

## Heritage Statement 2017

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)'s [Heritage Statement 2017](#), launched on 5 December 2017, sets out the government's direction and priorities for England's heritage in the coming years, building on the commitments made in the 2016 Culture White Paper and the broader Industrial Strategy. It sets out how the government will support the heritage sector and help it protect, maintain and promote heritage to ensure that it remains vibrant and relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Statement also recognises that "the UK is a world leader in heritage and cultural protection and in heritage science and research" (p.25).

This document is intended as a briefing note on the 2017 Heritage Statement. It lists the extensive "we will" actions announced by government within the Statement, divided into four key themes:

- Placemaking ("Our heritage creates great places")
- Diversity ("Our heritage is for everyone")
- National brand and international collaboration ("Our heritage is international")
- Sustainability and resilience ("Creating a sustainable and resilient heritage sector")

DCMS will be working with its Arm's Length Bodies to develop an action plan taking forward the issues and proposals set out in the statement.

## Introduction

- ➔ We will develop an action plan to take forward the issues and proposals set out in this statement
- ➔ We will build on the steps we have already taken following the 2016 Culture White Paper to develop measures and collect data that enable us to report on progress towards achieving our ambitions for heritage and the heritage sector.

## Our heritage creates great places

### *Partnerships:*

- ➔ We will put partnership working across sectors and with local communities at the heart of our strategy for heritage and the historic environment.
- ➔ We will encourage the heritage and museum sectors to work together, with local authorities and with other local partners to maximise their contribution to economic growth, regeneration and community development.

### *Framework for support:*

- ➔ We will take forward development of a Cultural Development Fund to demonstrate the model of place-based development and the role that investment in culture, heritage and the creative industries can play in social and economic growth.

- ➔ We will work across government to ensure that the role of heritage in placemaking and economic development is understood and properly integrated into the government's broader Industrial Strategy, Local Industrial Strategies and Town Deals and is included in relevant sector deals.
- ➔ We will ensure that our support for heritage contributes to the aims of the government's forthcoming 25-year plan for the environment. (We welcome Historic England's preparation of a placemaking strategy to ensure that it positively engages with communities.)

#### *Protection of sites and buildings*

- ➔ After the UK has left the European Union, we will continue to offer protection to our precious landscapes and rural heritage [currently supported by the Common Agricultural Policy].
- ➔ We will work across government to continue to protect rural historic sites and features, enhancing the character of our beautiful landscapes and supporting geodiversity.
- ➔ We will encourage local planning authorities to invest in their custodians of the local historic environment and to work more closely with Historic England and the private and voluntary sectors to make better use of the available resources to identify, protect and maintain the historic buildings and places that matter to local communities.
- ➔ We will continue to explore opportunities to streamline heritage consent processes, maintaining the current level of protection for the historic environment but reducing burdens on owners and developers and allowing local planning authorities who administer these consents to deliver a more effective service.
- ➔ We will continue to encourage all parties in the public, private and voluntary sectors to work together to ensure that conservation areas remains successful and vibrant historic places that add value to local communities.
- ➔ We are reviewing and updating the Secretary of State's Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings and we will publish a revised version in 2018. We aim to complement this by reviewing our policy on the scheduling of nationally important archaeological sites and publishing the Secretary of State's Principles for the Selection and Conservation of Scheduled Monuments, so that it is clear what we are protecting and why.
- ➔ We will work with heritage organisations to find sustainable solutions to reduce that number [of buildings and sites on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register] and ensure that all our historic buildings and sites are well-maintained and provide long-term economic and social benefits.
- ➔ Some of our heritage can occasionally be at risk of damage and destruction by unscrupulous owners and developers while it is being considered for listing. We will explore options and opportunities to reduce the risk of this happening and provide better protection for our heritage while an application for listing is being considered.

#### *Access to information:*

- ➔ We will work with Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners to find ways of supporting further digitisation and improvements in the quality and availability of relevant information and records.

- We will work with Historic England and other heritage organisation to launch a new scheme to enable communities to identify, mark and celebrate the locations where history has been made, and the people, places and events that are important to them. This will include a competition to design a plaque or other type of marker to be used.

#### **Our heritage is for everyone:**

- We will work across government and with the heritage sector to create and support opportunities for people to engage with heritage as students, workers, volunteers, visitors and enthusiasts.

#### *Engaging with young people:*

- (Historic Environment is working with a consortium of organisations to find ways to take these high quality experiences [of the Heritage Schools programme] outside of the school environment and to offer opportunities to youth groups to become actively involved in caring for their heritage).
- We will work with partners to build on the successes of these recent initiatives [HLF's [Young Roots](#) programme, [Kick the Dust](#) initiative and [Heritage Ambassadors](#) panel] and support the creation of more opportunities for young people to benefit from engagement with heritage outside formal education and to lead heritage social action.
- We will encourage more heritage organisations to support the [\[#iwill\]](#) campaign and bid for funding to invest in heritage-related youth social action projects and initiatives.
- We will explore with the [National Citizen Service](#) Trust how the heritage sector can help to support their aims for young people and encourage heritage organisations to engage in the delivery of NCS projects.

#### *Under-represented skills in the heritage sector:*

- We will work with heritage organisations to build on existing programmes [e.g. HLF Skills for the Future programme] and to examine ways of encouraging more people to consider careers in heritage, in order to provide the specialist and professional skills and expertise which the sector needs.
- We will encourage heritage organisations to work with Historic England, Arts Council England and the Institute for Apprenticeships to develop new apprenticeship standards for the heritage sector.

