

Heritage

An Introductory Guide for Community-Led Projects



ENTERPRISING
COMMUNITIES



OVERVIEW

Local heritage and cultural resources are important to communities, they promote a sense of place and cultural pride. When maintained, managed and enhanced they can deliver tangible community benefits.

The term “community heritage” includes a wide range of heritage-based projects developed and run by local communities. It can focus on a range of activities from safeguarding, preserving and presenting local histories and archives, to enhancing the environment and celebrating local identity and culture. Community heritage projects bring communities together through a shared interest in – and engagement with – local

heritage. They can foster the sharing of ideas and traditions with others.

There is a wealth of activity being undertaken in this area: educational programmes, community archaeology projects, natural heritage enhancement and the development of visitor centres and community museums. Projects can have multiple benefits including conserving and restoring heritage sites, improve access to significant buildings, and attract visitors to the area. These aims are all focused on enhancing and supporting local communities, delivering community wealth building and a people-centred approach to local economic development.

STARTING POINTS

1. Undertake local research

There are various areas to research when looking at a heritage project including access, rights and responsibilities. Research your site through local library records, living memory and other available records.

Web-based information can provide a source of data for early stage research. The [Historic Environment Scotland portal](#) allows searches of records and datasets on designated protected places.

[Canmore](#) is an online catalogue of heritage sites – including archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime sites. The catalogue contains photos, maps and documents.

Local councils also have archaeology officers who can be contacted for guidance and support, as well as background information.

[Past Map](#) was developed as a resource to explore Scotland's historic environment.

2. Consider national strategies

Communities wishing to undertake projects should be aware of national strategies, including [Historic Environment Scotland's Historic Environment Policy for Scotland](#) and [Scotland's Archaeology Strategy](#). They may have a direct or indirect impact on funding, support and guidance.

3. Undertake an audit

Undertaking an audit of the local cultural or environmental heritage can be a good starting point to understand the extent and significance of local resources.

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (gallowayglens.org/projects-overview/) has a suite of projects aimed at improving knowledge of and access to sites of environmental and cultural heritage significance in the area. These illustrate a wide range of activities that can take place. The resources section has the reports of several resource audits that have been carried out in the area.

4. Explore restoration resources

Restoration can be complicated, but the benefits are numerous. Ensure you do your research and seek expert advice before undertaking any restoration projects, and ensure you're aware of any building regulations in place.

If the heritage project is dealing with restoring a historic building, [Scottish Historic Buildings Trust](#) have a variety of resources, including research, lectures, and advice.

5. Don't forget about the environment

Preservation of culture is closely linked with the protection and enhancement of nature, and historically the two have been intertwined. [NatureScot](#) is responsible for Scotland's natural heritage. Natural heritage projects can include development of a local nature reserve, nature restoration projects, virtual archaeology, or interpretation of the natural landscape.

A local nature reserve is a protected area of land designated by a local authority because of its special natural interest and/or educational value and may include a [Site of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSI) and other designation.

STARTING POINTS Cont.

Local authorities are responsible for managing local nature reserves and will usually do so through their countryside ranger service.

6. Investigate partnership projects

There are opportunities for communities to get involved with heritage activities without necessarily taking on full responsibility for a site. This could be a great option for a community project just starting out, wanting to gain heritage activity experience.

The Archaeology Scotland Adopt a Monument programme supports communities to undertake local

heritage activities and conservation work. It can provide training, advice, fundraising and practical on-site activities, the [website has further information](#) and resources

Treasured Remains is a similar project that focuses on graveyard conservation. Archaeology Scotland will work with community groups and cemetery managers to provide structured training opportunities, guidance and specialist support for the care of historic graveyards.

Finally, when it comes to promotion of any sort of heritage project, it can be helpful to link with VisitScotland's [themed years](#).

FUNDING FOR HERITAGE PROJECTS

[National Lottery Heritage Fund](#) – the largest dedicated grant funder of the UK's heritage. Locally connected and with national expertise, it is a change-maker working to enhance and champion the value of heritage for all.

[Historic Environment Scotland](#) – provides a variety of grants and funding for communities and projects.

[Architectural Heritage Fund](#) – support and funding for communities and projects relating to heritage and architecture.

[Museums Galleries Scotland](#) – Distributes funding from the Scottish Government to a broad range of museums that have, or are in the process of applying for, accreditation status.

[Culture and Business Fund Scotland](#) – Delivered by Arts and Business Scotland for organisations relating to culture and heritage.

[The Heritage Funding Directory](#) – a guide to finding financial support for communities and projects.

[NatureScot](#) – offers various funds for nature heritage projects.

CASE STUDY

Weaving a future for Eskdale

The Langholm Initiative in Eskdale has a history of producing handmade textile products. This project aims to revive that tradition, as well as provide education, training, employment, and enterprise for textiles. As a result, the organisation is supporting new and existing businesses, and aims to preserve an intangible cultural heritage.

Gala Water History and Heritage Society

This project has employed a professional archivist to catalogue and display a collection of community heritage and cultural materials for educational and conservation purposes. The work has resulted in increased community engagement and interest in local history, and created educational opportunities.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Organisation	Remit	Community Focus	Case Studies	Technical Information	Networking Opportunities	Funding Information
<u>Historic Environment Scotland</u>	The lead public body dealing with Scotland's historic environment. It can provide support and guidance for those aiming to get involved with heritage and culture. It has a wide remit, which includes working with communities. Information is available via the Community Advice Hub.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Museums Galleries Scotland</u>	As the national development body for Scottish museums, it provides advice and guidance to museums and galleries. Runs an accreditation scheme, events and provides training for professionals and volunteers.		✓	✓	✓	✓
<u>Scottish Community Heritage Alliance</u>	A coalition of community based national networks and intermediaries.	✓		✓	✓	
<u>Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium</u>	Five institutions researching heritage and culture in Scotland: the National Library of Scotland, the National Museums Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. This could be useful as an academic source of information..			✓		
<u>The Scottish Local History Forum</u>	This is the umbrella organisation for all individuals and organisations interested in local history in Scotland. Activities include events, publications, a regular journal, annual conference & campaigning.		✓	✓	✓	

South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) is the economic and community development agency for Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders. We offer support, funding and specialist knowledge to help community initiatives and social enterprises across the South of Scotland to grow and achieve their aspirations. To contact SOSE:

- Go to <https://www.southofscotlandenterprise.com/contact-us> and fill in the enquiry form
- Call 0300 304 8888