



Heritage Counts Wales 2018–19

Heritage sector impacts and achievements

**Historic and modern slate quarries above Bethesda:
a candidate for World Heritage Site inscription.**

This annual report has been produced by the government-funded, charitable, voluntary and private-sector organisations that make up the membership of the Historic Environment Group for Wales (HEG). Together we work to sustain and enhance the precious and irreplaceable historic buildings, landscapes and monuments that serve as important reference points for understanding the history and culture of Wales and that inspire and shape our sense of nationhood. In doing this, the heritage sector supports thousands of jobs and attracts valuable tourist income; our regeneration work helps to build resilient communities, and our community engagement activity supports learning and contributes to the nation's health and well-being.

Key statistics for 2018–19



What is the historic environment?

The term “historic environment” describes the results of human interaction with the natural environment over many thousands of years, including the buildings, monuments, conservation areas, townscapes and landscapes that we value as a community and wish to preserve. We use various classes of designation to identify the most significant heritage assets, which in Wales consists of:



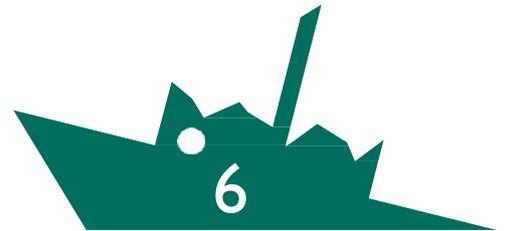
30,015

listed buildings



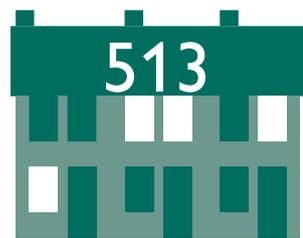
4,198

scheduled monuments



6

protected historic wrecks



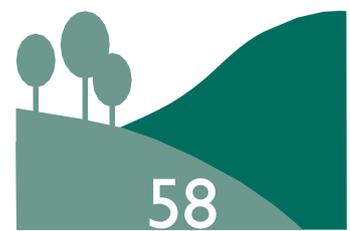
513

conservation areas



394

registered parks and gardens



58

registered historic landscapes

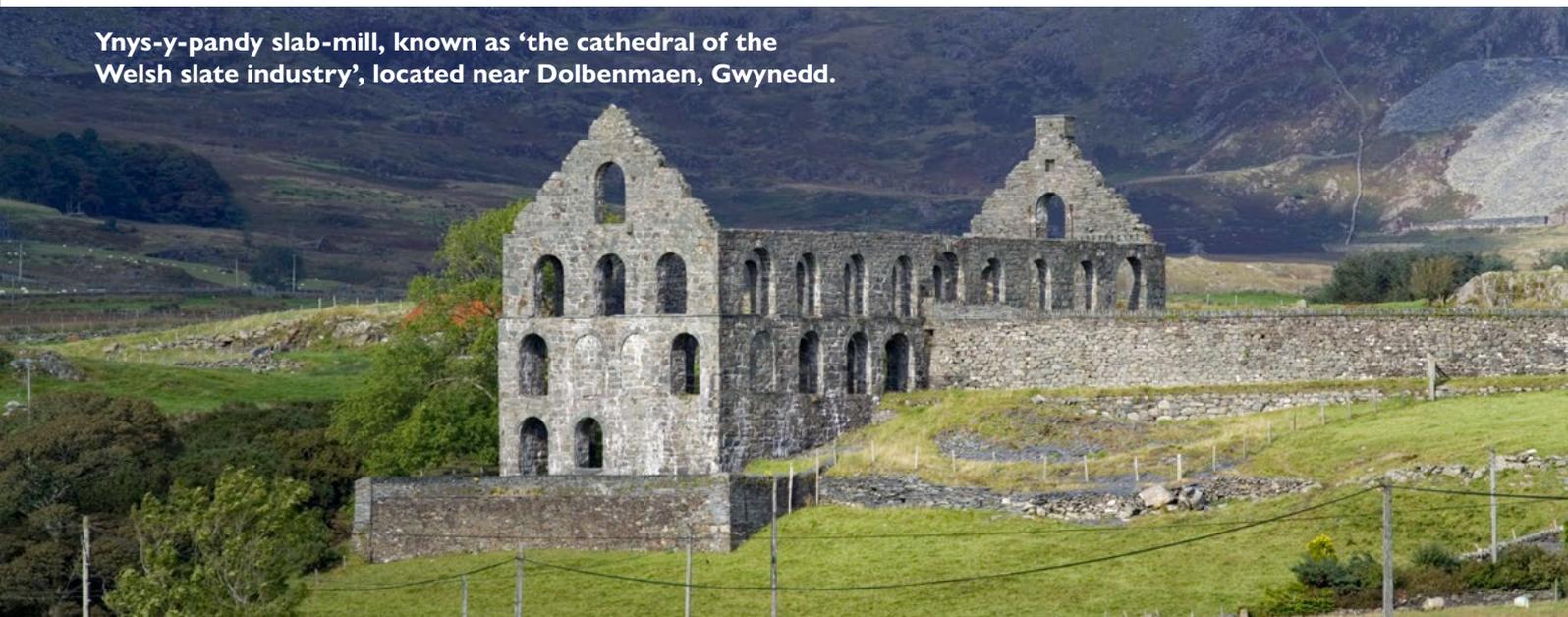
- Over 200,000 undesignated heritage assets recorded on the four regional Historic Environment Records that are now a consideration in the planning system under the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

We also have three World Heritage Sites – the highest class of designation, reserved for sites of outstanding universal value:

- The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd
- The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape
- The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal.

A fourth candidate, the Slate Industry of North Wales, is on the UK’s Tentative List of Future Nominations and a full submission to UNESCO will be made in the autumn of 2019.

