# Historic England’s new £15m rescue fund backs 37 community heritage sites with tight delivery deadline



The Church of St Mary the Virgin in Somers Town and the Greenhouse Centre in Marylebone are among 37 at‑risk heritage sites across England to receive money from Historic England’s new Heritage at Risk Capital Fund, a one‑year, £15 million programme aimed at rescuing buildings that serve disadvantaged communities. St Mary’s has been awarded £639,064 to address urgent fabric repairs, while the Greenhouse Centre will receive £663,100 to complete structural upgrades and safety works that will allow it to reopen as a youth and community hub.

St Mary the Virgin, the Grade II‑listed Gothic church on Eversholt Street long embedded in the Somers Town community, has been under protective scaffolding while its west front awaits conservation. According to local reporting and church notices, the grant will pay for masonry, brickwork and joinery repairs, repointing, cleaning and drainage improvements intended to stabilise the building, prevent closure or demolition and allow further phases of restoration to be planned so it can continue as a place of worship and community support.

The Greenhouse Centre, a converted 17th‑century church in Cosway Street that was remodelled as a youth sports and wellbeing space in 2018, closed in 2021 after serious structural defects. The charity behind the project says a multi‑year restoration has already included roof replacement, foundation reinforcement and extensive window and stonework repairs; the new grant is earmarked to strengthen the main floor, install modern fire‑protection systems and complete the conservation work needed for the Centre to reopen and expand its outreach to young people living in poverty.

The fund is being delivered by Historic England with backing from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and forms part of the wider Arts Everywhere Fund and the government’s Plan for Change. Historic England’s published guidance describes the scheme as a short, targeted intervention for assets at risk in the most deprived areas, with typical awards between about £200,000 and £800,000 and conditions around public access, procurement and match funding. Projects awarded through this round must spend their grants by March 2026, under the fund’s timetable.

Historic England and ministers framed the intervention in social as well as heritage terms. Louise Brennan, director of regions at Historic England, said in a statement carried by the agency that the extra funding will “breathe new life into neglected historic buildings that we haven’t been able to help through our existing grant schemes.” The heritage minister, Baroness Twycross, told a government press release that the programme is intended to “breathe new life into treasured places, buildings and monuments across the country, helping to increase opportunities and ensuring that future generations have access to our rich heritage.”

Officials and the programme literature emphasise wider community and economic benefits: the scheme prioritises projects that can deliver jobs, local services and longer‑term community value as well as repair work. At the same time, the compressed delivery window and expectations of match funding mean recipients must move quickly to translate awards into completed works or later phases of restoration, a point underlined by local organisations planning follow‑on fundraising and conservation phases.

