Trailblazer group.

For the **Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management** group, the focus has been on the transfer of publicly owned heritage assets. The group has collated information on sector activity and the guidance that is available. Historic England and the British Property Federation made the topic the theme of their annual seminar, and a specific role has been created within Historic England to address public disposals. In response to the Heritage 2020 consultation carried out in 2016, the group has also identified the need for better access to the guidance that exists to support the transfer of publicly owned heritage assets and this now forms the basis of a project that is being scoped to improve access to information.

The **Discovery, Identification and Understanding** group has made 'building bridges with the higher

education sector' its priority area. Organisations from the working group have pooled resources to carry out research into the strength of linkages between higher education institutions and historic environment sector organisations. This improved knowledge of strengths and weaknesses in existing relationships will help to identify areas for future research and co-operation, which can be used to address the strategic and front-line priorities for the historic environment. A seminar is being organised for early career researchers in this respect.

The Heritage 2020 Foresight day, held in February 2017, focused on diversity in the historic environment sector. The session invited people from outside of the historic environment sector to work with Heritage 2020 working group members to share their insight into the challenges of improving diversity across the sector in its research, governance, workforce and public engagement. The **Public Engagement** group is taking forward actions to improve diversity in governance by identifying best practice from other sectors that could be translated to the historic environment sector, and in participation by looking at the opportunities for the sector to take part in the National Citizen Service initiative.

As the group that seeks to achieve a long-term shift in recognition of the positive contribution of heritage to the economy and society, the **Helping Things to Happen** group has reviewed the social and economic data available to the sector and jointly commissioned a data messaging session that will result in a set of resources to help the sector use its evidence better in its communications. Members of the group have worked together to develop initial thinking around a 'heritage sector deal' in response to the Government's Industrial Strategy; and this will be taken out to the sector for wider input.

As Heritage 2020 activities have grown over the year, the initiative has developed a new way for more organisations and people to take part. Launched in late 2017, Heritage 2020 set up a monthly Twitter Chat #HeritageChat, that provides the opportunity for people to identify and discuss themes of common interest.

The Heritage 2020 project is funded by Historic England and delivered through The Heritage Alliance under the oversight of the Historic Environment Forum. For more information on Heritage 2020 see www.heritage2020.net

1. Management of Heritage

1.1 Heritage Alliance

- The Heritage Alliance is the largest coalition of independent organisations in the heritage sector; uniquely placed to draw on members' knowledge and help policy makers realise the potential of heritage. 2017 is the first full year with a new CEO and Policy Officer. The Alliance now has 114 members with membership growing at the fastest rate since the Alliance was established.
- Heritage Update continues as a vital information resource for the sector's news, jobs and events both nationally and internationally. It was opened in at least 34 countries this Autumn. The Alliance's Twitter presence continues to grow with over 17,000 followers – an important platform for Alliance members' messages to reach a wider audience. This year it also established a Facebook page.
- Key work this year includes:
 - **A Heritage Manifesto 2017:** produced ahead of this year's general election, which sets out five main areas of concern and opportunity for the new Government to consider.
 - **Brexit:** The Alliance has produced papers on the impact of Brexit on the sector, and specifically how a replacement common agricultural policy funding of agriculture should better protect rural heritage. The Alliance met with the Environment Secretary Michael Gove to raise the profile of rural heritage.
 - **Industrial strategy:** The Alliance responded to the Government's call for evidence on its industrial strategy and is now working with others in the sector on producing a sector specific deal for heritage.
 - **Housing and Tax:** The Alliance responded to the Housing White Paper and subsequent consultations on how heritage should be protected during the push to solve the housing crisis. A tax group has also been convened to produce an evidenced menu of potential fiscal measures to present to Government.
- The Alliance's advocacy groups have continued to meet covering issues ranging from spatial planning to rural affairs, learning and skills to funding. A new group covering mobile heritage has also been established.

Historic England

- Historic England has continued to strengthen its identity and reputation, being placed eighth (out of 64) in the annual RepTrak™ survey of public sector organisations. Its own stakeholder survey showed strong support for its work championing England's historic environment, providing expert advice and guidance and identifying and protecting special places.
- Listing remains a core part of Historic England's work. Over the last year, the Humber Bridge was listed Grade I and Historic England continued its programme of listing war memorials. The National Heritage List continues to be the most popular of Historic England's webpages, accounting for more than a quarter of all sessions on its website. There has been a substantial growth in visits to Historic England's website, with 4.4 million website sessions in 2016-17. Through the Enriching the List project, members of the public can share their knowledge and pictures of listed places. To date, the public have added over 52,000 contributions, containing over 77,200 images. The Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programme was also launched by Historic England, which aims to 'breathe new life into unloved places' through working with local authorities and partners to help realise the potential of historic buildings and places.
- Historic England continues to champion heritage affected by development, providing advice on around 22,000 applications each year. Important cases over the past year included the historic centre of Manchester and the area next to Paddington station in London.
- Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Historic England was able to start the rescue and refurbishment of Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, the first iron-framed building in the world.
- Historic England has also become an Independent Research Organisation which means it can apply directly for funding to the UK Research Councils. Significant research included the discovery of the exceptionally well preserved Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Great Ryburgh, Norfolk.



The newly listed Grade I Humber Bridge. © Historic England

Brexit

- The heritage sector has continued to work collaboratively on assessing the potential implications of withdrawal from the EU on the historic environment of England, and is using the evidence gathered as a basis for advice to Government on the opportunities and threats posed by Brexit.
- Evidence included the research commissioned from **Euclid International** that showed that between 2007 and 2016 at least £450m from EU sources was invested in England's historic environment. Of this, £289m has been invested in rural heritage, particularly agri-environment schemes, which have enabled land managers to remove 820 scheduled monuments from the **Heritage at Risk Register** and to deliver wider benefits for rural heritage.
- It was also identified that approximately £89m from EU Framework Programmes has been invested in historic environment research undertaken by English institutions working in partnership with EU organisations between 2007 and 2016. The research ranges from the development of scientific techniques that increase understanding of the past to methods that promote wider community engagement in heritage.
- Additionally, from 2007 to 2016 at least £56m has been invested through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in regeneration schemes in England that have a heritage component. ERDF is an important source of matching funding, particularly in former industrial areas and historic urban centres.
- Furthermore, EU derived environmental legislation has a bearing on the historic environment. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment require the assessment of potential impacts of strategic planning policies and major development proposals in a way that allows for public engagement in the planning process.

- Evidence also illustrated that non-UK EU citizens work in the heritage sector in England, and UK companies and citizens also work in heritage in other EU countries. The Office for National Statistics suggests about 10% of the UK construction industry labour force is from outside the UK. The construction workers include historic building conservation specialists. Sector research shows that approximately 15% of the archaeological labour force is drawn from the EU. Much heritage research in England has been built around the free movement within the EU with significant expertise drawn from people who are from non-UK EU countries. The flow is in both directions as UK researchers often take up positions within universities in EU countries.
- Heritage tourism is also a significant component of the UK's tourism industry which employs almost 10% of the workforce. Many heritage visitor attractions employ staff from non-UK EU countries. A preliminary survey by the Historic Houses Association found that 25% of its members employed at least five EU nationals as part of their business.

Heritage Crime

- 2017 has been a very active period in the development of the Heritage Crime Programme, and has seen partner agencies and communities working together in effort to protect the historic environment from the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- February 2017 saw the launch of Kent Heritage Watch hosted at Leeds Castle in Kent and attended by Police and Crime Commissioner and over 100 organisations and community representatives.
- Swanscombe Town Council and Hollingbourne Parish Councils in Kent kindly agreed to act as pilot areas for a heritage crime risk assessment process in 2018. If successful Historic England will produce an online template that can be used by communities across the country.
- The Heritage Watch scheme has continued to develop throughout the year, with schemes operating in Cheshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent and the City of York.



Kevin Lawton-Barrett, Senior Lecturer in Forensic Science, Canterbury Christchurch University, taking lead samples from Canterbury Cathedral. © Historic England

- In July the third National Strategic Threat Assessment for Heritage and Cultural Property Crime was published. The aim of the assessment is to identify current and emerging threats of crime and anti-social behaviour within the historic environment and to provide effective preventive and investigative solutions. In this assessment the following threats were identified:
 - Architectural theft: in particular metal and stone.
 - Criminal damage: in particular damage caused by fire
 - ‘arson’.
 - Unlawful metal detecting: sometimes referred to as ‘nighthawking’.
 - Unlawful disturbance and salvage of historic maritime sites.
 - Anti-social behaviour: in particular fly-tipping and off-road driving.
 - Unauthorised works to heritage assets.
 - Illicit trade in cultural objects.
- The second national conference for Heritage Crime Liaison Officers was held at the headquarters of British Transport Police in Camden in July. The event was attended by officers from over twenty police services across England and Wales and was opened by Chief Constable Paul Crowther OBE with delegates receiving presentations from a range of expert practitioners and academics.
- July also saw the release of the document **Metal Theft from Historic Buildings: Prevention, Response and Recovery** for churchwardens, trustees, fabric officers, volunteers and owners who care for historic buildings. It mainly deals with theft of lead roofs from historic churches, but the information applies to other types of buildings and traditional metal. It is an update of Historic England’s 2011 note, Theft of Metal from Church Buildings, reflecting the updated advice to those dealing with metal theft and how to prevent it.

Further information on heritage crime can be found [here](#).

