

STORMPROOF SOLUTIONS

SECURING FUNDING FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Insight. Opportunities. Outcomes.

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SECURING FUNDING FOR CULTURE & HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Culture and heritage assets are an essential part of our communities. These spaces contribute to identity, regeneration, tourism, and wellbeing. They tell the stories of place, reflecting shared histories, diverse voices, and evolving local character, while also acting as anchors for civic pride and social connection.

From churches and scheduled monuments to museums, galleries, libraries, town halls and archives enrich everyday life and help shape how communities understand both their past and their future.

At the same time, pressure continues to mount across the sector.

Expectations are rising, resources are tightening, and there is increasingly no room for mistakes in how organisations plan, position, and deliver their work. Every decision now carries greater weight, as local authorities are required to balance preservation with relevance, access, and long-term sustainability in an increasingly complex environment.

FINANCIAL HEADWINDS

Funding is increasingly **place-based**, **outcome-driven**, and **competitive**, requiring organisations to demonstrate public value, sustainability, and inclusion.

Funders are looking beyond preservation alone, prioritising projects that deliver measurable social, economic, and environmental impact.

This includes broadening access to underrepresented groups, supporting local economies, contributing to climate resilience, fostering skills development, and supporting projects that connect people and communities to the UK's heritage. Increasingly, funders are also seeking place-based approaches and collaborative partnerships that bring lasting benefits for people, places, and the natural environment.

As a result, organisations must be able to clearly articulate their purpose, engage meaningfully with communities, and evidence long-term viability.

In this turbulent landscape, securing funding requires a strategic and informed approach. Successful applications align organisational goals with funder priorities, demonstrate strong partnerships, and present a compelling case for impact.

This guide will help navigate the funding streams available by identifying opportunities, strengthening proposals, and maximising the value your assets bring to communities.

