

# Priorities for National Lottery Grants for Heritage





# We're backing the UK's heritage to adapt and thrive

UK heritage has been facing its gravest threat since the Second World War. The risks to heritage sites, attractions and organisations from a sudden and dramatic loss of income as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have put the heritage and visitor economy in crisis.

During 2020-21, The National Lottery Heritage Fund was focused on supporting heritage across the UK to adapt and respond to the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

As the COVID-19 crisis continues to impact so many aspects of our lives, the path to recovery for the UK's heritage is difficult and challenging.

The Heritage Fund will continue to respond quickly to changing circumstances, with expertise, advice, emergency support and funding focused on immediate and longer-term recovery.

Our focus is to support the heritage sector to strengthen its recovery in the medium term and to build back for positive change across the UK's heritage.

Heritage has an essential role to play in making communities better places to live, creating economic prosperity and supporting personal wellbeing. All of these are going to be vitally important as we recover from the pandemic.

We are committed to continuing to work closely with UK governments, and other partners, to support heritage organisations. We also have our National Lottery Grants for Heritage from £3,000 to £5million open for project funding.



*Above: Brunel Museum*

*Credit: Anne Koerber*

*Front cover: Mourne Mountains,  
Northern Ireland*

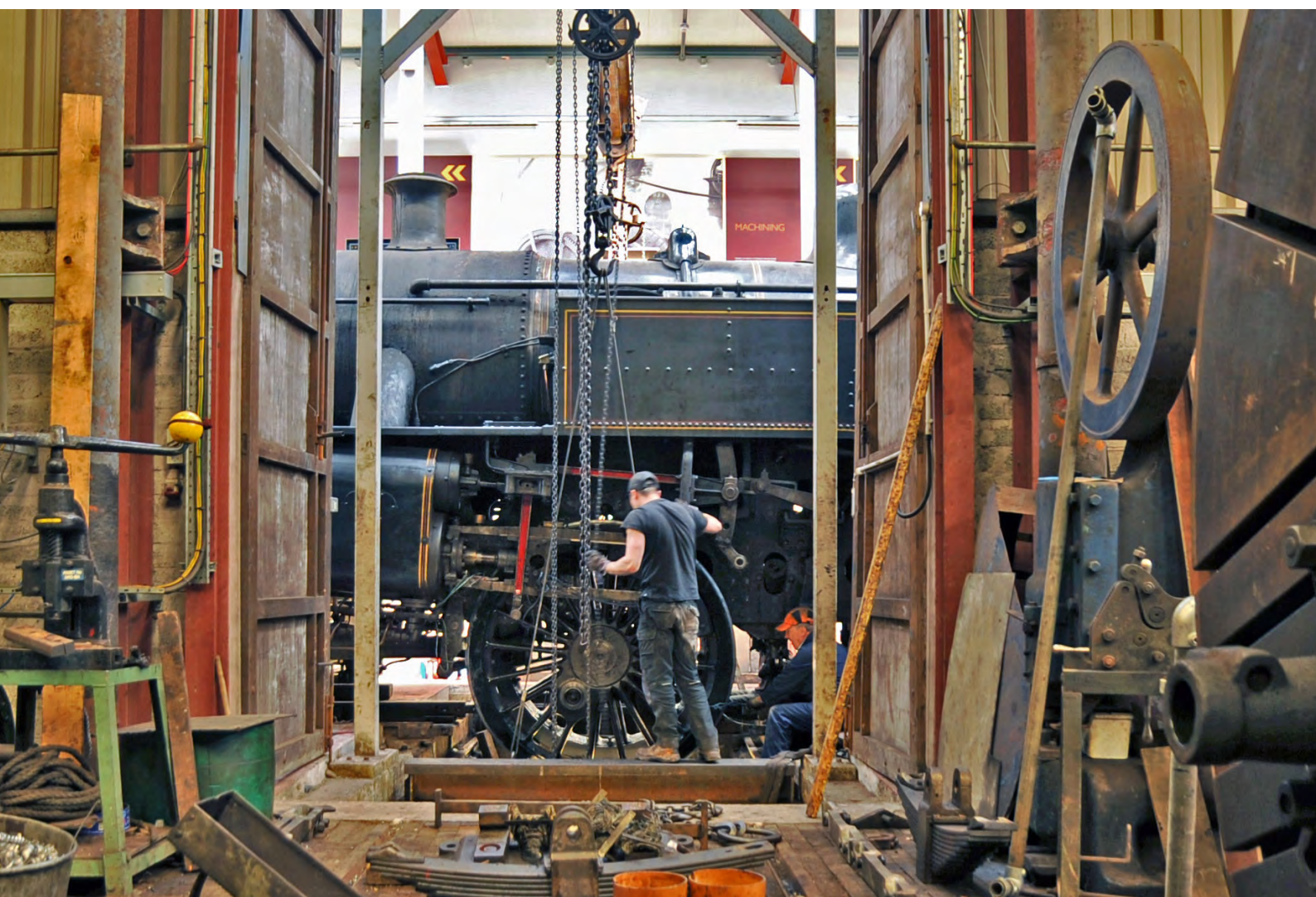
## **"We are committed to supporting heritage organisations"**

