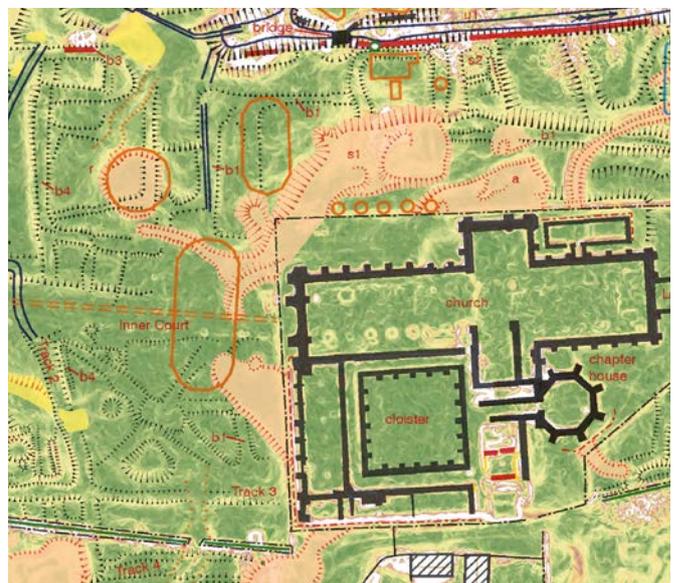
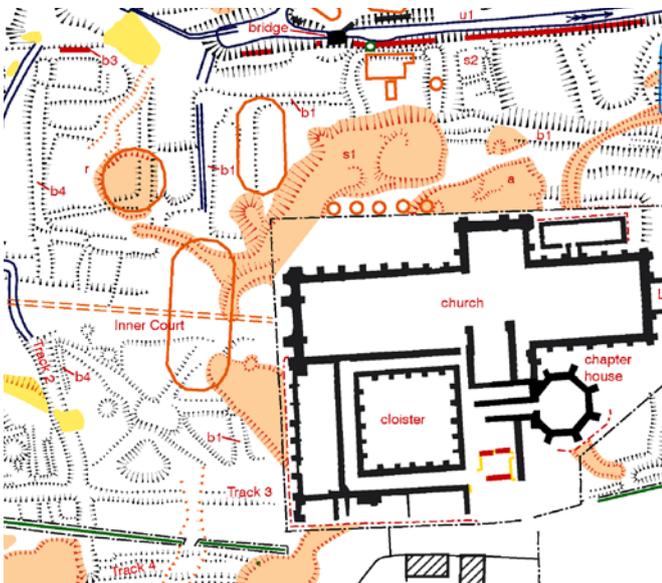




Historic England

# Research Strategy



# Preface

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (HBMCE) was established by the National Heritage Act 1983, and until 31 March 2015 was known as English Heritage.

On 1 April 2015 English Heritage separated into two organisations:

- **Historic England**, the public body that champions and protects England's historic environment
- the **English Heritage Trust**, a charity that, under license from HBMCE, looks after the National Heritage Collection consisting of 400 historic sites, such as Stonehenge and Dover Castle

The two organisations collaborate on research, but research themes and projects are managed separately. This document sets out the research approaches and themes of Historic England.

All images are © Historic England.

## Front cover

Historic England survey data and interpretation at Thornton Abbey, for English Heritage Trust.