Ynys-y-pandy slab-mill, known as ‘the cathedral of the Welsh slate industry’, located near Dolbenmaen, Gwynedd.



Who we are

The Historic Environment Group (HEG) comprises organisations working to sustain and promote the historic environment of Wales. Our members provide a wide range of historic environment services for people across Wales, from planning advice to townscape regeneration and from maintaining large parts of Wales's coastline and upland landscapes to opening Wales's finest castles, gardens and historic houses to the public.

HEG members come from the public, private, charitable and voluntary sectors (see Appendix A for a full membership list). Together we are committed to protecting and enhancing the historic environment in sustainable ways, promoting the historic environment as a learning and training resource, developing understanding and knowledge about the historic environment, increasing public awareness and promoting community participation.

The organisations in Wales with responsibility for managing historic assets include:

- The Historic Environment Service (Cadw), which looks after 130 listed buildings and scheduled monuments that are open to the public and advises Welsh Ministers on heritage policy for Wales, as well as having responsibility for the protection of the nation's designated heritage assets through the planning system.
- The National Trust in Wales, which cares for 157 miles of coastline, 50,000 hectares of landscape and wildlife assets, and 21 of Wales's finest castles, houses, parks and gardens.
- Historic Houses, whose members manage 25 privately owned historic houses and 5 historic gardens in Wales that are open to the public.
- Bwrdd Glandŵr Cymru—Canal & River Trust in Wales, which manages over 61 miles of canal and historic waterways and their associated land and buildings.
- Natural Resources Wales, which manages 19,676 hectares of woodland, many incorporating scheduled monuments, listed structures and ancient woodland.
- Local Authorities and National Park Authorities in Wales, which play a key role in managing the built environment and archaeological assets. This includes development control, listed building consent, conservation area designation, local heritage assets lists, working to support buildings at risk, carrying out archaeology projects and community engagement. Most also own and manage historic sites, from town halls, libraries, schools and community centres to historic houses, monuments and gardens open to the public.
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, which curate the National Monuments Record of Wales, consisting of some two million photographs and many thousands of drawings, surveys, reports and maps that are used in research, learning and the curation of the historic environment.
- Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, which comprises seven museums in Wales (National Museum Cardiff, St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff, Big Pit National Coal Museum, Blaenavon, the National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre near Llandysul, the National Slate Museum, Llanberis, the National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon, and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea). Amgueddfa Cymru also runs a National Collections Centre near Cardiff. These museums collect and interpret materials relating to the heritage, art, archaeology, history, science and industry of Wales and play a vital role in enabling public enjoyment of the heritage and presenting heritage as a learning and training resource.
- Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, is the national legal deposit library of Wales. The Library collects and preserves materials relating to Wales and Welsh life and is one of the largest research libraries in the UK.
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund gives grants to projects that connect people and communities to the national, regional and local heritage of Wales, with an emphasis on heritage at risk, conservation and training.
- The four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, which together provide archaeological, planning and heritage

management services across the whole of Wales. Their work includes the provision of archaeological advice to local planning authorities, developers and site owners, and the implementation of schemes such as watching briefs and excavations to mitigate the adverse impact of development on archaeological remains.

Many other bodies play a vital role in the sector, including such charities as the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Landmark Trust, the Friends of Friendless Churches, Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) and the various religious denominations in Wales who maintain churches, chapels and historic places of worship in Wales. There are more than 700 voluntary history and heritage bodies in Wales and more than 40,000 people or organisations own, live in or care for historic properties, monuments and landscapes.

Valle Crucis Abbey, founded by Prince Madog ap Gruffydd in 1201, is today one of Cadw's most popular visitor attractions.



Support for Welsh employment

The historic environment sector directly employs more than 3,500 people in Wales and has over 400 seasonal posts. At least another 10,000 people are employed in heritage tourism.¹ In addition, the Construction Industry Training Board estimates that the 112,000 construction workers employed in Wales spend 43 per cent of their time working on the conservation, repair and maintenance of traditional buildings.² Taken together, the historic environment sector, heritage tourism and heritage construction directly support 40,000 jobs, nearly 3 per cent of Wales's total employment.^{3,4}

Together, the heritage sector employs nearly **3,500** people in Wales, and over 400 seasonal posts.

At least another **10,000** people are employed in heritage tourism.



In addition, construction workers in Wales spend **43%** of their time working on the conservation, repair and the maintenance of pre-1919 buildings.

Taken together, the historic environment, heritage tourism and heritage construction directly support

40,670 jobs,
2.9% of Wales's total employment.

In addition, the sector is involved in a range of activities under the Fusion umbrella, which aims to boost the skills, aspirations and career prospects of people in areas experiencing economic disadvantage or deprivation. For example, the Cultural Ambition programme (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and co-ordinated by the Creative & Cultural Skills network) has provided 33 work experience placements for young people not in education or employment to enable them to

develop workplace skills by spending three to six months each with the Royal Commission, National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, and Ceredigion Museum.



Heritage Angel Awards Wales: Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project

Heritage Angel Awards Wales are a celebration of people who make a difference to the heritage in Wales in various ways: through fundraising and restoring historic buildings, through the traditional construction skills they bring to projects, through training and inspiring others, through the ways that they bring historic places to life. The Awards are funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and have grown out of Andrew's personal passion for historic buildings and his admiration for those who rescue and restore them.

The winners in the category of 'Best Craftsperson or Apprentice on a Heritage Rescue or Repair Project' were Matthew Roberts and Brett Burnell, apprentices at St Fagans National Museum of History, Cardiff. As part of the redevelopment of St Fagans, Matt and Brett were largely responsible for building a reconstruction of the thirteenth-century great hall of Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (Llywelyn the Great), Prince of Gwynedd, based on written records and the excavated remains of his palace complex at Llys Rhosyr on Anglesey. The hall they built will host school group sleepovers, while Matt and Brett have now graduated with NVQs in stonemasonry and joined the museum's permanent team of conservation builders, where their next challenge will be to reconstruct a public house dating from 1853.



