

Conservative Manifesto 2019 – Notes for Heritage Science

[Read the Conservative Manifesto here.](#)

Central to the Conservative Party manifesto is getting Brexit through parliament and unleashing the country's full potential. Areas that impact heritage science and align with the National Heritage Science Strategy include: education; movement of high-skilled workers; investment in science, including international collaboration; and investment in skills and training.

Their manifesto promises to:

Actively recruit leaders in their field to come to the UK.

'We want the UK to be a magnet for the best and brightest, with special immigration routes for those who will make the biggest contribution. We will create bespoke visa schemes for new migrants who will fill shortages in our public services, build the companies and innovations of the future and benefit Britain for years to come. These include:

...Actively recruiting leaders in their field to come to the UK. The small number of the best technology and science graduates from the top universities in the world and those who win top scientific prizes will be offered fast-track entry to the UK – these people can do more than any others to drive scientific progress and help our NHS and our economy.'

Make an unprecedented investment in science so we can strengthen research and build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow.

"We need to use science and research to unite and level up our country, giving people opportunity and hope.

Once we have got Brexit done, we will turn our attention to the great challenges of the future such as clean energy and advanced energy storage; a cure for dementia; and solving antibiotic resistance. To do this we will make an unprecedented investment in science so we can strengthen research and build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow."

This ties into the following claims to:

- Commit to the fastest ever increase in domestic public R&D spending, including in basic science research to meet our target of 2.4 per cent of GDP being spent on R&D across the economy.
- Some of this new spending to go to a new agency for high-risk, high-payoff research, at arm's length from government.

To make this investment efficient:

- Efforts will be "focus[ed] ...on areas where the UK can generate a commanding lead in the industries of the future – life sciences, clean energy, space, design, computing, robotics and artificial intelligence."
- Increased R&D funding will be used to attract and kick-start private investment.
- International collaboration and exchange will be supported to ensure the UK can recruit the skills and talent it needs from abroad.
- Continued collaboration internationally and with the EU on scientific research, including Horizon.
- Unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise our scientific discoveries, creating a vibrant science-based economy post-Brexit.

- Reform the science funding system to cut the time wasted by scientists filling in forms.

“These unprecedented increases to the science budget will be used to drive forward the development of technologies of critical importance to the UK, by investing in clusters around world-leading universities and spreading knowledge.”

“But it isn’t just about laboratory work. The UK is at its best when it allies its extraordinary design and artistic abilities with science and technology. The Festival of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 2022 – a national celebration which coincides with the Birmingham Commonwealth Games – will encourage our leading arts and cultural organisations, universities, research institutes and businesses to come together to inspire the next generation in British innovation and creativity.”

Invest in skills and training.

Since 2010, the Government has invested in further technical qualifications and apprenticeships, with 3.8 million more apprenticeships. The manifesto recognises the need for “significant numbers of new UK apprentices for all big new infrastructure projects”, such as hospitals, schools, transport etc.

At the heart of this, the Conservative Manifesto promises to **create a new National Skills Fund** worth £3 billion. “This fund will provide matching funding for individuals and SMEs for high-quality education and training. A proportion will be reserved for further strategic investment in skills, and we will consult widely on the overall design.” This fund is intended to “help to transform the lives of people who have not got onto the work ladder and lack qualifications, as well as people who are keen to return to work from, say, raising a family, or switch from one career to another.”

Alongside this, the manifesto promises to **invest almost £2 billion to upgrade the entire further education college estate**, so that local colleges benefit from the kind of investments that universities have seen in previous years.

Likewise, the Conservatives claim they will **create 20 Institutes of Technology**, “which connect high-quality teaching in science, technology, engineering and maths to business and industry.”

Invest in arts and culture and revive our towns and cities.

“Alongside investing in science, we will maintain our support for the arts and culture, taking pride in the worldbeating strengths of the UK’s creative industries and its unparalleled cultural heritage. In addition to our new support for arts in schools, business rates relief for music venues and cinemas, and the largest cultural capital programme in a century – £250 million to support local libraries and museums – we will maintain support for creative sector tax reliefs and free entry to the UK’s national museums.”

The cultural capital programme will provide £250 million to support local libraries and regional museums.

The Conservatives will also work with local universities to do more for education, health and prosperity in their local areas. The Cultural Investment Fund will also support activities, traditions and events that bring communities together.

“Our new Towns Fund will help communities make sure their towns are safe to walk in and a pleasure to be in. We want there to be things to do, great places to shop and eat and transport to be easy. Above all, we want the town’s future to be in the hands of the people who live there.”

This will include:

- “Regenerating towns. The Towns Fund will go to an initial 100 towns to improve their local economy – and they and only they will make the choice about what improvements their local area needs.”
- “Thriving high streets. We will cut taxes for small retail businesses and for local music venues, pubs and cinemas.”
- “Community ownership. We will establish a £150 million Community Ownership Fund to encourage local takeovers of civic organisations or community assets that are under threat...”

Invest in schools.

“We will continue to do everything we can to ensure every school is a great school. We will continue to support innovation, like our successful maths schools, set up for the most gifted young physicists and mathematicians.”

“We retain our commitment to the core subjects and also want young people to learn creative skills and widen their horizons, so we will offer an ‘arts premium’ to secondary schools to fund enriching activities for all pupils.”

Provide a transport revolution and support local growth.

“A key part of our plan to level up the UK’s cities and regions is to connect them.” Priorities outlined in the Conservation Manifesto include:

- Creating the Northern Powerhouse rail between Leeds and Manchester, then focusing on Liverpool, Tees Valley, Hull, Sheffield and Newcastle.
- Investing in the Midlands Rail Hub, strengthening rail links including those between Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Coventry, Derby, Hereford and Worcester.

“We remain committed to devolving power to people and places across the UK. Our ambition is for full devolution across England, building on the successful devolution of powers to city region mayors, Police and Crime Commissioners and others, so that every part of our country has the power to shape its own destiny. We will publish an English Devolution White Paper setting out our plans next year.

Through our City and Growth Deals we have already delivered more than £9 billion of funding across England, and almost £3 billion to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Through bodies like the Northern Powerhouse, Western Gateway and Midlands Engine we will drive greater levels of foreign investment into the UK, promoting our towns, cities and counties around the world. As part of our plans for full devolution we will also invite proposals from local areas for similar growth bodies across the rest of England, such as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.”