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction..... 4</b>		
1.1	Our statutory role and responsibility to the public ..... 5	3.3	Commercial ..... 11
	Statutory duty ..... 5	3.4	Independent sector ..... 11
1.2	Research context ..... 6	3.5	Professional associations ..... 11
1.3	Our reputation for research ..... 7	3.6	International ..... 11
		3.7	Citizen involvement..... 12
		3.8	Owners and managers of heritage assets ..... 12
<b>2</b>	<b>Objectives ..... 8</b>		
	<b>#value</b> - Understanding the value of heritage to society ..... 8	<b>4</b>	<b>A strategy for ourselves and our partners ..... 13</b>
	<b>#understand</b> - Discovering and understanding our heritage and assessing its significance ..... 8	<b>5</b>	<b>Implementation ..... 15</b>
	<b>#diversify</b> - Celebrating the cultural diversity of England ..... 8	5.1	Historic England’s implementation plan ..... 15
	<b>#adapt</b> - Understanding risks, change and opportunities..... 9	5.2	Historic England research governance..... 15
	<b>#conserve</b> – Caring for England’s most important heritage ..... 9	5.3	In-house research ..... 16
	<b>#inform</b> - Improving and developing heritage information management ..... 9	5.4	Funding for external research ..... 16
	<b>#skill</b> – Supporting and improving the heritage sector ..... 9	5.5	Research policies..... 17
	<b>#inspire</b> – Inspiring others with our research ..... 9	5.6	Research skills for our staff and the sector ..... 17
	<b>#innovate</b> – Developing technology and tools..... 9	<b>6</b>	<b>Scoring / Evaluation ..... 19</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Our audiences and partners ..... 10</b>	6.1	Measuring success and impact..... 19
		6.2	Reporting our research activity ..... 20
3.1	Academia ..... 10	6.3	Evaluating our research outputs ..... 20
3.2	Local and national government ..... 11	6.4	Our research outcomes ..... 20
		<b>7</b>	<b>Key resources ..... 22</b>

# 1 Introduction

Historic England aspires to be a world leader in the study of the historic environment and its sustainable management. We want to encourage and undertake research of the highest calibre, to provide an evidence-base for government policies, practical guidance for owners and managers, and inspiration for society as a whole.

We drive research in two main ways:

- **In-house research:** we employ experts, many of whom are regarded as leaders in their field nationally and internationally
- **Influencing research:** we set out the issues, challenges and opportunities that others can take up, individually or in collaboration. We work with many partners to combine our expertise with that of the wider sector

The research landscape is changing, driven by the opportunities and challenges presented by a changing world, new research technologies and changing funding models. This places a value on developing and strengthening partnerships within and outside of the heritage sector, including with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Public Sector Research Establishments. The research we do and encourage is ‘applied research’ that supports our statutory duties and powers – it has a practical focus that offers unique opportunities for partners to contribute to and demonstrate genuine societal benefits and real-world impact.

This document sets out:

- the research objectives we have identified
- the main audiences for the research we wish to encourage or do
- our strategic approaches to undertaking research
- how Historic England will implement those approaches
- how Historic England will evaluate resultant impact and benefit

We will keep this document under review.

Comments to assist future reviews of our research are welcome. Please contact in the first instance:

[research@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:research@HistoricEngland.org.uk).

## 1.1 Our statutory role and responsibility to the public

### Statutory duty

Our power to undertake research is set out in the National Heritage Act 1983 (amended 2002).

‘It shall be the duty of the Commission (so far as practicable) ... to promote the public’s enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England and their preservation’.

[National Heritage Act 1983](#)

We undertake and encourage research to ensure that we can protect the nation’s heritage more effectively, including built, buried and submerged sites and landscapes, and make it more widely understood and appreciated. Our research priorities support our other organisational functions and help deliver the objectives set out in our corporate plan.

### Public Sector Research Establishment role

Historic England is a government-recognised Public Sector Research Establishment. These establishments provide key scientific and technical inputs into the process of policy- and decision-making. They are positioned between the higher education sector on one hand and commercially funded research and development on the other to help maximise the benefits of public investment in research.

### Our Corporate Plan

Historic England does far more than research. Our overall corporate plan – Historic England [Three Year Corporate Plan 2016-19](#) – sets out our evolving mission, summarises what resources we have available and shows how our progress will be assessed.