1.2 Culture White Paper

- Good progress continues to be made in delivering the Government’s objectives relating to heritage in the Culture White Paper. Published in March 2016 it set out an ambitious vision for how Government could strengthen the role of art and culture in everyday life. Particular progress in 2017 includes:
 - Apprentices are beginning to be appointed in the Heritage sector and more recruitment is underway. Sector organisations are engaged with ‘Trailblazer’ projects relating to the disciplines of historic environment, conservation, construction, architecture, archives and geospatial data.
 - Work continues to encourage a wider range of people to work in the heritage sector and engage in heritage more generally. A second very successful round of positive action training placements by Historic England in the summer of 2017 resulted in 13 students from black and minority ethnic backgrounds gaining experience in the sector. Planning is now underway for a round for 2018 which is likely to open up opportunities for other heritage organisations to combine to run a single recruitment campaign and locate the students in a wider range of heritage bodies. Initiatives to get a wider range of people to enrich the National Heritage List for England are underway and a new project, provisionally entitled ‘Another England’ has been launched. This will deepen our understanding of how black and minority ethnic people in England have helped shape our shared heritage, as well as identify those areas and issues that are of particular interest to different groups.
 - The heritage sector has become more engaged in international work, especially outside Europe. England has a well-developed and highly-respected consultancy expertise which is amongst the most highly-regarded in the world, and efforts are now being made to engage in other ways; with foreign Governments and heritage agencies at both a national and regional level. Heritage experts from England have, for example, been sent to assorted UK Government and British Council events which promote what we can offer other countries in places as diverse as China, India, Pakistan, and Chile. A training programme delivering training specifically for overseas audiences has been developed by Historic England and is about to start running UK-based intensive training courses.

Places of Worship Review

- The Review Panel, under the chairmanship of Bernard Taylor CBE, was asked to produce a Report to be submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The Panel met seven times, set up local workshops (in Herefordshire, County Durham and Stoke on Trent) and received written and oral submissions through those workshops, interviews and online consultation.
- The Review was asked to consider the funding and sustainability of churches and cathedrals, noting that whilst some cathedrals are well-resourced, others are not. All face on-going fabric repairs and seek to improve provision for worshippers and visitors. However, the main focus of the Report will be the 12,200 listed church buildings that are still primarily in use for worship.
- The Panel was very aware that its recommendations may also have implications for the buildings of other denominations and faith groups across all four Home Countries. It was also sensitive to the range of attitudes towards buildings as sacred spaces, what is considered appropriate activity within them and who is responsible for their upkeep.
- Since the Review was set up the funding landscape for listed places of worship has changed. The Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) dedicated Grants for Places of Worship scheme has been merged with existing HLF open programmes, and both the Places of Worship Roof Repair and First World War Cathedral Funds have ended.
- Sustainability for heritage assets, including places of worship, is rooted in their continued use coupled with regular maintenance and repair. Volunteers whose priority is the work and mission of the Church may find it a challenge to manage their place of worship as a community resource as well. The Panel appreciated the need to support local volunteers trying to do their best with limited resources and to encourage others within their communities to contribute.

1.3 Relevant Select Committee Work

- Following the publication of the House of Lords Select Committee on National Policy for the Built Environment's Building Better Places report earlier in the year, the Government responded in November 2016.
- The Committee had recommended that there should be a long-term national strategy for heritage. In response, the Government said that it recognised that England's historic environment is a resource of significant cultural, social and economic value and pointed towards the work it was doing to support its arms-length bodies to deliver Heritage Action Zones, the Great Places scheme and Heritage Enterprise Programme. The Committee also made the recommendation that the balance of heritage protection and development policies in the National Planning Policy Framework be sustained, enhanced and delivered. In its answer the Government pointed to Historic England's Good Practice Advice. They also specifically cited Heritage Counts as evidence produced to demonstrate the wider social and economic benefits of heritage. The Government deferred any changes to VAT charged on repairs and maintenance to historic buildings until after negotiations to leave the European Union are completed. A debate was held on the recommendations and Government response in January 2017.
- The Public Accounts and Treasury Select Committees both held inquiries on the Restoration and Renewal of the Houses of Parliament in 2017. Both inquiries were bought to early ends when Parliament was dissolved for the snap general election. The Public Accounts Committee felt that a full decant of Parliament while works are going ahead would be the most economically viable option. The Treasury Committee did not have enough time to deliver its own recommendations but instead published an interim report on the scope of its inquiry. Both reports await a response from the Government.
- The All-Party Arts, Health and Wellbeing Group published its report "Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing" in July 2017. Defining heritage as being included in the arts, the report followed two years of research, expert evidence sessions and roundtables with members of the public. The report features many examples from the heritage sector and discusses the impact of place and the natural and built environment on health and wellbeing.
- The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Industrial Heritage is currently undertaking an inquiry looking at the significance of the industrial heritage sector, the challenges it faces and the funding streams that are available. A number of heritage organisations have responded to the inquiry which is expected to report at the end of the year.

World Heritage

- The English Lake District was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2017. The World Heritage Committee recognised that the combination of the agro-pastoral landscape, the inspiration this landscape provided to writers and artists and the development of the conservation movement satisfied the criteria for Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The Committee was also satisfied that the Lake District meets the other two “pillars” of OUV – sufficient authenticity/integrity and satisfactory measures for protection/management. There are now 18 World Heritage Sites (WHS) situated wholly or partly in England, of which 17 are cultural properties and one is a natural site.
- The World Heritage Committee also considered the state of conservation of some other English World Heritage Sites (WHSs), including Liverpool, which is on the list of World Heritage in Danger. The Committee is sufficiently concerned about the impact of new development, particularly as a result of the Liverpool Waters scheme, that it will consider the deletion of the site from the World Heritage List at its meeting next year. Up to now only two sites have been struck off the List.
- A second “advisory mission” from the World Heritage Centre and the International Council on Monument and Sites (ICOMOS) was invited by the UK Government in February 2017 to consider the emerging proposals for improvements to the A303 where it transects the Stonehenge component of the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites. The mission report, endorsed by the World Heritage Committee, expresses concern about the potential impacts of a proposal, which was the subject of public consultation, involving a 2.9km tunnel and 2.2km of dual carriageway within the WHS and advises that consideration should be given to other options. Highways England is considering the mission report as part of developing a scheme which is likely to be the subject of a Development Consent Order application in 2018. It is likely that a further advisory mission from the Centre and ICOMOS will take place in advance of the application.
- The Hague Convention, formally known as the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, was also ratified this year by the UK Government and has now passed into law.



Wasdale, The Lake District. © Andrew Locking

1.4 Heritage Action Zones

- Historic England launched the ‘Heritage Action Zones’ (HAZ) initiative in 2016. HAZs are envisaged as historic places with the potential to become focal points for sustainable economic development and community life, delivered by Historic England alongside local partners. Ten schemes were selected in 2017: Nottingham, Appleby (Cumbria), Ramsgate, Weston-super-Mare, King’s Lynn, Sunderland, Coventry, Elsecar (South Yorkshire), Sutton (South London), and Hull Old Town (Kingston-upon-Hull, UK City of Culture 2017). These schemes are now well underway, sharing funding of over £6m.

- It is clear that heritage is important to local communities, and that there is considerable confidence that HAZs will benefit their local areas.
- Historic England expects to make an announcement about further Heritage Action Zones shortly.



The small market town of Appleby in eastern Cumbria, one of the ten HAZ schemes of 2017. © Historic England

Conservation Areas 2017 Anniversary

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Civic Amenities Act and the establishment of the first conservation area in Stamford, Lincolnshire on 28th September in that year. To mark the milestone, the sector has been working hard to better understand conservation areas as a whole, to celebrate their success as well as highlight the challenges they currently face and will face in future. Conferences, workshops, debates, revised guidance publications and other awareness-raising activity have been delivered by Historic England, Civic Voice, IHBC, the National Trust, the Twentieth Century Society and other organisations and a range of new research was undertaken. These include:

Three linked surveys about attitudes to conservation areas; a YouGov survey of general English adult population (1,893 adults) with a smaller sample of conservation area residents (597 adults); a Survey conducted by Ecorys of owners of residential property in conservation areas (293 responses, in addition to 1,345 from owners of listed buildings); and a Survey of 73 IHBC and 164 Civic Voice members.

74% of adults in England surveyed by YouGov stated that Councils should have the power to restrict changes to buildings and streets to protect the character and appearance of a conservation area. Only 5% felt they should not. Where addresses are located in a conservation area, the percentage who support controls rose to 83%.

Only 8% of Civic Voice members believed that some areas did not deserve to be designated while for IHBC respondents the figure was 35%.

When it came to caring for their area, conservation area residents are more likely to get involved in protecting their area's appearance. Of the owners of residential property in a conservation area surveyed by Ecorys 68% had taken some action to protect the character of their area with the most frequent actions being to object to a planning application (45%), attend a public meeting (35%) and to sign a petition (in order of descent). 58% of conservation area residents surveyed by YouGov had taken action to protect the appearance of the area. 24% of responders who live in conservation areas had objected to a planning application in their area, compared to only 13% in the national population. 10% of adults living in a

conservation area had volunteered to protect the area's appearance compared to 7% nationally.

When asked if the controls relating to conservation areas work, the Ecorys survey found that 88% of conservation area property owners agreed or strongly agreed that designation is effective in protecting the character and appearance of their local area.