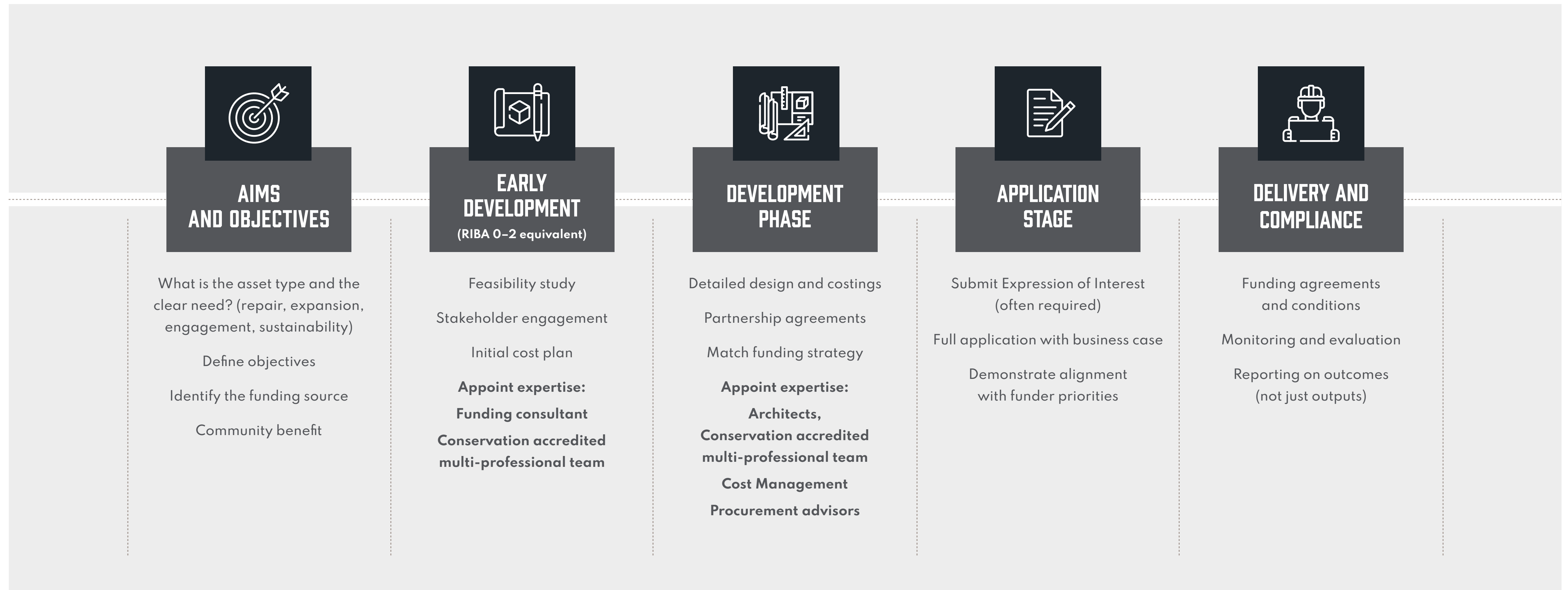


FUNDING LANDSCAPE

The table here shows the funding opportunities and what areas each will address.

Funding	What it covers	Timing
ARTS EVERYWHERE FUND (2026) HTTPS://WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.ORG.UK/	Urgent repairs and backlog maintenance Capital upgrades and estate renewal Accessibility improvements (DDA, inclusion) Technology and visitor infrastructure	2026
DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT (DCMS) HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/NEWS/GOVERNMENT-ANNOUNCES-BUMPER-15-BILLION-PACKAGE-TO-RESTORE-NATIONAL-PRIDE	Keeping venues operational (“keep doors open”) Major capital investment across estates Heritage conservation and preservation Access and participation	2026-27
MUSEUM ESTATE & DEVELOPMENT FUND (MEND) HTTPS://WWW.ARTSCOUNCIL.ORG.UK/MUSEUM-ESTATE-AND-DEVELOPMENT-FUND-MEND	Backlog maintenance Infrastructure upgrades Visitor experience improvements	2025-26 funding round
HERITAGE CAPITAL FUNDING HTTPS://HISTORICENGLAND.ORG.UK/ADVICE/GRANTS/	Listed buildings and heritage assets Conservation deficits Bringing vacant heritage buildings back into use	2026
NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND HTTPS://WWW.HERITAGEFUND.ORG.UK/	Heritage conservation (buildings, landscapes, collections) Community engagement and access Skills and training Organisational resilience	2025-26 / Ongoing
WOLFSON FOUNDATION CAPITAL FUNDING (WOLFSON FUND) HTTPS://WWW.WOLFSON.ORG.UK/	Refurbishment of museums, galleries and heritage learning spaces Upgrading specialist heritage infrastructure	2026
THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND (AHF) HTTPS://AHFUND.ORG.UK/WHAT-WE-DO/FUND/	Feasibility, development and conservation of historic buildings Community-led regeneration and adaptive reuse of heritage assets	2026

SECURING FUNDING PROCESS MAP



YOUR CHECKLIST FOR WRITING A BUSINESS CASE

STRATEGIC FIT

- > Clear need and why now
- > Strong alignment with funder priorities
- > Credible organisational fit

EVIDENCE OF NEED

- > Data and insight used (not assumption)
- > Target audiences clearly defined
- > Need is evidenced and specific

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- > Clear outcomes (not activities)
- > Measurable social / economic / cultural / environmental impact
- > Clear link from activity to impact

DELIVERY

- > Realistic, defined scope
- > Clear plan, roles, and partners
- > Delivery confidence demonstrated

FINANCE

- > Realistic, fully justified budget
- > Match funding and sustainability addressed
- > Costs credible and transparent

RISK AND GOVERNANCE

- > Key risks identified
- > Mitigations in place
- > Governance clear and accountable

INCLUSION AND EVALUATION

- > Access and inclusion addressed
- > Clear success measures (KPIs/outcomes)
- > Evaluation approach defined

YOUR CHECKLIST FOR WRITING A BUSINESS CASE

FINAL TEST

Answers: why this, why now, why us, why it will work
Evidence-led, no unsupported claims



TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESS



Start early (12-24 months) for major capital funding



Phase projects to unlock early wins



Develop a funding pipeline, not a single bid



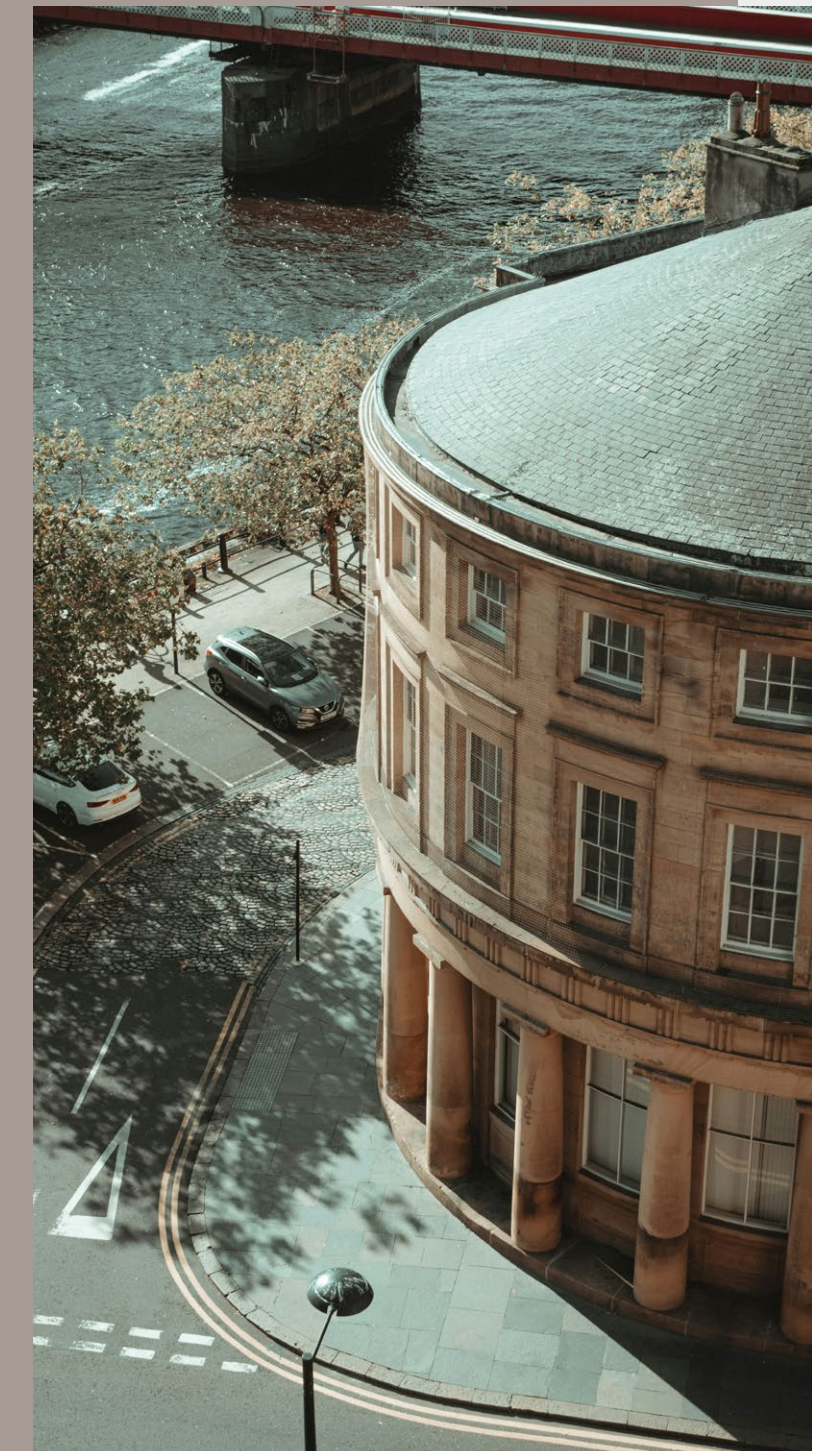
Engage stakeholders continuously



Build evaluation frameworks from the outset



Early engagement with statutory consultees



IN THIS TURBULENT LANDSCAPE, SECURING FUNDING REQUIRES A STRATEGIC AND INFORMED APPROACH.

Our specialist culture and heritage team understand the need to preserve our heritage by carefully maintaining and protecting historic buildings and cultural sites. We work with prestigious clients to deliver solutions which ensure their buildings meet the needs of modern-day workplaces and visitor attractions, whilst sensitively maintaining and enhancing their historic significance. Each commission is fully bespoke, and we take a collaborative partnership approach to delivering all of our projects.

