

Recording – please keep cameras and mics switched off.

Thanks for coming to this 8th training webinar for the Gardens Trust's Green Futures project, which is supported by Historic England.

If want to use subtitles, use "show captions" at bottom of screen

I'm Tamsin McMillan, Lead VSO at the GT, running this project with Frankie Taylor, our Engagement Officer

Will take Qs at end of this presentation – please type into chat as you think of them. We'll also have a quick poll at the end, on how you've found our training. Will send you link to recording and a PDF of the slides, which will also go onto our resource hub on our website. The PDF will include any links I refer to today, if you want to follow up on any of them. If you missed any of our previous webinars, you can find them on our hub, Green Futures Project - The Gardens Trust

In earlier webinars we've looked at how to research your site and record what remains today.

If you came to our last webinar, you'll have heard Historic England's Caroline Skinner describing the ways in which nationally important historic designed landscapes and

other heritage assets can be recognised by designation –whether that's as a Registered park and garden, a scheduled monument, or a listed building.

This time we're looking at the benefits of placing research onto online heritage databases, so it can be used by others, including professional researchers and planners, to understand, conserve and protect landscapes.

Today's session

- ➤ How research is important in conservation
- > Duty to understand non-designated landscapes
- Effective platforms:
 - > Historic Environment Records
 - Local Lists
 - National Heritage List for England



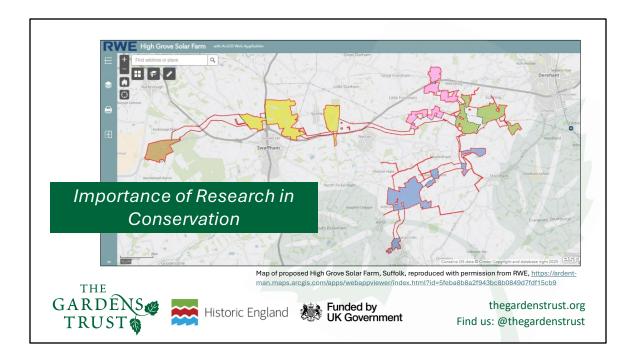




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What we'll be covering today.

- How research from this project, and others, is important in conservation, especially for non-designated designed landscapes – ie those that are considered to be of local, rather than national, importance
- The duty of developers to understand and consider the significances of nondesignated parks and gardens
- And the best platforms to place research on: Historic Environment Records (HERs), Local Lists, and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE)



How is research, including that carried out by people like our Green Futures volunteers, important? And how does it contribute to historic record?

I'll start by quickly recapping the aims of the project. We're trying to research at least 60 parks, gardens or other kinds of historic designed landscape, which are in or near proposed NSIPs - Nationally significant infrastructure projects - like roads, rail schemes, reservoirs, solar and wind farms - in the east of England. Like the one shown here, which is High Grove Solar Farm in Suffolk.

The reason this project's research is so important is that it identifies the history and significances of these designed landscape heritage assets, which those working in the sector need to know about.

This knowledge helps to inform developers' and planners' decisions about the detail of the large infrastructure projects. Statutory consultees like Historic England and the Gardens Trust, will also be able to use the research to help the planners make their decisions.

Of course, research from the project will remain on the historic record permanently and so will be important in any future development decisions, not just for the current NSIPs. And it may also be used by future researchers.



Currently, around 40 vols in the 6 eastern counties – Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire – are just starting to research HPGs potentially affected by NSIPs like East-West Rail; the Fens Reservoir; East Pye Solar Farm; and Nor Til - the Norwich to Tilbury electricity transmission upgrade, shown here – on the left, crossing three counties, and on the right a closer look at a short section in Essex.

Some counties, with fewer proposed NSIPs, will only have a few landscapes to research, others have many more, for example, Essex and Norfolk are starting their research by examining 14 parks and gardens, only three of which, like Faulkbourne Hall, shown here, are already Registered. In most cases, as for Faulkbourne, the development will be in the setting of the landscape, rather than within its boundaries.



The Green Futures research will be finished by April and then placed onto online heritage platforms.