Left: Matthew Roberts and Brett Burnell, winners of the Heritage Angels Award for best Craftsperson or Apprentice, learning traditional masonry skills by building a replica at St Fagan's National Museum of History of the 13th-century great hall of Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth.

Above: the finished hall will be used for sleepovers, allowing school children to immerse themselves in medieval life.

Support for Welsh tourism

The latest figures show that of 75m day visitors to Wales, 8.1m overnight visitors and 784k overseas visitors, 26.54m were motivated to visit by the historic environment. In 2018, those visitors spent £1.72bn.⁵

More than half of the 20 most-visited sites in Wales charging for admission are historic attractions and our work to open historic houses, gardens, castles, abbeys and monuments to the public is a key contributor to the Welsh tourism economy. These 20 sites alone hosted more than 2m visitors last year, while a further 5m people visited a free museum and another 3.3m visited a historic house or garden.⁶

Between April 2018 and March 2019,

1,887,376

people visited one of the seven museums comprising Amgueddfa Cymru.⁷

In the same year,

1,321,400

people visited one of Cadw's 28 staffed sites, a record year for membership.

Cadw's income in 2018 was

£7.691m

an increase of 2.1 per cent on the figure for the previous year of £7.536m.

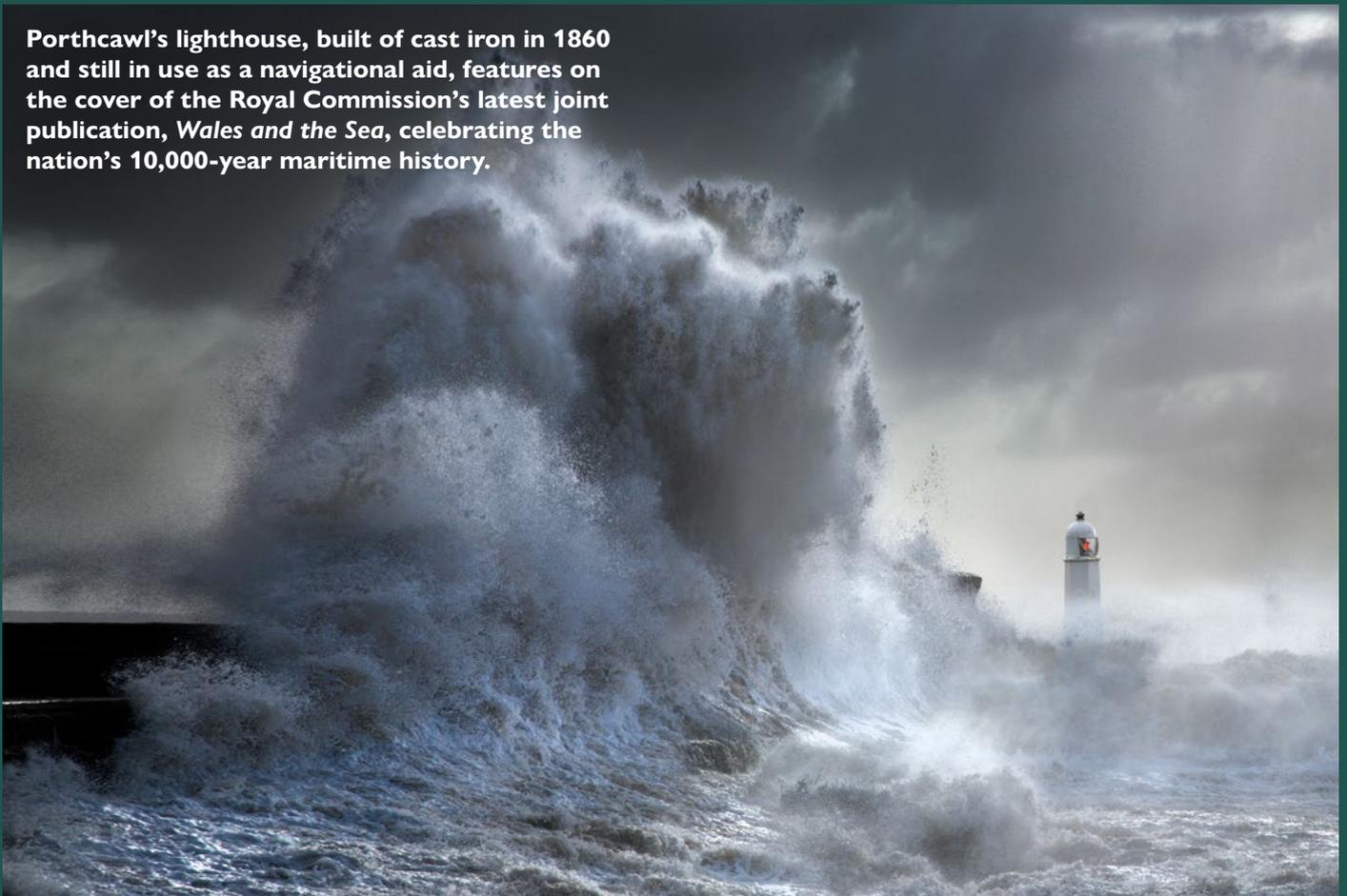


Conwy Castle, built in 1283-7, was Cadw's most visited site in 2018, closely followed by Caernarfon Castle, both part of the Castles and Town Walls World Heritage Site.

