



Historic England

# Heritage Champions Handbook

May 2016



# Summary

This Handbook provides guidance for all local authority Heritage Champions. It outlines the role of a Heritage Champion, details what Heritage Champions can do and provides information on sources of support. The document is an update of the Heritage Champions Welcome Pack (2011) and the Guidance Note on Historic Environment Champions (2004).

A related document, the Short Guide for New Heritage Champions (2016), provides guidance for new Heritage Champions.

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[HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/planning/local-heritage/heritage-champions/](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/local-heritage/heritage-champions/)

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## Front cover

Historic England staff carrying out an architectural investigation in the Canterbury precinct, Canterbury, Kent.

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# Introduction

This handbook is a guide for all Heritage Champions. It provides information on what you can do in your role, how you can do it, and outlines useful contacts and sources of information.



Image  
Leeds City Centre, West Yorkshire.

# 1 The Heritage Champion Role

## Why are Heritage Champions so important?

The historic environment is a source of national and local pride. It provides a sense of identity and belonging, as well as contributing to our overall wellbeing and quality of life. Harnessed successfully, it can support the educational, cultural and economic wellbeing of an area.

Most public intervention in the historic environment is carried out at a local level so local government has a vital role in protecting England's heritage. As a Heritage Champion you play an influential role in supporting the protection of your local heritage.

As at May 2016, over 70% of local authorities in England had nominated a Heritage Champion.

## Your role as a Champion

Each Heritage Champion works differently, according to what is best for them and their local authority. Nevertheless, the role of a Champion can be summed up as being to:

- **Inspire**  
Generate enthusiasm and awareness for the importance of the historic environment within your authority and wider community; and to stand up as a point of contact for support and information on heritage-related issues from both the local community and others outside the authority

- **Advocate**  
Promote opportunities that draw attention to the historic environment across the whole authority and to help ensure that commitment to the proper care of the historic environment is embedded in all activities over which the authority has influence
- **Influence**  
Champions should use their position within the Local Authority to influence those around them for the benefit of the historic environment
- **Communicate**  
Communication within the council, with Historic England and with other heritage organisations is a large part of a Champion's work

## Your commitment as a Heritage Champion

There should be no additional financial implications associated with your role as a Champion other than those which might be involved with developing your skills, such as attending training events. Your championing role should permeate throughout all your other tasks as a local authority member and be incidental to them. However, it will inevitably be necessary for some specific time to be allocated to Champion duties (e.g. meetings, training, etc.), which may be a day a month on average.

# 2 Making the Case for the Historic Environment

In order to raise awareness of the historic environment's importance and potential across all of the local authority's functions, it is important to be able to express its values and its potential role in achieving the wider objectives of the authority, including:

- Attracting regeneration opportunities and economic investment
- Creating opportunities for local employment and housing
- Revitalising town-centre retail environment and regeneration
- Creating community cohesion, strength, engagement and capacity
- Offering local educational resources
- Enhancing an area's sense of place, identity and local character
- Improving the wellbeing for the local community

Local heritage can make a positive contribution to a wide range of local authority objectives. A recent study on the historic environment found that heritage:

- **Improves social interaction**  
Over 90% of people asked indicated that investment in the historic environment had resulted in a nicer place in which to live, work and socialise, as well as creating a more attractive visitor destination
- **Is an important factor in deciding where to live, work, and visit**  
91% of people identified the historic environment as an important or very important factor in deciding where to visit. The influence of the historic environment in decisions about where to live and work was 74% and 68% respectively
- **Increases civic pride and a sense of identity**  
92% of people said they would rate recent investments in the historic environment in their area as either good or very good in terms of raising pride in the local area

- **Improves the perception of an area**  
93% and 91% of respondents indicated that the investments in the historic environment had improved the image of the immediate area and of the wider town or city respectively

- **Increases feelings of community safety**  
Following recent investments in the historic environment of their local area, the proportion of respondents that indicated positive feelings of safety increased from 81% to 91% during the day and from 85% to 94% after dark

Further data on the social and economic value of the historic environment is available from the [Heritage Counts](#) website and the [Taking Part Survey](#). The [Local Authority Profiles](#) may be of particular interest as they illustrate the scope of heritage at the local authority level.