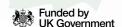
Of course there are lots of other ways to share your research, including on your County Gardens Trust's or other organisation's website, creating Wikipedia entries or even writing a book! Lots of county gardens trusts share their fantastic research in these ways, and we do encourage all of these - the more the better! You can see here examples of research on Lancashire and Bucks GTs own websites, and books by Norfolk and London GTs.

Adding to the historic record

- ➤ 10-30 National Heritage List for England entries enhanced via Missing Pieces Project
- > 30-80 new records on Historic Environment Records
- 10-30 sites added to Local Lists







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But for this project, the research will be added to Historic Environment Records, Local Lists and the National Heritage List for England, where it will be most accessible to developers, planners and consultees.

We aim to:

Enrich records for 10-30 existing sites on the National Heritage List (Listed Buildings / Scheduled Monuments etc) with new information via the Missing Pieces Project. Put 30-80 additional items of research on HERs Get 10-30 sites added to Local Lists of non-designated heritage assets.

We hope that the volunteers will be able to take the lead on sharing their own research in this way, as this will be good practice for continuing to do so after Green Futures has finished. We will, of course, be able to support the volunteers to do this, in liaison with each county's lead volunteer. Systems for uploading will vary from county to county, so this is just to give you the outlines and explain why it's so important to share the research.



Caroline Skinner covered Registration in our last webinar, so I will only look at this briefly today.

There are over 1700 sites on Historic England's register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England, ie landscapes which are considered to be of national significance. Registration is something called a 'material consideration' in the planning process and also triggers specific elements of national planning policy. The GT is consulted about any planning applications affecting Registered landscapes.

However Registered landscapes make up only around a tenth of the historic designed landscapes that we know about from HERs. Only a small number of HPGs are currently registered in the east, as shown on this map — 10 in Beds, 35 in Cambs, 32 in Suffolk, 40 in Essex, 45 in Herts, 54 in Norfolk. It is fantastic that these landscapes are recognised and protected, but much larger numbers than this are non-designated but still of significant historic interest.

We hope that the project will identify some of these as of potential national significance and these will be put forward to HE for potential inclusion in the register of parks and gardens. The assessment of applications for registration can take 6-12

months, so is unlikely to be complete before end of project, but we will of course keep you updated.

NPPF Policy

- Paragraph 208: Local Planning Authorities should assess significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal... to avoid or minimize conflict between conservation and the proposal.
- Paragraph 216: effect of application on significance of nondesignated heritage assets should be taken into account.





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National designation is not, however, the only way in which significant landscapes can be recognised. As we know from our earlier sessions on setting and significance, the National Planning Policy Framework, or NPPF, says that both designated and non-designated heritage assets must be considered in policy and development decisions. These two paragraphs say that LPAs must assess how the heritage asset may be affected by a development proposal and that this applies to non-designated assets too.

More NPPF Policy

- Paragraph 205: Local Planning Authorities should have access to an up-to-date Historic Environment Record... to assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment.
- Paragraph 207: Developers should consult the HER to understand the potential impact of their proposal on significance and setting of any nearby heritage assets.





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In order to gather information about the significance of designated and nondesignated historic parks and gardens, planners must consult HERs...

NPPF 205 says that the LPA should have access to an up to date historic environment record which should be used to assess the significance of heritage assets and the contribution they make to their environment.

And paragraph 207 says that developers should, at a minimum, consult the HER to understand the potential impact of their proposal on the significance and setting of any nearby heritage assets.



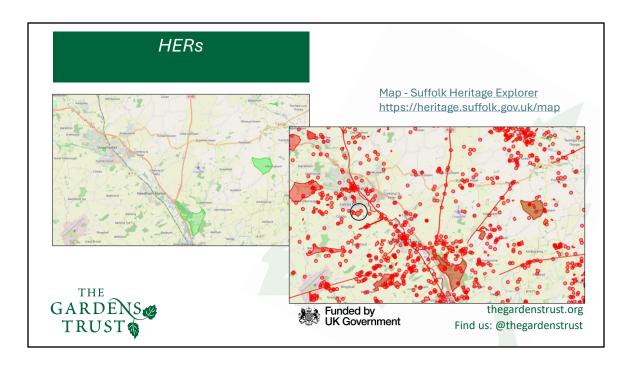
We introduced HERs in our webinar on significance. As a reminder, they are countyor district-based digital collections of information, held in a database with an accompanying digital mapping system. They cover thousands of archaeological sites, fieldwork and other elements of the historic environment.