YouGov asked residents how satisfied they were with the appearance of their local area – satisfaction is notably higher in conservation area residents (75% of adults living in a conservation area rated their area's appearance as "quite good" or very "good" compared to 57% of adults in the general English population sample). Adults living in a conservation area were also nearly twice as likely to rate the appearance of their area as "very good" compared to the general population survey (29% compared to 16%).

Civic Voice and IHBC members were asked to assess the trend in the condition of their local area over the past three years. 72% of IHBC and 61% of Civic Voice members reported that their areas had either not changed significantly or improved. However, this leaves a considerable proportion in each case who felt their areas had deteriorated. The issues identified most frequently by residents of conservation areas in the YouGov survey were not significantly different to those identified elsewhere with impacts of parked cars, litter and fly-tipping and a lack of maintenance and repair being the most frequently cited.

Other conservation area research in the past year includes research commissioned:

- jointly by the National Trust and Historic England looking at the development challenges facing conservation areas.
- by the Twentieth Century Society to better understand and help residents, local authorities and amenity societies to manage those designated areas dating from the last century.
- by Historic England is about to be published which identifies how much change has actually taken place in a number of residential areas with and without Article 4 Directions, thus helping to understand the effectiveness of designation and management processes.

Stamford: The First Conservation Area

The conservation area in Stamford, Lincolnshire has this year celebrated its own 50th anniversary. On 28th September 1967 it became the first to be designated, only two months after the Civic Amenities Act gained Royal Assent. The anniversary was also an opportunity to pay tribute to a local planning officer whose pioneering work put Stamford at the forefront of the 1960s conservation movement.

Thanks to the excellent local limestone, the 17th century traveller Celia Fiennes found Stamford to be 'as fine a built town all of stone as may be seen'. Its 20th century admirers included Nikolaus Pevsner, W G Hoskins, and John Betjeman who called it simply 'England's most attractive town'.

By 1963 Stamford had half of the listed buildings in Lincolnshire – and now has over 600. However a local planning officer, Dr Kenneth Fennell, saw that this protection would not be enough. Concerns were growing nationwide about the demolition of historic buildings and the growing impact of traffic. Fennell feared that the 'ad hoc' protection of listed buildings would do little to safeguard the integrity and character of Stamford's townscape.

Four years before the Act was passed, Fennell and his team undertook what today would be recognised

as a townscape character assessment. He asked his Councillors to establish a policy to protect the character of the five distinct areas he identified.

Fennell's foresight was also useful to Whitehall. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government was planning to undertake four pilot studies, in Bath, York, Chichester and King's Lynn. However having already done the groundwork, Fennell commended Stamford as a pilot study, and so Stamford became the first Conservation Area in England in 1967.

South Kesteven District Council has inherited the fruits of this early work, and most recently reviewed and extended the conservation area in 2011. Celebrations during this anniversary year have included a conference featuring local and national figures in the conservation movement, an exhibition by the Civic Society featuring Historic England Archive photographs, a Stamford Schools Heritage Film Festival, and the annual Georgian Festival.

A new draft local plan published this year envisages the town growing by a fifth over the next 20 years. Concerns about development and traffic are rising once again, but this is a town which has shown it can handle such pressures.



High Street St Martin's, Stamford, then and now. © Historic England

Treasure Act Anniversary and Portable Antiquities

- **2017 witnessed the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Treasure Act and the foundation of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS).** Both complement one another. The Act ensures that the most important archaeological discoveries are acquired by museums, whereas the PAS ensures the recording of all other public finds to advance archaeological knowledge. To date almost 13,500 Treasure cases have been reported via the Act of which about 40% have been acquired by over 200 museums across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. A further 1.3 million finds have been recorded with the PAS.
- **The British Museum partnered with The Telegraph for a public vote on the 20 most important archaeological Treasure finds, of which the Frome Hoard of 56,000 Roman coins was deemed most significant.** As part of its Treasure 20 celebrations the British Museum has also encouraged museums across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to highlight Treasure finds on display, and exhibitions, tours, talks and other events have been organised with PAS staff and local museums across England. Further information can be found [here](#).
- **Throughout 2017 the PAS has expanded its work opening opportunities for people to work with small finds, through its Heritage Lottery Fund funded project – PAsT Explorers: finds recording in the local community.** To date 538 people have volunteered with the PAS, which has included students, the retired and finders. Notable is the work of 80 metal-detectorists who have, following professional training - ‘self-recorded’ 2,285 of their own finds this year. The Headley Trust has continued to fund internships with the PAS, and the PAS has also benefitted through the Graham and Joanna Barker Grant to help sustain the PAS locally.
- **In 2015 the British Museum and its partners agreed a Strategy for the PAS looking to 2020, with various working groups being established to take this vision forward.** In 2017, the Best Practice Working Group revised the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales, and is now looking at ways to recognise best practice. The PAS Database Working group is looking at ways to develop the PAS database and build links between the PAS and Historic Environment Records.
- **Inspired by the success of the PAS recording systems for archaeological finds schemes have been established in Denmark (DIME), Flanders (MEDEA) and the Netherlands (PAN), as well as the formation of the North Sea Area Finds Recording Group (NorSA) to advance pan-European co-operation in this area.** Funding has now been granted for a new Scheme in Finland.

Industrial Strategy Consultation

- **In January 2017 the Government published its ‘Building our Industrial Strategy’ Green Paper, which proposes ‘sector deals’ to address sector-specific challenges and opportunities.** As part of this strategy long-term challenges to the UK economy will be addressed, along with the aims of improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. A consultation period was set up in January to enable various sectors to provide their feedback on the strategy, and throughout the year the heritage sector has sought to provide its comments, an endeavour which has offered a vital opportunity to develop a specific heritage sector deal, embed heritage priorities in other sector deals, and demonstrate the key role heritage can play in supporting the ‘10 pillars’ of the strategy.
- **Key points submitted to the Government which demonstrate the importance of heritage to the strategy include the geographical diversity of heritage and its ability to benefit skills, jobs, investment and engagement across the whole UK, covering both rural and urban environments.** Additional points include the economic case for heritage, identifying the important role the sector plays in driving regeneration and productivity, the economic value created through the export of skills and products, and its role in acting as a catalyst for inbound tourism. Also stressed was the vital role the sector plays in assisting social cohesion, creating a sense of place and influencing identity through its societal contribution.
- **At the time of publication the analysis of the consultation feedback by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy was on-going.**

2. Changes to the Funding and Resource Landscape

2.1 Listed Places of Worship and Cathedrals Funding

- **Sara Crofts, Heritage Lottery Fund** – In August 2017 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) merged the Grants for Places of Worship programme into the existing open programmes. The commitment to supporting vital fabric repairs alongside community engagement and the enhancement of facilities remains, with £20m allocated for projects in places of worship in the current financial year. Groups looking for smaller amounts of money (under £100,000) are now encouraged to apply to the single-round Our Heritage programme. For those looking for larger amounts of money, the Heritage Grants programme provides greater flexibility as well as the potential to seek funding during the project development stage. HLF fully expects congregations to be able to develop and deliver successful projects that will help them to move towards a sustainable future under the new, more flexible, arrangements. However, in order to support congregations during the transitional period, HLF has also developed a number of additional resources and case studies; these are available on the HLF website www.hlf.org.uk.
- **Matthew Slocombe, Joint Committee National Amenity Societies** – The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)'s decision to end the Grants for Places of Worship (GPOW) scheme has greatly concerned secular heritage organisations. Historic places of worship help establish a sense of place for many communities.
- **The proposed change in funding arrangements could lessen financial assistance offered specifically for the repair and maintenance of listed places of worship.** The ending of the GPOW scheme has also removed the requirement that accredited conservation professionals should be used to oversee grant-aided repair work on places of worship, as established under the joint HLF and English Heritage funded Repair Grants for Places of Worship and continued through GPOW.
- **The Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies (JCNAS) hopes that the ending of the GPOW scheme will prompt a debate about Government and secular society's role in the support for historic places of worship.** Nevertheless, we believe that the HLF, as the country's main financial supporter of heritage, still has an important role to play in assisting the repair and maintenance of these historic buildings.
- **Tom Ashley, Cathedral and Church Buildings Division** – Since 2014, most Anglican and many Catholic cathedrals have benefitted from essential repair works paid for by the Government's £40m First World War Centenary Repairs Fund. Through 146 awards to 57 cathedrals, the Fund enabled repairs vital to ensuring that these irreplaceable buildings continue to enrich our national life.
- **The WW1 Fund has now closed.** Though generous, it could never have addressed all the urgent repair needs facing our cathedrals; it has, rather, illuminated the extent of the works that are still necessary (the same is true of the £55m Roof Repair Fund for churches, also recently concluded). Yet there is no immediate prospect of another such windfall and the need for a more sustained source of funding, for both churches and cathedrals, remains acute.
- **On a positive note, we welcome the Government's recent announcement guaranteeing until 2020 the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme, which has become a vital component in the financing of repair projects by covering the VAT incurred in making fabric repairs.**

Repair Grants for Places of Worship since 1977

Scheme	Years	Funding body	Administrator	£m (of time)
First grant scheme	1977-1981	Government	Historic Buildings Council	8
English Heritage first scheme	1981-1997	Government (until 1984)/ English Heritage	English Heritage (from 1984)	125
Joint Places of Worship scheme	1997-2003	English Heritage /Heritage Lottery Fund	English Heritage	111
Repair Grants for Places of Worship	2003-2012	English Heritage / Heritage Lottery Fund	English Heritage	249
Grants for Places of Worship	2012-2016	Heritage Lottery Fund	Heritage Lottery Fund	100
Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme	2001-2020	Government	Top Mark	250
Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund	2014-2016	Government	National Heritage Memorial Fund	55
First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund	2015-2017	Government	Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England	40
Support Officers	2009-2015	Historic England	Historic England	2
			Total:	940

Table: The total offered to listed POW (expressed as £m at the time) from 1977-2016 was around £940,000,000.