**Image**  
Church Row, Leeds, West Yorkshire.

# 3 Areas of Action

There are a wide variety of different areas where a Champion can make a positive contribution. You are best placed to decide where your focus should be, but here are some suggested actions:

## a) Developing local authority services and influencing local strategies

Heritage Champions can influence the way in which the local authority works to safeguard and

enhance the local historic environment. A key part of this is advocating the potential the historic environment holds for supporting local objectives and making sure that the local authority has the capacity to access historic environment expertise.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

- Ensure that the provision of historic environment expertise is adequately resourced and organised and seek to ensure continuous improvement in the quality of service delivered to the public
- Ensure that good practice within the authority relating to the historic environment is shared, and that examples of such practice from other authorities are brought to the attention of the relevant members or officers
- Ensure that relevant colleagues within the authority (elected members and officers) are aware of the available external expertise and advice on the historic environment available from bodies such as Historic England and the national amenity societies
- Increase and advocate joined-up working across local authority departments
- Work with other officers and community groups to produce a Heritage Strategy for the local authority

Heritage Champions can play an important role in ensuring that the historic environment is also considered in:

- The overarching vision set out in the authority's corporate strategies
- The authority's Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans produced by local communities
- Cultural strategies
- Children and young people's plans
- Health and wellbeing

Historic England produces a variety of guidance documents which can support Champions to get the historic environment incorporated into local authority's forward plans and strategies. Please consult the Planning pages for further information. In addition, Heritage Counts is an excellent source of facts and figures to help you make the case for the historic environment.

## b) Heritage-led regeneration

The historic environment can act as a catalyst for regeneration. Some of the most successful schemes for the regeneration of declining areas have been based on making the most out of heritage assets, both in enhancing overall character of a place and raising its economic prospects.

The basis of this approach is in the first instance to understand the existing heritage assets and use of the buildings, structures and other assets valued by the local community as a basis for new development schemes.

Appraisal of existing assets may include townscape appraisals, street and public realm audits and other investigative work, as well as a thorough consideration of the architectural and historically interesting buildings and structures. Looking back to understand the area is just the start of a more forward-looking plan for its regeneration.

Further information on regeneration and design can be accessed on Historic England's [Heritage and Sustainable Growth webpages](#) and [Heritage Works](#) (2013).

Another useful resource is the [Townscape Heritage Initiative \(THI\) Evaluation](#) produced by the [Heritage Lottery Fund](#) (HLF). The report includes an analysis of specific regeneration schemes and draws out some useful key variables that affected the success of each scheme and in some cases the lack of success. Additional information and data can also be found in [Heritage Counts 2010](#).

Support is also at hand in your local authority. Relevant local authority officers are well placed to inform you of local issues. Building a good working relationship with local officers will also provide support in your role across the range of possible activities.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

As a Heritage Champion not only can you advocate and gain strategic support for conservation led regeneration internally from council colleagues but also externally from the public. You are in a position to be able to access and facilitate the flow of necessary information between departments and relevant officers ensuring communications between conservation, archaeology, development control and planning and the public in order to better understand and advocate the significance of a place.

## c) Encouraging high quality new developments

Good design in historic areas is essential in preserving the character of a place and sustaining the benefits that the historic environment brings. It is important that local planning authorities fulfil their duty to pay attention to the quality of new building in historic areas very seriously. New development should aspire to a high quality of design and execution, related to its context, which will protect and enhance the historic environment for the future.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

In your role as Champion you can provide leadership and help the officers of your local authority develop a vision of how new development can be integrated in the historic environment.

## d) Local Heritage Listing

The creation of a local list provides an opportunity for a local community, in partnership with local authorities, to identify 'local heritage assets' – undesignated heritage buildings, sites, spaces and places that are worthy of some level of protection. Local listing not only helps to build and reinforce a sense of local identity and distinctiveness by identifying parts of the historic environment valued by the community at the local level, but it also provides clarity to developers as to where these heritage assets are located and, critically, what it is about them that is worth considering.

