



**Weston-super-Mare**  
**Heritage Open Days 2021**  
Friday 10 September – Sunday 19 September

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)



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**Welcome to England's  
largest heritage festival,  
taking place from Fri 10  
– Sun 19 Sept 2021 in-and-  
around Weston-super-Mare.**

This is your opportunity to explore Weston's fantastic local history, architecture, and culture, all for free!

This guide is an overview of what is on offer. It has been planned according to Government guidelines and is correct at the time of going to press.

For more detailed, up-to-date information about each event visit:

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting)

This guide has been produced as part of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone initiative funded by Historic England. Enjoy!



Heritage Action Zones  
Historic England

## **Weston-super-Mare**

Before wealthy inhabitants of Bristol and Bath began visiting Weston in the late 18th century the village was an isolated, though self-sufficient farming and fishing settlement of about 150 residents. Early travellers came by stagecoach but found little in the way of accommodation or amusement until the first hotel opened in 1810 followed by a health spa on Knightstone Island in 1820.

The railway's arrival in 1841 provided a perfect opportunity for rapid growth. The population doubled each decade such that by 1871 the town had over 10,000 residents with many more seasonal visitors staying in an increasing number of hotels and guest houses. Trade, tourism, services and retirement flourished as did the building industry.



Locally quarried grey limestone and rail-delivered creamy Bathstone gave colour to the town's distinctive architectural style.

Elegant crescents, terraces and hillside villas along with rows of semi-detached and terraced properties quickly obliterated all but a vestige of the old village. High Street's outdated farm buildings gave way to shopping. Churches, schools, social institutions, visitor attractions and local government helped create a sense of worth and civic pride.

Local architect Hans Fowler Price designed over 800 buildings between 1862 and 1912 and is recognised as the creator of our distinctive 'Weston Style'.



Increasingly in our towns and cities we see heritage act as cornerstone to regeneration.

Appreciation of what we already have will help ensure the quality of what might come.

This small contribution of local sites affords an opportunity to be part of the National Heritage Open Days: a most worthy celebration of England's built heritage.

Cllr John Crockford-Hawley  
Heritage and Regeneration  
Champion  
North Somerset Council



# Welcome to Weston

To set the scene, please watch 'The Opening' by Sally Low.

**Online:** <https://superweston.net/>



## Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage

Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage, published by Historic England. Available from the Museum, bookshops and online (£14.99).

The local area has been occupied since the Iron Age. It was still a small village until the 19th century when it developed as a seaside resort.



## High Street Heritage

Weston-super-Mare High Street is full of beautiful buildings, but you'll need to look up to see the variety of original windows, carvings and other details, including a Shakespearian quote and Egyptian elephant heads.

The newly refurbished Italian Gardens provides a spot to sit and relax among Italianate balustrading, modern fountain (kids love it!) and lawns. Spot Weston's first hotels (now The Royal and Olea), the 1860s Florentine palazzo style bank (now Sass Bar) and University Centre

Weston's modern addition to the 1920s Winter Gardens Pavilion.

Visit Walker & Ling department store adjoining the gardens, which has recently been enhanced through the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone project. The original building was lost to bombing but the post-war replacement store continues the 127-year old family business.

From here it's a two-minute stroll past Lloyd's Bank and the 1969 Playhouse Theatre to the relaxing former manorial grounds of Grove Park.



### **I** A Family Store: Walker & Ling

**Walker & Ling, 84-86 High Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HU**

Walker & Ling is a family-run department store, established in 1892. This year, we are opening up the archives and giving folks the chance to learn about our unique history. During this event visitors can safely view a display of our archives, including photographs from 1904, hundred-year-old headed paper and adverts from the 50s. 5th generation owner Sam Walker will be available to demonstrate the first electric lift in Weston-super-Mare.

In 2021, the 50s architecture was restored to its original design, the same green tiles made by the same Italian company, were restored and brass lettering above the door was replaced.