Many people in Wales are employed in jobs that owe their existence indirectly to the heritage sector – for example, the many people who work in hotels, cafes, shops and restaurants catering to visitors to Wales. A study of the heritage economy in Gwynedd suggests that over 8,000 jobs might be indirectly supported by the historic environment in that region alone.⁸

By mounting events and special exhibitions to celebrate the Visit Wales themes of Legends (2017), The Sea (2018) and Discovery (2019), heritage bodies are playing a leading role in efforts to attract more visitors, encourage them to visit at other times of the year than the peak period of July and August, to stay longer and to spend more.

Porthcawl's lighthouse, built of cast iron in 1860 and still in use as a navigational aid, features on the cover of the Royal Commission's latest joint publication, *Wales and the Sea*, celebrating the nation's 10,000-year maritime history.



Heritage bodies make a substantial contribution to the calendar of events and festivals that enliven the year for the 218,000 people who took part in them last year – not to mention the many visitors to historic environment stands and events held at the Royal Welsh Show, the National Eisteddfod, and local festivals and shows all over Wales.

These events include tours, talks, living history and live performances at Cadw properties and at Welsh museums, and such annual events as the Festival of Archaeology (July), with its diverse programme of visits, walks and talks put on by Cadw, the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the Royal Commission, Amgueddfa Cymru, local museums and libraries, national and country parks, universities, local societies and community archaeologists.

Managed by Cadw, the Open Doors festival in September 2018 included no less than 1,300 different events at 287 historic properties in Wales. Last year, some 62,600 people visited places not normally open to public or took advantage of free entry to properties that normally charge admission, supported by 382 volunteers.

Support for learning



Classroom project; making a Roman shield.

We are a major force for learning in Wales.

Cadw delivers a wide variety of innovative learning activities to over

68,500

young people at its properties (a 14 per cent increase over the last two years), including providing educational materials to enable schools to make free visits and facilitating visits tailored to specific curriculum needs.

Amgueddfa Cymru supports

208,388

formal learners across key stages and has developed deeper engagement residencies for schools in Fusion areas.

Many HEG organisations offer tailored learning experiences from Foundation Phase to A-Level and Welsh Baccalaureate standard. Programmes have also been tailored to support the new Curriculum for Wales.

Research collated by the Education Endowment Foundation (a charity dedicated to raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils) has shown that visiting heritage sites has a high impact on learners for very low outlay – and has positive benefits for developing literacy and numeracy skills, as well as student confidence and self-esteem.

Tackling the impact of deprivation on educational attainment is a priority for the Welsh Government and for all parts of the heritage sector. Cadw sites and museums in Wales all admit school, college and university groups on self-led tours for free and they offer facilitated learning events for a nominal fee. In addition, Pupil Deprivation Grants aimed at helping schools in deprived areas pay for learning visits has resulted in a significant number of visits (some 43 per cent of all Cadw's school visits) from Communities First areas.

The Storiel project in Bangor

The former Gwynedd County Museum & Art Gallery in Bangor owes its origins to the Bangor University museum collections founded in 1884, which moved to the historic Old Canonry in 1973 and merged with the town's art gallery. Gwynedd Council took over the running in 1991 and in 2014 the decision was taken to move the collection again: this time to the Bishop's Palace in the centre of Bangor, which re-opened in January 2016 as Storiel (from *stori*, Welsh for stories and denoting history and heritage, and *oriel*, Welsh for art gallery).

Delivery of the project was supported by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the formal evaluation of the project's achievements pointed to:

- Improvement to the built heritage of Bangor through the restoration of a significant historic building
- Improved physical, digital and intellectual access to the substantial collections through redisplaying them and developing relevant themes and stories around them
- The engagement of community groups and individuals in the interpretation of the collections
- The development of a sustainable volunteer network based on a reinvigorated Friends association. The target was 97 volunteers; a total of 139 volunteers has now been recruited providing over 5,500 hours of time annually (valued at £39,600 based on the national minimum wage). Volunteer input ranges from supporting front of house, engaging with tours and exhibitions, recording local heritage, cataloguing collections, including those at Bangor University, and wider back office administration functions
- Improved visitor figures: before the move to Storiel the collections received 14,000 visitors a year, a new target of 25,000 people was set for the new museum, and 82,812 were recorded in the financial year 2016-2017, showing an increase of 592 per cent from 2014
- The value of visitor spend while in Bangor has been estimated at £4.74 million annually (an average of £58 per person)
- New space was created for the generation of income from the commercial sale of art and craft, other shop sales and café rental to support revenue income from Gwynedd Council and Bangor University
- Four new full-time jobs have been created, and the restoration of the Bishop's Palace employed a number of people through the construction and building contractors. The café is operated by a local resident, who has in turn employed local people and is supplied by six local businesses. The shop routinely orders stock from local artists and craftspeople as well as 49 suppliers of cards, ceramics, jewellery and other items.

Storiel thus provides evidence that the benefits that can follow from well-planned investment in heritage include not only increased engagement with heritage via community, volunteering and visitor numbers but also important contributions to the local economy in terms of visitor spend, contractors and suppliers.



Learning about the Welsh textile industry at Bangor's Storiel museum and art gallery.

Support for planning

We provide the information and expert advice that planners and developers need in order to operate an effective planning system – one that provides society with the buildings and infrastructure that it needs to prosper whilst also protecting the heritage.

Through their participation in the planning system, HEG members provide an important service to the people of Wales, acting as advocates for constructive conservation, where buildings and monuments continue to play a useful economic role rather than being seen as a hindrance to development. An idea of the scale of this work can be gauged from Cadw's casework figures for 2018–19.

- Planning consultations: 1,104
- Listed building consent applications: 517
- Consultations relating to statutory planning pre-applications: 260
- Non-statutory planning pre-applications: 59
- Scheduled monument consent applications: 107
- Consultations from Natural Resources Wales: 119
- Environmental Impact Assessments: 58
- Utilities and Infrastructure consultations: 103
- Call-in requests relating to planning issues: 5.