2.2 Heritage Lottery Fund

Networked Heritage

- Two years research between Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) investigating the links between place, distinctiveness, identity and heritage culminated with the release of ‘Networked Heritage’. This research explains how citizens, organisations, businesses and different tiers of Government can use heritage to sustain distinct local identities and support places to thrive and prosper. The report’s recommendations are for heritage organisations large and small to become more open and better connected – both within organisations and between organisations; within the heritage sector and beyond. The research further recommended that heritage organisations need to support active ‘heritage citizens’ to step up as producers, participants and co-commissioners in managing and using heritage – a trend that was found to be already evident in many instances across the UK.

First World War: Then and Now

- HLF has now committed over £90m to more than 1,800 First World War centenary projects. Many of these have been based in local communities and have both conserved and engaged communities with a range of heritage, including war memorials. Large-scale projects are also underway, such as the conservation and opening up of the cells at Richmond Castle, where conscientious objectors were incarcerated during the war. People are also engaging with the centenary in a range of ways, including through 14-18 NOW’s programme of artistic commissions. In September ‘We’re Here Because We’re Here’ won Best Heritage Project at the National Lottery Awards. This innovative participation project brought together more than 1,400 volunteers in commemoration of the Battle of the Somme and had a live audience of 2 million people.

Architectural Heritage Fund

- The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is now mid-way through its 2016-19 strategic plan. New investment from Government and other funders has enabled the growth of its three core areas of activity: lending, grant-making and its community support service, all of which are intended to enable charities and other not-for-private-profit enterprises to deliver projects resulting in the sustainable reuse of historic buildings at risk.



14-18 NOW. No Copyright

- **Two new loan programmes were introduced in 2017, with a third currently under development.** The Heritage Mortgage was launched in response to an identified need for longer-term social investment in the heritage sector. Bespoke mortgage-style loan facilities of between £150,000 and £500,000, repayable over 10 to 20 years, are available for eligible capital projects. The Community Heritage Support Fund provides either standalone unsecured loan finance (between £15,000 and £50,000 per project, repayable over 6 months to 3 years), or a blend of loan finance and community shares. It is aimed at enterprises which already trade, or those seeking funding to help secure the purchase or restoration of a building which is listed as an Asset of Community Value.
- **AHF has been working with potential partners to create a new £7.5m Heritage Impact Fund, which will operate for at least seven years and be made available to community businesses who wish to base their activity in historic buildings. Further information will be provided in the New Year.**
- **AHF's capacity to support nascent projects through its early-stage Project Viability Grants (up to £5,000) and Project Development Grants (up to £25,000) was greatly boosted by £3m of new investment from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in 2016, alongside a continuing commitment from Historic England. 121 new grant offers in England in 2016/17 amounted to nearly £1m, compared to 39 in 2015/16 (£155,433). This level of funding will be maintained in 2017/18. DCMS funding is targeted at projects involving the transfer of public sector heritage assets into community ownership and/or where a community business or creative arts use is being developed, especially those developing bids to HLF's Heritage Enterprise programme.**
- **Voluntary groups continue to benefit from the advice of AHF's eight part-time freelance Support Officers based across England (as well as three more in the rest of the UK) who have specialist expertise in areas such as business planning, community engagement, social investment and PR and communications. The Support Officers responded to 670 enquiries during 2016/17.**

Giving to Heritage

Giving to Heritage (GTH) is a high-impact capacity building programme run in partnership by The Heritage Alliance and Institute of Fundraising. The programme increases the fundraising capabilities of organisations and individuals in the heritage sector, which in turn increases their financial resilience helping to safeguard our historic assets for generations to come. Training is offered at a substantial subsidy making it available to many charitable and community organisations who could not otherwise access it.

GTH training has reached over 1,500 individuals representing over 800 heritage organisations at regional training locations across the country from St Austell to Newcastle. The 2017 end of programme independent evaluation shows that participating organisations have raised over £3m of new funding which they can directly attribute to the programme. It is great evidence for the value of HLF funding and how fundraising training for the sector can make a huge difference.

Yet GTH's impact is not just financial. It has improved the skills and confidence of both heritage sector and community organisations in planning and strategy, and increased peer networking. The funds raised because of the GTH programme will continue to increase year on year as the strategies taught are developed and implemented.

The Heritage Lottery Fund, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and Arts Council England demonstrated great confidence in GTH by initially funding the programme through the Catalyst Umbrella with a £500,000 grant in 2014 followed by a £250,000 one-year extension in 2016 after a very positive evaluation of the initial programme.

The Catalyst funding stream is now closing and the end of the GTH programme is imminent. Nevertheless, heritage organisations' need for fundraising training is as great as ever. Two thirds of our external evaluation respondents requested further direct fundraising training, and 54% and 57% requested training on digital fundraising and building a supporter base respectively - complementary areas. The impressive results of the second phase of GTH will be published later this year.

Spending Round

- In March 2017 the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Phillip Hammond, presented his last Spring Budget with key heritage announcements including the creation of a £5 million fund to celebrate the centenary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act and the appointment of a Government representative to help organise celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower crossing the Atlantic in 1620.
- Other importance sector announcements covered the budget reviews of various Government departments, with the budget for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport planning to remain at £1.4bn in 2017-18 before increasing to £1.5bn in 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Local Government aspect of Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will however see a significant reduction in funding, falling from its planned £8.2bn in 2016-17 to £5.4bn by 2019-20. The Communities aspect of DCLG will also experience a fall, albeit it on a smaller scale, from £2.6bn in 2016-17 to £2.2bn in 2019-20.
- In September's Finance Bill 2017 the Government also legislated to introduce a new Corporate Tax relief for museums and galleries who develop new exhibitions.

Business Rates

- In April 2017 the business rates revaluation took place in England, with the Government announcing:
 - A further £435m cut in business rates.
 - The allocation of £300m to allow English local authorities to provide discretionary relief to individual hard cases in their local area.
 - A £1,000 business rate discount for some public houses (often historic buildings) for one year which came into effect on 1st April 2017.
 - Support for small businesses losing Small Business Rate Relief to limit increases in their bills to the greater of £600 or the real terms transitional relief cap for small businesses each year.
- This Year's Autumn Budget provided additional information on the announcement made in 2016's Budget concerning the Government's plans to revalue properties at least every three years ahead of the next revaluation in 2022.

Improving Skills

- In 2017 the Government announced several measures aimed at improving skills, a number of which will potentially benefit the heritage sector. These include

the introduction of T-levels, through increasing the number of training hours for 16-19 year olds on technical routes by more than 50% and over £500m of additional funding invested per year.

- **Also announced was the provision of Further Education maintenance loans provided by the Government.** Set to be introduced in 2019-20 these will be available to students on technical education courses as well as adults who are retraining.
- **The Government will also spend up to £40m by 2018-19 on testing different approaches towards helping people to retrain and upskill throughout their working lives through Lifelong Learning Pilots.**
- **Additionally, £90m will be provided to fund 1,000 PhD places in areas aligned with the Industrial Strategy.** Around 85% will be in STEM disciplines, and 40% will directly help strengthen collaboration between business and academia through industrial partnerships. A further £160m will support new fellowships for early and mid-career researchers in areas also aligned to the Industrial Strategy.

3. Planning System Changes

1947 Town and Country Planning Act and 1967 Civic Amenities Act

2017 represents two significant planning and heritage anniversaries. The first was the seventieth anniversary of the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, which introduced both planning and listing as they are known today. One of the ways in which this anniversary was marked was Historic England's 'Heritage Online Debate', in which the evolution, successes and failures of both listing and planning were discussed by a range of experts across the sector. This Act also marked the 70th anniversary of the process of listing buildings, born from the need to rebuild our blitzed cities and to create a better world for everyone by cherishing the special buildings of our past.

The second important anniversary is the fiftieth anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act 1967, which introduced conservation areas. This is the subject of this year's 'Heritage Counts', and of much research within the sector.

3.1 Planning System – General Changes

- **The Government has continued to pursue a planning reform agenda, with a particular emphasis on supporting housing delivery.** The implications for heritage protection of many of the existing and proposed changes have yet to be fully understood. Of particular note in 2017 have been the following:
 - **Implementation of the Housing and Planning Act 2016:** the secondary legislation to implement the brownfield register element of permission in principle came into force in April, with national guidance issued in July. There has not yet been any further progress with some of the other proposals in the Act, such as planning freedoms, or third party processing of planning applications, but the provisions which allow development consent to be obtained for housing which is related to a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) have been brought into force.
 - **Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017:** this passed into law in April, including provisions to ensure that pre-commencement planning conditions are only imposed by local planning authorities where they are agreed by the applicant.
 - **Housing White Paper:** published in February, and building on previous consultations, 'Fixing our broken housing market' introduced a range of proposals intended to help reform the housing market and increase the supply of new homes. These included a proposed change to the presumption in favour of sustainable development, a 'housing delivery test', and a wide range of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, expected to be implemented in early 2018.
 - **Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places:** published in September, this consultation document proposed a standard methodology for the assessment of housing need, which raised some issues about the way in which heritage and other 'environmental constraints' were to be dealt with. It also addressed the duty to cooperate, affordable housing, neighbourhood planning, viability and planning fees.