**Online:** [www.walkerandling.co.uk](http://www.walkerandling.co.uk)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:**

Friday 10-Saturday 12,

Monday 13-Friday 18 Sept, 11am-4pm

## Churches

### 2 St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's Church Office, Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1EF

Tour the largest Church in the town of Weston-super-Mare, built in 1912. View the stunning stained glass windows and many original features that are still visible, around the building. Whilst here visit our beautiful serenity garden and partake of refreshments in 'The Hub' Community Café, located alongside the Church building. Children can enjoy the paddock area and bouncy castle (weather permitting).

**Online:** [www.stpauls-weston.org.uk](http://www.stpauls-weston.org.uk)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Saturday 11 September,  
10am-3pm.



### 3 All Saints Church

All Saints Road, Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 2NL

Grade 2\* listed building.

Designed by Royal Academician George Bodley in 1898, the south aisle was added by his pupil, Francis Eden, in 1925. John Betjeman described it as 'the finest church of entirely modern foundation in Somerset'.

View excellent glass, furnishings and tapestries. There is also a large 1930s 3 manual organ by John Compton.

Outside look in the south porch niche for the 1964 Modernist Madonna and Child by Laurence Broderick – the same artist who sculpted the enormous bronze bull in Birmingham's revamped Bullring.

**Website:** [www.allsaintswsm.org](http://www.allsaintswsm.org)

**Booking:** no booking required

**Opening times:** Thursday 16, Friday 17  
and Saturday 18 September, 11am-4pm



## 4 Milton Road Cemetery

Lower Bristol Road,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 2TN

The neo-gothic Cemetery Chapel was designed by Mr Charles Davies in 1856 as part of a Victorian Garden Cemetery, with an arboretum of native and exotic trees and pathways.

Some of the trees planted in the cemetery at the time can still be seen today. The Atlas cedar, Stone pine, Lacombe oak and a monkey puzzle tree are a few of those still standing.

In 1917 the cemetery was extended down to Milton Road. Weston-super-Mare Town Council took over ownership of the cemetery in October 2003 and has worked hard to improve the cemetery grounds.

The cemetery is open daily and is well worth exploring. Heritage Open Days offer a rare opportunity for the general public to see the lovely interior of the chapel, perhaps combined with a stroll around the cemetery grounds.

There is level access into the Chapel and limited car parking is available immediately outside, or on Lower Bristol Road. The chapel is not large enough to accommodate scooters. The Cemetery is on a hill and contains many steps but most parts of the cemetery can be reached on sloping paths, although some are steep and care is needed to negotiate them safely. We regret there are no toilets available.

While you are there...

Find out more about the graves:

<https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/cemeteries/milton-road-cemetery-history/>

Learn about the trees:

<https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/cemeteries/milton-road-cemetery-nature/>

**Booking:** No booking required

**Open:**

Saturday 11-Sunday 12 September;

Saturday 18-Sunday 19 September;

10am-2pm



## 5 Tales of Weston

Presented by From the Mud

The Stable Café, 3-6 Wadham Street,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JY

Come for lunch, stay for the stories!

An immersive theatre lunch accompanied with tales of Weston-super-Mare.

Created by Weston's emerging artists, From the Mud is a monthly cabaret featuring weird and wonderful performances from an ever changing cast. Join them at The Stable Café on the 12th of September as they explore what makes up the beautiful heritage of Weston, our food, our culture and our stories. With a stunning Somerset lunch that celebrates local food provided with each ticket, there's no better way to get your teeth into all things Weston!