Heritage-led regeneration initiatives

Cadw and its HEG partners – notably the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) – offer grants for the repair and restoration of listed buildings at risk, targeting projects that bring social benefits, such as training opportunities or employment, as well as contributing to the regeneration of run-down buildings in deprived areas. For example, Cadw uses the grants it gives and the contracts it lets for work on its own sites as a way of creating training and access opportunities – at Llandaff Cathedral bursaries were available for six trainees who all contributed to conservation work on site. The growth of town schemes and funding for projects that deliver community benefit, as well as conservation, has had a particular focus on areas of deprivation, such as Merthyr Tydfil, Holyhead and Blaenavon.

During 2018–19:

Cadw offered
£677,000
in grants

The Heritage Lottery Fund (now the National Lottery Heritage Fund) invested
£2.6m
in projects to benefit communities, providing support for Wales's natural, industrial, maritime and sporting heritage

The Architectural Heritage Fund disbursed grants of
£32,000
to six projects in Wales and awarded
£216,000
in loans to facilitate the repair and sustainable re-use of historic buildings at risk

Grants from all of three bodies can be used to prompt high levels of additional private and public sector funding. Typically, every £1,000 offered in grants generates an additional £7,000 in funding.

Holyhead Market Hall

Holyhead's first public building, the Grade-II listed Market Hall, was built by the local landowner, the Hon W O Stanley, in 1855. Its construction coincided with the population and housing boom that Holyhead experienced from the 1840s, stimulated by the arrival of the railway, boosting the town's growing prosperity as a major port for Anglo-Irish trade. As well as being the town's retail hub, the Market Hall was a focus for community activity from the start: it housed the corn exchange, an assembly room and a library/reading room for the Holyhead Mechanics' Institute. County Court sessions were held at the Market Hall every two months.

Changing retail trends led to the Market Hall's closure in 1999, and over the next 13 years the empty building began to suffer serious deterioration, including dry rot, threatening the building's integrity. In 2013 the Isle of Anglesey County Council decided to intervene and with £4.2m in funding, including generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the building has now reopened as a new home for Holyhead Library and Anglesey's local history collections. The building also houses a coffee shop, exhibitions interpreting Holyhead's story, learning, training and community activity spaces, and offices for small businesses.

Communication has been a critical element: 'the Market Hall is a key local landmark; everyone has a memory or a story to tell about the building', says Project Manager Nathan Blanchard, hence the need to keep everyone in Holyhead informed about the project's progress. Through open days, group visits and school projects, local people have been given access to view the work as it progresses and re-connect with a building that has been closed to them for two decades.

The restored Market Hall will soon become the natural focus for the community again; an ambitious activity plan will attract an estimated 95,000 people a year to the new building, bringing footfall to the town centre that will help local businesses. Working with local entrepreneurs is a key element in the regeneration programme: 'if they believe in the project they are your best advocates' says Nathan. 'They will speak positively about the regeneration of Holyhead's town centre and help to tackle any belief that the town is "failing". It is changing, not failing, and our job is to maintain good relations with local businesses and, for example, help identify suitable buildings for those that want to expand'.

The project illustrates the contribution of conservation to delivering a project with definite well-being objectives and the complex range of skills involved in the rescue of a much-loved building to give it a sustainable new use at the heart of the local economy: professional architectural, conservation, finance and project management skills are taken for granted, but no less important is the energy and commitment involved in building community support and business confidence in support of the scheme.



Holyhead's historic Market Hall in the process of conversion to a new library, community centre and small-business hub.

Heritage at risk

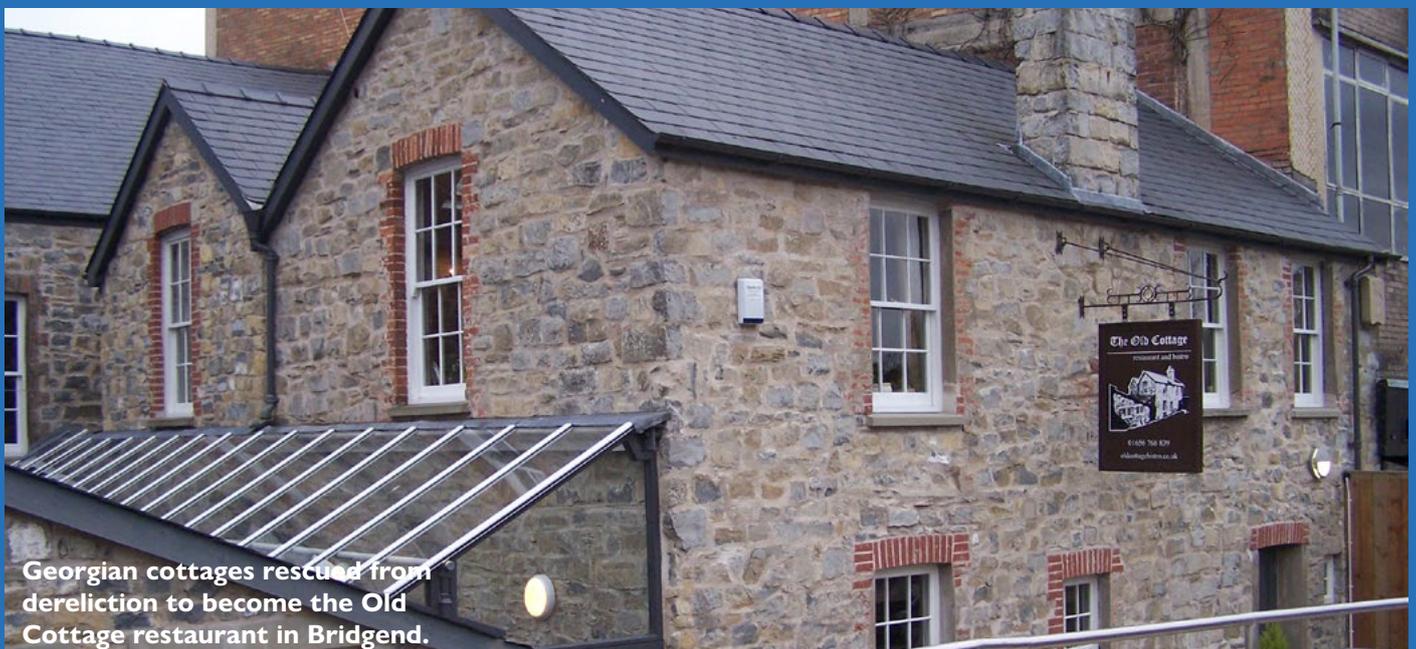
Neglected historic buildings are wasted economic assets and they have a negative impact on the environment and on the communities that have to live with vandalised, boarded up and dangerous buildings. Nationally Cadw commissions a five-yearly survey that gives an overview of the condition of all listed buildings in Wales and enables us to monitor buildings at risk. The most recent survey (2015) shows that the trend for listed buildings is moving in the right direction; the number of buildings 'at risk' or in a 'vulnerable' condition has fallen from 8.92 per cent of the listed building stock to 8.54 per cent.

