

Communities Secretary launches 'most ambitious heritage preservation campaign for 40 years'

- Communities across England encouraged to nominate heritage assets which make their community what it is
- New £700,000 fund to get modern monuments men and women making sure more buildings are locally protected

Local people will be empowered to nominate heritage buildings which are important to them and reflect their local area and identity in the most ambitious local heritage campaign for 40 years, launched today (23 October 2019) by Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick.

The new campaign will challenge every single local authority across England to draw up lists of buildings of significant historical and cultural value to an area, ensuring important local monuments are no longer left neglected and unloved.

Local people will be empowered to nominate heritage assets which are important to them and reflect their local area and identity, supported by a team of heritage experts, funded by £700,000 to help 10 English counties identify areas which need protecting.

To support this, Historic England will launch a national campaign on local identity getting the country talking about what defines our heritage.

The Communities Secretary is taking the direct step of contacting every parish council in England to make sure they are conserving the buildings which have played a remarkable role in their local history and need our support.

Whilst this is already happening in trailblazing local areas such as Lee-on-the-Solent, which has overseen the redevelopment of a Second World War Naval site into modern housing, today's news will mean all councils will have to follow their example and protect their historic buildings.

In addition, a local heritage champion will be appointed to spearhead the campaign and encourage councils to increase local listings.

Building on [September's announcement](#) of £95 million to boost the economic potential of 69 High Street Heritage Action Zones, the government will also work with Historic England to identify important buildings in these zones to be nationally listed.

Communities Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP said:

Today I've launched the most ambitious heritage preservation campaign for decades.

This will empower local people to protect thousands of historic buildings and preserve them for future generations.

Getting more buildings locally listed isn't just about keeping a building intact – it keeps a community's identity thriving.

Culture Secretary Nicky Morgan said:

Our built heritage is one of the things that make England one of the top tourist destinations in the world. It helps us attract millions of visitors every year who are keen to see the historic buildings at the heart of our communities, helping to boost our economy and make our towns and cities better places to live, work and visit.

By encouraging more local listings, we will ensure that buildings are protected for future generations so that the benefits heritage brings are felt right across the country.

The measures announced today to help protect local heritage through the planning system follow the publication of the government's new [design guide](#), which will help inspire to reflect what communities already love about their areas – such as listed buildings.

A new national design code, to be published next year, will also require local authorities to ensure any development reflects existing character and heritage.

The 10 counties that will receive an allocation of today's funding will be announced in due course.

The planning system recognises three types of heritage asset – those which are of international importance, those which are of national importance and those which are important locally.

Nationally important heritage assets (eg listed buildings, scheduled monuments etc) are identified and given statutory protection by DCMS (having consulted Historic England) on the basis of nationally-set selection criteria. Locally important heritage assets are identified by local planning authorities and neighbourhood plan forums based on locally-set criteria.