They collect material from lots of different sources, including specialist research groups such as CGTs.

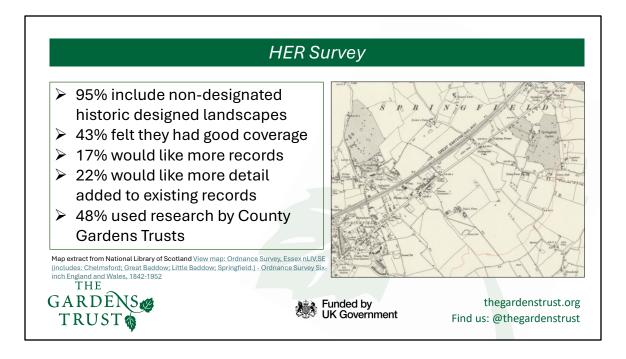
Two main uses – as material for academics, researchers etc, but also to inform planning applications and support local authority officers in making planning decisions.

Not all HERs are free to access, though nearly two-thirds are accessible online via the Heritage Gateway website. www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/ and many are available via the local planning authority. You can also visit many HER offices, by appointment, and look at their collections of supporting materials.

If you'd like to find out more, have a look at HE's publication, shown here, <u>A Guide to Historic Environment Records (HERs) in England</u>



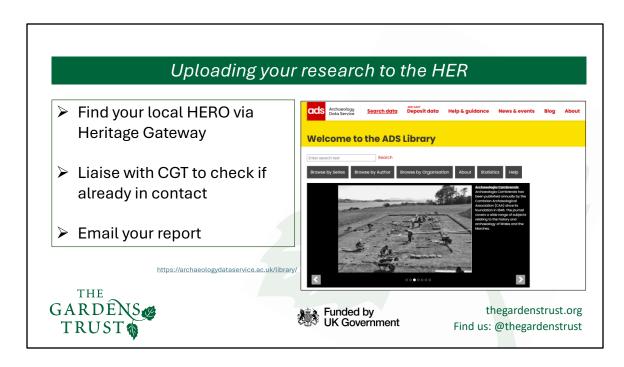
The maps here are from Suffolk HER, around Stowmarket. Registered parks and gardens are highlighted on the left map — there are four in this area, from left to right: Abbott's Hall, Shrubland Hall, Helmingham Hall and Crow's Hall If you turn on the monuments layer however, as shown in the right-hand map of the same area, you start to see a few non-designated landscapes too, shown by the shaded areas, rather than the dots. Here you can see Great Finborough Hall Park and Great Park, Badley. It's interesting to note that when you click on these sites for further details, it shows that they have been identified from map evidence only, in this case Hodskinson's 1783 county map, and that no other information about them is available.



A couple of weeks ago, I asked HER Officers via the HER email forum (HERFORUM@JISCMAIL.AC.UK) how well they thought undesignated designed landscapes were represented in their HERs. Of the 25 HERs that replied, 95% said they did include non-designated landscapes but only 43% thought they had good coverage of these, usually with 300-400 per district. 17% said that they'd like more records of non-designated landscapes, and 22% said that many of their existing records were outlines only, such as those we just looked at in the previous slide, and needed a lot more detail. A lot of landscapes have been identified from historic OS mapping only, like this 1924 6 inch to a mile map of Springfield, Essex, showing Springfield Place and Springfield Lyons.

It was lovely to note that 48% of HER Officers said that they used their local CGTs' research as source material, with several of them saying that they work very closely with their CGT.

So, HERs do do a good job of representing Registered and non-designated landscapes, but many records lack detailed content and many non-designated sites are missing. HERs always welcome more information and would be very pleased to hear from CGTs or other local researchers.



The reports from the Green Futures project will go into the HER's grey literature library – a collection of unpublished reports, managed by the Archaeology Data Service, which the public can view directly, or request to view.