Good Practice Advice Notes

- Historic England published three Good Practice Advice Notes (GPA) in March 2015 to underpin the Government's Planning Practice Guidance: **The Historic Environment in Local Plans (GPA1); Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (GPA2); and The Setting of Heritage Assets (GPA3).** All three documents were produced with the assistance of the Historic Environment Forum (HEF). They provide supporting information and detail

for applicants, owners, developers and planners in implementing national planning policy and guidance in relation to the historic environment.

- GPA3 has now been revised, largely to incorporate advice on views previously contained in 'Seeing History in the View', whilst new advice on enabling development – to replace Historic England's 2008 advice – is also being issued, as GPA4.

Historic England Advice Notes

- Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs), which include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance, are produced by Historic England alone, and sit beneath the GPA notes. This year the existing eight HEANs have been supplemented by HEANs on curtilage and the adaptive reuse of traditional farm buildings, HEAN 1 on conservation areas has been updated and reissued, and a HEAN on neighbourhood planning issued for consultation. More HEANs, on a wide range of topics, are in the pipeline and will be issued for consultation in due course.

Major Infrastructure

- National infrastructure remains a key Government priority and this next section considers three major projects that are likely to have significant impacts on the historic environment.

High Speed 2 (HS2)

- **HS2 is the Government's key strategic investment in the national transport network.** Royal Assent for Phase 1 from London to Birmingham was granted in February 2017, the Bill for Phase 2a Birmingham to Crewe has been deposited (July 2017), and the route from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester (Phase 2b) confirmed in July 2017.

The railway will result in one of the largest programmes of archaeological work ever undertaken in the UK which started during 2017. There will be significant impacts on late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth century cemeteries in Birmingham and London, and the works will result in the complete excavation of the site of a medieval church and its surrounding graveyard at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. There will also be investigation of the prehistoric Grim's Ditch where the line passes through this in the Chilterns.

For Phase 2b Historic England will continue to engage and liaise with HS2 Limited and other stakeholders in relation to the potential for mitigation strategies, where appropriate, to heritage assets and their setting.



Stoke Mandeville church and cemetery. © Historic England

Heathrow North West Runway

- **Following Government confirmation of its preferred option of a new North West Runway at Heathrow Airport in October 2016, a consultation on the draft Airports National Policy Statement (NPS) and accompanying Appraisal of Sustainability was concluded in May 2017.** The NPS will then be put to a vote in parliament in 2018. This option is likely to result in the loss of 21 designated heritage assets, together with a potential adverse impact on a further 220 in the surrounding area. This will include the complete loss of the Longford Conservation Area, substantial loss in the Harmondsworth Conservation Area and possible setting impacts on the Grade 1 listed Harmondsworth Barn, one of the country's finest tithe barns. Whilst there are also encouraging aspects put forward in the draft National Policy Statement and Appraisal of Sustainability, they will then need to be reflected and developed in the proposed scheme should it be taken forward.

Stonehenge Tunnel

- **Highways England continues to deliver the first Road Investment Strategy, which will result in 112 separate schemes either in development or construction between 2015 and 2021.** This will involve tackling some of the most notorious bottlenecks on the network, including the A14 and A303, adding 1,300 miles of new lane capacity and creating a network of Expressways.

A public consultation by Highways England on the A303 Stonehenge scheme between Amesbury and Berwick Down concluded in March 2017 which included, amongst other things, a 1.8 mile (2.9 kilometre) tunnel within the World Heritage Site. In their position statement Historic England, English Heritage and the National Trust noted that the proposed tunnel would remove the majority of the intrusive surface A303 from the Stonehenge World Heritage Site, and that the eastern portal would allow for the reinstatement of the Stonehenge Avenue, but also that the location of the western portal needs significant improvement. All three organisations have offered to work with Highways England to find an alignment and design for the western portal that is appropriate for this internationally-important place and protects its Outstanding Universal Value. On-going engagement is also continuing with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and its cultural heritage adviser ICOMOS through a series of visits and advice. In September 2017 Highways England announced a significantly revised route alignment in response to the feedback from the public consultation. This has

the potential to resolve many of the issues of concern generated by the previous route and Historic England, together with English Heritage and the National Trust, are carefully considering the latest proposals.

This section was written before the Autumn Budget was presented to Parliament.

Local Authority Capacity

- **The continuing decline in the number of historic environment specialists advising local authorities in England remains a major concern.** Since 2006 the number of historic environment specialists advising local authorities has fallen by 36%. There are now 780.5 FTE (full time equivalent) specialists providing advice to local authorities in England, 517.7 FTEs of whom are working on building and area conservation and 262.8 FTEs providing archaeological advice. What is of particular concern is the number of authorities that now have no, or very little, advice available as they make decisions that affect local heritage assets. The decline in staff is set against the increasing demands being placed upon local authority heritage staff who have seen the number of planning application decisions and Listed Building Consent decisions (both indicators of workload) increase by 3.5% and 3.6% respectively.
- **This continued decline in staff numbers, coupled with increases in planning applications and Listed Building Consent applications, and the need for local authorities to meet housing and infrastructure needs, will inevitably place further strain upon local authority heritage staff.** This decline continues to represent a serious concern for the heritage sector and its ability to deliver sustainable development.

3.2 Heritage Protection Reform

- **Following the Historic Environment Planning Reform Group (HEPRG) consultation in 2016, the HEPRG of the Historic Environment Forum has continued to consider possible ways to address the continuing reduction in heritage resource in local planning authorities.** These include a greater use of expert advice, the use of Listed Building Consent Orders, and the use of independent experts to expedite applications for Listed Building Consent. Improved advice on listed building consent and on the use of heritage statements in listed building consent applications are now under active development.

4. Participation

Heritage Open Days

- **Heritage Open Days (HOD) had another strong year of providing access to and enjoyment of local heritage.** The festival featured 9% more events than 2015: a record high of 5,293 including walks, talks, tours, performances and opportunities for storytelling and creative engagement.
- **Events and activities were created by 2,073 people, working and volunteering locally, an increase of 23% on 2015.** They were helped by 40,000 volunteers. 3 million people visited a HODs event, 62% of whom were visiting HODs for the first time. Participation in the festival is spreading with an 11% increase in new organisers staging events. A significant number of new larger coordinated hubs have also been nurtured this year including Knutsford, Buxton and Winchester, with activity occurring in towns, cities and villages across England.
- **The festival demonstrates people passionately care about their local places with 86% saying that their main reason for visiting was to support their local heritage.**
- **HODs continue to act as a gateway to heritage with 51% of organisers reporting an increase in the diversity of visitors to their sites as a result of Heritage Open Days.** 40% of visitors having visited no heritage sites in the past 12 months and 80% feeling encouraged to visit more sites in the future.
- **The festival has a positive effect on all involved: 76% of volunteers taking part felt an increased pride in their local area/heritage.** 53% of those volunteers were taking part for the first time, an increase of 26% on 2015. 84% of volunteers said that as a result of their involvement they were more likely to volunteer for a heritage organisation in the future. And most incredibly, almost 100% of the festival's volunteers fully enjoy their volunteering experience. 89% of visitors feel more appreciation for their local area as a result of HODs and 76% feel more part of their local community.
- **Full evaluation for 2017 is still being undertaken but HODs were bigger than ever with 5,588 events and 2,131 organisers.**



Heritage Open Days. © Andrew Heptinstall

Heritage Schools

- **Heritage Schools, now in its sixth year, continues to engage children with the heritage on their doorstep by supporting teachers in how to embed local heritage into the curriculum.** In the last 12 months alone, there were 2,953 attendances at Heritage Schools training events. Participants include teachers, trainee teachers and educators from the heritage and cultural sector. Schools are provided with a range of resources including bespoke resource packs of archive maps and aerial images of the local area. They are also able to access thousands of archive images.
- **Schools participating in the training have also made a contribution to the First World War Memorial Programme.** Many have carried out Condition Surveys and uploaded the results to the War Memorials Trust website. Several schools have also been successful with applications to have a war memorial listed, and some schools have taken the lead on local First World War commemoration events.
- **In 2016 Heritage Schools won a prestigious Europa Nostra award in the Education Training and Awareness-Raising category.** In 2017 Heritage Schools was included as a prize for schools winning the Department for Education's Pupil Premium Awards, and pupils from several Heritage Schools were nominated for Heritage Angel Awards.

Council for British Archaeology Festival of Archaeology

- The 27th annual Festival of Archaeology, co-ordinated by the Council for British Archaeology, took place from 15th to 30th July 2017 across the UK. Data is collected from organisers and those attending events to build a picture of the impact of the Festival. With almost 800 events and 320 organisers, more people took part in the Festival than ever. From the audience research survey 61% of people said they would recommend the Festival of Archaeology to others, which is a significant increase from when this question was asked in 2015. While inevitably there are some regional variations, initial feedback from the 2017 audience research also suggests that this year the Festival continued to reach some new audiences, with higher proportions of people attending from younger families.
- The audience research study shows the impact of the Festival on people's perceptions of heritage and archaeology. Visitors overwhelmingly fed back that events were informative, engaging and accessible and that the Festival of Archaeology is a great way of putting people in touch with their past. 86% of visitors in the research also agreed that as a result of the Festival they were encouraged to take more interest in heritage and archaeology.
- Festival organisers have a range of motivations for being involved – almost 90% take part so they can reach new audiences themselves and over a third report that the Festival has been a catalyst for developing new working partnerships with other organisations or community groups. Each year there is a proportion of new event organisers and in 2017, just over a third of organisers were involved in the Festival for the first time, with the vast majority of all Festival organisers planning to take part in the Festival next year.

