

Briefing Note

Announcement of £70k Funding for Lincolnshire MHCLG's Local Heritage List Campaign

On 30th January 2021, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced Lincolnshire was one of 22 counties due to receive up to £70k to encourage the production of a local heritage list. The county, which includes 10 Local Authorities, has until 31st March to work together to develop a plan to deliver the ambitious scheme.

What has been announced?

- In October 2019, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP announced £700K to support local list preparation and review in ten county areas¹.
- On 22 September 2020 the initiative was resurrected when the Secretary of State announced the appointment of Historic England Commissioner Charles O'Brien as the government's lead for the project. The announcement confirmed the programme would promote greater awareness of the benefits of locally listing historic buildings and support people to nominate important buildings in their area.
- On 16 October 2020, MHCLG announced a call for expressions of interest for a share of the £700K local heritage list campaign funding.
- 13th November 2020, Lincolnshire County Council submitted an application on behalf of all 10 authority areas in the historic County of Lincolnshire, together with Heritage Lincolnshire, following consultation with local conservation officers to identify need.
- 30th January 2021 MHCLG announced that due to the standard of proposals received, and the obvious enthusiasm shown to engage communities in their local heritage, the original funding allocation had been doubled to £1.5 million. This would enable 22 areas to benefit instead of the 10 originally envisaged. The historic County of Lincolnshire was successful in its bid and is the only East Midlands county included, of the 22 announced².
- 31st January – 31st March 2021 all 10 Local Authorities need to work together to develop a plan to deliver the local list campaign in Lincolnshire.

¹ Communities Secretary launches 'most ambitious heritage preservation campaign for 40 years' - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

² Local heritage list campaign: announcement of successful areas - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

What does the scheme involve?

MHCLG is providing up to £70k funding to the lead authority, Lincolnshire County Council, through a Section 31 grant. This funding will be spent on a new post, hosted by Heritage Lincolnshire (so as to not be bias to any single authority). The post holder will develop a criteria and approach for the project, engaging with Local Authorities and local people/groups over the different council areas to develop a local listing criteria, which will assist communities in nominating historic buildings and other heritage assets, which they value most, for inclusion in their council's local list. This will help to protect them through the planning system.

The campaign will also help to create a single program accessible to all Local Authorities and compatible with existing Historic Environment Records (HER) to enable efficient data collection and publication. This will include an inbuilt filtering system which means entries are checked at a local level against pre-determined criteria before being automatically uploaded onto HER.

Enriching the HER is a benefit in itself, resulting in a greater understanding of Lincolnshire's rich heritage and being able to share this knowledge on a public database. In planning terms, once a building has been identified as a heritage asset, it can then be considered against heritage planning policies. Buildings, structures, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes do not have to be included on a list to be considered as a heritage asset, but being part of the list makes them easier to identify. Inclusion on a local list may also help owners to understand what might be expected of them upon submission of future planning applications.

Local lists can also be used in other ways. Some Local Authorities may choose use it as evidence to target future investment, many may formally adopt the list as part of their local plan (this is recommended to add weight), and others may wish to tailor additional development management tools, such as Article 4 Directions to prevent future harmful development.

What is a local heritage list?

Broadly speaking, a local heritage list is a list of locally important buildings or monuments or places, identified at a local level, which provides a degree of protection through the planning system.

Through the planning system if planning permission is required for development, local planning authorities must refer to national and local policy relating to heritage assets. National planning policy on heritage is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF³). Where there is local policy, it is set out in the development plan for the local area. [INSERT LOCAL PLAN]

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

How does local listing differ from national listing?

- The statutory, List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest is what we refer to as a 'listed building'. These are designated by the Secretary of State for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), which is set out in legislation⁴, and are subject to specific controls. In planning terms, listed buildings are 'designated heritage assets'.
- A 'local list', or 'local heritage list', is produced by Local Authorities, town or parish councils, or neighbourhood planning bodies and have no legal protection. In planning terms, locally listed buildings are regarded as 'non-designated heritage assets'.

⁴ Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (as amended)