Follow From the Mud socials for ticket release:

**Online:** Instagram: fromthemudhq  
Twitter: FromTheMud1

**Booking:** Booking essential

**Open:** Sunday 12 September, Doors at 1pm, Performance starts at 1.30pm, Duration 1 hr



## 6 Whirligig Festival

Produced by Theatre Orchard

Italian Gardens, Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1JN

Nestled amongst a fiesta of fantastic outdoor arts events, Artizani's BEES is a multi-sensory installation with an unusual but tantalising nod to the West Country's honeyed heritage. Wander amongst the perfumed Bee Colony and interact with other-worldly Bee Hives where you may find yourself looking into the vastness of space or teased by a telescopic hive soaring into the air. The installation is tended by ethereal beekeepers; do they hail from Somerset or somewhere else altogether we wonder?

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Saturday 11 September,  
11.30am-6pm



## 7 Hero & Leander

Presented by Jack Dean & Company  
Brought to Weston by Theatre Orchard  
and Culture Weston

Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AE

Sing, dance and cry with us in this bittersweet outdoor gig theatre show. Six multi-instrumentalists tell an epic seaside tale through songs encompassing folk, indie, sea shanties and choral music. A story of bad rulers, worse weather, and how we keep

going when everything is flipping terrible.

With a very proud nod to Weston's Greek community, this contemporary version of the classic Greek myth promises a Sunday afternoon treat of heroic proportions.

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Sunday 12 September, 2-3pm



## 8 Grow Feral, Taste Feral Community Allotment Open Day and Cook Up

Produced by Theatre Orchard and Culture Weston, and led by Weston-based artist and creative producer Sam Francis

Osprey Gardens, Clark's Field Allotments, Rectors Way,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 3NR

Edible England gains a whole new dimension at Osprey Community Allotment where volunteers have been busy all year establishing the site using permaculture principles, growing familiar English fruit and vegetables, and developing an 'exotic' polytunnel called 'Bato Kunku' (Gambian for 'farm by the sea'). Embark on a sensory tour of the community allotment site, and sample some of its produce deliciously cooked up by Weston's Loves Cafe using a clay oven specially made for the event.

Join in creative activities including plant print-making, willow weaving and make

your own herbal teabags, plus vegetable apple bobbing and tongue-in-cheek vegetable judging!

Osprey Outdoors is a people-focused organisation drawing upon the natural environment to offer a range of inspiring courses and inclusive activities that are open to all. Donations are welcome.

**Booking:** no booking required

**Open:** Sunday 19 September, 12-4pm





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## 9 Teatime at Proud

Proud Bar, 20 The Boulevard,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1NA

Events from  
Wednesday 15 – Sunday 19 September  
All events will take place from 6-7.30pm.  
You are welcome to stay beyond the end  
of the events into the evening, the bar  
will be open.

Pre-booking advised through the  
individual links below

Tea/coffee and scones will be available to  
buy for a small charge.

## Out of the Clouds into the Rainbow

Hosted by Nigel Briers

As part of Weston's Heritage Open Days,  
a gay man's journey from active addiction  
to recovery. An hour of exploration of  
addiction, LGBTQ+ and a sense of hope  
for a new beginning in Weston-super-Mare.

**Open:** Wednesday 15 September, 6pm

**Booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-proud-out-of-the-clouds-into-the-rainbow-tickets-163535283435>

# PROUD BAR

## WESTON-SUPER-MARE

### Weston-super-Mare Pride: from beginnings to UK Pride

Hosted by WsM Pride Team

**Booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-proud-weston-pride-from-the-beginning-to-uk-pride-2023-tickets-165231133769?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Open:** Thursday 16 September, 6pm

### Queer is Beautiful

Hosted by KC Atkinson

**Booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-proud-queer-is-beautiful-tickets-165208355639>

**Open:** Friday 17 September, 6pm

### History of Drag

Hosted by Brighton's  
Stephanie von Clitz

**Booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-proud-history-of-drag-tickets-163541150985>

**Open:** Saturday 18 September, 6pm

### Proud Testimonies and Proud Bar's 3rd Birthday Party

**Booking:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tea-time-proud-proud-testimonies-and-our-3rd-birthday-tickets-165231260147?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Open:** Sunday 19 September, 6pm

Follow Proud Bar on

 ; [proudbarwsm](https://www.proudbarwsm.com)

**Online:** [www.proudbarwsm.com](http://www.proudbarwsm.com)

## 10 Love the Outdoors Ellenborough Park West

The main entrance to the park is situated opposite Corpus Christi School BS23 1XW.