The equivalent Monuments at Risk surveys have found that around 15 per cent of scheduled monuments inspected last year are at risk, of which two per cent are at 'high to immediate' risk.⁹

Case study: Constructive conservation in action in Bridgend

Nos 2–4 Queen Street, in Bridgend, is a building of architectural and local historical importance with a fine Victorian shop front, a later addition to what is substantially a group of Georgian stone-built cottages with outbuildings at the rear. These 'lean-to' structures suffered from fire damage some time ago leaving them in a dilapidated condition. As part of a Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme for Queen Street, grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and Bridgend County Borough Council, the back buildings have been rebuilt. The project has had a powerful impact on the appearance of this part of Bridgend and additional business space has been created, now occupied by the Old Cottage restaurant. Public access to the building group has been improved through the construction of a boardwalk to the east side of the Ogmore River.

On a grander scale, Tŷ Carnegie (Carnegie House) was built 1907 as a Public Library with a grant of £2,000 from the Carnegie Trust on land in Wyndham Street donated by the Earl of Dunraven. This handsome Bath stone and red-brick building in Renaissance Mannerist style continued as a public library until 2013 and was designated a grade II listed building in 1992. When the library was relocated, the 106-year-old building could have suffered the same fate as so many redundant public buildings, but local people were determined this should not happen. Instead, it has continued to be a hub of town life after internal refurbishment to accommodate Bridgend Town Council Chamber, staff office and meeting room on the upper floor, while the ground floor has been designated as an Arts Centre. The much-loved building is now good for another 100 years of public service.



Georgian cottages rescued from dereliction to become the Old Cottage restaurant in Bridgend.

Case study: Regeneration in Porthcawl

The Jennings Building dates from 1832 as a store for iron and related goods awaiting shipment via Porthcawl's docks. The Jennings name dates from 1911 when it was used by timber importers, Jennings and Co. More recently, it has been used as a cinema, an aircraft hanger, as a base for RAF Air Sea Rescue Launch and, in the 1990s, after a long period of non-use, as an indoor skate park.

It then became rundown and pressure mounted for the demolition of the building and redevelopment of the site. Porthcawl Civic Trust however championed the retention and re-use of this important heritage asset, given Grade II listed status in 1991, which occupies a prominent seafront location where it stands as a legacy of the maritime history of Porthcawl. Looking for ways to give the building an economic future, the conservation team at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) worked with developers on a scheme to create commercial units at ground-floor level and live-work units above, confident that investment in the building would act as a catalyst for regeneration of the wider Porthcawl seafront and marina areas.

A close working relationship between the developers and BCBC's Conservation Officer was critical to the design approach and its acceptance by everyone involved, including the Civic Trust, long-standing residents of Porthcawl and local community groups, whose views and support were canvassed through public meetings and visits to the building.

Completed in September 2017, the Jennings Building has been brought back to life and has significantly improved the historic element of this part of Porthcawl. The work was part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme for Porthcawl, grant aided by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cadw and Bridgend County Borough Council. The project has employed 50 people from the local area full time, many of them skilled in traditional building construction techniques. In addition, the long term operational staffing requirements of the scheme have created 80 permanent positions.

At the official opening event on 1 September 2017, Carwyn Jones, Wales's First Minister and Bridgend Assembly Member, said: 'Fifty years ago, the redevelopment of a building such as this would have involved it being knocked down, so it has been great to see this project taken forward with such outstanding results.'