A record on the HER map will be created for each site – either as a dot or, if sufficient information about boundary is known, as a polygon.

The Site summary and description that you'll include in your report are really important, as these will be the main info available on the HER, when people are searching the database. You can see that they'll be on page 1 of our reports, but you'll write them right at the end, bringing together everything you know about the landscape.

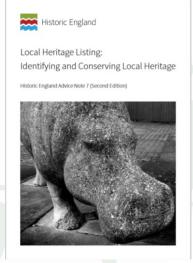
Wherever possible, we'd like the volunteers, or lead volunteer, to upload their reports themselves. This involves making contact with the local HER Officer. You can find all their contact information on the Heritage Gateway. It may be that your local county gardens trust has already established a good relationship with their HER Officer, so please do check with your lead volunteer for this project whether this contact already exists. Then it's a simple case of emailing them the report. HERs usually have a really big backlog of research waiting to be checked and uploaded, so don't expect your

work to appear on the HER immediately!

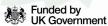
Our Green Futures research recording form was created with input from an HER Officer, so should be straightforward to turn into an HER record, however HERs do vary and some may have slightly different requirements. It would be best, therefore, to contact your HER Officer as soon as possible, to let them know that your reports will be arriving in April, and check if they have any specific requirements for submitting these.

Local Heritage Lists

- Heritage value makes positive contribution to local character and sense of place
- Protected by national and local policy
- May be adopted into Local Plan







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Whilst getting a non-designated heritage asset onto the HER helps to protect it in the planning system, Local listing further raises its profile and also brings the benefits of national and local planning policy. These lists, held by local authorities, identify heritage assets which are valued by the local community as distinctive elements of the local historic environment, making a positive contribution to local character and sense of place because of their heritage value.

Whilst local listing provides no additional planning controls, the fact that a building or site is on a local list means that its conservation as a heritage asset is an objective of the NPPF and a material consideration when determining the outcome of a planning application.

National Planning Policy (NPPF para 197) states that "The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application...a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of harm or loss...".

Many LPAs adopt the local list as part of their local plan, meaning that those sites are given further protection by local policy. But local lists don't have to be in local plans – they are useful documents even if they just stand alone.

Have a look at HE's advice note, shown here, for more information - https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/heag301-local-heritage-listing/



According to the NPPF, planning authorities *must* include parks and gardens in local plans, as part of 'a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment'. Which is great!

Unfortunately, in reality, funding and capacity problems mean that only around half of local planning authorities currently have Local lists of heritage assets. And, disappointingly, the majority of these comprise buildings and structures only. A thorough inclusion of historic designed landscapes is pretty rare.

North Norfolk District Council, for example, currently only has a list of Locally listed buildings, with no landscapes included Hone | Locally listed buildings

In the Cambridgeshire Local List there are only four HPGs – three burial grounds and a war memorial – all in East Cambridgeshire. <u>List - Cambridgeshire's Local Heritage List</u> So you can see that this Local List is crying out for designed landscape nominations.

A better example in the east region is East Suffolk Council which has a "Local List of Parks/Gardens of Historic and Landscape Interest" <u>Local List of Parks/Gardens of Historic and Landscape Interest » East Suffolk Council</u>

It currently lists 17 landscapes. Given the rural nature of the area, these are mostly large gardens and parkland of estates like Redisham Hall and Benacre Park, shown here. The List drew upon summaries of significance and character informed by research by University of East Anglia and Suffolk Gardens Trust. East-Suffolk-Historic-Parks-and-Gardens-Review-020222.pdf



You can generally view your local list online and members of the public are encouraged to nominate heritage assets for inclusion, as this increases community involvement in managing the historic environment.

So it would be very worthwhile for landscape researchers in the CGTs or elsewhere to make contact and offer up the landscapes they've researched. If this information is already on the HER, then it's even easier for the LPA to extract it, for inclusion in the list.

Many County Gardens Trusts already make major contributions to Local Lists, including Kent, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Essex, Devon, Herts, Bucks, Sussex and many more. Kent, for example, has worked with Kent County Council since the early 1990s to produce a Compendium of research reports which comply with HE Local Listing guidance. This has been of considerable benefit to the various planning departments in Kent in enabling them to identify sites which need to be protected.

