**Priority criteria for assessing Expressions of Interest submitted via the Historic Buildings Grant programme:**

• **Securing the long-term use of a Listed Building at Risk**

Projects must help secure a sustainable, long-term use for listed buildings which are ‘at risk’ or vulnerable through neglect and decay. Priority will be given to projects that will secure the future of the most significant assets according to the framework set out in Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales:

<https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/conservation-principles/conservation-principles>

This identifies four areas in which a historic asset may have value. These are:

* **Evidential Value:** This derives from those elements of a historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, and especially its historic fabric, supported in some cases by documentation. All buildings provide some evidence of specific past activity from one or perhaps several periods, but the extent to which they do so depends on their coherence and integrity. The extent of survival of original or clearly phased fabric and layout, or of detail relating to use (including internal detail) is particularly important.
* **Historical Value:** This refers to the illustrative or associative values of an asset, and its capacity to contribute to an understanding of aspects of past life. A well-preserved building can illustrate an aspect of past life much better than can a damaged or heavily altered building. But historical value may also be less tangible – for example, associations with notable people, events or movements of proven regional or national significance.
* **Aesthetic Value:** This relates to the appearance and form of an asset and its relationship to its setting. It may relate to conscious design or style, adherence to tradition, to quality of craftsmanship or technology of construction. High-quality conscious design – so called ‘polite architecture’ often associated with named architects – and vernacular building according to clear regional traditions (and perhaps unconscious design) are both important. For both, composition, plan, method of construction, materials, finish and detail, including interior detail, are the essential elements of the design. The relationship of a building to its setting, whether a designed landscape, a working agricultural or industrial landscape, or a townscape, may be an important aspect of its aesthetic appeal.
* **Communal Value:** This derives from the meanings that an asset has for the people who relate to it, and can include social and economic value, as well as commemorative, spiritual or symbolic value. The contribution that a building is able to make to the well-being of its community is particularly relevant in any assessment for grant-aid.

Cadw expects schemes that it helps to fund to preserve or enhance the significance of historic buildings, for example, by conserving historic fabric, promoting the use of traditional materials and techniques and encouraging greater understanding and access.

• **Enhancement of access to heritage for all and delivering community benefits**

Projects should aim to give a new lease of life to listed buildings and deliver substantial benefits to Welsh communities. Priority is given to listed buildings in the heart of communities which have the ability to provide access to heritage for a wide range of people, delivering one or more of the following public benefits:

* Local needs are met through a community use
* Residential use will assist in meeting the housing supply needs of the local area
* The visual amenity of the local area is enhanced
* The project will contribute to the economic viability of the surrounding area through a new commercial use and/or by supporting local tourism
* The project will stimulate further regeneration opportunities within the locality.

• **Supporting/promoting skills to care for traditional and historic buildings**

The benefits that can come from investment in the skills needed to care for traditional and historic buildings are acknowledged, and so priority is given to schemes that include an element of skills development and training. Please refer to ‘Making Skills Matter’ for further guidance.

• **Mitigating the effects of climate change**

Projects should recognise the importance of increasing the resilience of historic buildings to the effects of climate change, whether through well-considered repairs or adaptation. Priority will be given to those projects where it can be demonstrated that a ‘whole building approach’, as advocated in Cadw guidance ‘How to Improve Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings in Wales’, has been adopted.

[43720 How to improve Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings in Wales (gov.wales)](https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2022-04/How%20to%20improve%20energy%20efficiency%20in%20historic%20buildings%20in%20Wales%20-%20English.pdf)

A whole building approach is one that uses an understanding of a building and its context to find balanced solutions that save energy, sustain heritage significance and maintain a comfortable and healthy indoor environment.

The key stages in this process are:

1. Assessment: Understanding character and significance, context and performance;
2. Setting objectives and planning improvements;
3. Detailed design and specification;
4. Installation;
5. Use, review and maintenance

**• Deliverability**

Funding under the Historic Buildings Grant is time sensitive, and applicants should explain how their project will be delivered in line with this. Evidence of the project team’s experience must be demonstrated as part of any expression of interest. Support will be targeted at good conservation practice, and to help achieve this, Cadw expects the lead professional adviser to be conservation accredited/certified (see further information below).

Where possible applicants should identify other project funding sources at expression of interest stage. The Historic Buildings Grant can form part of a larger funding package for projects if agreed in advance of application submission.

* **Project team:** Cadw expects the lead professional adviser on the project team to be a conservation accredited/certified Architect, Chartered Building Surveyor or Chartered Architectural Technologist. Cadw currently accepts accreditation/certification from:
* **Architects** listed on the [AABC Register](http://www.aabc-register.co.uk/) at category 'A', [RIAS Register](https://www.rias.org.uk/for-the-public/conservation) at Accredited or Advanced level or the [RIBA Conservation Register(opens in a new window)](https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/resources-landing-page/find-a-conservation-architect) at Specialist Conservation Architect level
* **Chartered Building Surveyors** listed on the [RICS Building Conservation Accreditation Register](http://www.rics.org/uk/join/member-accreditations/building-conservation-accreditation/) or on the [CIOB Building Conservation Certification Scheme](https://www.ciob.org/Your-Career/ciob-building-conservation-certification-scheme) as Practitioners at Certified Level
* **Chartered Architectural Technologists** listed in the [CIAT Directory of Accredited Conservationists(opens in a new window)](https://ciat.org.uk/find-a-practice/find-an-accredited-conservationist.html) at Accredited Conservationist level

In some cases, Cadw may be able to accept a chartered engineer or other heritage specialist as the appropriate lead professional, but this would need to be agreed in advance of any grant offer being made.