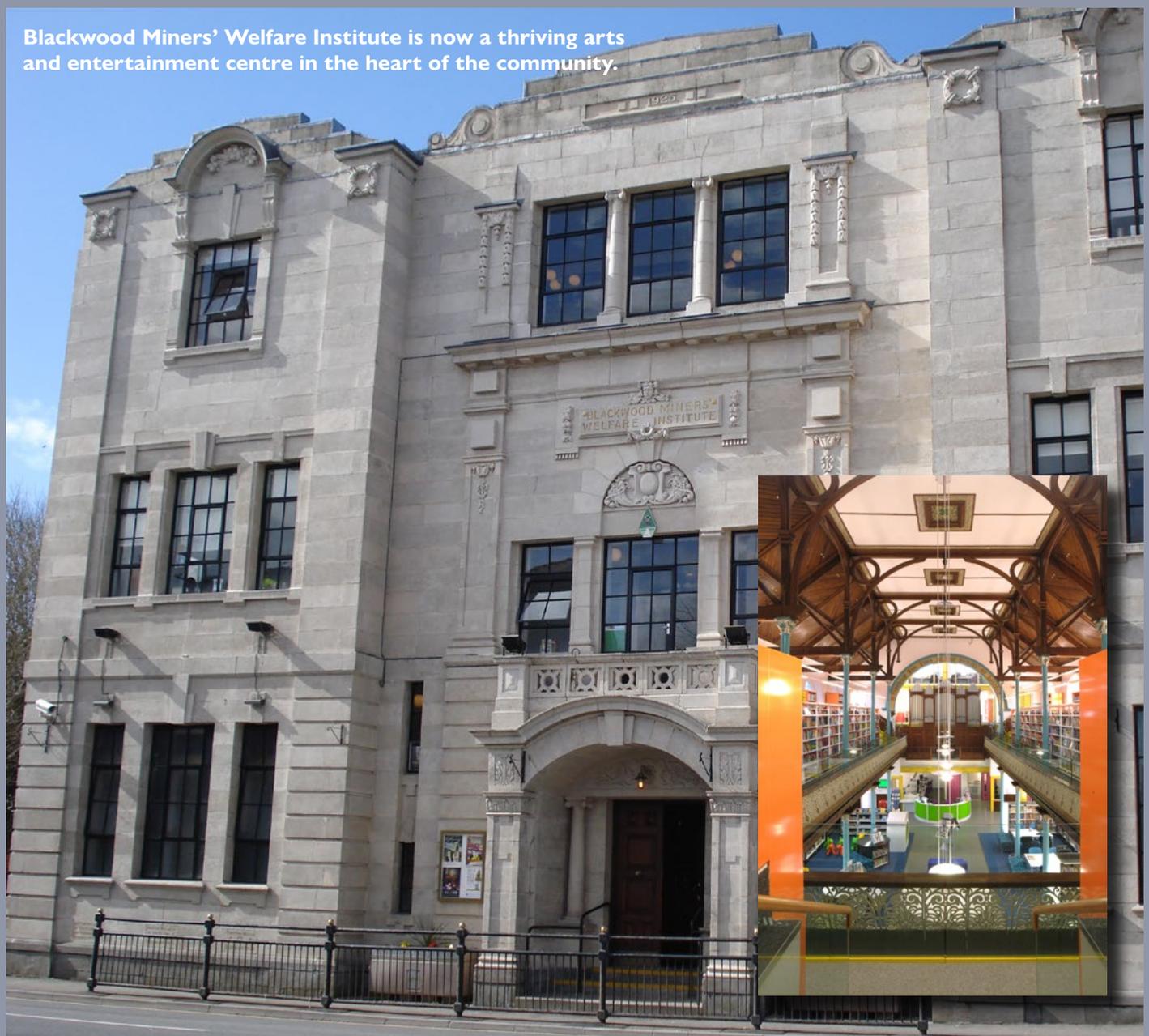
Built as a warehouse, the Jennings Building (1832) is now a vibrant small-business centre and popular café.

Case study: Conservation-based projects in Caerphilly

'To achieve the best outcomes for historic buildings and the community', says Patricia Martin, Principal Conservation & Design Officer at Caerphilly County Borough Council, 'my job involves working closely with colleagues across many different sectors and organisations. This collaborative approach has resulted in some important success stories. Blackwood Miners' Welfare Institute, High Street, Blackwood, a fine grade-II* listed building that opened its doors in 1927, has been sensitively refurbished throughout and a new, rear extension built to provide new performance facilities.'

Celynen Collieries Workmen's Memorial Hall (known as the Memo) and Workmens' Institute, High Street, Newbridge, have now both been brought back into public use as thriving arts and entertainment centres, serving the valley communities of south-east Wales, with a public library, theatre, conference venue and ballroom.

The grade-II listed Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel, Bargoed, has been converted into a new public library, with One Stop Customer Care Services and a local history research room, whilst continuing to serve as a place of worship. St Ilan's School, Pontygyndy Road, Caerphilly, vacant for more than seven years, has been brought back into full educational use as a Welsh-medium primary school and now stands proudly fronting a large super-school site known as Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini Y Gwyndy Campus.



Voluntary sector activity

HEG organisations have a combined Welsh membership of over 437,000. In addition, Wales has more than 700 thriving archaeology, civic and conservation societies with a combined membership of some 102,000 people.¹⁰ Even allowing for the fact that some people are members of more than one organisation, these figures are an impressive testimony to the value that the people in Wales place on their heritage.

Volunteers have a central and fundamental role in the heritage sector: without the 350,000 hours of time that some 10,000 volunteers donate annually to such organisations as the National Trust, the sector would struggle to achieve its objectives, especially now that volunteers are involved in a great variety of different tasks in conservation, maintenance, visitor experience enhancement, recording and cataloguing work and in facilitating special events.

In turn, studies have shown the benefits to volunteers of taking part in heritage-based activities, in terms of personal development, social engagement, physical and mental well-being and the acquisition of life skills. Such benefits are of particular value for those seeking transferable skills to enhance their CVs and employment prospects. For that reason, the sector is working hard to increase the numbers of participants from deprived areas of Wales: approximately 23 per cent of Cadw's volunteers, for example, live in Communities First areas.