Here are a couple of example reports, and you can find out more from the CGTs' websites.

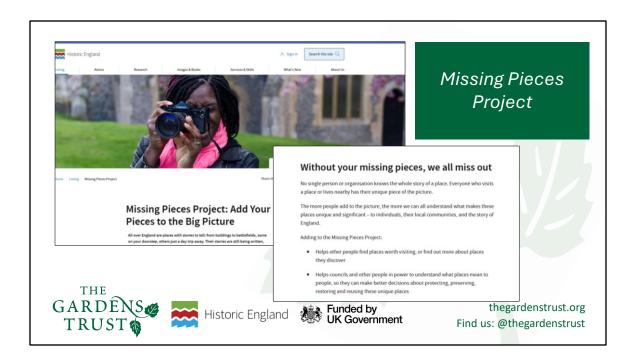
Here are links to a few of these:

https://www.kentgardenstrust.org.uk/research-projects/ https://bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/research-and-recording/locally-important-sites-3/ https://www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/research/selby-district-research-recording-project

You can talk to your local authority to ask whether they have a local list or not. Approach either your conservation officer or strategic planning officers who are responsible for producing local plans.

If there is no local list in your area, and you have the time and energy, you may be able to help get one started. You could try approaching your local councillor(s) to see whether they would support officers getting involved in local listing in the light of government guidance that all LPAs should have a local list. You might find that linking up with other amenity societies with an interest in the historic environment, such as a building preservation trust, makes a stronger case for developing a list.

Your local authority will have criteria for adding to the local list, to ensure that only assets of real local significance are included. So do be prepared for not all sites to be accepted. It will take a little time for the local authority to assess, and hopefully approve, your nomination, after which it will be published on their website.



We'll now move on to Historic England's National Heritage List for England, which includes over 400,000 listed, registered or scheduled sites, including parks and gardens, battlefields, shipwrecks, and buildings of all shapes, sizes and ages. HE's Missing Pieces project, formerly known as Enriching the List, was launched in 2016 so that anyone could add their own images and stories to entries on the List, helping to build the historic record and helping councils and managers to understand how these sites are special to the people who visit them; and how to better protect their significances.

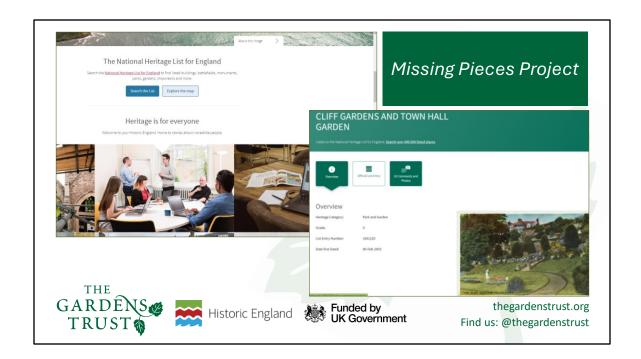
You can add information about:
What you love about a building or site
The memories it holds
What it means to the community
And you can add photos or share any additional information.

Of the 1,700 plus registered Parks and Gardens on the list, around 1400 have a Missing Pieces contribution, which is pretty good!

Landscapes that aren't registered won't be included in the NHLE, but you can still give

them a presence on the List by adding information about them to *associated* records. For example, if the landscape you're researching surrounds a Listed building or has listed garden structures within it, you can add some of your research and images of the landscape to these records.

It's also a great way to promote your CGT or other research group, if you register on behalf of your group, rather than as an individual.

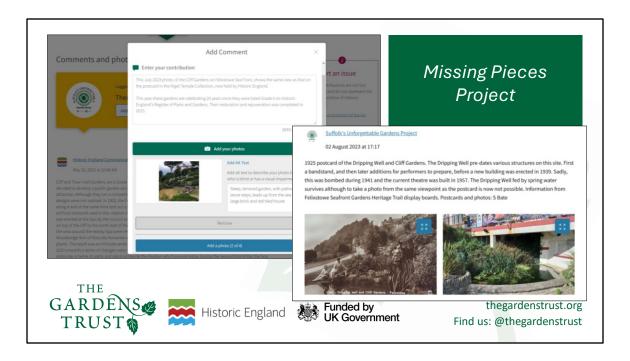


To contribute to the project, go to the Missing Pieces home page and join, by giving them your name (or the name of your organisation), email address and creating a password. After your account set up is confirmed, you can add a logo or picture. There is room for a description too – all useful if you want people to find out more about you or your organisation.