- Looking to the future there are three key issues that the Festival will need to address: first, the Festival in 2018 will be dependent on the Council for British Archaeology, working in partnership with the wider heritage and archaeological sector, being able to raise money for the Festival of Archaeology to take place. To put this in context, 500 contributions of £40 would raise almost half the money needed. Second, there are still important opportunities to encourage more young people aged 16 to 25 to become involved in all aspects of the Festival – from organising events, attending them and reporting back on them. Third, the impact of social media on Twitter and Facebook has been clearly visible in creating a buzz around the Festival in 2017, and developing this digital engagement further remains a priority.

Working with Young People

- In 2017 HLF launched Kick the Dust – a £10m pilot programme conceived to raise the quality, ambition, scale and reach of heritage work with young people (aged 11-24), as well as building the evidence base for the impact of the work. Over the next five years, 12 projects will be delivered across the UK by heritage and youth sector organisations working in consortia. Lead partners include English Heritage, Groundwork UK and The British Council, as well as more local organisations such as Birmingham-based youth agency Beatfreeks. Projects will focus on engaging young people with many types of heritage, including, parks, industrial heritage, oral histories and biodiversity; and a broad range of under-represented groups will be addressed, including young people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds; young people experiencing homelessness; and young people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. A group of 17 young Heritage Ambassadors were recruited to assist with Kick the Dust decision-making and will continue to play a key advocacy role as the programme progresses.
- Kick the Dust runs alongside Young Roots – a longstanding programme offering smaller grants of £10-50k for collaborative projects between youth and heritage organisations that place young people in the lead.

First World War Memorials Programme

- As the nation enters the final year of the First World War centenary Historic England continues to work in partnership with Civic Voice, Imperial War Museums and War Memorials Trust to deliver the First World War Memorials Programme (FWWMP).
- The Programme aims to engage the public with their war memorial heritage and to ensure memorials across the country are protected and the people they commemorate are remembered.
- Through War Memorials Trust, the FWWMP, has made up to £2.15m available to help local communities repair and conserve their First World War memorials (in grants ranging from £74 to £132,100). To date 70% of the grants budget has been offered or spent on 369 memorials. The programme also continues to protect memorials through listing, with over 1,800 war memorials added to the National Heritage List for England or upgraded since the programme began in 2014.
- The FWWMP is improving the quality of war memorial data held by the IWM (Imperial War Museum) War Memorials Register, War Memorials Online and the National Heritage List for England. The programme is working to connect this data through the IWM Register allowing the public a single point of access to information relating to the history, condition and protection status of a memorial.
- Through Civic Voice the programme has been holding public engagement workshops to encourage members of the public to research, record and protect their local memorials through listing. To date over 160 workshops have been held, with over 2,500 individuals attending. Plans are being made to deliver bespoke workshops to help communities to engage young people with their local war memorial heritage.
- In collaboration with the Heritage Schools Programme the FFWMP has been working to engage school children with their local war memorials. Children have been taught how to carry out condition surveys of memorials and the importance of repair and protection. Historic England has also worked with 8 schools to list their local war memorials.

- Through its conservation strand the programme is building a larger pool of contractors and conservators with the skills to appropriately repair and maintain memorials for the centenary and beyond. The first tranche of training resources for heritage professionals have already been created, including six short training films.



Memorial to the Royal Fusiliers, Holborn, London, who fought at Passchendaele 100 years ago. Upgraded to Grade II* this year. © Historic England.

Heritage Tourism

- **Inbound tourism to the UK is experiencing a sustained period of growth, with record numbers of overseas visitors (23.1m) for the January – July period, up 8% on 2016 and up 9% in volume terms.** The influx has particularly been felt among the must-see tourist attractions around the UK, with Stonehenge experiencing a strong uplift in visitors driven by overseas tourists. Scotland too has seen significant uplifts of up to 24%, particularly its major castles in Edinburgh and Stirling with Chinese and American tourists leading the surge. Much of the growth can be attributed to, at least in part, to the exchange rates, which have made the UK 17% less expensive now than in 2016.
- **Looking specifically at the Heritage sector in England, 2017 has been a mix of ups and downs for Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA)-member attractions, with ALVA's UK year-to-date visitor rates at -4% for January-August.** However, much of this is likely to be driven by Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust attractions reporting significantly lower visitor rates this year following the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death last year, and the visitors its sites attracted due to that. Several attractions in England are offering buoyancy to the sector, such as Kensington Palace (+29%) with its hugely successful Diana exhibition, along with St Paul's Cathedral (+27%), City of London's Monument (+17%), and English Heritage (+10%). In fact, more people visit heritage attractions in the UK each weekend than attend football matches, highlighting the popularity of the many great heritage sites to see.
- **The Discover England Fund announced in 2015 by the Government has continued its progress; with the aim to drive inbound visits and increase spend through a £40m investment over three years.** The objective is to ensure England remains a competitive destination within a growing global tourism industry. There are a number of challenges that the project aims to overcome; one of which is to encourage tourism in other parts of England outside of London, with the capital currently accounting for 54% of all international visitor spending.

Capacity Building and Heritage Sector

- **Capacity building is one of five strategic priority areas set out in **Heritage 2020: strategic priorities for England's historic environment 2015-2020.**** The capacity building working group is made up of members of organisations across the heritage sector. It has completed a digest of known heritage sector capacity building initiatives from which it has agreed an action plan and two clear priorities for areas for joint working. The first of these, holding a heritage sector summit on apprenticeships, occurred in March 2017 thanks to the support of Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund was a notable success. It is hoped to hold a follow-up on progress next year. The second priority is a detailed analysis of public sector capacity for both conservation and archaeology services and a comparison with statutory duties, discretionary services and current public expectations. Work on this complex issue is underway.
- **A large number and variety of courses, events, training and information sessions continue to take place all over England, demonstrating the valuable capacity building work being carried out by the heritage sector and associated professional and crafts bodies.**
- **A group of employers have set up a Historic Environment Trailblazer and are designing new apprenticeships for historic environment roles to provide new entry routes and career pathways in the sector.** An Archaeological Technician Level 3 apprenticeship and a Conservation Technician Level 4 apprenticeship are amongst a range of new specialist apprenticeship standards currently in development. These new vocational pathways will ensure a historic environment career is more accessible to all, and will address some of the significant skills shortages and lack of diversity in the sector.
- **Historic England has launched its Research Agenda to help develop partnerships between Higher Education Institutes and the heritage sector.** Projects to review three Regional Research Frameworks for the North West, North East, and East of England have started.

- **Historic England has continued its commitment to historic environment training with the further establishment of its Essentials Training Programme.** This series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses is aimed at local authority planners and career entrants to local authority historic environment services. It covers the building blocks of historic environment management and explores key concepts, methodologies, legislation and policies that govern how it can be understood, protected and managed through the planning system. The training is delivered by Locus Consulting Ltd. under contract to Historic England. The programme will provide 1,400 training places over 3 years and by August 2017 had trained 720 people.
- **The historic environment work-based placements scheme run by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA), with funding and hosting from Historic England has been extended.** Five placements have been recruited for 12 months to develop sector capacity in key technical skills.
- **Historic Environment Forum partners have continued to collaborate throughout the year in establishing the need for and best format for written advice and guidance.** This builds the capacity of both the sector workforce and others whose work affects heritage assets. Highlights have been the commissioning of audience research with funding from Historic England, and a stakeholder workshop managed by CIfA as one of the CIfA/HE 'World after PPG16' workshops.

4.1 Community Volunteering

- **Heritage volunteering represents 6% of all voluntary work undertaken in England.** The sector simply could not function without the support of volunteers. The numbers rose from 575,300 in 2014/15 to 615,500 in 2015/16 - more than the population of Glasgow! The estimated economic value of heritage volunteering, based on National Minimum Wage rates, was £520.1m in 2015/16. If based on regional median hourly earnings this rises to £909.9m.
- **In the heritage sector, the National Trust remains the outstanding example with over 60,000 volunteers contributing 3.1 million hours of their time – the equivalent of 1,590 full-time staff.** English Heritage has nearly 2,200 volunteers across 36 sites. Heritage Open Days is the flagship for community volunteering, with some 40,000 volunteers across England organising 5,000 events.

- This year, the Heritage Alliance has continued to publicise volunteering opportunities with its members in Heritage Update, has responded to the full time social action review on how the Government could support further youth volunteering, and has written a briefing for the House of Lords to ensure that heritage volunteering is not caught within the terms of the National Minimum Wage (Workplace Internships) Bill.

Heritage Champions

- **The network of Heritage Champions across the country supports the protection of the historic environment at a local level.** It is up to the local authority to decide how to nominate their Heritage Champion, but it is normally a local councillor nominated by their authority to promote all aspects of the historic environment in their area. Facilitating the growth and activities of local networks are Historic England's regional offices.
- **A number of regional events were held in 2017, for example in Canterbury, Manchester and Darlington, providing not only training opportunities for Champions but also opportunities to share ideas and discuss priorities.** In support of the networks across the country Historic England launched a new quarterly e-newsletter for Heritage Champions in late 2016, coupled with a refreshed web presence. To share the great work they are doing Historic England has also begun to prepare profiles of the work undertaken by some of the Heritage Champions, these have been published on the [website](#) and on the **Local Government Association Cultural Hub**.