[Historic England Advice Note 7 – Local Heritage Listing](#) provides advice and guidance for local authorities and communities to help with introducing a local list in their area or making changes to an existing list.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

As Heritage Champion you can play a key role in facilitating the sharing of information between local authorities and community groups when developing a local list, especially during the development of selection criteria or the identification of heritage assets. You could also take a leading role in ensuring that the local community is properly consulted throughout the entire local listing process, thereby supporting social inclusion and diversity.

## e) Streetscapes: maintaining character of place

Changes made to the historic environment to accommodate traffic and vehicle parking can erode the quality of many historic towns and areas. In some cases, the desire to maximise accessibility for the motor vehicle has disrupted historic street patterns, resulted in the loss of buildings and other historic structures, eroded environmental quality and added to street clutter through signage and other traffic related paraphernalia.

Current thinking on the management of traffic and parking makes it clear that streets should be seen as places, rather than as conduits for traffic. Government guidance in the [Manual for Streets](#) (Department for Communities and Local Government and Department for Transport, 2007) stresses that the needs of the pedestrian should be placed at the top of the traffic hierarchy rather than at the bottom.

The Manual endorses the work of Historic England's [Streets for All streetscape manuals](#) (2005) which offer guidance on the way that our streets and public spaces should be managed. The Manual is also supported by [Streets for All: Practical Case Studies](#) (2008). The case study that could prove most useful is [Case Study 10: How to do a street audit](#).



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### Image

Heritage at Risk. Chatterley Whitfield Colliery, Biddulph Road, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire.

## What role might a Heritage Champion play?

As Champion you can encourage the local authority to develop enhancement schemes to reduce traffic flow and improve the pedestrian environment.

To be effective, traffic and parking schemes need to be prepared in a collaborative manner so that the legitimate interests of traffic engineers, conservation officers and the needs of the public can be considered. Your role as Heritage Champion may be to encourage collaboration and ensure joined up thinking on the issues.

In common with most interventions in historic areas, it is always good to start the process of developing ideas for change by undertaking assessments to gain an understanding of the current situation. This may involve street audits to assess the current condition of streets and public areas which consider not only the historic quality of the area, but also whether the street is accessible for all users, as well as the needs of the business community.

## f) Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013) and heritage

The Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (ERR) Act 2013 has created new options for managing or making changes to listed buildings, whilst maintaining levels of heritage protection.

The Act aims to streamline the medium to long term management of listed buildings by helping to make the consent process for owners of listed buildings more efficient. New tools introduced by the Act include the following:

- **Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreements (LBHPAs)** grant an extended listed building consent for works which would otherwise require repeat applications
- **Local Listed Building Consent Orders** grant a single, long-term listed building consent for well-understood works relating to common issues of maintenance, repair or minor alteration and save time and resource for owners and Local Planning Authorities alike
- **Certificates of Lawfulness of Proposed Works** can be obtained to confirm that listed building consent is not required
- **Certificates of Immunity from Listing** can now be applied for at any time where appropriate. More detailed list descriptions may now exclude parts of listed buildings or curtilage structures from the need for listed building consent
- The ERR Act also **merged conservation area consent with planning permission**, thereby reducing the number of applications required

Further information on the ERR Act can be found on the [Historic England website](#).

## What role might a Heritage Champion play?

Heritage Champions could play a role in the suggestion, implementation and negotiation of the tools introduced in the ERR Act. Through understanding the aims and process of such agreements, Heritage Champions stand in a position to advocate their use in suitable cases.

## g) Ensuring effective management of local authority assets

Local authorities should set an example to others by looking after their heritage assets in accordance with relevant standards.

Planning for heritage assets should be based upon knowledge of what heritage assets are owned and understanding their heritage value and significance. Any heritage designations, whether statutory or otherwise, should be identified in the authority's asset management plan. A 'conservation management plan' can be used to explain the heritage importance or significance of the asset, how the significance is vulnerable to change as well as what policies or strategies are needed to safeguard its significance.

Effective management should strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Decision-making is informed by an understanding of the heritage significance of the asset
- Regular and appropriate maintenance is carried out to keep the heritage asset in good repair
- Periodic Inspection Reports are carried out
- There is a commitment to ensure that any construction project preserves and enhances the historic environment
- Making sure as many people as possible can find out about the values of heritage assets

## What role might a Heritage Champion play?

A Heritage Champion could ensure that the local authority sets a good example in the management of its own stock of heritage assets and of historic environment information. A key role for Heritage Champions is to reconcile the authority's operational property requirements with its duty to protect the heritage significance of the authority's assets.