If you know the exact name of the park or garden, listed building or a scheduled site you want to add information to, you can use the search the list button. Alternatively, use the search the map button, and zoom in to the area you are interested in.

Select your site or building and the listing details come up. The RH image shows an example from Suffolk. The middle button shows you the full listing information for the entry.

To see the current Missing Pieces Project contributions, just click on the Comments and Photos button, here.



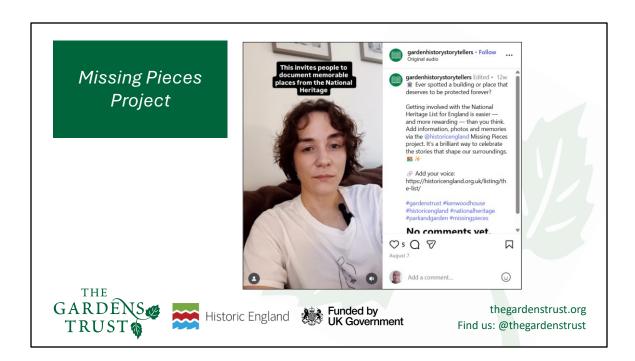
When you're logged in to the Missing Pieces Project, a box will come up at this point, for you to add new material.

Write your text in the box, remember to add references to where the information comes from, also any image details – photographer, owner etc.

You can add up to 4 photos and include links to websites, YouTube videos etc. Try to avoid duplicating any info that's already been added. Your research might well contradict someone else's contribution, in which case quote where you found your information.

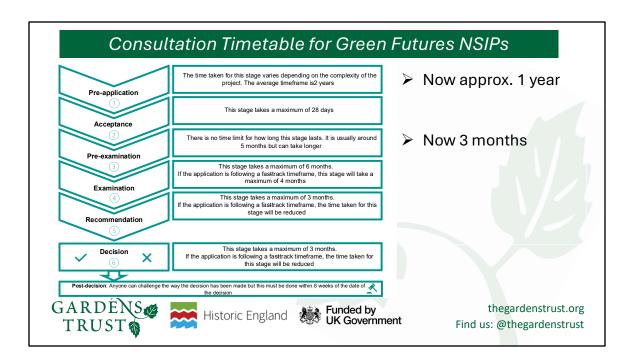
Once you are entirely happy with text, photos and descriptions – press submit and you will get a message telling you your contribution is awaiting a review by Historic England. This can take up to 2 days.

We really do recommend having a go at enhancing list entries in this way. Do let us know in the comments if you've tried it yet. Here's an example from our recent Suffolk's Unforgettable Gardens Project, with text and historic and modern images giving information on the Dripping Well at Cliff Gardens, Felixstowe.



We're really grateful to Yana, one of the GT's student volunteers, for having created a short video explaining the whole process. Do have a look, so you can see how easy it is to do:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNDFj59IHAn/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igs h=MzRlODBiNWFlZA%3D%3D



As we've said in earlier webinars, the NSIPs selected in the East of England for the Green Futures project were all at pre-application stage when we chose them. This would enable volunteers to submit research about designed landscapes potentially affected by them in plenty of time, so that this new knowledge could be used by statutory consultees like HE and the GT.

As you may be aware, however, one of the aims of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, introduced to Parliament in March this year, is to fast-track planning decisions on major infrastructures projects, to support the government's target of Clean Power by 2030. The plan is to streamline the NSIP consultation and consent process, mainly by simplifying and shortening the pre-application stage, from around two years to one. This does affect our project timetable, for some of the NSIPs we're looking at, for example, the Norwich-Tilbury pre-application has been accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate earlier than originally planned and the examination phase will begin in the coming months. This will take up to six months, meaning that the Green Futures volunteers' research will feed into the examination stage, rather than at pre-app.