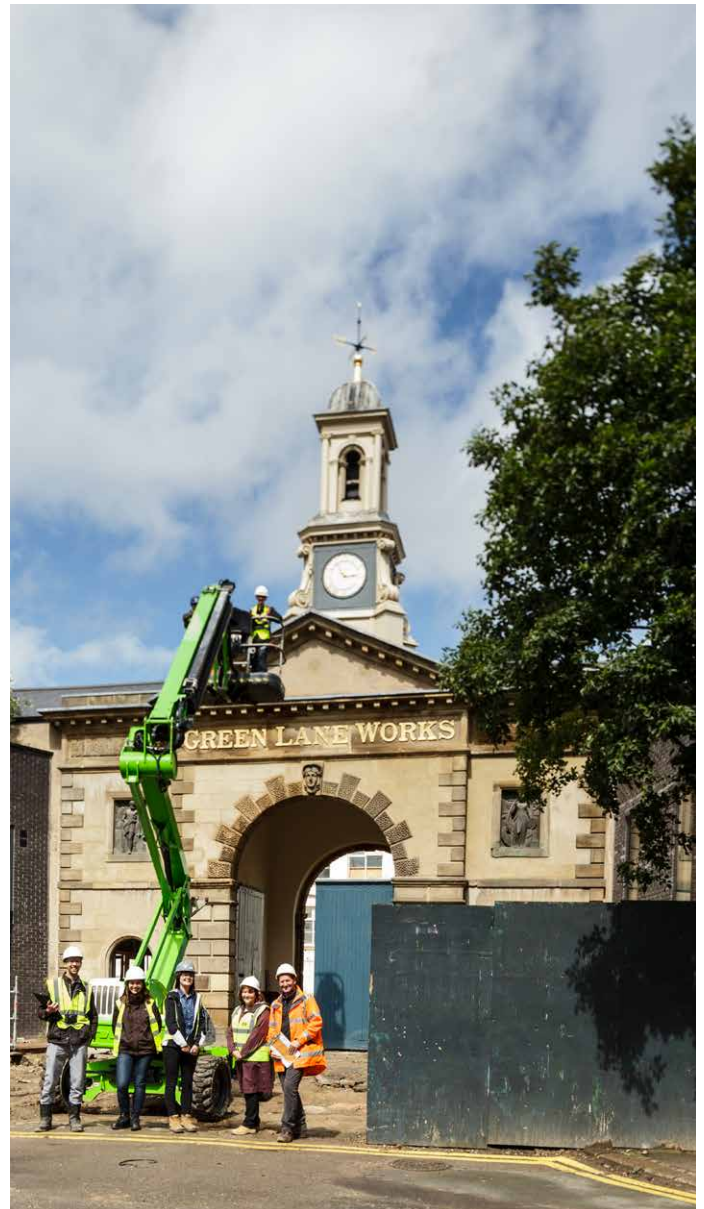
Great Places Scheme

- **The Great Place Scheme, a 3-year pilot funding programme developed jointly by HLF, Arts Council England and Historic England, is a key element in the Culture White Paper in which the Government set out its vision for culture as a driver for social improvement and local economic growth.** The Great Places Scheme supports the Government's ambition that art, culture, and heritage should be at the heart of the local vision for aspiring places. The £20m scheme launched in August 2016 and has supported 16 projects across all nine English regions. All funded projects seek to strengthen the networks linking heritage, cultural, civic and commercial organisations, so that culture and heritage can make a greater contribution to local plans for improving social-wellbeing, environmental sustainability and economic growth.

5. Sector Insight

Heritage at Risk

- 2017 saw an overall decline in the number of entries present on the Historic England Heritage at Risk (HAR) Register, dropping from last year's total of 5,341 to 5,254. On average at least one entry a day has been removed from the Register for positive reasons in the past year – a total of 387 entries. Historic England's target to reduce the number of entries on the Register in 2015 by 15% (not including conservation areas) has been met a year early.
- Amongst the notable success stories for 2017 was the imposing Grade II* listed gateway and the elegant clock tower to Green Lane Works in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. After major repair works funded by the owner and Historic England this once derelict building has been brought back into mixed residential and commercial use and recently welcomed its first occupants. It was removed from the register in 2017. This site is an excellent example of how grant aid from Historic England and other funders can help to ensure historic buildings can be successfully integrated into new developments to create attractive and sustainable places. This year Historic England gave grant aid of £10.5m to 260 projects.
- There is a wide variety of entries currently 'at risk'. The 5,254 entries on the 2017 Heritage at Risk Register include rock art, dovecotes, a tunnel, an office, stables and sixteen pubs. The Register also includes protected wreck sites, although there are now only four ship wrecks on the Register in comparison to ten when these assets started to be recorded in 2008.
- Whilst the overall picture is positive challenges are on-going. 328 entries were added this year of which 130 are places of worship, and over 450 buildings or structures from the 1999 baseline still remain on the 2017 Register. Creative solutions will be needed to resolve these long-standing cases, seizing opportunities that arise.



Work being undertaken at the Green Lane Works, Sheffield. © Historic England

- 2017 was the 50th Anniversary of conservation areas legislation and concerned remains about the number of conservation areas on the Register. Additionally more conservation areas were added than taken off the Register in 2017. However, on-going work with Local Authorities and other partners through Historic England's Heritage Action Zones initiative will enable resources to be effectively targeted.

Heritage at Risk: City Centre Conservation Area, City of Derby

In the year of the 50th Anniversary of conservation area legislation it was announced that Derby City Centre Conservation Area was finally off the Heritage at Risk Register. This followed an eight-year programme of Historic England grant aid partnered by Derby City Council and business owners.

The project however has achieved much more than simply improving the condition of individual historic buildings. It reversed the decline of traditional retail areas, increased footfall and business occupancy, encouraged new investment, and restored pride and confidence in Derby's historic core as a hub of economic success and well-being.

The challenges faced by British high streets are well known. In Derby, the development of monolithic shopping precincts at one end of the city centre exacerbated severe decline at the other. By 2009 Derby had the highest proportion of vacant shops of any city in the UK. A fatal downward spiral of dwindling confidence and investment was rapidly undermining

Derby's special character and economic performance. The City Centre Conservation Area was declared 'at risk' and it was realised that a major intervention would be required to stop the rot.

Historic England's Derby PSiCA (Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas) complemented other initiatives by seeking to restore the identity and attractiveness of key streets such as The Strand, Sadler Gate and Wardwick. The scheme targeted the repair and reinstatement of historic shop fronts, removing the clutter of unsympathetic signage, and highlighting characterful historic architectural details and materials.

At the conclusion of the PSiCA over £2.5m had been invested by the project partners, 97 properties had received grant aid, 2757m³ of commercial floor space had been brought back into use, 42 new jobs had been created, and a further 166 jobs safeguarded. The statistics, however, tell only part of the story of the regeneration and revitalisation of this superb place.



Repair and reinstatement of the historic shop fronts in Derby. © Historic England

Heritage Awards

Historic England's Angel Awards

- The awards, funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, celebrate the efforts of people taking action to champion their local heritage. The nominees for 2017's award were:
 - **Best Contribution to a Heritage Project by Young People** – Abraham Moss Community School for the Crumpsall Hall heritage project (Crumpsall, Manchester); Beacon Hill Arts for the project Hidden Histories at Newcastle Castle (Newcastle); Fiona Hailstone for the project Bringing Killerton Park to Life (Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon).
 - **Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project** – Anthony Goode for the repair of the dovecote at Barholm Old Hall (Barholm, Lincolnshire); Kenny Brunskill for the consolidation of the Corbridge bottle kilns (Corbridge, Northumberland); Rachel Thompson for the repair of the fog battery complex (Lundy Island, Devon).
 - **Best Rescue, Recording or Interpretation of a Historic Place** – Adam Sutcliffe-Brown for the autism-friendly programme of tours: Relaxed@Newmans at The Coffin Works (Birmingham); Heritage Heroes – a partnership project between Canal & River Trust and Help for Heroes (Cotswold Canals, Wilts & Berks Canal, Pocklington Canal); Nigel Ford for the repair, restoration and reinstatement of milestones across Norfolk (Norfolk).
 - **Best Rescue of a Historic Building** – Claire Slattery for the rescue of The Piece Hall (Halifax, West Yorkshire); Rich Moore and Marc Moore for the rescue of the former White Rock Baths, now Source Park (Hastings, East Sussex); Worcestershire Building Preservation Trust for the rescue of Weavers' Cottages (Kidderminster, Worcestershire).
- 2017's winners were announced after the publication of Heritage Counts 2017.



Dronfield Hall Barn. © Red Snapper Photography

Ecclesiastical's Heritage Heroes Awards

- Now in its seventh year **Ecclesiastical's Heritage Heroes Awards**, formerly the Heritage Alliance Heroes Awards and renamed in recognition of the insurance company's generous sponsorship to the Heritage Alliance, was set up to recognise and celebrate the achievements of heritage volunteers. 2016's winners were:
 - **Overall Project Winner** – Mike Slinn for his restoration work of the Grade II* Dronfield Hall Barn.
 - **Individual Award** – David Williams for his work at English Heritage's Lincoln Medieval Bishop's Palace.
 - **Special Award** – Kate Pugh OBE in recognition of her leadership of the Heritage Alliance.
- The 2017 winners will be announced this December.

