



In the News

Call for Papers: Cambridge Heritage Symposium 2026

The symposium explores the role of heritage in providing ontological security in individual, communal, national and international contexts.

Page 5

Historic England added 199 sites to National Heritage List in 2025

Additions include neolithic burial mounds, 1980s architecture and wartime defences.

Page 8

Cover Story

Pioneering project explores cultural influences of US Air Force Black Americans in Cold War East Anglia

by Elma Glasgow

Heritage consultant Elma Glasgow discusses her project, Black USAF: Cultural Connections in Cold War East Anglia, uncovering the stories of African American USAF personnel based in the UK during the Cold War.

Read more on **Page 2**

Editor: [Oliver Moxham](#)

In this Issue

18 December 2025

Cover story 2

News 5

Events 9

Calls 12

Opportunities 16

Contact 19

Cover image:

Evening skyline over Antakya with visible air pollution.
Photograph by Ladin Akcacioglu.

Pioneering project explores cultural influences of US Air Force Black Americans in Cold War East Anglia

by Elma Glasgow



Image: USAF jets on standby ([Black USAF blog](#)).

Black USAF: Cultural Connections in Cold War East Anglia is a heritage and community engagement project uncovering the untold stories of African American United States Air Force (USAF) personnel stationed in the East of England during the Cold War.

Although many people in the region remember the substantial American military presence from the late 1940s to the 1990s, the cultural influence of Black USAF service members has received no attention.

However, their contributions to local communities and the national cultural landscape – especially through music and social life – are at risk of being forgotten. Black USAF seeks to change this by documenting, sharing and celebrating these overlooked histories.

At the centre of the project is an exploration of how encounters between Black American airmen* and local residents shaped our region's culture. Interactions in pubs, cafés, dance halls, nightclubs, music venues, sporting events and on the airbases created cross-cultural exchanges that influenced attitudes, values and interests. For many Black airmen, East Anglia offered moments of relative freedom from the segregation they experienced in the United States, allowing them to build relationships with local communities.

Origins of the project

The idea for Black USAF is rooted in personal experiences of project manager, Elma Glasgow, a cultural heritage producer and inclusive engagement consultant. Through conversations with friends and family over three decades, she identified a missing thread in British cultural history: the significant influence of African American USAF personnel on local life.

This is especially visible in the region's music heritage, spanning soul, R&B, funk, early disco, and later genres such as house and hip hop – all shaped in part by the African American visitors.

Project phases

Supported by Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants and Essex Cultural Diversity Project, this initial phase focuses on gathering oral histories, photographic materials, archival research, and a mini exhibition. The story of Geno Washington, the celebrated soul singer who discovered his vocal talent while stationed in Suffolk in the early 1960s, is a major strand of this initial phase. His journey from airman to British soul music icon illustrates the profound cultural exchanges occurring across the region.

With the ongoing support of our partners and the fantastic research team, the long-term vision is to expand Black USAF into a nationally and internationally significant project.

Impact and significance

Black USAF addresses a critical gap in our understanding of the Cold War and the African diaspora in Britain. By platforming these narratives, Black USAF invites communities to reflect on race, representation and heritage today, highlighting how past cultural exchanges can inspire more inclusive futures. And, essentially, what unites us.

Five striking portraits of Geno Washington are on display at [Cambridge Central Library](#) until 31st January 2026.

**'Airmen' is the US Air Force's term for all personnel.*

Website: www.blackusaf.org

Email: projectblackusaf@gmail.com

Instagram & Facebook: [@projectblackusaf](#)



Bio

Elma Glasgow FRSA is a multi-award-winning consultant and cultural producer specialising in inclusive engagement and Black cultural storytelling. She founded Aspire Black Suffolk CIC in 2021, which started life as Elma's milestone community engagement initiative for the award-winning Power of Stories exhibition in Ipswich, which featured original costumes from Marvel Studios' first Black Panther movie and co-curated with the local Black community. Due to the success of both the exhibition and the engagement activities, Elma went on to lead a Suffolk-based Power of Stories exhibition tour. Also a consultant, Elma works with universities, companies, government bodies, and in Culture and Heritage. She serves on the Norfolk and Suffolk Culture Board and is a proud trustee of HighTide theatre company. Elma grew up visiting USAF airbases at Alconbury, Lakenheath and Mildenhall in the '70s and '80s.



26th Annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium

The Cambridge Heritage Research Centre is excited to announce and share the Call for Papers for the 26th annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium, which will take place between the **8th-9th May 2026** at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge.

The annual Cambridge Heritage Symposium (CHS) was set up in 1996 as a forum for discussing and sharing ideas, questions, and case studies arising from working with or studying heritage. Past CHS have been instrumental to recognizing the varied forms of heritage, the wide-ranging interest in the field, and the many ways heritage is being studied and practiced – confirming the centrality of this field and the many areas it contributes to.