Taken together, the 37 awards underline a targeted attempt to prevent further loss of local heritage by prioritising sites that can deliver social as well as conservation outcomes. For congregations and community groups in Somers Town and Marylebone, the injections of capital offer a practical route out of prolonged uncertainty and a chance to reopen historic spaces for worship, sport, wellbeing and neighbourhood activity.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/25373479.london-buildings-saved-ruin-historic-england-grant/), [[4]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/37%2Blocal%2Bheritage%2Bsites%2Bto%2Bbenefit%2Bfrom%2B15%2Bmillion%2Bboost%2Bto%2Bbreathe%2Bnew%2Blife%2Binto%2Bcommunities%2Bacross%2BEngland%2B07082025091500?open=), [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/25373479.london-buildings-saved-ruin-historic-england-grant/), [[5]](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15605/news/157729/government-heritage-grant-of-ps639064-set-to-save-st-marys/), [[7]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/historic-london-churches-saved-from-ruin-with-1-3m-repairs-grant-83165/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/25373479.london-buildings-saved-ruin-historic-england-grant/), [[6]](https://www.greenhousesports.org/what-we-do/the-greenhouse-centre/), [[7]](https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/historic-london-churches-saved-from-ruin-with-1-3m-repairs-grant-83165/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/heritage-at-risk-capital-fund/), [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/25373479.london-buildings-saved-ruin-historic-england-grant/), [[4]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/37%2Blocal%2Bheritage%2Bsites%2Bto%2Bbenefit%2Bfrom%2B15%2Bmillion%2Bboost%2Bto%2Bbreathe%2Bnew%2Blife%2Binto%2Bcommunities%2Bacross%2BEngland%2B07082025091500?open=), [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding), [[2]](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/heritage-at-risk-capital-fund/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding), [[2]](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/heritage-at-risk-capital-fund/), [[4]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/37%2Blocal%2Bheritage%2Bsites%2Bto%2Bbenefit%2Bfrom%2B15%2Bmillion%2Bboost%2Bto%2Bbreathe%2Bnew%2Blife%2Binto%2Bcommunities%2Bacross%2BEngland%2B07082025091500?open=)
* Paragraph 7 – [[4]](https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/37%2Blocal%2Bheritage%2Bsites%2Bto%2Bbenefit%2Bfrom%2B15%2Bmillion%2Bboost%2Bto%2Bbreathe%2Bnew%2Blife%2Binto%2Bcommunities%2Bacross%2BEngland%2B07082025091500?open=), [[3]](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding), [[2]](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/heritage-at-risk-capital-fund/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.hamhigh.co.uk/news/25373479.london-buildings-saved-ruin-historic-england-grant/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/grants/our-grant-schemes/heritage-at-risk-capital-fund/> - Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Capital Fund page explains a one‑year, £15 million grant scheme intended to rescue at‑risk heritage assets across England. It sets out eligibility, application dates, assessment and grant conditions, emphasising support for projects in the most deprived communities (IMD 1–3) and those delivering strong community benefits. The guidance explains grant ranges (typically £200k–£800k), possible maximums, match‑funding expectations, procurement and public access requirements, and the requirement to spend awards by March 2026. The page provides practical FAQs, contact details for expressions of interest, and application support resources online.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-heritage-to-be-protected-with-20-million-of-funding> - The GOV.UK press release announces nearly £20 million of government funding for local heritage, including a £15 million Heritage at Risk Capital Fund and a £4.85 million Heritage Revival Fund. Published 2 April 2025, it outlines aims to protect shops, pubs, parks and town halls, prioritise projects in deprived areas and support community ownership and reuse. The release links the programme to the £270 million Arts Everywhere Fund and the government’s Plan for Change, describes delivery arrangements with Historic England and partners, and quotes the Heritage Minister emphasising economic and community benefits from preserving local historic assets for future generations.
4. <https://www.wired-gov.net/wg/news.nsf/articles/37%2Blocal%2Bheritage%2Bsites%2Bto%2Bbenefit%2Bfrom%2B15%2Bmillion%2Bboost%2Bto%2Bbreathe%2Bnew%2Blife%2Binto%2Bcommunities%2Bacross%2BEngland%2B07082025091500?open=> - Wired‑Gov publishes a DCMS press release naming 37 recipients of the £15 million Heritage at Risk Capital Fund. It lists grant awards and amounts, identifying Church of St Mary the Virgin, Somers Town (£639,064) and The Greenhouse Centre (£663,100) among London beneficiaries. The item quotes Baroness Twycross endorsing the Plan for Change and Lou Brennan of Historic England welcoming the extra support. It underlines the fund’s emphasis on projects serving the most deprived communities and its aim to protect at‑risk historic sites while creating jobs, community spaces and local benefits through repair and conversion work and long‑term cultural regeneration locally.
5. <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15605/news/157729/government-heritage-grant-of-ps639064-set-to-save-st-marys/> - A Church Near You reports St Mary the Virgin, Somers Town, has been awarded a £639,064 grant from the Heritage at Risk Capital Fund for urgent repairs. The Grade II‑listed Gothic church on Eversholt Street is described as a longstanding part of the Somers Town community which had faced severe deterioration and risked closure or demolition. The notice specifies work focused on the West Front, already under protective scaffolding, including masonry, brickwork and joinery repairs, repointing, cleaning and improved drainage, measures intended to enable further restoration and secure the building’s future as a community resource and sustain local worship activities.
6. <https://www.greenhousesports.org/what-we-do/the-greenhouse-centre/> - Greenhouse Sports’ page on The Greenhouse Centre outlines the building’s history, conversion from a 17th‑century church into a community sports hub in 2018, and its role as a youth centre delivering free coaching, mentoring and wellbeing programmes. The charity explains that serious structural defects forced closure in 2021 and details a multi‑year restoration involving roof replacement, foundation reinforcement, extensive stone and window repairs, and major conservation work. It states the project will future‑proof the Centre, enable reopening with expanded community provision, and continues to describe interim outreach work and wellbeing initiatives and fundraising partner activity.
7. <https://www.ianvisits.co.uk/articles/historic-london-churches-saved-from-ruin-with-1-3m-repairs-grant-83165/> - IanVisits covers two London projects awarded Heritage at Risk Capital Fund grants: St Mary’s Church, Somers Town (just under £640,000) and The Greenhouse Centre (£663,100). It notes St Mary’s deteriorating condition, scaffolding to the west front and plans for masonry, joinery and drainage repairs to prevent closure. The Greenhouse Centre is identified as a Grade II\* converted church, refurbished in 2018 but later closed by structural problems; the grant will fund essential upgrades such as reinforcing the main floor and installing fire‑protection systems so the Centre can reopen to serve local communities and restore valuable youth and wellbeing services again.