Come and experience the beautiful Ellenborough Park West, which has been closed to the public for many years. This site is home to 2 Red Data Book Plants, one of which is only found in one other spot in Great Britain!

Love The Outdoors is all about launching this beautiful area into the community. With talks about the historical significance, horticulture and taster sessions of what to expect throughout the year, this event is one for all the family. The park is South facing and provides the perfect space to lay down a picnic blanket and take a moment to yourself.

Love The Outdoors wants to promote the wellbeing activities this park hopes to offer in the near future such as yoga, mediation, drumming circles, laughter yoga.. the list goes on! It's also a brilliant spot for children to take part in "Wild Play" just engaging with environment around them. Come and join us, see what this park is all about!

The park is on even ground in most places. Both gates exit immediately onto a road so care should be taken. On street parking.

**Booking:** No booking required.



## 11 Grove Park and the Climate Crisis, Then, Now and Next

Weston-super-Mare BS23 2QJ

A fabulous film presented by Johnny Boxshall, volunteer coordinator of Friends of Grove Park. In his passionate style, Johnny is joined by volunteers in a tour and historical account of the social and ecological life of Grove Park.

Made by a local film maker, this film shows the spirit of a group of local volunteers who believe that in order to combat the increasing Climate Crisis, the local community needs to connect with nature at a local level. Friends of Grove Park volunteers outline their journey, in creating a community space at the heart of a seaside town, connecting people with nature, enhancing bio-diversity, operating under ecological principles, supporting health and wellbeing, while respecting the heritage of the park. It is certainly a juggling act. The film covers a wide range of topics relating to nature, community, and environment, all discussed during a tour of the beautiful park.

**Online:** [www.friendsofgrovepark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofgrovepark.co.uk)

**Booking:** No booking required.

## 12 Food Heritage of North Somerset

Local Studies Library,  
Weston Library, Town Hall,  
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

Celebrating North Somerset's culinary heritage – exploring the part food production has played in our rural heritage, from fishing to farming using resources from our archive collection.

In addition, an archivist will be visiting Weston super Mare Library on Thursday 2 September 2021 to

- help people find out about the past, with information on how to research family, house and local history
- provide information on the archives held at the Somerset Heritage Centre
- bring microfiche for people to study, and documents from the archive strongrooms when appropriate

**Booking:** To book and request documents, telephone the North Somerset Archivist on **01823 278 805** or email no later than Thursday 26 August [somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk](mailto:somersetarchives@swheritage.org.uk)

**Open:** Monday to Saturday 10am-4pm. The session runs from 11am-1pm, and 2-3.30pm.

### 13 The Curzon

This year the Curzon will be bringing you a very special film screening + Q&A as part of Heritage Open Day's 2021 theme of 'Edible England'. Keep an eye on the website and social media pages for announcements, film tickets and a unique tour.



## Virtual Tours

### 14 Blakehay Theatre

Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare

The 207-seat Blakehay Theatre was converted from an 1850 Baptist church into a theatre by Weston Civic Society in the 1980s and, following acquisition by the Town Council, was extensively refurbished in 2010-12.

Comedy, drama, music, film, presentations, public meetings, dance and yoga all take place in this friendly and intimate town centre theatre.

The video tour gives you a snap shot of its history and will take you from front-of-house into the auditorium, Juliet balconies, newly designed upper studios, behind-the-scenes dressing rooms and the bar.

