

For Social Prescribing Link Workers: Mapping Heritage Projects

If you are a Social Prescribing Link Worker or a health professional, you can find out about heritage projects in your area in a range of ways.

Heritage sites

- Look at local tourism offices (Visit Britain, Visit England, Visit Frome, Visit Nottingham etc.) for “attractions” and “things to see” or “things to do”, then filter “heritage”, “archaeology” or “history”. There are free and paid offers, but this will give you a good idea as a starting point.
- Visit local museums’ websites or speak to their staff.
- Check [National Heritage List for England \(NHLE\)](#), including [searching the Interactive Map](#), Local Lists (maintained by local authorities) and searching for your area. Also explore [The Missing Pieces Project](#).
- Check websites of [English Heritage](#), the [National Trust](#), [Canal and River Trust](#), [Historic Houses](#) and local Heritage Trusts. Again, some activities are paid, but some are free. Many have separate offers for wellbeing, special needs groups or community engagement.
- Check the [Council for British Archaeology website](#) for local archaeology groups and activities.
- Ask about archive services in local libraries. They often offer family history research clubs or sessions, as well as other activities based on local history and heritage.
- Google Maps may indicate major heritage attractions when you research your area.

Heritage Organisations

- Start with local museums and archive service in libraries - they often offer a variety of activities but also links with other heritage organisations and projects in the area.
- Look up main historic places of worship - cathedrals, parish churches, mosques, synagogues etc. They offer a range of activities and services, often to support community and individual wellbeing, sometimes even through social prescribing. They also may know of other heritage organisations and opportunities locally.
- Visit [Local History Online](#) to search for Local history societies

- Visit [The Association of Independent Museums \(AIM\)](#) website to access a list of local independent Museums
- Use the [Community Archives and Heritage Groups search function](#) to find a map of community archives in your area.
- Look up your place in the [Heritage Trusts Network Directory](#), to find a local Heritage Trust. These are local organisations that look after one or more specific heritage sites or buildings. They are established for community benefit and often offer wellbeing activities that anyone can take part in. They are also interested in establishing partnerships and trying new approaches to widen engagement.
- Look for a local Heritage Community Interest Company. A list of local Community Interest Companies by county can be downloaded as a CSV file using the [Companies House website's advance search function](#). Enter the county you are working in under 'Registered Address' and filter for CICs under 'Company Subtype'. The resulting CSV file can be filtered for active companies in your county. Please bear in mind that this method will only bring up companies whose registered business address is based in your county.
- Look at local councils' website under "heritage and history". Council sites often list groups and stakeholders, some of which will be delivering heritage activities.
- Visit [The Art Society](#) or the [Arts Council](#) websites to search for Arts organisations (which sometimes offer heritage activities too, like painting heritage sites or creating collages of personal archive photography etc)
- if there is a local university or college, check if they offer history or heritage courses and if there are activities or individuals that could be useful.
- Sometimes other sector voluntary organisations also offer heritage activities - such as heritage walks and talks, photography of heritage areas, sharing of stories, reminiscence exercises, exploring heritage aspects of green spaces and others. Stay open to wider offers from art and culture organisations, green and natural environment ones and general community clubs and groups. Look up your regional representative from the [Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance \(CHWA\)](#) and the [Lived experience network LENS](#)
- [National Centre for Creative Health](#) also has regional Creative Health Associates, which could be useful in identifying potential heritage partners locally.
- There may also be other regional arts and health networks (for example, London Arts in Health, Brighton and Hove Arts & Health Hub etc)

- Look out for Gallery and Museum networks (for example, Engage Gallery education, Museums Association, Flourishing Lives, Creative lives, and the Good Practice Mentors programme to support the sector tackling loneliness).

Heritage news

- Check out if there is anything new that Historic England has announced [In Your Area](#). Sometimes one event or project can lead to something else, and one contact leads to another.
- Stay open and receptive if a heritage organisation approaches you with a suggestion for the development of a referral pathway into activities or a project they are developing for social prescribing. They often feel that it is hard to capture the attention of social prescribers and health partners, so hear them out and if possible, and visit their site if they invite you to see what it has to offer.