## 1.2 Research context

The aims set out in our corporate plan are as follows:

**Aim 1:** Champion England's historic environment

**Aim 2:** Identify and protect England's special historic buildings and places

**Aim 3:** Promote change that safeguards historic buildings and places

**Aim 4:** Help those who care for historic buildings and places, including owners, local authorities, communities and volunteers

**Aim 5:** Engage with the whole community to foster the widest possible sense of ownership of our national inheritance of buildings and places

**Aim 6:** Support the work of the English Heritage Trust in managing and safeguarding the National Heritage Collection of buildings and monuments and to achieve financial self-sufficiency

**Aim 7:** Work effectively, efficiently and transparently

To meet our aims, we have particular ambitions for our own research. These are as follows:

- to demonstrate the impact of policy and provide evidence of where change is needed (Aim 1)
- to demonstrate the social and economic value of heritage (Aim 1)
- to support a programme of strategic designation (Aim 2)
- to enhance understanding of risk to heritage (Aims 2 and 3)

- to enhance knowledge and public enjoyment of our heritage (Aims 2 and 5)
- to ensure our record of the historic environment is accurate and that we have identified nationally important assets (Aims 2 and 5)
- to develop new ways of collating and sharing historic environment data (Aim 4)
- to innovate in technical conservation of buildings and landscapes (Aim 4)
- to innovate in heritage science and contribute to the National Heritage Science Strategy (Aim 4)
- to gather labour market intelligence to identify key skills shortages (Aim 4)
- to better understand the historic environment of Heritage Action Zones (Aims 4 and 5)
- to make sure that our research represents the diversity of the country (Aim 5)
- to provide research support to the English Heritage Trust to help them manage and safeguard the National Heritage Collection of buildings and monuments (Aim 6)

These key ambitions are framed within a wider set of Research Themes (see section 2 below, and the accompanying Research Agenda).

## 1.3 Our reputation for research

### Our long-standing research culture

We have a depth of experience in the oversight and delivery of co-ordinated research in the sector. For example, we led development of the [National Heritage Protection Plan](#) (NHPP) from 2011-2015.

We are continuing to develop aspects of the NHPP with sector partners in a revised plan, the [Heritage 2020](#) initiative, developed with The Heritage Alliance.

As part of the NHPP we prepared a series of [thematic research strategies](#) for internal use which continue to provide a context for our applied research.

### National Heritage Science Strategy

The House of Lords has published a National Heritage Science Strategy (NHSS) covering the whole heritage sector. As part of our own [strategy](#), we contribute to the national strategy. Our focus is on:

- understanding materials and environments
- raising awareness, improving methods, access to information and advice
- capacity, capability and public benefit

### International research

We are working with partners on the emerging plans for European co-ordination of cultural heritage research, through Horizon 2020, the [EU framework programme for research and innovation](#). This encompasses many activities and opportunities relevant to the cultural heritage sector, in particular those where international co-operation is likely to have most benefit, such as research areas linked with information and communications technologies.

Our research work contributes to the operation of international conventions and designations. For example, our research contributes to UNESCO [World Heritage Site inscription bids](#), management plans and specialist [research frameworks](#).

### Regional and thematic research frameworks

Since the mid-1990s we have funded a suite of regional and thematic research frameworks which aid the coordination and prioritization of research across the historic environment sector. The development of these research frameworks is supported by Historic England's [Research Resources Strategy](#).

# 2 Objectives

We have identified a number of Research Themes which encompass the range of research activities that we believe will have the greatest impact on understanding, protecting, enjoying or championing our historic environment. Themes that we will research, or support others to research, are set out below. By publishing them we want to:

- set out a framework that any organisation or individual can use to establish research value and impact
- be transparent about how our research as a publicly funded research establishment fits within this larger picture
- inspire and encourage partners to identify shared areas of interest and establish partnership working on research issues that we can't ourselves undertake
- show how our research supports our core roles as government advisor and licensed manager of the National Heritage Collection

We will update the themes periodically when our corporate plans are reviewed. A fuller presentation of these themes is available online. See [HistoricEngland.org.uk/research/agenda](https://HistoricEngland.org.uk/research/agenda).

