

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

**27 November 2009**

## **FREE HERITAGE FUNDING DIRECTORY DEFIES HARD TIMES AHEAD**

Heritage Link is grappling with an exceptionally difficult funding climate by refreshing and revising its free online Heritage Funding Directory. Heritage Link's Heritage Funding Directory is a unique and comprehensive guide to sources of financial support (and more) for anyone seeking to undertake creative projects connected with the UK's heritage.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has invested £4.3bn in 30,000 projects over the past 15 years but even so, funding for heritage projects is under extraordinary pressure as public sources have dried up by almost 40% in real terms since 1997. The value of Heritage Lottery Funding has fallen by 20% on 1997 levels with a further 43% cut in income predicted by 2012. English Heritage's grants to At Risk heritage assets have been cut by almost a half from £8m in 1999 to £4.1m in 2007. Independent charitable trusts and foundations reserves are hit by low interest rates. Where funds are successfully secured, applicants usually need to find additional matching funding. In this challenging context, worthwhile heritage related projects that would deliver valuable economic, social, environmental and educational benefits may be shelved or lost for ever.

First launched in 2007 by Heritage Link's Funding Working Group, this 2009 review, published today, adds new entries and updates old ones. The revision identified a trend from regeneration funding sources to more emphasis by major donors on employment based and environmental opportunities. Recognising this change in focus is vital if, as Heritage Link strongly advocates, heritage projects are uniquely placed to respond to the changing demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Aimed primarily at helping the voluntary heritage organisations fulfil their ambitions, the Directory brings all possible funding information into one free online resource. It cross-references the information held in its sister site Funds for Historic Buildings run by the Architectural Heritage Fund and also newly updated. Maintaining and developing the Directory is generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Leche Trust.

-end-

## Notes to Editors

### 1. Contacts:

1. Kate Pugh, The Secretary, Heritage Link, [kate.pugh@heritagelink.org.uk](mailto:kate.pugh@heritagelink.org.uk) 020 7233 0800 mobile 07811 819677.
2. Ian Lush, Chief Executive [ian.lush@ahfund.org.uk](mailto:ian.lush@ahfund.org.uk) , or Diane Kendal [diane@ahfund.org.uk](mailto:diane@ahfund.org.uk) Architectural Heritage Fund 020 7925 0199

2. Heritage Link, the biggest alliance of heritage interests in England, was set up in 2002 by national heritage groups in England to promote the central role of the voluntary movement in the sector and to make their voice heard collectively and coherently. It represents interests from specialist advisers, practitioners and managers, volunteers and owners, to national funding bodies and local building preservation trusts.

Much of the historic environment is cared for - supported, managed or owned - by these organisations. They provide a huge resource of specialised knowledge and expertise which is used for public benefit. Heritage Link seeks to demonstrate how heritage brings economic, environmental, educational and social benefits, and champions the value of the contribution made to national wellbeing by the voluntary heritage bodies.

3. Heritage Link's web-based Heritage Funding Directory now provides an updated comprehensive guide to sources for anyone undertaking heritage projects. Heritage in this context means: historic landscapes, parks and gardens; industrial, transport and maritime heritage; archives and spoken history; archaeology; heritage skills and conservation; and heritage interpretation and education. It also covers historic churches and other buildings, although the built heritage is covered more fully in the sister website *Funds for Historic Buildings* (run by the Architectural Heritage Fund and also newly updated).

The Directory details organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, from English Heritage and the National Lottery to charitable trusts, that offer grants, loans, scholarships and bursaries, education and various forms of 'in kind' assistance.

4. The Heritage Funding Directory can be accessed via [www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory](http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/fundingdirectory) or via Heritage Link's home page at [www.heritagelink.org.uk](http://www.heritagelink.org.uk) Funds for Historic Buildings can be found at [www.ffhb.org.uk](http://www.ffhb.org.uk)