

Our Heritage, Our Stories

A Heritage Framework for Wakefield District

Highlights Version



Introduction to the Heritage Framework

Engagement process

In September 2022, we started a six-month project with our appointed consultants, Heritage Lincolnshire, to undertake extensive engagement through over 600 moments of engagement with a diverse range of communities, local

heritage and community groups, councillors and council officers, civic and historical societies as well as with multiple heritage sites and organisations.

From this engagement, a series of overarching themes and a set of clear aspirations have been identified which we think reflects the heritage sector as well as the community's priorities for how best to protect, conserve and celebrate our outstanding heritage.

A shared vision

This work has now been brought together as Our Heritage, Our Stories – A Heritage Framework for Wakefield District, a strategic document outlining the shared vision, principles, themes and objectives to support our heritage between 2023 and 2033.

These themes and objectives are to be used to guide current and future heritage opportunities and projects as well as helping us to prioritise the investment of time and money in our heritage. Governance of the framework will provide capacity within Wakefield Council to deliver the vision as well as supporting local community and heritage groups.

Our Heritage Principles

To develop and capitalise on our heritage we have identified two guiding principles to drive our collective work.

Through these guiding principles we will work together to ensure the district's heritage assets benefit everyone and connects with wider agendas, from the regeneration of the towns, city and communities to providing opportunities for quality skills, employment and volunteering for our communities.

1. Increasing access to and engagement with our heritage

We will increase access to our heritage for both residents and wider visitors, through better coordination of our heritage assets, support for communities and by encouraging innovative new approaches to showcasing our stories to reach wider audiences

2. Protecting our heritage and conserving it for future generations

We will work to preserve our heritage assets, coordinating resources and prioritising where investment is most needed to better protect our heritage for the future.

Our Heritage Themes and Objectives

Through our engagement with a diverse range of groups, stakeholders and others, we agreed the following themes and objectives to help enhance and protect our heritage for the future in line with our principles:

1. Heritage-led Growth and Regeneration

- Prioritising projects that make the most impact, supporting growth, regeneration and meeting district-wide conservation challenges
- Working with the private sector and the community to create the capacity needed for heritage-led regeneration
- Supporting regeneration that enhances the distinctive, local character of our places and communities

- Developing and maintaining strong relationships with key funders for regeneration
- Using Heritage to help tackle the Climate emergency, protect our environment and support sustainability

2. Heritage Tourism and Connectivity

- Ensuring that we link key heritage sites and places as part of the wider visitor and tourism offer
- Celebrating the distinctiveness of our communities to support heritage tourism

3. Inclusive and Diverse Heritage

- To enable our communities to access and celebrate their diverse heritage and traditions, with a particular focus on communities that have traditionally been under-represented
- Improving public access to the district's rich heritage, especially our hidden archives, through innovative digital approaches

4. Capacity Building in Heritage

- Increase the capacity of heritage voluntary sector to grow and develop in the long-term
- A focus on Local Listing and reviewing Conservation Area Appraisals
- Support the development of appropriate governance arrangements to support heritage
- Supporting the development of heritage led projects, led by community groups

5. Heritage Skills

- Forging closer links between the heritage sector, Further Education institutions and employers
- Supporting people to access heritage learning and volunteering opportunities throughout their life

National Lottery Heritage Fund Support

As we progress with realising the ambitions set out in the Heritage Framework, we are grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for their support of Our Heritage, Our Stories, a 2-year project which aims to transform how the Council, our partners, and the community work together to increase involvement in heritage, by telling the stories of people and places.

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. Our Heritage, Our Stories is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players.

For the full version of Our Heritage, Our Stories—A Heritage Framework for Wakefield District and to learn more about our plans, visit:

www.wakefield.gov.uk/culture-and-heritage/heritage

Contact us at: heritage@wakefield.gov.uk