**Online:** [www.blakehaytheatre.co.uk](http://www.blakehaytheatre.co.uk)

 [Blakehay Theatre](#)

Blakehay tour –  [inbOuZMcZWE](#)

### 15 Grove House Virtual Tour

The home of Weston-super-Mare  
Town Council

The Mayor's Parlour at Grove House is all that remains of the former Smyth-Pigott manorial home which was bombed in 1941. In the Parlour and adjoining Meeting Room one can view the town's civic regalia, robes, paintings and heraldic charters.

## 16 In the footsteps of Hans Price

This walk provides a snapshot of some of Hans Fowler Price's architectural work in Weston-super-Mare.

The walk has been devised by North Somerset Council in partnership with Historic England as part of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone initiative.

The walk starts on the corner of Station Road and Graham Road. Close to the railway Station.

The walk is all on flat terrain and will take about an hour. You can make it a full day out and take time throughout the walk to visit the Museum, Grove Park, The Promenade and enjoy Weston's cafes and shops.

The route highlights just some of the many Hans Price buildings. The map also shows other Hans Price buildings to give some sense of how much influence Hans Price had on the architecture of Weston.

**Online:** [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Hans%20Price%20walks%20leaflet.pdf](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/Hans%20Price%20walks%20leaflet.pdf)

## 17 Blue Plaques

Find out about the blue plaques across Weston by visiting this link:

**Online:** <https://wsm-tc.gov.uk/our-services/blue-plaques/>



## In the footsteps of Hans Fowler Price

A walk through  
Victorian  
Weston-super-Mare



## Heritage Resource

### 18 A Heritage Tour of Weston-super-Mare

This tour celebrates the rich and varied architectural heritage of the town and tells the story of how it grew into a busy seaside resort.

It has been prepared by Historic England in partnership with North Somerset Council and is a product of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zones.

Explore the map to find out more about Weston's heritage.

**Online:** <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/332fbd5a00240e887f088decc0649b6>



### 19 Know Your Place

Know Your Place encourages people to identify what they consider to be important heritage features in their own community. A dedicated space (Community Layer) on the map allows users to submit contributions and all these are moderated and validated before being published on the site. The process of identifying these features is the first step towards getting more recognition for them and ensuring their protection.

From the coastal communities of Portishead, Clevedon and Weston, further inland to Blagdon and Leigh Woods, you can discover how North Somerset has been transformed over time. Find out more about the depth of history of your








street or village, and explore historic maps going back further than 1840 to see when your house was built. You can also find out a little more about the archaeological and historical past of North Somerset by taking a look at the Historic Environment Record map layers.



To access the map and start exploring, head to [www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk), click 'Explore the map' and scroll down to 'North Somerset' or head straight to the map at <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=nsom>.

Check out the Know Your Place social media channels:

-  **Know Your Place North Somerset**
-  **@KYPNorthSom**

# North Somerset Arts Week 2021 • 10-19 September 2021

North Somerset Arts Week is running at the same time as Heritage Open Days

North Somerset Arts Week has been running biennially since 2003. It is an Arts Trail across the whole of North Somerset and has been growing since its inception. After a difficult year, we are thrilled to announce we will be holding the event in September with returning artists and others who are new to North Somerset Arts.



## St Barnabas Church

### Claverham

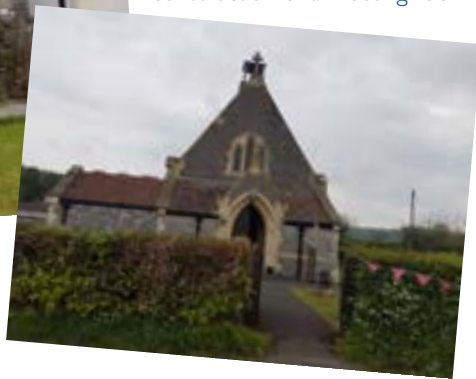
This Beautiful tiny village Church built in 1879 has a wealth of interesting stone architectural details, including an Apsidal at the East end. Certainly worth a visit.