## **#value - Understanding the value of heritage to society**

Heritage makes a significant contribution to our daily lives. We need to be able to understand this better by researching how it contributes to a sense of identity; the value it has for our national and local economy; how it promotes wellbeing and how it strengthens, connects and empowers our communities. We need a better understanding of how heritage is meaningful to people in their everyday surroundings and why they engage with or feel excluded from their heritage.

## **#understand - Discovering and understanding our heritage and assessing its significance**

Much of England's heritage remains to be discovered or recognised. Important terrestrial or maritime archaeological sites are still hidden or hard to reach; even familiar buildings and landscapes may be known about but poorly understood or undervalued. Our research includes identifying, defining and communicating the most significant aspects of the historic environment.

## **#diversify - Celebrating the cultural diversity of England**

We aim to increase the number of people from diverse communities and cultures who actively engage with, and support, the historic environment. Our research includes developing and testing new ways to promote the past in a way that is inclusive to all and that celebrates the cultural diversity of England's heritage.

### **#adapt - Understanding risks, change and opportunities**

We need to be able to understand the world that we live and work in today and how this might change in the future. We need foresight to anticipate and prepare for the impact on, and opportunities for, the historic environment so we can manage change more effectively and make our heritage more resilient. We research and analyse current and future trends in social, political and economic change; environmental and climate change science; land use, property and infrastructure development; as well as technological and technical innovations.

### **#conserve – Caring for England’s most important heritage**

We need research to inform the conservation of places, sites, buildings, archives, collections and materials. Research includes monitoring and development of measures to mitigate against natural or man-made damage; buildings science aimed at improving energy efficiency of traditionally constructed buildings through retrofitting; understanding the causes of deterioration and performance of materials, buildings and sites; and identifying and sourcing appropriate materials and techniques for repair.

### **#inform - Improving and developing heritage information management**

In a world of big data and records born digitally, we need to ‘manage information’ to ‘manage the historic environment’. Our digital humanities research includes technologies, systems and services, and developing the standards that underpin these. We will improve access to data sets, the analysis of information, and its communication, preservation, use and reuse.

### **#skill – Supporting and improving the heritage sector**

We need to understand our sector, its strategic aims, composition, organisation, capacity and threats. Research includes understanding the profile of those employed in the heritage professions, labour market intelligence, and training and knowledge needs analysis, as well as understanding commercial practice and community engagement. This will inform and focus our support for our sector and the services it delivers.

### **#inspire – Inspiring others with our research**

Our research inspires and promotes public understanding and enjoyment. To develop new and improved ways to communicate our research, we need to understand our audiences better, to define what they use our research for and what format they want it in. This will allow us to use the right approaches, technologies and media to communicate and engage with more people through our research.

### **#innovate – Developing technology and tools**

We are always looking to develop or refine our research methods, tools and science-based approaches. Our research includes developing innovative and smarter technologies, techniques and tools, or finding new applications for those developed elsewhere. This enables us to do our existing research better, or to do entirely new types of research, and to do so more cost-effectively.

# 3 Our audiences and partners

Our research will engage with and provide new information and knowledge for a wide range of people and organisations associated with our historic environment in the UK and beyond:

- academics
- local and national government heritage staff
- planners
- commercial sector researchers
- civil society groups
- amenity groups
- interested public
- professional associations

As one aspect of [our Equalities work](#) we are committed to broadening the range of audiences and partners we work with, fund and provide with research results.

## 3.1 Academia

England's heritage straddles both our cultural life and our environment and contributes both to our wellbeing and to the national economy. It is therefore an attractive field of study for those in a wide range of academic disciplines who wish to demonstrate research impact. As the government's statutory advisor on England's historic environment, as well as the frontline national service for the protection

and public appreciation of heritage, we are an ideal partner for such research projects.