The Historic England document [Managing local authority heritage assets](#) includes further guidance. It explains how a local authority can adopt a consistent and coordinated approach to the management, maintenance and alteration of their heritage assets.

## h) Ensuring effective disposal of local authority assets

Changes in local authority funding and the increasing role of communities are both having an effect on the management and disposal of local authority assets. The sale of publicly owned heritage assets can give rise to public concerns and will need to be handled sensitively. It is important that sufficient thought and care is given to securing the long term future of any heritage asset disposed of.

The government is also encouraging community-based organisations and volunteers to play a greater role in improving their local areas. Transferring ownership and responsibility for heritage assets to a community organisation may be an option, provided that they have the capacity and resources to look after it in the long term. Key points to consider:

- Local authorities should take full account of the community's right to bid (Localism Act) and the potential application of the Disposal Consent Order 2003
- Unused heritage assets need to be actively protected
- Potential purchasers should be given clear information regarding the significance and condition of any heritage assets and any constraints on change due to their significance
- Before agreeing to sell, the local authority should ensure that purchasers of heritage assets have the resources to maintain them
- The disposal of large sites should be handled holistically, to avoid isolating heritage assets and potentially damaging their setting

Historic England has produced guidance for local authorities and community organisations in [Pillars of the Community: the Transfer of Local Authority Heritage Asset](#).

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

As Heritage Champion you can seek to ensure that the authority disposes of any heritage asset responsibly, with full consideration given to the long term future of the asset. You can also be an effective source of information for interested community groups and a facilitator in any transfer of ownership. This would mean ensuring that the community group understands the responsibilities involved, based on a realistic assessment of the costs and risks.

## i) Historic Environment Records

Ensuring that useful, appropriate and accurate information is readily available to those making planning decisions about the character and components of the historic environment is a major element in the protection of the historic environment. Historic Environment Records (HERs) are unique repositories of, and signposts to, information relating to landscapes, buildings, sites and finds spanning more than 700,000 years of human endeavour. They underpin the local planning system and the management of the local historic environment. They are publically accessible and managed by specialist staff who both collect and explain the information contained in the HER.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

A Heritage Champion could support a HER (and its staff) through championing the development of the HER, for example, expanding the content from more traditional heritage assets, such as archaeology, to a range of national and local entries, such as buildings, monuments and landscapes.

Heritage Champions can also promote the HER by working with colleagues in planning and conservation to ensure it is able to provide and share the information they need on a daily basis. Heritage Champions may be able to influence the allocation of resources if the HER is in particular need of IT or other development and could support HER staff in any community and outreach activity they undertake.

## j) Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans

Local authorities are required to keep their area under review to determine whether new conservation areas should be designated and whether the boundaries of existing conservation areas should be extended or changed. There is also a duty to manage their conservation areas to 'preserve or enhance' their character or appearance.

A Conservation Area Appraisal underpins designation and reviews of conservation areas. They identify the area's architectural and historic significance and what it means to the people who live, work or visit there.

Once the appraisal process has been completed, the next step is to think about how the area should be managed over time, as few areas can stay the same. An effective Management Plan will help to control and manage change so that the special qualities defined in the appraisal will be preserved and enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

You may find it helpful to view the Historic England Good Practice Advice Note, [Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management \(2016\)](#).

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

As a Heritage Champion, you can:

- Encourage the local authority to have an overarching Conservation Area Management Strategy
- Ensure that Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans are in place and up to date
- Help to engage the community and ensure fair social and cultural participation in the preparation of appraisal perhaps through connections with local societies, parish councils etc
- Assist with the formal adoption of the character appraisal and resulting management proposals through the local authority's internal committee procedures
- Ensure that the appraisal is linked to realistic ideas for future management of the area



#### Image

Volunteers carrying out survey work on the Guildhall, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

## k) Heritage at Risk

The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) helps us understand the overall state of England's historic sites. Launched in 2008, the programme identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development and is updated every year. Visit the Historic England website for the [latest HAR findings](#).