**Open:** Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sundays, 12noon-5pm

## Quaker Meeting House

### Claverham

Claverham Meeting House is a unique historical and architectural gem set in the heart of rural North Somerset. The grade II\* listed Georgian building originates from the time when it was at the heart of a growing Quaker community in the Somerset countryside. It was not until 1689, after the Act of Toleration, that Friends could obtain a Licence to hold meetings in a named Meeting House. As the meeting grew, Friends at Claverham decided on rebuilding and extending their Meeting House in 1729. The main structure is still the same today, a unique construction of a meeting room flanked by





two cottages. The wood panelled meeting room could be increased in size by opening panels. This allowed for a larger meeting, or for separate meetings of men and women. Access between these meetings was by doors which are still visible (but not usable) at each side of the main meeting room.

**Online:**

[www.claverhammeetinghouse.org.uk](http://www.claverhammeetinghouse.org.uk)

**Open:** Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sundays, 12noon-5pm

## Church of Holy Trinity

### Cleeve

The Church Of Holy Trinity at Cleeve in the English county of Somerset was built in 1840. It is a Grade II\* listed building.

The parish Church of Holy Trinity was built in a Neo-Norman style in 1840 by George Phillips Manners. In 1888 the church was restored and renovated, and in 1898 stained glass was added to the west windows.

The parish, within the Yatton Moor benefice, is part of the Diocese of Bath and Wells and in 2005 won an award as the first Ecocongregation in the Diocese.

**Open:** Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sundays, 12noon-5pm

## Portbury Church

St. Mary's church at Portbury was built in 1188 as a Minster Church is a Grade I listed building and affiliated with St Augustine Abbey (Bristol Cathedral). Both were built by 1st Lord Berkeley of Berkeley Castle.

The connection with Bristol Cathedral explains its large size for such a small village and it is often referred to as the "Queen of the Gordano Valley". This site has been a cradle for early Christianity and has evidence of a Romano / British cemetery with east /west burials dating back to the 4th Century. A Saxon temple also stood on this site.

The Heritage Centre in the Berkley Chapel is also home to our new Portbury Community Timeline installation which brings local history since 3000BC to life with original art by local artists. There are also archives in the priest room with Parish records and social history of the village.

It has many original ancient features such as the Norman Font, Elizabethan pews, and 17th century peel of bells in the belfry.

If a historian isn't present, hear the audio tour here: <http://www.youraudiotour.com/tours/178>

**Open:** Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm  
Sundays, 12noon-5pm

# Great Weston Heritage Action Zone

Great Weston Heritage Action Zone covers the Town of Weston-super-Mare. Great Weston Heritage Action Zone aims to boost economic growth and keep Weston on the map as a great place to live, work and visit.

The Heritage Action Zone initiative is funded through Historic England.

To find out more about Great Weston Heritage Action Zone visit [historicengland.org.uk/greatwestonhaz](http://historicengland.org.uk/greatwestonhaz)

## Conservation Area

Weston-super-Mare was adopted as a Conservation Area in 2019.

To find out more about the Conservation Area visit:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Great%20Weston%20conservation%20area%20introduction.pdf](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-02/Great%20Weston%20conservation%20area%20introduction.pdf)

## Shopfront Design Guidance

If you are interested in shopfront design and how we aim to encourage excellence in North Somerset check out of adopted policy on Shopfront Design: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Shopfront%20design%20guide%20adopted.pdf](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Shopfront%20design%20guide%20adopted.pdf)

## North Somerset Council

Keep up to date with North Somerset Council Facebook page:

[@northsomersetcouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/northsomersetcouncil/)

Stories bring heritage to life. Whether you are visiting the places you love or discovering something new, we want to hear about it.

So share your experiences and thoughts on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest using: [#westonHODS](https://www.instagram.com/westonHODS)

For full details about events for Heritage Open days visit

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)



Heritage Action Zones  
Historic England

In partnership with



National  
Trust

