



THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

Introduction

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) is a registered charity established in 1976 to promote the conservation and sustainable re-use of historic buildings in the UK. It does this by providing advice, information and financial assistance in the form of grants and competitive working capital and acquisition loans for projects undertaken by building preservation trusts (BPTs) and other charities. Financial assistance is available only for buildings that are listed, scheduled or in a conservation area and of acknowledged historic merit.

Regional Support Officers

The AHF has appointed four Regional Support Officers to facilitate new projects in England. They are working with English Heritage staff and local authority conservation officers to identify buildings on 'at risk' registers which could be brought back into sustainable use. A key element of the role is to encourage not-for-profit organisations such as development trusts, civic societies, community interest companies and others to consider taking on a project to save an historic building, perhaps in partnership with an experienced BPT.

New Funding

The Challenge Fund for Historic Buildings at Risk

Capital grants of up to £200,000 are available towards projects involving the repair and reuse of Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings featured on the 'Heritage at Risk' Register maintained by English Heritage. It will be open for applications until 31 December 2016. Applications are encouraged from BPTs, development trusts or similar not-for-profit organisations that have not undertaken a capital project of this type before, or have not done so for ten years or more. Key eligibility requirements are:

- The total cost of the project must not exceed £2 million.
- The project must involve the repair and economically viable new use of a building at risk. (Grants are for repair costs and not for development work.)
- Applicants must be registered charities or other not-for-profit organisations that own or intend to acquire the project building.
- Priority will be given to projects involving two organisations working in partnership, ideally with an experienced BPT or similar charity in a mentoring role.

Grants for 'Cold Spots': East Midlands, South Wales and industrial heritage

Grants of up to £10,000 are available towards the cost of developing projects involving the rescue of listed buildings or if unlisted, of historic interest in a Conservation Area in two target areas: the East Midlands and South Wales. The third target area is thematic: industrial buildings anywhere in England. It will be open for applications until 2013-14. As long as it is directly related to a project involving the rescue of an historic building, eligible expenditure may include:

- Mentoring by an experienced project manager or similar
- Project co-ordinator costs
- Site surveys, such as structural, archaeological or contamination surveys
- Options appraisals/feasibility studies
- Financial advice/business planning
- Specialist consultants (e.g. economic, tourism, energy efficiency)

For further information about the challenge fund or 'Cold Spots' grants, or to discuss a potential project, please contact:

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