

We've made it clearer how our grants could support your heritage

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Our refreshed application materials highlight our continued commitment to saving the UK's most treasured at-risk heritage.

Image



Clockwise from top left: RSS Discovery, © Dundee Heritage Trust; The Staffordshire Hoard, © Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery; Tyntesfield House; Portrait of Mai (Omai), courtesy of National Portrait Gallery and Getty.

Since 1980, the Memorial Fund has served as a fund of last resort to save the UK's most outstanding heritage and make it publicly accessible, in memory of those who have given their lives for the UK.

We've updated our [grant application materials](#) to better reflect this purpose.

Last resort

As a fund of last resort, we safeguard heritage when no alternatives are available.

We help save heritage on the brink of being lost and provide essential funding when others can't. From [The Staffordshire Hoard](#) of Anglo-Saxon treasure to the 18th-century [Sanday Shipwreck](#), our grants can fill funding gaps and provide support at short notice when time is of the essence.

Image



The Sanday Shipwreck.

Outstanding heritage

We want to help protect outstanding objects, collections, buildings and land that are rare, high-quality and/or associated with a historic figure or event.

We invest in heritage that's valuable for its archaeological, architectural, scientific, technological, natural, artistic, cultural and/or historic importance.

Some of these have included the [world's first polar research ship](#), a one-of-a-kind [royal figurine](#), one of England's [last complete Victorian estates](#) and a [masterpiece](#) by one of the UK's greatest artists.

Image



Charlotte Brontë manuscripts. Credit: Sotheby's.

Publicly accessible

Together, the heritage we support forms a memorial collection in honour of those who have given their lives for the UK. It's important that this collection remains accessible for everyone to enjoy.

Our funding has helped bring precious heritage, including [unseen manuscripts](#) by the UK's most renowned authors and [rarely exhibited artworks](#), out of private ownership and onto permanent public display.

Explore our [new application guidance](#) to find out more about what we fund.

Related News

Portrait of Mai saved for the UK following historic fundraising campaign

In part thanks to £10million NHMF funding, The National Portrait Gallery and Art Fund's joint campaign to save Joshua Reynolds' remarkable portrait has been successful.

Long-lost Sanday Shipwreck saved for the future

A huge freshwater tank will protect the wreck from decay and enable research into the origins of this remarkable ship.

"Never was better stuff penned": Brontë manuscripts amongst outstanding literary collection saved for the nation

The Honresfield Library was formed towards the end of the 19th century by William Law (1836-1901), a self-made Rochdale mill owner living at Honresfield house, near Haworth. He brought together an exceptional collection of manuscripts in the hands of the Brontë sisters, Jane Austen, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott, alongside c.1,400 printed books.

The bulk of the library has remained in private ownership since, inaccessible and rarely examined.