We work with the Research Councils where our research objectives overlap. We have a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with AHRC. We seek out and establish formal partnerships for postgraduate research with Higher Education Institutions through Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships, Doctoral Training Partnerships, Centres for Doctoral Training and other research consortia.

We support academic partners in their assessment for Research Excellence Framework (REF) by contributing to impact statements.

## 3.2 Local and national government

We support and work with other public funded research organisations and those whose public administration role or ownership affects the historic environment. This includes:

- local authority planning staff and their advisors (eg heritage teams in councils or national parks)
- government departments (eg DCMS, BEIS, Defra)
- government agencies (eg Environment Agency, Natural England)
- other UK administrations (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland) particularly the heritage agencies
- the Heritage Lottery Fund
- other Public Sector Research Establishments and Independent Research Organisations

## 3.3 Commercial

Commercial research organisations in the heritage sector are typically sole-traders, microbusinesses and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). We provide advice, influence them and learn from them, for example we provide advice on how to use specialist techniques and equipment. Our research funding procedures are accessible to all organisations.

## 3.4 Independent sector

Our sector has a long tradition of research by independent and volunteer researchers, and national and local societies and amenity groups. In many cases the greatest expertise is held by the independent sector, and we work with a wide range of organisations including:

- charities, such as the Council for British Archaeology
- local societies, such as Wiltshire Archaeology and Natural History Society
- national amenity societies, such as the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society

## 3.5 Professional associations

We work with professional associations in the heritage sector to improve the ethical and professional standards of research work in the sector through both the research we undertake and the research that we fund. We work with specialist associations where their research areas overlap with ours.

## 3.6 International

Many of the big challenges in heritage sector research transcend national boundaries and modern geography, or are of such specialist nature that expertise exists only at an international level. We support international collaboration where this provides an effective means to access research and expertise that will contribute to our research objectives.

### 3.7 Citizen involvement

We seek ways to involve the public directly in the process of research, through traditional engagement approaches, and through support for crowd-sourced or citizen science initiatives.

### 3.8 Owners and managers of heritage assets

#### English Heritage Trust

Historic England supports the work of the English Heritage Trust by providing a variety of research techniques and services to support conservation, improvement and presentation of the National Heritage Collection. The main aims of this work are to provide:

- a better understanding of the significance of English Heritage properties **and the collections they contain** that may be subject to change through repair or the development of new visitor facilities
- **new information and illustrative material** that will contribute to the understanding and presentation of English Heritage sites

# 4 A strategy for ourselves and our partners

The ultimate ‘customers’ for research are the future generations to whom we collectively will bequeath the historic environment we currently care for. However, our research strategy recognises that different partners and users of research may want different outcomes and impacts from it.

We are therefore adopting an approach that will seek to ensure that research we undertake, sponsor, collaborate in or inspire has some common principles to guide it.

- our research agenda will inform the research Historic England does, but it will also act as an inspiration and call to arms to other research organisations to help provide a coherent framework for common action
- our research will reflect the diversity of the country
- the need for research projects will be made clear, based on defined problems, challenges or pursuit of particular benefits
- project outputs will be clearly defined, made publicly accessible and will be retrievable in the long term
- project outcomes, benefits and/or impact will be evaluated both at individual and at theme level

- if the research should deliver recommendations to recipients for follow-up actions, these will be made clear so that decisions are made in a timely and informed way
- our research agenda will be reviewed regularly and updated wherever appropriate as research is completed

As Historic England’s own contribution, we will furthermore seek to:

- **develop the capacity and capability of our staff and the sector** to do and to manage research
- check that our research policies and activities are fair and inclusive through **Equalities Impact Assessments**
- contribute our research effort to **support the wider research needs** of the sector

There is clear and exciting potential in collaboration to create new, effective and interdisciplinary partnerships which will deliver real impact benefitting all partners. We will work with, and aim to build research partnerships with other organisations to:

- maximise the impact of our own resources by combining them with others
- access expertise not available within our own organisation, or within the heritage sector
- access emerging technologies to support our work where it is not appropriate for us to be an early adopter
- transfer knowledge and expertise into the sector to assist other organisations in undertaking research

Our approaches to collaboration will include:

- formal research partnerships with Higher Education Institutions individually and through consortia
- providing supervision of post-graduate degrees
- staff participation in collaborative projects
- providing access to specialist collections and archives
- providing comment, advice, guidance and standards
- providing office facilities for project partners

# 5 Implementation

At its highest level, the strategy is straightforward in many respects. We will maintain an agenda, we will share it with our partners to encourage them to adopt it or contribute to it, we will prioritise the research we ourselves undertake, and we will evaluate both our projects and our broader programmes of research.

We will review the agenda annually and the strategy as necessary to ensure that both remain current and respond to changing circumstances.

## 5.1 Historic England's implementation plan

Our own research will be undertaken through the following routes:

- in house, using our internationally recognised expertise
- in support of casework and our Enhanced Advisory Service
- in support of the English Heritage Trust to help them manage the National Collection
- funded, through our Heritage Protection Commissions programme and other routes
- developing research partnerships eg with Higher Education Institutes, Independent Research Organisations, Public Sector Research Establishments and other research organisations

- developing policy to maximise the value of our research effort

- developing research skills among our own staff and those working in the sector

## 5.2 Historic England research governance

Our research is co-ordinated and prioritised through internal programme boards covering specific aims from the corporate plan, and supporting collaboration with the English Heritage Trust. The boards are advised by internal expert networks bringing together expertise from across the organisation in areas such as marine and coastal, or industry and infrastructure.

### 5.3 In-house research

We have a varied range of in-house research, and work to support research. This includes:

- research by staff, student interns and seconded experts
- providing and advising on access to our archives and collections
- monitoring areas and sites, and active curation of collections
- dialogue and partnership with heritage organisations in the UK
- signposting, collecting, publishing and disseminating research for the sector
- supervising doctoral research

We have a sophisticated and flexible approach, including both strategic and tactical research.

#### Strategic research

We have in-house capability to manage and deliver **research projects**, each with specific outcomes contributing to our corporate plan or to our statutory role and legal powers. Standards and procedures are in place for the **commissioning of external research**, and for **project management** of both in-house and commissioned projects.

#### Tactical research

Historic England also undertakes and supports research to meet the needs of particular cases as these arise. These include our work to maintain and extend the definitive record of all legally protected heritage sites (the **National Heritage List for England**), **planning applications** and related local

plan development, and our work to find solutions to protect sites that are **known to be at risk**. We have provided ‘last resort’ support for unexpected discoveries, though this role is increasingly less common as a result of the considered application of historic environment planning policies, and the **growth of development-led archaeological research** since 1990.

#### National Heritage Collection research

Operation under license by the English Heritage Trust of management of the National Heritage Collection is an opportunity to apply research to practical management outcomes, including better:

- public presentation
- management of the site and setting
- access to collections from sites
- visitor experiences

### 5.4 Funding for external research

We **fund research** projects developed and managed by other organisations that we identify as contributing to our research. We provide:

- an open proposals programme to ensure funding opportunities are available on an equal footing to all
- specific calls for proposals
- invitations to tender

## 5.5 Research policies

Our in-house and funded research is covered by the following policies.

### Intellectual property

Standard agreements cover copyright of most research outcomes which usually remains with Historic England. The majority of research outputs are published under licence and are available free either from Historic England, or from repositories offering similar access. The English Heritage Trust, so far as is practicable, passes ownership of any new intellectual property it creates to Historic England.

### Research archiving

Historic England and the English Heritage Trust are both responsible for nationally important research archives. The [Historic England Archive](#) is a formally recognised national archive, while the National Collection, managed by the English Heritage Trust, includes several registered museums, as well as buildings and sites.

