

Heritage 2020

PROJECT BRIEF

UPDATING AN EXISTING LIST OF THE STATUTORY DUTIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS THEY RELATE TO THE HERITAGE

The need for this project

Many organisations within the heritage sector are concerned at the loss of heritage skills and expertise working within or advising Local Authorities. The latest findings by Historic England show that the number of historic environment conservation specialists and archaeologists have fallen by 2% in the last year, while workloads have increased by 3.5%. This is particularly the case with Local Planning Authorities which have seen a longer term trend, since 2006, of a reduction of over a third of posts and a disproportionate loss of more senior and experienced officers. The Heritage 2020 Capacity Building Group Action Plan calls for an up-to-date list of the statutory duties placed on Local Authorities insofar as they relate directly or indirectly to the heritage. This might help focus those bodies on the duties imposed on them by Parliament and, therefore, their need to retain the skills and expertise necessary to successfully discharge them. The vision is a sustainable network of local authority expertise available to developers and communities.

The project

The aim of this project is to update the existing list of statutory duties imposed by Government on Local Authorities as they relate directly or indirectly to the heritage. Heritage in this context includes both 'Built Conservation' and 'Archaeology' services.

In 2011 the Government, working with the Local Government Association, published a comprehensive list of Local Authority statutory duties across all Departments. However, it has not kept this list up-to-date. Subsequent legislation (including, but not limited to, the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, the National Planning Policy Framework and Guidance and other initiatives) will have had an impact or potential impact on the list.

While DCMS and MHCLG will be obvious sources, statutory duties may stem from any department of government. Careful and exhaustive research should be undertaken into all legislation since 2011 for any relevant new or amended statutory duties.

The existing list, as produced in 2011, is available here: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/01171494-e40b-463f-9967-56d158412321/statutory-duties-placed-on-local-government>

Heritage 2020 will use the updated list and collate it with existing work done by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), the Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers (ALGAO) and others to provide a benchmark of heritage services required of Local Government. The work will be taken forward as part of the Heritage 2020 Capacity Building Group's Action Plan (objective 2) 'identifying a sustainable model for Local Planning Authority (LPA) conservation and archaeology services' (see below).

Heritage 2020

Heritage 2020 is a major collaborative initiative to sustain and promote the historic environment of England, encourage access and broaden knowledge for a variety of audiences. See www.heritage2020.net for further information.

It reports to the Historic Environment Forum for England and its membership is drawn from over 30 organisations across the heritage sector. It enjoys significant support from Historic England.

Heritage 2020 has five Working Groups: Capacity Building, Constructive Conservation and Sustainable Management, Discovery Identification and Understanding, Helping Things to Happen and Public Engagement, each working to deliver the overarching [Heritage 2020 Framework](#).

This project is led by the Capacity Building Working Group. Here is a link to Vision and Action Plan for the Group. <http://www.heritage2020.net/working-groups-capacity-building/>

Terms & Conditions for the Project

Heritage 2020 is a collaborative endeavour and members of the working groups contribute to it voluntarily. This means that it is unable to offer a fee for this work which would be done on a *pro bono* basis. Nevertheless, satisfactory delivery of the project would be a significant achievement for the chosen volunteer, and they would be free to publicise their participation as part of their CV or commercial offer to others.

We invite expressions of interest from heritage, academic, planning, legal or other professionals able to demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to deliver the project.

Please email Heritage2020@theheritagealliance.org.uk with your expression of interest. It would be greatly appreciated if you could include:

- A CV or other relevant qualifications and experience for yourself and any other partners who could work with you on this project.
- A statement of how you would go about updating the list.
- An estimated timetable and a date when you could deliver the updated list.

Expressions of interest to be received by 17.00 on Thursday 5th July.

Volunteers will be required to sign a volunteer agreement with The Heritage Alliance and agree to its data protection policy.

Further Information

- List of statutory duties placed on local government (2011) <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/01171494-e40b-463f-9967-56d158412321/statutory-duties-placed-on-local-government>

The notes to the list strongly recommend that readers review the source legislation for references to secondary legislation or for variations in its application. We repeat that point and would look to the update to identify any relevant factors.

- Historic England Ninth Report on Local Authority Staff Resource (September 2017) <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/ninth-report-la-staff-resources/>

If you wish to discuss this brief, do please email the Capacity Building Working Group Chair, Mike Brown at via heritage2020@theheritagealliance.org.uk.