

Local Heritage List

Volunteer role description

Role Researcher- Cambridgeshire Local Heritage Lists project

Project Overview

The Cambridgeshire Local Heritage Lists project is looking for people across the county to assist in gathering information to identify heritage assets for nomination onto the Local Heritage List. For many years the national listing system has recognised buildings of national importance, by designating buildings as grade 1, 2* and 2. Local Heritage Lists aim to identify buildings and heritage assets which, whilst not meeting the national criteria, are important at a local level.

Cambridgeshire has many locally important heritage assets, which are valued by local people and contribute positively to the county's character and identity. These heritage assets, which may be buildings, archaeological remains, parks, gardens or public works of art, sometimes have little or no protection, and over time these special places can be lost. By adding these heritage assets to a Local Heritage List we can ensure their local importance is recognised and taken into account in the planning process.

Whilst individuals are able to put forward nominations directly to the website there is also a number of opportunities for people to volunteer

Purpose of the role

To carry out documentary research to better understand the significance of candidates put forward for nomination to the local heritage list. This opportunity is for people with an interest in history and research. Volunteers will use, maps, historical documents, photographs, and other sources to carry out background research into heritage assets.

Main activities and tasks

1. To use online and physical archives to find out more information about the significance and importance of nominated assets.
2. To write short descriptions of their research findings.
3. To input data to online catalogue

Experience

No direct experience of history or heritage research is required, but a keen interest is essential.

Skills, abilities and knowledge

- Interest in heritage and history (essential)
- A basic understanding of building types, materials and architectural details (desirable)

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- An appreciation of a range of architectural styles and periods (desirable)
- An understanding of resources available to research heritage assets (desirable)
- Attention to detail and ability to be methodical (essential)
- Computer literate (essential)

Training provision

Online and in person training opportunities are available depending on the volunteers' experience, skills, and requirements.

- How to use archival resources and other sources to research the background to heritage assets.
- How to write short descriptions of research findings
- Assessment techniques
- How to upload content to the online catalogue

Commitment

The amount of time you commit to the project is entirely flexible and up to you. Once training has been completed volunteers can contribute as much or as little time, but this will be discussed at your informal interview.

Selection criteria

Application form, references, and informal discussion. All volunteers will be given a trial period.

How to apply:

Email completed volunteer application form. Please indicate which Districts/towns/villages you would be likely to cover.

This is a description of the role as it is at present constituted.