We are confident that our existing 2019-2024 Strategic Funding Framework provides us with the flexibility to respond to challenging circumstances.

We are, however, focusing on the Strategic Funding Framework priorities relating to the economic,

social and environmental value of heritage to our national life and specifically how our funding can support building back local economies, places and communities.

Our reopening of project funding in 2021 was not a return to 'business as usual' before the pandemic. We expect applications for funding to fully reflect the changed circumstances and our refocused priorities for funding that are set out below.



*Above: Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, Dunleath Workshop. Credit: Charles P Friel*



# Priority outcomes

**“Our priority outcomes have been selected to help support the wider UK economic and social recovery from COVID-19”**

We are supporting the heritage sector by reopening project funding for the broad range of heritage projects and activities that we have always supported, from industrial sites, castles and historic places of worship, to the stories and memories of our communities, and through to public parks, natural landscapes and native wildlife. The critical change is that, when making funding decisions, we will prioritise heritage projects that meet at least one or more of the following outcomes:

- **inclusion:** 'a wider range of people will be involved in heritage' (mandatory outcome)
- **economy including job creation:** 'the local economy will be boosted'
- **wellbeing:** 'people will have greater wellbeing'
- **local areas:** 'the local area will be a better place to live, work and visit'
- **skills:** 'people will have developed skills'
- **organisational resilience:** 'funded organisations will be more resilient'

These priority outcomes have been selected to ensure that the funding we receive from National Lottery players to fund heritage projects support the wider UK economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We require every project to achieve our inclusion outcome: 'a wider range of people will be involved in heritage'.

In addition, all projects we support will also have to demonstrate that they are environmentally responsible and are integrating environmental measures into their projects. This reflects our commitment to environmental sustainability and a to 'green' recovery from the pandemic.

We expect all applicants to consider what steps they can take to create positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts through their project. The measures that they implement should be appropriate for the scale of their project.

## Other outcomes

We may still fund projects that meet the Strategic Funding Framework outcomes below, but these will be less of a priority:

- heritage will be in better condition
- heritage will be identified and better explained
- people will have learned about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions

For example, if a project only delivered 'better condition' and the mandatory inclusion outcome, it is less likely to be supported.

## Priorities for heritage

Within our broad approach to heritage overall, our three priorities for heritage, as outlined in our Strategic Funding Framework, remain:

- landscapes and nature
- community heritage
- heritage at risk

# List of outcomes

## Priority outcomes

### Inclusion (mandatory outcome)

A wider range of people will be involved in heritage

### Economy

The local economy will be boosted

### Wellbeing

People will have greater wellbeing

### Local area

The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit

### Skills

People will have developed skills

### Organisational resilience

The funded organisation will be more resilient

**Environmental sustainability:** Consider what steps can your project take to increase positive environmental impacts and reduce negative environmental impacts

## Other outcomes

Heritage will be in better condition

Heritage will be identified and better explained

People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions

### Priorities for heritage

- Landscapes and nature
- Community heritage
- Heritage at risk

# Implementing our approach to the priority outcomes

We will be taking a proportionate and pragmatic approach to the extent to which organisations meet all of the priorities and requirements. Our expectations will depend on the level of funding you are applying for and more detail is provided in the good practice guidance for each of the priority outcomes.

We have updated our National Lottery Grants for Heritage guidance in line with these refocused priorities. Please ensure that all project enquiry forms, Expressions of Interest and applications submitted reflect those priorities.

**“ Our approach is recognised as having made heritage more democratic and widely appreciated than before ”**

We will offer additional support to organisations to meet the priority outcomes, for example through guidance, advice notes, sharing best practice examples and exploring other accessible ways for organisations to receive that information.

As previously, decisions on funding for new projects under £5m will be made by Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England area committees and teams local to each project.

*Below: Ditchling Museum of Art + Craft*





For contact details please see our website  
**[www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk)**

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