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

- If there are any neglected buildings in poor condition or buildings which have become functionally redundant in your area, you may want to explore ways of bringing the buildings back into use. To do this you will need to work with others to explore the issues that are inhibiting re-use
- As Champion, you can act as the catalyst to bring disparate groups of people together to address the problem. This might include the owner of the building, Historic England and representatives of the various local authority departments. For example, planners, conservation officers, highway engineers, access officers, fire officers and estate managers may all need to be involved. It is often possible to find solutions to what might at first appear to be insurmountable problems through taking a collaborative approach
- You may also help to lobby for funding to support new initiatives designed to bring the asset back into use. Historic England offers repair grants for HAR

## l) Heritage crime

Heritage is also vulnerable to the destructive nature of crime. Heritage crime is defined as 'any offence which harms the value of England's heritage assets and their settings to current and future generations'. This can take the form of theft, removal of objects of historic interest, criminal damage, and illegal metal detecting. Arson and offences of anti-social behaviour can also lead to harm to heritage assets.

Each day, over 200 heritage crimes are carried out across England. It is not only the financial impact of these heritage crimes but also the far-reaching emotional and social consequences on the local community that makes heritage crime such a serious issue.

There are specific provisions in law to protect designated heritage assets against damage and unlicensed alteration. However, these do not cover those heritage assets that are not designated or undiscovered such as locally listed buildings and buried assets (unless they are monuments).

In October 2015, new guidelines were announced by the Sentencing Council in relation to theft offences which include, for the first time, theft of heritage assets and will allow the courts to consider that the impact of theft on our historic sites and buildings has far-reaching consequences over and above the financial cost of what has been stolen. The guideline came into force on 1st February 2016.

The Heritage Crime Programme is being spearheaded by Historic England, the Police (through the National Police Chiefs' Council via the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)) and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Each organisation has signed a memorandum of understanding on tackling heritage crime (MoU) which delineates responsibilities between the three strategic partners. Local authorities are also being encouraged to join this coordinated effort and sign the MoU.

Local Authorities may also wish to join the Alliance to Reduce Crime Against Heritage (ARCH), a voluntary national network which takes forward initiatives to tackle heritage crime and galvanise local action. Additional information can be found at the [Historic England website](#).

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

- Local communities are being urged to understand and identify what heritage assets they have in their area that may be at risk of irreversible damage from crime and to report suspicious behaviours to their neighbourhood policing teams
- As a Heritage Champion you can play a huge part in raising this awareness through the press and media as well as prompting engagement against heritage crime
- Whilst some excellent partnerships are already developing across the country to tackle heritage crime, it is hoped that this will continue with the support of Heritage Champions promoting the initiative within their local authorities and encouraging signing of the MoU

### m) Involving the community

Heritage assets are first and foremost assets of local value. With people and communities at its heart, local authorities have a duty to involve and keep them informed, especially concerning their historic environment. It is highly important, therefore, to involve and consult with the community. Community groups, such as local civic and volunteering groups, can provide a huge amount of support for Heritage Champions.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

A Heritage Champion can involve the community in the historic environment in a number of ways:

- Contacting and connecting with local civic and volunteering groups as a source of potential aid and support for many heritage issues. This may be facilitated by publicising your role on relevant local authority websites
- Contacting and connecting with local Places of Worship to build the relationship between the local authority and such groups to enable joined working aims for the local community
- Ensuring fair and socially inclusive consultation for all local groups with local authority processes
- Promoting the Historic England [Enriching the List](#) project, which enables the public to share their knowledge and photographs of listed heritage assets
- Encouraging local groups to assist with: the preparation of Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, managing or taking ownership of heritage assets in public ownership, producing local lists, tackling heritage crime or undertaking area surveys
- Supporting community groups and activities
- Encouraging community groups to list local heritage as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which ensures that no ACV listed asset is sold without the community having the opportunity to bid to take it on

Further support on the management of volunteers and methods of engagement can be found online at [Volunteering England](#).

## n) Places of Worship

Historic Places of Worship (churches, chapels, meeting houses, synagogues, mosques, temples and mandirs) are expressions of the spiritual and social values of their communities.

One of the key problems for Places of Worship is lead theft. There is more information in the Heritage Crime section of the Handbook.