European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards 2017

- Acknowledged as Europe's most prestigious prize in the heritage field, the **European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards** celebrates and promotes the best practice in heritage conservation, management, research, education and communication. **Amongst the 29 winners announced at the 2017 award ceremony held in Finland was the conservation project undertaken at Building 17 Cromford Mills, Derbyshire, England.**

The Grade I listed Cromford Mills situated in the Derwent Valley in Derbyshire consists of 20 buildings that make up a large site of industrial mills, the earliest of which being constructed in 1771 by the inventor and entrepreneur Sir Richard Arkwright. The conservation project was initiated by The Arkwright Society who bought the mill complex 1979 and shortly afterwards implemented its long-term economic plan for the site. Prior to its purchase Building 17 was in a lamentable state owing to inadequate maintenance and unsuitable additions made to the structure which ultimately compromised its structural integrity.



Part of the renovated Cromford Mills. © Ben Tynegate

In recent years the project has successfully secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to redevelop the location into a gateway site for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Additionally, many of the site's buildings have been brought back into use, including a centre for creative industries, a visitor centre, restaurants, offices for rental use, galleries, and multiple shops.

The Institute for Historic Building Conservation

- This year the IHBC, along with partners Civic Voice and the Historic Towns and Villages Forum has published its **Conservation Practice Principles**, a consolidated statement on the skills and considerations required in the successful conservation of places and fabric. The document recognises that working with historic places and buildings involves a diverse and complex range of specialist skills, across different professional disciplines, integrating historic and built environment expertise.
- To support engagement by local civic bodies across England with the **50th Anniversary of Conservation Areas**, the IHBC allocated some £3,000 to be offered as small grants to community associations and trusts so they could organise events, publications and exhibitions celebrating this important heritage year. This was quickly oversubscribed and led to a number of successful events across the country.
- Membership events were also held to encourage and advise affiliates to apply for full membership of the Institute. In partnership with Church Care the IHBC has continued its programme of **seminars** for regional Diocesan Advisory Committees (DACs). These provide the DAC secretaries with information about the IHBC and how membership can aid their understanding of the historic environment and career progression.
- The 2017 **IHBC Annual School** took place in Manchester and took transport and infrastructure as its theme. For the second year running, and as part of the School, the IHBC also presented the **Marsh Awards** which cover successful learning in heritage skills and retired IHBC members' contributions to their local community.

Places of Worship Research

- **Louise Hampson, Pilgrimage Research** – Pilgrimage and England's Cathedrals Past and Present is a three-year AHRC-funded research project exploring the experience and ideas of pilgrimage in the medieval period and today. Using Canterbury, Durham, York and Westminster (RC) as case-studies, the project has drawn on many, hitherto unregarded, archival sources for pilgrimage practice and reported experience, comparing that with the practice and experience of visitors to cathedrals today through observation, interviews, questionnaires and planned activity days. The results have been very revealing!
- There is a great deal of common ground between cathedrals and visitors expressed an overwhelming desire for sensory-led, tactile experiences with a strong interest in spiritual engagement opportunities. Key findings show that differentiating between 'tourists', 'visitors', and 'pilgrims' is erroneous as many people not only come with mixed or unformed intentions, but they change and fluctuate during their visit. These findings will help cathedrals, churches and historic sites plan future directions more effectively.
- **Theodore Zamenopoulos, Empowering Design Practices: Historic Places of Worship as Catalysts for Connecting Communities** – This five-year collaborative research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, explores how community-led design can empower those who look after historic places of worship to create more open, vibrant and sustainable heritage buildings that combine faith and community activities. More information can be found [here](#).
- The project aims to develop and evaluate tools, resources and training to support community-led design, and to explore how working collaboratively through design can help individuals and communities develop confidence, skills and social capital.
- The project has directly engaged more than 40 historic places of worship through a range of activities. This has revealed that communities need support very early on in their journeys, particularly around: making sense of their building's identity and heritage; exploring the potential of their buildings; unearthing local needs and assets that could generate leadership, collaborations or partnerships; and both leading and engaging others in a design process that turns ideas into feasible plans.

- HE Research and Publications – The book *The Chapels of England* by Dr Christopher Wakeling has been published by Historic England, charting the history of Nonconformists through their architecture. Beautifully illustrated, Dr Wakeling’s work reveals new treasures that may surprise even those who have wide experience of the heritage sector.
- Research is also underway for a book on Quaker Meeting Houses, building on a project completed earlier this year in partnership with the Religious Society of Friends. That investigation assessed the significance of over 300 Quaker Meeting Houses in use throughout England: all the reports are available via the **Archaeology Data Service**. It provides published access to the information on the Meeting Houses and a strategic overview and management tool for the Quakers, who have appointed a three-year property officer to support Meetings.
- Management issues facing major Grade I and II* Church of England parish churches were addressed in Historic England’s work on Major Parish Churches in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Greater Churches Network and the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England. These buildings face cathedral-scale repair bills with minimum paid staff and yet also often have important civic functions as well as parochial ones. The results of the project can be found [here](#).
- Work on identifying and understanding the significances of buildings of minority faiths continues; work on Hindu, Jain, Baha’i and Zoroastrian buildings will be published on the Historic England website shortly. A PhD on Sikh buildings in England was successfully completed by Dr Clare Canning in the summer. This compliments work on Buddhist places of worship already available and on mosques, which will be published in book form in early 2018. Further details on the research priorities can be found [here](#) and descriptions of some of the above projects are detailed in Research News issue 20 and Research issue 3 [here](#).
- The site, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, nestled in a stunning valley, provided a range of activities for enthusiastic heritage volunteers. Repointing and consolidating stone walls, timber repairs, applying a grassy ‘soft cap’ to the ruins and slate roofing were some of the techniques volunteers could try, all under the guidance of conservation experts.
- During the week the SPAB held an open day that began at nearby Cromford Mill, and after boarding a shuttle bus up to the mill visitors were transported to the valley and taken through the ruined mill site by the knowledgeable local volunteers of the Arkwright Society’s Lumsdale Committee.
- Throughout the week over 60 volunteers came to Lumsdale from all over the country, with some people travelling from Europe for the experience. At the annual Working Party SPAB aims to blend hands-on learning with a great sociable atmosphere. One volunteer said the most valuable thing they took away from the experience was: “the opportunity to meet a range of hugely interesting and knowledgeable conservation professionals, including making many new friends”.
- SPAB technical officer, Jonny Garlick, who organised the Working Party, said: “Our motivated volunteers were great. I’d also like to thank the conservation experts who gave their time and knowledge, and the wonderful local community who supported us throughout the week. We couldn’t have done it without them. The SPAB Working Party is an ambitious project for the team, but it just gets better and better”.
- This project was made possible with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

SPAB’s National Maintenance Week

- Each summer the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) joins forces with building enthusiasts, specialists and professionals, and a local community to repair a building in need. In July the SPAB embarked on the project of repairing a ruined mill complex in Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbyshire.



One of the SPAB Working Parties. © Ralph Hodgson

Hull: City of Culture 2017

In November 2013, Hull won its bid to become the UK City of Culture 2017. The bid concentrated on Hull's heritage, the untold role of the City in the UK as a gateway to Europe, and the creativity of its home-grown talent as well as those who have studied in Hull. The programme of events is delivering 365 days of events over the year which is divided into four seasons each celebrating different aspects of Hull's heritage and identity.

Evaluation of the impact of the programme so far is incredibly positive. Hull University's Culture, Place and Policy Institute released an interim evaluation of the first three months of 2017 ahead of a full report due in spring 2018. The report focused on four key impact areas: arts and culture, place-making, economy and society and wellbeing. Whilst the full impact of 2017 is yet to be revealed, the findings from the first three months were a clear indication of the positive effect that Hull 2017 has had on the city and its residents.

90% of residents had attended or experienced a cultural event or activity, in contrast to 36% in 2013 when the bid was being made. The first four months of the year saw half a million visits to the Hull museums and galleries. Of the 342,000 visits made to the 'Made in Hull' opening week, 94% of people agreed that the event had made them feel more connected with the stories of Hull. They also felt that they had learnt more about Hull's history and heritage.

The 'Look Up' campaign, an effort to get people to see Hull's architecture has seen the installation of several large scale pieces of public art. These have played a key role in the engagement of audiences. The Blade, the first of these installations, was seen by 1.1 million people. Of these 420,000 interacted with the installation. 50.5% of those stated that the Blade was the main attraction for visiting the city. The second of the installations, the 'Weeping Window' poppy display attracted 72,000 visitors.

The council's public realm investment program has seen the recently scheduled Beverley Gate redeveloped.

In total more than 1.4 million visitors attended cultural events and activities in Hull during the first three months of Hull 2017 alone. Hull UK City of Culture had a positive impact on the development of existing audiences. It also played a vital role in attracting new audiences and demonstrated the capacity of the cultural sector to continue to grow.

In September, the Council announced a £250m commitment to a legacy plan to improve Hull's culture and visitor infrastructure. This will include the £27m investment in regenerating the city's oldest docks and restoration of two historic ships that will help to promote Hull's unique heritage as Yorkshire's Maritime city.



We are Hull Event. © Historic England



The Blade, Hull. © Historic England

Notes

This document has been prepared as part of **Heritage Counts 2017**
by Historic England on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum.
December 2017 – Project Code: 52090

Contact: Marcus Ward, Social Researcher, Historic England
(Marcus.Ward@HistoricEngland.org.uk)



Historic England