

Heritage Forum Information

North Lanarkshire Rural Communities Heritage Programme

2020 to 2023

Introduction

The North Lanarkshire Rural Communities Heritage Programme aims to support five rural communities who have identified the potential of using heritage as a tool for regeneration after the creation of their [community action plans](#).

All the communities have a rich heritage, the legacy of mining across this area has left a significant and lasting change to the identities of all these communities but there are also connections to print and paper works, Scotland's canals, medieval farming and even Romans in Scotland.

These areas are also part of important swathes of Bog and Heath encompassing the Slamannan Plateau and some of the least disturbed active raised bogs in the central belt, Black Loch Moss.

Why a heritage plan?

Heritage Plans provide a clear and coherent strategy for the protection and potential of heritage assets, these could be built, natural, archaeological or intangible, such as folklore or oral histories.

To prepare plans we want to develop an approach that engages with as many interested parties as possible, to ensure the plans meet the needs of each area and support future development.

Where will the project take place?

The five communities we want to work with are spread across North Lanarkshire.

- Caldercuix
- Greengairs & Wattston
- Harthill, Eastfield & Greenrigg

- Plains
- Upperton

What do we hope to achieve?

Our aim is to ensure that by the end of the project each community feel they have the confidence, skills and connections to deliver heritage projects. Creating a network of links between themselves and organisations such as; Historic Environment Scotland, CultureNL, NatureScot, Scottish Canals, the National Lottery and North Lanarkshire Council. Also connecting them to examples of where such initiatives have created lasting change.

What will be created?

Heritage Plans:

Each community will be invited to produce a Heritage Plan, complementing the work already undertaken in developing 'Community Plans'.

Community Grants Pilot:

Budgets for small heritage projects will be available to apply for in a supported and accessible way.

Community heritage events & activities: Developing a series of community events/activities which help to celebrate and engage people with their heritage.

Who will be involved?

Groups proposed:

Heritage forum

Responsibilities include:

- Develop approach to meet community needs
- Supporting reaching interested partners in community
- Designing guiding documents and approach
- Developing events
- Supporting gathering information to influence development

Advisory panel

Responsibilities include:

- Specialist knowledge
- Provide support for Forum
- Strategic vision
- Approval of finances
- Support connecting to target groups
- Supporting risk management
- Interrogating delivery of aims

Heritage Volunteer group

Responsibilities include:

- Researching and recording community history
- Creating an asset register
- Researching and recording natural history
- Sharing learning

Project manager and project officer

Responsibilities include:

- Accountable to National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Project leadership
- Project reporting
- Employed by Community Action Lanarkshire

[What success could look like?](#)

Silverburn Park, fife

"To develop Silverburn as a place of quiet enjoyment, supporting the health and wellbeing of the community, and respecting the habitat and biodiversity of the environment."

[Silverburn Park | Camping - Cafe - Woodland Walks](#)

Cumbernauld Living Landscape

“improving Cumbernauld’s greenspaces for both people and wildlife, while helping everyone in the community connect with the nature on their doorstep.”

[Home - Cumbernauld Living Landscape](#)

Land of Oak and Iron

“Our aim is to create a legacy for regeneration and local economic development, which enhances heritage and increases prosperity”

[Land of Oak & Iron \(landofoakandiron.org.uk\)](http://landofoakandiron.org.uk)

Findhorn bay arts

To connect creativity, people and place by delivering high quality arts events and projects

[Home - Findhorn Bay Arts](#)

Scottish Gansey Project

Through a series of workshops, exhibitions and events, *Knitting the Herring* seeks to capture, preserve and highlight the unique knitting heritage of coastal fishing communities of Scotland.

[About the Project \(scottishgansey.org.uk\)](http://scottishgansey.org.uk)

Aims and outcomes

Aim 1

To survey the communities, built and natural heritage assets and develop a Heritage Plan for each area which reflects existing community and regional plans.

Outcomes

- A wide range of people will engage in heritage
- Heritage Plans will be easily available and will be owned by each community
- Each of the 5 communities will be more engaged in their local heritage and inspired to keep learning

Aim 2

To engage a wide range of audiences in exploring the heritage of five rural communities.

Outcomes

- A wide range of people will take the lead in heritage projects and develop new skills
- Through a number of events and activities, people will establish new friendships and networks
- Delivery of a number of activities in each community that improve audience development and engagement
- Activities will foster the development of new skills by working alongside heritage professionals and visiting other heritage projects and community heritage conferences
- Groups and individuals are able to participate fully in all activities
- Projects will improve wellbeing, focusing on areas including: Increased happiness, greater satisfaction, reduced levels of anxiety and a feeling of worth
- More people will have the knowledge, tools and confidence to continue exploring, enjoying and respecting their local heritage
- People will share and learn about their local heritage
- More people will volunteer for the first time and consider continuing their volunteering into the future

Aim 3

To work with various partners and stakeholders by building on existing community partnerships to collaboratively develop and deliver project activities which explore, share and celebrate the heritage of each area.

