

Our impact

How our investment and expertise supports the UK heritage sector to create positive and lasting change for people and communities.

Page created: 17 June 2021

Since we were established in 1994, we have invested £8.3billion in more than 49,000 projects across the UK. This includes money raised by National Lottery players and - more recently - funding we've distributed on behalf of governments across the UK.

We have awarded:

- over £3bn to almost 10,000 area, building and monument projects
- over £500m to 26,700 community and cultural heritage projects
- almost £590m to more than 1,400 industrial, maritime and transport projects
- over £1.8bn to more than 4,200 land, nature and biodiversity projects
- over £2.2bn to more than 5,600 museum, library, archive and collection-based projects

[Explore our work in greater detail.](#)

Our COVID-19 support

In the 2020–2021 financial year we invested more than £400m cash into the heritage sector (a 50% increase on our usual amount), benefitting more than 1,500 heritage organisations. We also provided expertise and advice on adapting to the pandemic.

Our distribution of funds included:

- £50m Heritage Emergency Fund, made possible thanks to National Lottery players
- £44m Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). And in April 2021 we awarded a further £44m in a second round of the fund.
- £19 million Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund on behalf of DCMS
- £40m Green Recovery Challenge Fund for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)
- more than £4m Welsh Government funding
- more than £5m from the Department of Communities in Northern Ireland

In addition, we:

- distributed £3.5m of targeted support to recipients in our Areas of Focus, deprived local authority areas that have received least funding from us
- offered interest-free loans between £50,000-£250,000 up to a total of £1.2m
- accelerated the provision of our £3.5m [Digital Skills for Heritage initiative](#)
- rolled out a £4m series of [business support and enterprise development programmes](#) to support sector resilience
- committed £2m to fund our network of ROSS consultants, who are providing technical expertise and advice such as mentoring, monitoring and help with business plans
- continued to support more than 2,500 projects in development and delivery, including £23m of grant increases

[Find out more about our COVID-19 support.](#)

The difference the Heritage Emergency Fund made

An evaluation of our £50m emergency fund found that:

- over 2,400 full time equivalent roles were directly supported by our funding

- over 1,400 staff were brought back from furlough
- over 14,700 volunteer roles were directly supported

[Find out more about the impact of the Heritage Emergency Fund.](#)

Thanks to National Lottery players

We couldn't do all this without those who play The National Lottery. Every week National Lottery players raise £30m for good causes.

Since 1994, over £43billion has now been raised and more than 635,000 individual grants have been made across the UK – the equivalent of around 225 lottery grants in every UK postcode district.

[Find out more about National Lottery good causes.](#)