These archives are both a primary source material for future research, and provide world-class facilities for the preservation, for future generations, of archive material arising from current research. They are available for all to use.

The varied and specialist nature of our research requires a variety of archiving procedures and methods of storage to ensure that archives of, for example, images, object and scientific sample collections and digital instrument data, are available for future research. All projects and processes are expected to have a suitable archiving policy from the outset. Our key archives include:

- the Historic England Archive for archiving historic collections of paper and photographic records, paintings, plans and drawings in both original and digital format produced by internal research projects, or acquired to preserve them for the nation
- archaeological and architectural collections and stores at Wrest Park, Helmsley Castle, Fort Brockhurst and Fort Cumberland, plus collections held at National Heritage Collection sites, managed by English Heritage Trust Curatorial Department
- museum collections, including several registered museums that form part of the National Heritage Collection, and relevant regional museums, for excavation archives
- ADAPt, Historic England's Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol, for archaeological excavation records
- our own registry, holding business and legal documents relating to our role as a public body
- the Archaeology Data Service at University of York, or similar approved digital organisations, for digital research outputs

## 5.6 Research skills for our staff and the sector

### Continuing professional development for our researchers

We are committed to ensuring that we are an expert organisation, with the knowledge, experience and technical expertise to speak and act with authority on managing change to the historic environment.

To achieve this we recognise our responsibility for ensuring that employees in roles that require an ongoing commitment to continuing professional development (CPD) are encouraged to update and enhance their skills. We will actively support employees to maintain their CPD and to meet the standards required by their professional bodies.

### Support for sectoral research expertise

We actively research the **skills** required to work in the heritage sector, and the availability of these skills.

We have a published sector **training strategy**, which identifies the following audiences for sector skills development:

- local authority historic environment service staff
- local authority non-heritage professionals (for example planning staff)
- investigation and research staff (analytical skills)
- people in building and conservation roles (skills to conserve, repair, maintain and upgrade heritage)

We **deliver training** ourselves, through direct delivery and **online or distance learning**, and fund partners to deliver training to meet identified skills gaps and skills shortages. We also fund and host placements to develop specialist skills in early career research staff.

We provide extensive free technical guidance on research methods and the curation of our collections via the websites of both **Historic England** and **English Heritage**.

We support and facilitate face-to-face professional meetings and online discussion groups covering specialist heritage expertise, for example the Historic Environment Record management community **JISCmail list**.

We provide specialist **science advice** to local authorities determining planning applications affecting archaeological sites and the archaeological units carrying out excavations.

# 6 Scoring / Evaluation

We will evaluate our research through:

- specific work to measure the success and impact of our research
- reporting research expenditure
- numbers of research outputs
- evaluation of research outcomes

## 6.1 Measuring success and impact

We are committed to evaluating the success of our research. We report on this success regularly to government.

For Historic England, 'Evidence of Success measures' are set out for each corporate plan objective, to guide the overall evaluation of the success of our programmes.

For strategic projects, we have published procedures for monitoring progress, preparation and deposition of archives, publication and other research outcomes, and lessons learned, both from in-house research and from the research we fund.

We have created a rigorous process for checking the equality impact of all our major projects.

Our tactical research routinely provides additional high-profile media impact, such as the excavations of a Bronze Age settlement at Must Farm, in Cambridgeshire, or our advice on high-rise development proposals in London.

We routinely provide Research Excellence Framework (REF) testimonials to support academic partners.

## 6.2 Reporting our research activity

We report our research activity under nationally and internationally recognised categories for research and R&D. These include:

- the Frascati manual definitions for research and R&D
- NABS: the Nomenclature for the Analysis and Comparison of Science Programmes and Budgets
- SET: Science Engineering and Technology indicators

We report our capability and expenditure under these headings through the Office for National Statistics to central government, for inclusion in the Government Expenditure on Research and Development (GOVERD) report.

We contribute to regular knowledge transfer activity reviews undertaken by government covering the work of PSREs.