Outcomes

- Support networks from the communities to local council and charitable heritage organisations will be created, developing

links to ensure sustainability for future projects. Members feel invested in local plans

- Information will be available digitally and using social media and our website to share stories and celebrate achievements. Engagement will be recorded

Aim 4

Pilot a small community grants scheme with a heritage focus, providing support and assistance to lower capacity groups, and ensuring a straightforward, transparent and equitable application and decision process.

Outcomes

- Communities will have a better understanding of how to access funding and deliver projects by engaging with the third party grants fund, delivering a number of projects
- Communities will feel they have the confidence, skills and connections to make further change happen in the future in a sustainable way

Timeline

2021

- Set up Project Teams
- Establish methods and approaches
- Prepare Heritage Plans with communities

2022

- Launch community grants fund
- Support application process
- Support development of projects
- Deliver community events inspired by Heritage Plans

2023

- Support delivery of grant funded projects

- Support communities in seeking funding for further projects outlined in plans
- Compile case studies and evaluation report

Project process

Phase 1, Inspiration

- Better understand the needs of the audience
- Listen to peoples hopes and aspirations for the project
- Fully understand challenges

Phase 2, Ideas

- Make sense of what we are hearing from communities
- Generate ideas
- Identify opportunities
- Refine and reshape with expert input

Phase 3, Implementation

- Deliver outputs
- Share widely
- Review impact

Heritage forum

We're looking to form a group of enthusiastic community leaders, working together for mutual benefit to deliver a successful heritage-based community development programme.

Our aim is to create a group with representatives from each community so that we can share knowledge, skills, understanding and support each other through this process.

Reading this brochure, we hope you will be inspired to become members of the

Heritage Forum, supporting [The Rural Development Trust's Community Action Lanarkshire delivery team](#). Contributing to the development of the 3 year programme.

Heritage Forum Members will be key to developing all areas of this project and bring their community expertise and perspective to inform the work.

To find out more and discuss possible partnership with your organisation, please contact:

Hannah.DouthwaiteTeasdale@ruraldevtrust.co.uk

Commitment

- The Forum will meet at least every other month or more (as agreed by the Forum)
- Members may be contacted between meetings with further information or questions (This will be kept to a minimum)
- Sub-groups may be formed to work more closely within a specific community

Meetings

- These are likely to initially be via zoom
- Covid allowing, we would then move to meetings located within each community on a rotation basis (providing meeting spaces are available)
- Dates and times will be agreed well in advance to be respectful to diaries

What is a Heritage Plan?

Why a heritage plan?

Heritage Plans provide a clear and coherent strategy for the protection and potential of heritage assets, these could be built, natural, archaeological or intangible, such as folklore or oral histories.

To prepare plans for each area we will develop an approach that engages with as many interested parties as possible, to ensure they are developed and owned by the communities.

Examples

Leitrim Heritage Plan

[Leitrim-Heritage-Plan-English.pdf \(leitrimcoco.ie\)](#)

Argyll and Bute Historic Environment Strategy

[Hist Env Strat P1 pubcons \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan

[Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan.pdf](#)

Leicester Heritage Plan

[Layout 1 \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Berwick-Upon-Tweed Heritage and Character assessment

[neighbourhoodplanberwickhcadraftv1-2.pdf \(berwick-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

What can heritage plans include?

The following are examples of elements other heritage plans contain. We will consider which elements would be of most use to each community.

Timeline of community

Taking time to explore the changes that have occurred since the beginning of each settlement. This information could go further back to include geological changes too.

This helps to ensure we have explored as much history as we can find as to how each place came to be and developed.

Important buildings or landscapes

These can be from Historic Environments website ([Home \(historicenvironments.scot\)](https://www.historicenvironments.scot/)), which documents the location and details of monuments. We could include more detail to include buildings, landscapes, biodiversity or views that have a community value, historic or contemporary.

Condition of assets

Expanding on from just mapping where buildings or landscapes are, we could look to explore more about their history, use, biodiversity and community value.

Character assessment or spirit of place

Focusing on the key parts of the community that make up its distinctiveness, this can be more formal as in the example here or be more emotive by focusing on 'spirit of place'.

"1A: Tweed River Mouth Description:

- Sweeping river course, separating the historic core and outlying areas of Berwick, with mud banks and sandy beaches at the river mouth.
- Historic character, including the medieval core and medieval/post-medieval fortifications of Berwick on the north side of the River Tweed, and the historic bridges spanning the river.
- Large-scale industrial buildings at Tweedmouth form a dominant feature within views from the north.
- The high arched railway bridge forms a distinctive landmark and this is complemented by the old road bridge into the historic core of Berwick.
- Views are typically focused on the bridges and towards the coast.

Vision Statement: “This landscape has a number of important features, notably the river valley and the relationship of the historic built features with the landscape and seascape. The pattern and structure of the surrounding farmland has been partially eroded through loss of field boundaries. The vision for this landscape is therefore the protection of views to important features and management of the urban setting.””