New information can, however, be submitted right up to the end of the examination

period, so this is not an issue. We do urge volunteers to have their research finished by the end of April, so that they can submit it promptly, and get it to the consultees. As I've mentioned, getting research onto the HER and Local Lists can take time, so we'll also be finding out if there are any other ways we can share your reports more quickly with developers and consultees.

Quick Recap

- Accessible research helps to protect historic designed landscapes.
- Research by volunteers contributes to the protection of historic parks & gardens at all levels.
- Registration is not the only way in which significant landscapes can be recognised.
- Non-designated heritage assets must be considered in policy and development decisions.

Your research has great value - please share!







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So those are the main databases which we can usefully contribute our research to, without too much difficulty. You may well have experience of others, and we'd love to hear about those.

To sum up then...

- By researching, and making this information accessible, historic parks and gardens have a better chance of being protected in the planning process, whether that's in relation to an NSIP application, dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, or one considered by local planning authorities.
- Research by volunteers, whether that's just a few photos and comments on the
 missing pieces project, or a huge report submitted to the HER, will contribute to
 the protection of HPGs at all levels.
- Registration is highest level of protection but not the only way in which HPGs can be recognised.
- Non-designated heritage assets must be considered when assessing planning applications and making policy decisions.

Your research really does have great value – please share!

Next Steps

Please let us know if your County Gardens Trust already has contact with:

- Your local HER Officer
- · Local Heritage List.

If not, please make contact, preferably via lead volunteer.



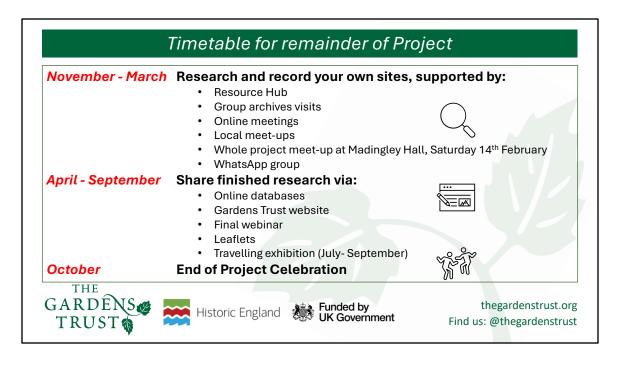
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So, next steps for the project.

Please let Frankie or me know if you or your County Gardens Trust already has contact, and perhaps already contributes to:

- Your local HER
- Local Heritage List.

If not, please make contact as soon as possible, preferably via lead volunteer for Green Futures in your county. Do let us know if you need any support.



Congratulations! This was the last webinar for Green Futures and you've completed the training!

Coming up next, from

November - March

Research and record your own sites, supported by:

- Resource Hub
- Group archives visits several have taken place already. The next is to Herts
 Archives, on 25th November. If you haven't been on an archive visit yet, but
 would like to, please get in touch with your lead volunteer.
- Do come to online meetings with GT and CGTs. Please stay in touch with us and let us know how you're getting on and if you have any issues.
- We encourage you to meet up with other local volunteers as much as possible.
 We can fund your travel and light refreshments, so let us know if you'd like to do this.
- Whole project Meet-up at Madingley Hall, Cambs, on Saturday 14th February –
 chance to share your progress and troubleshoot any problems, as well as having
 a lovely lunch and a guided tour of the landscape.

• Project Whatsapp group – let me or Frankie know if you'd like to join

April - September

Share finished research via:

- Online databases
- GT website, via our new Garden History hub.
- Final webinar presenting the project's findings
- Hope to create some leaflets on some of the sites
- Travelling exhibition (July-Sept), including a launch event, which you'll be invited to.

October

End of Project Celebration, venue tbd, but hopefully at one of the landscapes researched during the project.

Thank you, and enjoy!









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Thank you so much for following these webinars and we hope you're now very much looking forward to being let loose on your own landscapes. We can't wait to hear about your discoveries!

We'll take questions now, followed by a quick poll about how you found today's webinar and the rest of the training.