## 6.3 Evaluating our research outputs

We engage, influence, enthuse and empower a range of different audiences through the delivery of research via both traditional and innovative media, products and research outputs.

## 6.4 Our research outcomes

Examples of the range of outcomes arising from our research include:

### A better understanding of the prehistory of England

Our research into the application of Bayesian modelling of the chronology of Neolithic ‘[causewayed enclosures](#)’ means we can now date the spread of this type of monument across the country in unprecedented detail. We can begin to glimpse the activity of individual lives from prehistory, and use this knowledge to better manage this type of site.

### Increased visitor numbers at Stonehenge

A wide range of research, from advanced ground-penetrating radar to the reconstruction of round houses has contributed to the world-class interpretation and presentation of [Stonehenge](#) and the surrounding World Heritage Site at the visitor centre. Visitor numbers at the site have risen by 8.4 per cent to 1.34 million visitors annually.

### Legal protection and better care for First World War commemoration sites

A unique outcome of our research, given our role as a government advisor, is the selection of heritage sites for legal protection.

War memorials provide an enduring link to the hundreds of thousands of lives lost in the First World War. As an outcome of our strategic research, we were able to add over 1,000 [First World War memorials](#) to the National Heritage List for England in the centenary of the outbreak of the war. We have also issued research-based guidance on their care, making sure they will be properly looked after for future generations.

### **New products to reduce heat loss from traditionally built homes without losing their heritage character**

We commissioned research to test the thermal performance of single glazed, historic sash windows and different [means to improve thermal efficiency](#) including, curtains, blinds, shutters, and secondary glazing. Blinds with reflective foils produced outstanding results, matching those of double glazing. The research has stimulated the interest of commercial suppliers, and there are now a number of thermal blinds on the market.

### **Better informed planning decisions affecting the historic environment**

The tactical research that underpins our role as an advisor to local plans and planning decisions has been assessed through [stakeholder survey](#). As of 2015, 81 per cent of local authority stakeholders were satisfied with the overall quality of the planning advice service provided by English Heritage in the last 12 months. We are perceived as knowledgeable, trustworthy and responsible.

# 7 Key resources

**Advice and guidance:** highlights recent guidance covering technical research, designation research and planning matters

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/)

**Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships:** details of our partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/researchopportunities/collaborative-doctoral/](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/support-and-collaboration/researchopportunities/collaborative-doctoral/)

**Historic England Archive:** gives access to over 12 million photographs, drawings, reports and publications from the 1850s to the present day, covering the whole country

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/images-books/archive/](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/)

**Historic England Research magazine:** popular presentation of our research results

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/images-books/magazines/historic-england-research/](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/magazines/historic-england-research/)

**Historic England Three Year Corporate Plan 2016-19**

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/corporate-strategy/](https://historicengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/corporate-strategy/)

**National Heritage List for England:** the definitive record of nearly 400,000 legally protected buildings and sites in England

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/listing/the-list/](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/)

**National Heritage Protection Plan:** details of over 300 projects delivered between 2010 and 2015

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/research/research-results/activities/](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/activities/)

**Our Equality Scheme 2015-18**

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/about/who-we-are/heritage-belongs-to-everyone/](https://historicengland.org.uk/about/who-we-are/heritage-belongs-to-everyone/)

**Research Reports:** search the database of over 6,500 research reports from Historic England, including those published by English Heritage before 2015.

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/research/research-results/research-reports/](https://historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/research-reports/)

**Training and Skills:** details of courses and continuing professional development offered to the sector

[HistoricEngland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/](https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/)





# 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.

[HistoricEngland.org.uk](http://HistoricEngland.org.uk)

Subscribe to [Historic England Research](#)



[@HistoricEngland](#)



[Historic England](#)

[Research@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:Research@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

All information and weblinks accurate at the time of publication.

Product Code: 52025

Publication date: December 2016 © Historic England

Design: Historic England