Local stories

Many parts of a community’s identity are held within people’s memories, capturing these stories that were perhaps experienced first-hand or passed down through a family are just as important (if not more so) than physical buildings or landscapes.

These memories or lived experience can be documented by asking for written accounts or recording them as oral histories, It is also not just about things that occurred in the distant past, recent events and happenings are also important to capture now for future generations.

Proposed projects and next steps

Creating a focus for what the community would most like to develop and how to get there. This could include projects that may seek funding from the Rural Development Trust when small pots will be open to apply for at the end of 2021 start of 2022. They could also include more sizeable projects which would require further funding applications, which the Rural Development Trust will be able to provide support.

Land use and topography

Taking time to mark out an areas land use, protections and seeing what opportunities may exist. This could include marking built assets too so that the information is in one place.

Community feedback

Including as many and varied voices from the community in the development of these plans will help ensure they represent all of

the community and inspire people to support the plans. This could be gathered in many different ways at different stages of the project.

Heritage Forum Terms of Reference

Heritage Forum Members:

Chair: TBC

Project Manager: Gordon Muir, Rural Development Trust

Project Officer: Hannah Douthwaite-Teasdale, Rural Development Trust

Minute keeper: Lorna Diplacito, Rural Development Trust

Further members TBC, made up from all communities involved in the project

Goals:

1. To represent the needs of each community and communicate project details effectively and broadly
2. To develop, deliver and implement all project outcomes agreed as a working group
3. To advocate for the project within the community and wider

Deliverables

Supporting the project to ensure:

- A wide range of people to engage in heritage
- A wide range of people take the lead in heritage projects and develop new skills
- Each community is more engaged and inspired by their local heritage
- Improved wellbeing, focusing on areas including: Increased happiness, greater satisfaction, reduced levels of anxiety and a feeling of worth

- More people have the knowledge, tools and confidence to continue exploring, enjoying and respecting their local heritage
- A number of activities and events are delivered within the community that encourage people to learn more about their community heritage
- More people volunteer for the first time and consider continuing their volunteering into the future
- Connections from the communities to local council and charitable heritage organisations are created, developing links to ensure sustainability for future projects
- Communities have a better understanding of how to access funding and deliver projects by engaging with the third party grants fund, delivering a number of projects

Scope

The Heritage Forum will be where key project decisions are made. The Forum will undertake a number of sessions that will develop the project direction and what elements will be of most value for a community heritage plan. Members of the Forum will also be able to access the help, support and expertise of those within the Advisory Panel, which make up is designed to support the group, open doors and manage any risk associated with the project.

Heritage Forum role:

A group of enthusiastic community leaders, working together for mutual benefit to deliver a successful heritage-based community development programme. To develop the approach of the project to best meet community needs. Supporting and developing information gathering approaches to understand the character of each community. To co-design heritage plans, selecting the elements required. Co-developing engagement events across the communities.

Act in the best interests of the project and be a positive and proactive advocate, with the project team and the wider

community. Maintaining appropriate relationships and communications with the whole project team and other key stakeholders interested in the project.

Responsibilities and accountabilities:

- Developing project approach to meet community needs
- Supporting reaching interested partners in the community
- Designing guiding documents and approaches
- Developing approaches for community engagement events
- Supporting the gathering of information to inform the heritage plans
- Approves the End of Programme Report
- Being an ambassador for the project within the community

The Rural Development Trust Role:

- Overall responsibility for programme delivery & legacy, staff employment, reporting and financial management lies with the RDT Project manager with support from the Heritage Project Officer and Finance/Admin/Comms Officer.
- Facilitates, administers and supports the Heritage Forum

Commitment and activities:

- The Forum will meet at least every other month, or more regularly depending on groups decisions
- Time commitment for Heritage Forum Member: Approx. 2 to 3 hours per meeting, plus 1 hour for any admin/review of documents
- Members may be contacted between meetings with information, this will be kept to a minimum
- Members will be asked to provide feedback on documents
- Members will be asked to engage in project evaluation
- Sub-groups may be formed to work on specific issues as appropriate
- Meetings are likely to initially be via zoom or outside, then, rotating through each community

- Dates will be agreed well in advance to be respectful to diaries

Resources and Budget

The Rural Development Trust (RDT) will fund required meeting spaces, materials and refreshments. If needed travel costs can also be claimed from RDT; this will be in line with RDTs travel policy.

If a specific training need is also identified by the Heritage Forum this may be able to be funded by RDT if it meets the project aims.

Governance

- An independent Chair will be appointed
- All members have equal say. The intention for decision making is always to seek consensus but a vote can take place if required with the decision being made by simple majority. In the event of a tie, absentee members will be asked for their vote.
- Members can be recruited to fill an identified gap in expertise or diversity. Members are also free to leave the group if desired
- For meetings to be quorate meetings, 50% members must be present in person, virtually or by proxy
- Members must declare any conflicts of interest and remove themselves from decision making / discussion on that agenda item
- Conduct / Ways of working: The Forum will work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, openness, enjoyment and positivity
- Minutes of Meetings shall contain a record of all decisions. These minutes will be available online for anyone to access