Historic England Foundation

Become a Patron









From the extraordinary to the everyday, our shared heritage inspires me at every turn. The Historic England Foundation supports work across England that celebrates, improves access to and future proofs this invaluable heritage.

I'm delighted that the Foundation is launching its first-ever Patrons' Scheme, a chance for those who enjoy heritage and history to forge a deeper engagement with our work. It also gives us an opportunity to get to know you, our closest friends and supporters, better and offer you exclusive access to amazing places and projects.

As a Patron of the Historic England Foundation, you'll be playing a vital part in preserving and enriching England's historic environment. Whether it's restoring historic high streets, training future conservation experts or researching underwater archaeology, your support ensures heritage is valued, celebrated and shared by everyone.

I have been fortunate to see first-hand the expertise and passion of Historic England colleagues, and to hear from participants about the impact projects have had on their lives. That is why I decided to become a Patron, and I would be delighted to share my experience with you and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your interest in our Patrons scheme and I very much hope to welcome you as a fellow Patron soon.

Dr Fabian Richter
Chair of the Historic England Foundation

Changing lives through heritage

We are helping to bring historic buildings back into use, tell the stories of communities and restore pride in local heritage. The following programmes illustrate some of what you'll be supporting, and the breadth of our work.

Developing the next generation of master craftspeople

Our heritage building skills programmes offer high-quality, engaging training opportunities for young people, while also ensuring a sustainable future for the craft skills essential to preserving our historic buildings.

Restoring iconic buildings

Historic England is supporting the conservation of significant historic buildings like Jacobs Wells Baths in Bristol. Built in 1889 to serve the working poor, this Grade II Listed building holds a wealth of architectural, social and cultural heritage – from its time as a public swimming baths to its 30-year history as a professional dance centre.

Uncovering extraordinary archaeology

With the support of Historic England, archaeologists have uncovered an unprecedented Iron Age hoard at Melsonby in North Yorkshire, which sheds new light on life in the British Isles 2,000 years ago.



Heritage Building Skills apprentice taking part in woodcarving workshop at the Summer School

Why become a Patron?

As a Patron, you'll join others who share a love of history and are passionate about preserving England's rich heritage. Every act of generosity is meaningful, but through joining a group of like-minded individuals, the collective difference is even greater.

Thanks to our host of expert historians, archaeologists, archivists and curators, you'll be able to gain insights into fascinating new discoveries, learn about cutting-edge developments in heritage science and visit some of the most iconic historic places in the country.

An annual programme of events may include:

- A guided tour of our archaeological collections at Fort Cumberland, which houses the Historic England research labs
- A lecture with our Head of Archive, sharing the most recent research from our Archive X-ray project, uncovering hidden stories
- A Blue Plaque unveiling and reception, celebrating extraordinary people from across England
- A weekend trip to a historic town or city, visiting heritage landmarks and experiencing local treasures with Historic England experts and local stakeholders
- An annual reception with the Chair of Historic England and leaders within the heritage sector



A member of the Historic England Archives team examines a photograph from one of the collections

Your donation will make a real difference

Your gift will support a range of activities to ensure that more historic places are loved, cared for and enjoyed by as many people as possible.

By default, your donation will be left unrestricted, enabling funds to be used where they are most needed. Alternatively, if you would like to allocate your gift to a particular area of work, you can choose one of our core programmes:

Restoring and celebrating places

Fund the conservation and restoration of historic areas, buildings and objects to safeguard them for the future.

Investing in people

Contribute to the education and wellbeing of a wide range of people, for example by preserving vital heritage craft skills or inspiring disadvantaged young people with the history in their area.

Sharing the archive

Support the digitisation and preservation of more than 12 million images, aerial photographs, drawings and records, which document the evolving landscapes and communities of England, including where you live.

Viking Silver

From £5,000 per year

- Access to unique Patrons' events and behind-the-scenes tours for you and a guest
- Invitation to a specifically curated weekend trip to an exciting location in England (with a supplementary cost)
- Invitation to Historic England Chair and Chief Executive annual reception
- Gain insights on fascinating subjects from Historic England's historians, conservators and archaeologists at an annual lecture
- Acknowledgement of your donation in our Annual Report and on the Historic England Foundation website
- Personalised updates on how your support is making a difference
- One Historic England book or print of your choice, up to the value of £60
- Receive early access to all Historic England publications

Saxon Gold

From £10,000 per year

All benefits of Viking Silver, plus:

- A bespoke private tour with a heritage expert for you and a group of guests
- Exclusive lunch or dinner with the Chair of the Historic England Foundation and a special guest
- Opportunities to engage with senior leaders within the heritage sector to hear about exciting future initiatives and emerging trends
- Invitations to other Historic England events and opportunities of interest
- Early booking access for the weekend Patrons' trip

The Historic England Foundation

We are an independent charity that raises funds for outstanding heritage projects.

With the support of generous people and organisations, we build on the work of Historic England, the public organisation that protects and brings new life to the heritage that matters to us all, so it lives on and is loved for longer.

From the extraordinary, to the everyday, our historic places and spaces matter – to you, to us, to the nation. From community centres to cathedrals, homes to high streets, markets to mills – they are the places we all choose to hold onto, the legacy we want to pass on and the stories we continue to tell.

We fund projects that improve people's lives and protect the historic environment, from small and innovative pilot schemes to major national interventions.

Find out more

If you would like to find out more about the Patrons' scheme or would like to join, please get in touch at: philanthropy@historicengland.org.uk

Front page image: The newly restored decorative facade of the Electric Palace Cinema, Harwich

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