Some of our recent projects

South Kensington Estate, Natural History Museum

Scapa Flow Museum, Orkney Islands Council

East Elevation Fabric Condition Survey, Parliamentary Estates Directorate

Bristol Museums, Bristol City Council

King Richard III Visitors' Centre, Leicester City Council

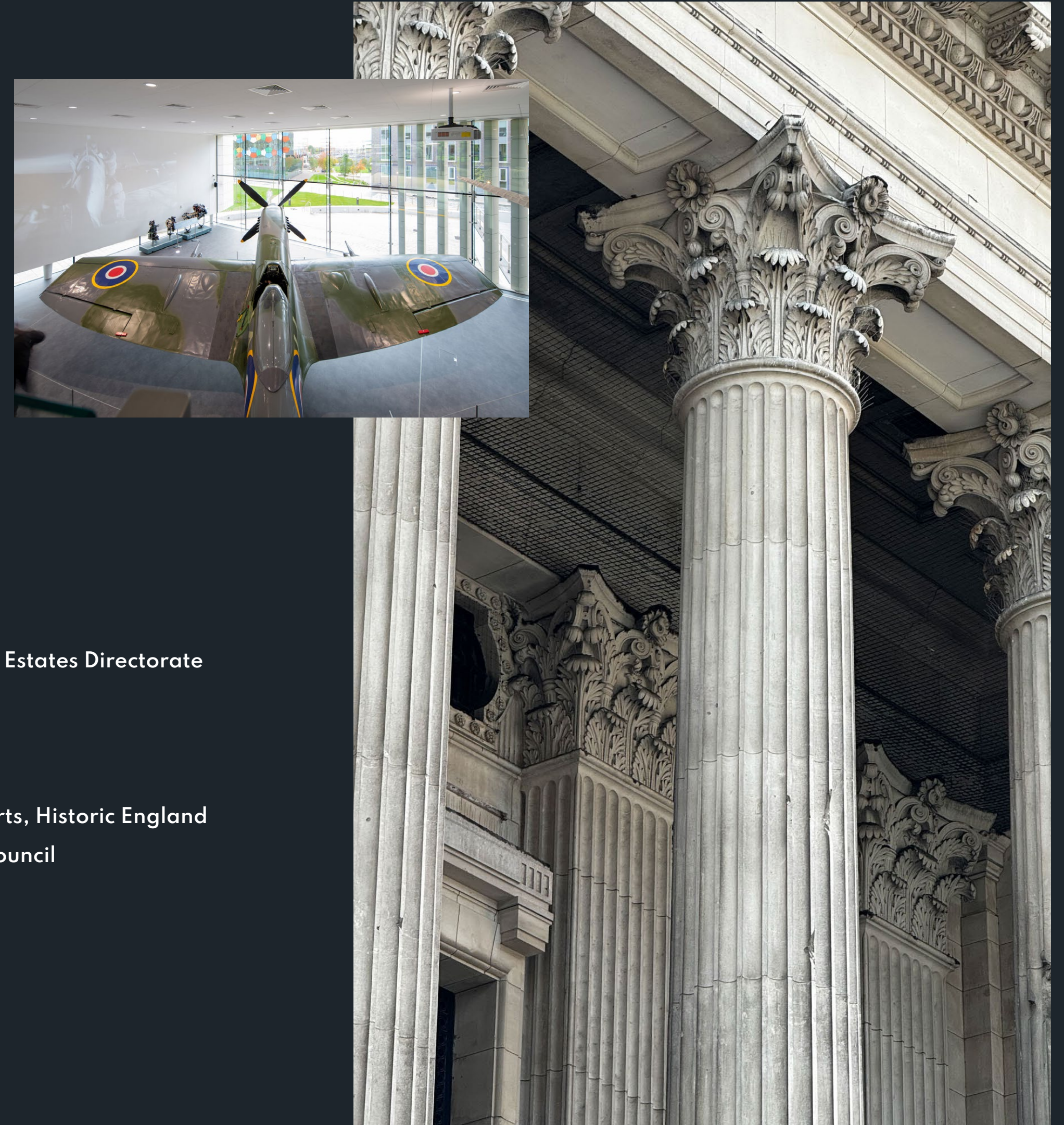
Leicester Archives, Leicester City Council

Sheerness Boat Store, Swale Borough Council, Peel Ports, Historic England

North Herts Museum Collection Facility, North Herts Council

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with one of our culture and heritage specialists



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MAKE SURE YOUR PLANS
FOR THE FUTURE DON'T GET
CAUGHT IN A STORM.
GET IN TOUCH.

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