Those heritage sector organisations in Wales that have thriving volunteer programmes include:

- National Trust in Wales, with over 4,000 volunteers working at their properties, giving over 274,000 hours of their time;
- Glandŵr Cymru, with a substantial volunteer workforce recording nearly 19,000 hours of voluntary activity last year in a range of functions, including surveying and recording, conservation and maintenance, education and visitor experience enhancement. In addition, the new 'adopt a canal' scheme enables organisations such as Scout and Guide groups, parish councils or residents' associations to work with Glandŵr Cymru staff in running events and guided walks, making improvements to access and facilities, recording and improving wildlife habitats and promoting the waterway;
- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales which, in addition to the volunteers who work on archive cataloguing, have pioneered a number of crowd-sourced projects that allow people to contribute to research projects remotely. Over 400 volunteers regularly take part in the Royal Commission's Cymru1900Wales project that has recorded some 300,000 historic place-names in Wales, with modern variations or alternatives, building an important body of information about the landscape and place-name history;
- The National Library of Wales's award-winning volunteer programme involves over 600 people, working on the Library site and remotely. The volunteers facilitate access to the Library building and its collections. Recent activities include assisting with the creation of short films to stimulate memories and recording articles on the impact of Brexit on Wales;



- Amgueddfa Cymru was awarded the Investors in Volunteering Standard this year for supporting 1,100 volunteers, giving over 28,500 hours of their time. Volunteers are involved in all aspects of the work of Amgueddfa Cymru. In 2018-19 supporting young people has been a particular focus with over 28 per cent of volunteers being under 25 years of age;

Volunteers cleaning finds from the summer 2019 excavations at Chirck Castle, jointly run by the National Trust and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust with financial assistance from Cadw and the Clwydian Range and Deeside AONB.

Archaeology

The Welsh Archaeological Trusts work with planners and developers resulting in archaeological projects estimated to be worth in excess of £10m a year; pan-Wales curatorial services for archaeology, including planning advice to local planning authorities and national parks; working with local communities across Wales on a regional basis.

- Planning applications processed and assessed: 28,846
- Number of planning pre-determination recommendations (evaluation, geophysical survey, desk-top assessments): 138
- Number of historic environment planning conditions (excavation, watching briefs, building recording): 709.¹¹

Over the past 30 years the four Welsh archaeological trusts have assessed classes of historic environment assets - such as hillforts, prehistoric funerary and ritual sites, holy wells - and recommended the best examples for statutory protection. This has resulted in the listing or scheduling of large numbers of sites, monuments and buildings. Currently, twentieth-century military sites and historic farmsteads are being assessed.



Studying the impacts of climate change on Welsh coastal heritage as part of the European-Union-funded CHERISH project: taking soil and sand samples from eroding cliffs (left); collecting peat cores from ancient bogs (top); Dinas Dinlle hillfort is being studied by the CHERISH project before it disappears into the sea.

Wales's 30,000th listed building



St Mark's Church, in Gabalfa, on the northern outskirts of Cardiff, became the 30,000th building in Wales to benefit from statutory protection because of its outstanding architectural or historical interest when it was added to the Listed Buildings Register in March 2019.

Built in 1968 to the designs of the architectural practice Seely & Paget, the church was designed for the innovative forms of worship that emerged after the war and deliberately marks a break with the past with its pentagonal plan, its copper-crowned roof, and its laminated timber framing made using a pioneering adhesive developed during the war for building aircraft and boats. At the consecration service in 1968, the vicar described it as 'modern, but not ugly modern'; St Mark's is now seen as a symbol of the hope and optimism of the post-war years.

HEG members

The historic environment sector comprises anyone who plays an active role in caring for the historic environment in Wales, including businesses in construction and tourism, owners, the voluntary sector, public sector organisations and active citizens. As well as directly employed historic environment professionals such as architects, archaeologists and heritage managers, there are people employed in heritage tourism and in construction. The voluntary sector is a major contributor to the historic environment in Wales, as are the 40,000 people or organisations who own, live in or care for historic assets.

- Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales
- Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF)
- Bwrdd Glandŵr Cymru | Canal & River Trust
- Cadw: Welsh Government Historic Environment Service
- Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
- Historic Houses
- Country Land and Business Association
- History Research Wales
- Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC)
- National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF)
- Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – National Library of Wales
- National Park Authorities and AONBs
- National Trust in Wales
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
- Visit Wales: Welsh Government Tourism Department
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
- Welsh Archaeological Trusts (WATs)
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
- Arts Council of Wales (as observer)

References

1. <https://gov.wales/arts-heritage-sites-libraries-and-museums-national-survey-wales-april-2017-march-2018>
2. A 'Material' Issue: Understanding and Responding to the Traditional Building Skills Challenge in Wales, Final report, February 2015: <http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s500002487/HE%2036%20-%20Construction%20Industry%20Training%20Board.pdf>
3. 'Historic Wales Cadw Workstream Business Case for Change', 2017, section 2.5, page 25
4. Statistics Wales – Key Economic Statistics, January 2019
5. <https://gov.wales/wales-tourism-performance-january-september-2018-0>
6. Partnership for Growth: The Welsh Government's Tourism Strategy (2013-2020) <https://gov.wales/topics/culture-tourism-sport/tourism/partnership-for-growth-strategy/?lang=en>
7. <https://museum.wales/visitor-figures/april2018-march2019/>
8. An assessment of the current and potential economic impact of heritage, Rebanks 2015
9. 'Condition and Use Survey of Listed Buildings in Wales — 2015 Update', The Handley Partnership report for Cadw. <http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/historicenvironment/20161206conditionandusesurveyoflistedbuildings2015.pdf>
10. WCVA - Mapping Community Heritage Organisations in Wales, May 2014
11. Figures taken from the annual reports of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts

Picture credits:

- © Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales: cover, 3, 18
- © Crown copyright: Cadw 5, 10, 19
- © Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales: 6, 7
- © Visit Wales 8
- © Steve Garrington 9
- © Storiell 11
- © Nathan Blanchard 13
- © Bridgend County Borough Council 14, 15
- © Caerphilly County Borough Council 16