Listed places of worship are eligible for inclusion on the [Heritage at Risk Register](#) if they are in a poor or very bad condition. Local authorities already inform Historic England of other heritage assets at risk but may need support and encouragement to refer places of worship. Heritage Champions could encourage local authorities, local amenity societies and other interest groups to notify Historic England of places of worship about which they are concerned.

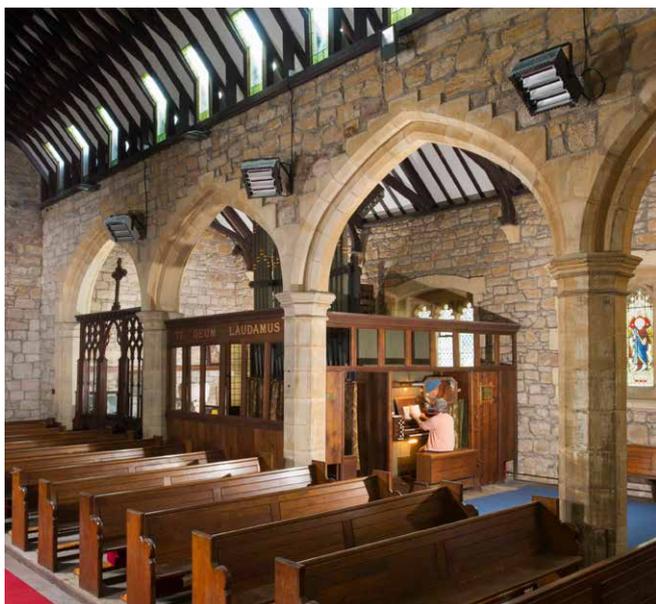


Image  
Holy Cross Church, Chatton, Northumberland.

## What role might a Heritage Champion play?

Research has shown that the volunteers who run places of worship often do not understand the role of local authorities and local authorities often do not know how to contact those responsible for places of worship. Places of worship projects would greatly benefit from mutual building of relationships and sharing of contacts between local authorities and local places of worship.

Heritage Champions could play a key role in improving the relationship between places of worship volunteers and local authorities by establishing a contact for places of worship volunteer groups. This could be based on mutual interests, plans or concerns for their local area, particularly with regeneration or development projects. Heritage Champions could also work towards raising awareness of such places within the local authority so that they can be understood as part of the community's resources. The authority could benefit by gaining access to established networks within the local community and places of worship would be more integrated into plans for the local area.

## o) Heritage Action Zones

In June 2016, Historic England will launch its Heritage Action Zones initiative. The initiative is aimed at historic places that have the potential to become focal points for sustainable economic development and community life. Working with local partners (including the local authority, but potentially also other public, private and third sector organisations), Historic England will focus help and resources on these places to bring them to life. Historic England will spread this effort across the country – a Heritage Action Zone can be based in any region. Potential Heritage Action Zones can be:

- Urban or rural
- A streetscape, series of buildings or multiple places
- Include both listed and unlisted sites

To be considered for Heritage Action Zone status an area needs to be of significant historic interest, and able to contribute to the social, economic and environmental needs of a place.

Visit the [Heritage Action Zones webpage](#) for more information.

### What role might a Heritage Champion play?

A Heritage Champion may promote an area within their local authority to be a Heritage Action Zone.

# 4 Sources of Support and Information for Champions

## a) Historic England local offices

Historic England's local offices can provide you with a lot of assistance and support which can help you with all your duties as a Heritage Champion.

Local Engagement Advisors (LEA) are the main point of contact for Heritage Champions in Historic England. Please find the contact details for the local offices below:

<p><b>North East</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:northeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk">northeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01912 691255            Twitter: @HE_NorthEast</p>	<p><b>East of England</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:eastofengland@HistoricEngland.org.uk">eastofengland@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01223 582749            Twitter: @HE_EoE</p>
<p><b>North West</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:northwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk">northwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01612 421416            Twitter: @HE_NorthWest</p>	<p><b>London</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:london@HistoricEngland.org.uk">london@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 020 7973 3700            Twitter: @HE_LondonAdvice</p>
<p><b>Yorkshire and Humber</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:yorkshire@HistoricEngland.org.uk">yorkshire@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01904 601948            Twitter: @HE_Yorkshire</p>	<p><b>South East</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:southeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk">southeast@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01483 252020            Twitter: @HE_SouthEast</p>
<p><b>West Midlands</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:westmidlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk">westmidlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01216 256870            Twitter: @HE_WestMids</p>	<p><b>South West</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:southwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk">southwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01179 751308            Twitter: @HE_SouthEast</p>
<p><b>East Midlands</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:eastmidlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk">eastmidlands@HistoricEngland.org.uk</a>            Telephone: 01604 735460            Twitter: @HE_EastMids</p>	