#### *Engaging with under-represented groups:*

- We will encourage the heritage and museum sectors, which are intrinsically linked and overlap, to learn from each other and develop joint solutions [to recruiting and promoting a diverse workforce] where possible.
- As part of our implementation of the Mendoza Review, we will ensure that museums are sharing best practice and working alongside the heritage sector to improve access for disabled people.
- We will work with disabled people's organisations to encourage more people with a long-standing illness or disability to engage with museums and heritage.

#### *Diversity in the workforce:*

- ➔ We will work with Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund to build on these initiatives [of Historic England’s Workforce Diversity strategy and positive action training placements and HLF’s Skills for the Future programme] and encourage more heritage organisations to offer training and development opportunities to people from underrepresented groups.
- ➔ Through the Digital Culture Project, we will work with our partners to find ways to support heritage organisations to collect and use data effectively and responsibly, make more effective use of digital technology and develop their digital offer to attract and engage new and more diverse audiences.

**Our heritage is international:**

“As the UK leaves the European Union, we want to see the heritage sector maximising its potential as a key component of the UK’s place in the world.”

*Brexit and the heritage sector:*

- ➔ We will take account of the needs and interests of the heritage sector in the negotiations to leave, and establish a new relationship with the European Union.
- ➔ As part of this work, we will consider how future migration arrangements and potential funding schemes can help to support the protection of our heritage and the development of the heritage sector.
- ➔ We will work with Historic England and other partners to encourage and support public, private and voluntary sector heritage organisations to work internationally and create international partnerships and to increase their capacity to do so.

*Heritage and the national brand:*

- ➔ We will work with and through the GREAT campaign and VisitBritain to promote our heritage and use it to encourage tourists, students, investors and businesses to choose to come to the UK.
- ➔ We will continue to support the protection and promotion of our World Heritage Sites and consider further nominations in the future. (The Lake District recently became the UK’s 31<sup>st</sup> World Heritage Site, and we plan to put Jodrell Bank, the earliest radio astronomy observatory in the world still in existence, forward for designation in the coming year.)
- ➔ We will work with heritage organisations to develop strategies which will ensure that the management and stewardship of our World Heritage Sites is consistent and best practice is shared across the UK. (VisitEngland are currently scoping a project to examine how we can encourage more overseas visitors to explore our World Heritage Sites and make it easier for them to do so).

*Protecting global heritage:*

- ➔ We will remain active in promoting and supporting measures to protect heritage and cultural property around the world.
- ➔ We have ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and acceded to its two Protocols, and we will work with our partners to encourage more states to do so.

- ➔ Our armed forces are establishing a new Cultural Property Protection Unit, in accordance with our obligations under the Convention and as announced by the Secretary of State for Defence in April 2016.
- ➔ (In partnership with the British Council, we have established the £30 million Cultural Protection Fund, which is supporting projects to protect and conserve heritage at risk in the Middle East and North Africa.)
- ➔ We will set up a cross-government working group on cultural protection to oversee and coordinate our response to the need for assistance and support for cultural protection abroad.

### **Creating a sustainable and resilient heritage sector**

#### *Funding:*

- ➔ We will consider how these [economic valuation] techniques could be used effectively in and for the heritage sector.
- ➔ We will work with Historic England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund and other partners to examine ways of supporting heritage organisations to generate income from philanthropy, crowdfunding and forms of repayable finance and to encourage greater sharing of expertise and experience in accessing these sources of funding.
- ➔ We will continue to support our heritage through the National Lottery.
- ➔ We will continue to keep under review the tax and other financial incentives available for the conservation, repair and maintenance of historic buildings.
- ➔ The government is committed to reviewing the effectiveness of the changes [that came with the expansion of the Social Investment Tax Relief] within two years of the enlargement.

#### *Management of historic assets:*

- ➔ We will continue to provide support for listed places of worship through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.
- ➔ We will ask Historic England to help public bodies make informed decisions about disposal of their historic assets, to work with heritage organisations to find new and appropriate uses for these buildings, and to develop strategic advice to support community groups that wish to take them on.

#### *Reviewing the heritage infrastructure:*

- ➔ We will implement the recommendations of the Heritage Lottery Fund review.
- ➔ In 2018, we will carry out a review of Historic England, and we will review the financial sustainability of the English Heritage charity.
- ➔ We will implement relevant recommendations from the [Mendoza Review of Museums](#) and the [Digital Culture Project](#). We will ensure that the findings and learning from these reviews are shared with the heritage sector.

#### *A strong and cohesive voice for heritage:*

- ➔ We will work with our partners to promote greater cohesion and closer links across the heritage sector. We will encourage heritage organisations to continue working together and with organisations in other sectors to develop synergies, share skills, expertise and functions

such as digital and information technology, procurement, finance and human resources, and identify and promote best practice.

- ➔ At government level we will continue to emphasise the value of the historic environment and its role in creating great places to live, work and visit.
- ➔ We will create a new Heritage Council, chaired at Ministerial level, to ensure greater co-ordination and a strong voice for heritage within government. (The Heritage Council will help us to collaborate, exchange ideas and build consensus in areas such as planning, environmental protection, social and economic development, education, health and wellbeing, and international development.