

Manifesto Review, General Election 2019

The National Heritage Science Forum has reviewed the manifestos of six UK political parties and has highlighted below the key policies with a bearing on the heritage science community.

The Liberal Democrats

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/plan>

The manifesto is largely centered on stopping Brexit and using the Remain Bonus to invest in public services. It includes the following pledges:

- Maintain free access to national museums and galleries.
- Protect sports and arts funding via the National Lottery.
- Publish a National Wellbeing Strategy, which puts better health and wellbeing for all at the heart of government. Ministers from all departments will be responsible for implementing the strategy.
- Introduce a wellbeing budget, following the example of New Zealand – basing decisions on what will improve wellbeing as well as on economic and fiscal indicators.
- Appoint a Minister for Wellbeing, who will make an annual statement to Parliament on the main measures of wellbeing and the effects of government policies on them.
- Introduce wellbeing impact assessments for all government policies.
- Increase national spending on research and development to three per cent of GDP. They will publish a roadmap to achieve this ambition by the earliest date possible, via an interim target of 2.4 per cent of GDP by no later than 2027.
- Support innovation, with a goal of doubling innovation spending across the economy.
- Increase the Strength in Places Fund, to boost research and development outside the ‘golden triangle’ of Oxford-Cambridge-London.
- Support growth in the creative industries, including video gaming, by continuing to support the Creative Industries Council and tailored industry-specific tax support, promoting creative skills, supporting modern and flexible patent, copyright and licensing rules, and addressing the barriers to finance faced by small creative businesses.
- Create creative enterprise zones to grow and regenerate the cultural output of areas across the UK.

The Labour Party

<https://labour.org.uk/manifesto/>

Central to the Labour Party’s manifesto is a promise that the people will have the final say on Brexit. They will negotiate a deal within three months and then hold a legally binding referendum on accepting the deal or remaining in the EU. They will also:

- Ensure any Brexit deal allows for continued participation in EU agencies and funding programme, including in such vital areas of co-operation as the environment, scientific research and culture.
- Introduce a renewed Culture White Paper.

- £1 billion Cultural Capital Fund to transform libraries, museums and galleries across the country.
- Make the distribution of National Lottery funding more transparent to help communities get their fair share of project funding.
- Maintain free entry to museums, because everyone should have access to our shared heritage.
- End the cuts to the Arts Council and review its grant criteria to ensure a full local, regional and national balance in its work.
- Building on the success of the UK City of Culture, will launch a Town of Culture competition.
- Open up career opportunities in the arts, culture and creative industries for everyone and consult on ways to address the gender imbalance in the digital creative industries.
- Work with trade unions and employers to make creative jobs accessible for all, ensuring diversity in these industries so that everyone sees themselves represented on screen and on stage.
- Introduce an Arts Pupil Premium to every primary school in England- a £160 million annual boost for schools to ensure creative and arts education is embedded into secondary education.
- Review the copyright framework to ensure fair remuneration for artists and content creators.
- Ensure that new technologies are not just invented in Britain, but are engineered, manufactured and exported from here.

The Conservative Party

<https://vote.conservatives.com/our-plan>

Central to the Conservative Party manifesto is getting Brexit through parliament and unleashing the country's full potential. Their manifesto promises to:

- Actively recruit 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.
- Make an unprecedented investment in science so we can strengthen research and build the foundations for the new industries of tomorrow.
- 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.
- Use science and research to unite and level up our country, giving people opportunity and hope.
- New spending will go to a new agency for high-risk, high-payoff research, at arm's length from government.
- Reform the science funding system to cut the time wasted by scientists filling in forms.
- Unlock long-term capital in pension funds to invest in and commercialise our scientific discoveries, creating a vibrant science-based economy post-Brexit.
- Will continue to collaborate internationally and with the EU on scientific research, including Horizon.
- Have 20 Institutes of Technology, which connect high-quality teaching in science, technology, engineering and maths to business and industry.
- Create a new National Skills Fund worth £3 billion.
- £250 million to support local libraries and museums
- Maintain support for creative sector tax reliefs and free entry to UK's national museums.

- Through the Cultural Investment Fund, support activities, traditions and events that bring communities together

The Green Party

<https://campaigns.greenparty.org.uk/manifesto/>

Central to the Green Party manifesto is measures to tackle the climate emergency in a way that tackles pressing social concerns. They pledge to:

- Increase central government funding to councils by £10 billion a year to improve the frontline services they provide. They will support councils to also use this funding to nurture arts and culture in their areas, keeping local museums, theatres, libraries and art galleries open and thriving.
- Reduce VAT on museum and gallery tickets to help boost the leisure and cultural sectors.
- Scrap the government's new road building programme, including the proposed road tunnel at Stonehenge that threatens to desecrate an iconic World Heritage Site.
- Invest £6 billion in research and development for industry.

Plaid Cymru

https://www.partyof.wales/maniffesto_ewrop

Central to Plaid Cymru's manifesto is building a prosperous future for Wales inside the European Union. Their manifesto includes:

- Devolution of migration policy so that Wales can set its own migration policy according to its own needs and where there are identified skills shortages, actively recruit across the EU.
- Increase funding for degree apprentices in Wales.
- Guarantee to replace EU funding which supported research in higher education in the event of Brexit.
- Protect inward and outward student mobility post-Brexit, including participation in Erasmus+ or any successor schemes and cross-border study on the island of Ireland.
- Place art, culture and language together with sport at the heart of policies.
- Maintain free entry to museums, create a National Digital Library for Wales, and work with National Museums Wales to create a dedicated National Gallery for Contemporary Art.
- Promote Wales as a high quality, sustainable tourism destination with activities and experiences based on national resources, produce, unique coastline, and language, culture and heritage.
- Increase funding for tourism promotion and want tourism VAT on hospitality cut to 9% to put Wales ahead in the international tourism market.
- Establish a National Academy for the Welsh tourism sector to provide hands-on learning from apprenticeships to degree level, offering world-class vocational and professional development for workers across the sector.
- Advocate associate membership of the UN World Tourism Organisation.
- Launch a Celebrate Wales year to stimulate tourism.

Scottish National Party

<https://www.snp.org/general-election-2019/>

Central to the SNP's manifesto is the belief that decisions about Scotland's future are best taken by the people who live in Scotland. Their manifesto pledges to:

- Seek the devolution of immigration powers so that Scotland can have an migration system that works for its economy and society.
- Devolve employment law so that the Scottish Parliament can protect workers' rights.
- Streamline visa schemes if Brexit happens so Scotland's culture sector and creative industries can continue to benefit from international partnerships and shared experiences.
- Push for an increase in the capital borrowing limits that restrict our ability to invest in infrastructure and grow our economy.
- Call on the UK government to examine a reduction in VAT for the hospitality sector, levelling the playing field with other EU nations and creating new jobs.
- Continue to support tax incentives for creative industries and call for more work to increase equality, inclusion and diversity across the sector.

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