The following list provides an indication of the kind of support local Historic England offices can offer:

- **Regional or sub-regional events/trainings specific to Heritage Champions** – These could be formal meetings or informal meet and greet sessions, providing the opportunity for Heritage Champions to network and discuss common concerns/issues/good practice/provide updates
- **General Historic England events/training** – Heritage Champions could be invited to general launch events, information sessions, HELM training, or informal gatherings
- **Regular e-newsletter** – An e-newsletter containing general updates, regional updates, case studies of Heritage Champions making a difference, new research on heritage, and national updates
- **Email/phone/face-to-face updates (ad hoc)** – Briefing Heritage Champions with important/relevant information when it comes up

Historic England's National Office works closely with the Local Offices and provides general and strategic support, such as updating guidance, collating and disseminating Heritage Champion statistics and updating [webpages](#) when required. For any general inquiries about the Heritage Champions initiative, contact: [champions@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:champions@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

## b) Organisations

There are a number of organisations which you may like to contact, ranging from amenity societies and professional heritage organisations to national heritage groups and government departments.

The following website will be able assist you with finding heritage organisations and their contact details: <http://heritagehelp.org.uk/organisations>.

Relevant heritage organisations include:

- Ancient Monuments Society
- Arts Council England
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
- Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA)
- Civic Voice
- Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
- National Trust
- Save Britain's Heritage
- The English Heritage Trust
- The Gardens Trust
- The Georgian Group
- The Heritage Alliance
- The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
- The National Amenity Societies
- The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
- The Victorian Society
- Twentieth Century Society

## c) Regular reads

There are various updates, newsletters and alerts which you may find useful in undertaking your role as Heritage Champion.

Historic England has several useful regular publications, variously aimed at professionals and members.

- **Conservation Bulletin** is one of the best professional periodicals, usually concentrating each edition on a particular issue. It is a free publication and you can [subscribe here](#)
- **Historic England Research** is the online magazine from Historic England. Produced twice a year, it aims to keep the heritage sector up to date with projects and activities involving applied research into the historic environment
- The **Historic England Newsletter** is a monthly update of activity from across the organisation
- The **Heritage Calling Blog** contains short articles relating to the historic environment
- Historic England also updates news on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Linked In](#)

The **IHBC Context** journal is the professional journal from the IHBC with news and views on all aspects of building conservation and regular articles by the foremost protagonists in the field.

The **Heritage Update** is produced by **The Heritage Alliance** – the largest coalition of heritage interests in England. The fortnightly Update is free to sign up to and shares information and news of relevance to the historic environment sector.

## d) Websites

The websites listed below not only include regular updates and news, but they also contain good background information – everything from ‘what is a listed building?’ to ‘how to choose a good architect’.

- **Historic England’s website** is a comprehensive resource on all things to do with the historic environment with extensive information pages on a range of topics. The website now also includes information on **Historic Environment Local Management** resources
- **Saving Energy, Historic England** - Historic England provides special guidance to help those who own or manage houses built of traditional construction and understand more about the potential impacts of climate change for their property
- The **Historic Towns Forum website** explores issues impacting on small and large historic towns, offering support and guidance on conservation area management, traffic and visitor management, urban regeneration and design, and other planning issues. It also contains details of their regular events, some designed specifically for councillors, and publications to download free
- The **Local Government Association’s website** delivers in-depth news and examples of good practice from councils across England and Wales, and provides access to the LGA’s range of tools and services. It has a handy ‘Beginner’s Guide to Sustainable Communities’ and plenty of information about leadership and mentoring programmes

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# Historic England

We are the public body that looks after England's historic environment. We champion historic places, helping people understand, value and care for them.

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