

HOW?

Local Heritage Initiative

The Local Heritage Initiative (LHI), devised by the Countryside Agency, is a national grant scheme that helps local groups to investigate, explain and care for their local landscape, landmarks, traditions and culture. It was launched in February 2000 and is planned to run for 10 years. The initiative covers people in England and there are plans to develop similar schemes for communities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Administered by the Countryside Agency, it is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (which is contributing £8 million over the first three years), with support from Nationwide Building Society to help projects that otherwise would not be able to go ahead (£1 million over the first five years).

How much?

Groups can apply for between £3,000 and £25,000, for 100% of project costs, without any requirement to provide match funding.

Previously some match funding was needed. A group's contribution will usually be a mix of in-kind donations and volunteer labour. Additional help of up to £5,000 may be available from Nationwide.

Timescale

Applications are accepted all year round.

What does it fund?

Archaeological heritage - enquiries into, and interpretation of, locally important visible features, for example, hill forts, burial mounds, moats, field systems, ridge and furrow, standing stones, and ancient village sites.

Natural heritage - locally characteristic landscape features and wildlife habitats, such as hedgerows, copses, pollards, orchards, small heathland areas, hay meadows, water meadows, reedbeds, ponds, streams and springs.

Built heritage - locally distinctive built heritage elements and small features, like field barns, pumps, wells, gates and walls, bridges, railings, milestones, architectural details, cobbles memorials, village greens or traditional signs.

Customs and traditions - historic and cultural associations with the land and activities of local people, for example stories, poems, songs, dialect, recipes, traditions and famous people. Heritage features relating to how people lived, worked and played, such as place names, field names, parish boundaries, open spaces, viewpoints, local rights of way of significant heritage value, including country lanes and drove roads.

Industrial heritage - physical features related to locally important industries, such as chimneys, lime kilns, packhorse trails, wagonways, canals, quarries, mineral pits, spoil heaps, mills, mines, smithies and coopers.

Examples of activities funded:

- an investigation into local heritage, leading to an explanation and presentation of information discovered
- material and labour for a programme of community-led action, based on any previous investigation and explanation work, eg conservation or restoration of heritage assets
- to help public access, enjoyment and appreciation of heritage assets and their cultural or historic associations
- specialist advisers to help with the project
- charges such as archive costs
- activities to involve the wider community, especially young people
- production of information
- essential equipment to make projects efficient and effective (max 50% costs)
- training for volunteers



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- provision for long-term care of the project and assets, e.g. securing a legal management agreement
- legal advice and volunteer insurance costs specifically associated with LHI projects.

What is not covered?

- work already carried out
- provision of expert advice or management skills by the applicant or group members (although this can count as in-kind contributions)
- items that only benefit an individual
- routine maintenance or one-off repair projects.

Local Heritage Initiative Regional Advisers

- *East Midlands:* Lisa Kirman, LHI Adviser, 18 Market Place, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8AP, tel: 01949 876200.
- *North West:* Susannah England, LHI Adviser, Haweswater Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 7EH, tel: 01768 865752.
- *Yorkshire & The Humber:* Jane Haigh, LHI Adviser, 4th Floor, Victoria Wharf, 4 The Embankment, Sovereign Street, Leeds LS1 4BA, tel: 0113 246 9222.

Further information

Full details, application forms and guidance are on their website: www.lhi.org.uk

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Who are we?

High Peak CVS works to ensure that local voluntary and community groups can access as much support, advice and information as possible. We help groups in many different areas, such as funding, charity registration, practical services including printing, training and links to training and with legal issues. We have resources, including a meeting room, computers and OHP for use by groups.

To find out how we can help you, please contact us on 01663 735 350 or email hello@highpeakcvs.org.uk Visit us at www.highpeakcvs.org.uk