The Role of Heritage in Shaping Ontological Security in the Contemporary World



Image: A repaired celadon lotus bowl, from 'Kintsugi - The Poetic mind' (Bonnie Kemske, 2021)

In her 2007 seminal paper, Jane Grenville argued about the significance of built environment for ontological security and invited us to reflect on how heritage contributes to our everyday living. Recent economic, environmental and political crises, urban gentrification, wars, and the shifting dynamics of the global landscape, along with the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, prompt us to reconsider the role that heritage plays in fostering ontological security, or the security of being.



Ontological security provides individuals, communities and societies with modes of survival during periods of political, social, economic, and cultural upheaval. Heritage offers reassurance of belonging, identity, and a shared past, which are essential for ensuring a hopeful future.

We invite contributions for a two-day conference focused on the topic of heritage and ontological security and how it relates to ideas of reconciliation and commemoration. Our emphasis will be on resilience, a sense of belonging to a place and/or community, and well-being as integral components of emotional and physical safety.

The topics we invite the participants to focus on are identity, belongings, shared past reconciliation and commemoration.

This year the CHRC is joining forces with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. The symposium (CHS26) will be supported by the McDonald Institute for Archaeology, the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the A.G. Leventis Foundation.

Submission guidelines

We welcome proposals from all disciplinary backgrounds that address how heritage in all its forms contributes to ontological security on individual, communal, national, and international scales.

We aim to turn a selection of conference papers into a publication.

Please submit an abstract of **no more than 300 words** by **Sunday, 15th February 2026** to the organisers at chrcsymposium@gmail.com.



68 nominations for UNESCO intangible heritage list under consideration



Images: A lahutari and lahutarja, traditional Albanian musicians whose practice has been nominated as intangible cultural heritage.

By [Arbenllapashtica](#) (CC BY-SA 3.0).

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is currently holding its twentieth session from 8 to 13 December 2025 in New Delhi (India). The committee is examining the nominations of 68 elements submitted by 78 States for inscription on the Lists of the Convention. Submissions include nationally and internationally representative dance, music and puppetry. 11 nominations are being considered as “in Need of Urgent Safeguarding”, while one is being put forward for the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. A full list of practices under consideration is available in the below link.

[Learn more](#)



Historic England adds 199 sites to National Heritage List in 2025



Image: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral is one of the sites being added to the National Heritage List (CC BY 2.5).

Historic England has added 199 historic buildings and sites to the National Heritage List for England in 2025, spanning from Neolithic remains to late 20th-century architecture. The additions comprise 173 listings, 21 scheduled monuments and five parks and gardens. A further 129 amendments were made to existing listings. The List is the official register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England. Newly listed buildings include:

- the post-war Renold Building at the University of Manchester
- Arts and Crafts gardens in North Yorkshire
- a neoclassical school in Birmingham
- Adams Heritage Centre, a former Victorian ironmongers that specialised in Norwegian ice skates.

The full list can be read via the link below.

[Learn more](#)



December 20, 11:30am - 1:30pm
Online

ICOMOS
international council on monuments and sites



About the Event

ICOMOS India's Committee on Cultural Tourism, Intangible Cultural Heritage, Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and Holkar Cultural Centre warmly invite you to join the 'Connecting the Dots Season 3 : Celebrating a Legacy of Patronage through Responsible Tourism' webinar series.

Connecting the Dots: Season 3 is a three part lectures series exploring the historic sites associated with Devi Ahilyabai Holkar through ICTC lens. The session focuses on patronage, responsible tourism, conservation, and heritage-led cultural understanding. This programme is organised by ICOMOS NSC Cultural Tourism.

Supported by the Hon. Royal Holkars of Indore, the Khasgi Trust, and Alampur Chhatris Trust, this webinar series aims to explore various historic sites associated with Punyashlok Devi Ahilyabai Holkar under the lens of the ICOMOS International Cultural Heritage Tourism Charter.

[Register here](#)



Museum Association | Breaking Barriers: Radical Curatorial Practice

January 28, 11am - 4pm
Online



About the Event

With the growth in participatory practice and the drive to tell wider and more inclusive stories with our collections, this event explores how the role of the curator is evolving.

Using a mix of provocations, panel discussions and breakout forums, speakers will explore...

- The skills to create dynamic, engaging and exciting exhibitions and displays
- How to bring new voices and expertise to curation
- Ideas for tackling urgent contemporary concerns
- Ways to reflect the changing nature of our communities
- Creating a sense of place, identity and wellbeing for audiences.

You will benefit from this one-day conference if you...

- Work in any area of curatorial practice
- Design exhibitions
- Have collections management responsibilities
- Are a curator at a smaller organisation
- Connect with communities in your role
- Work in learning and engagement
- Lead the curatorial vision at your museum.

Fees: Non-member: £67 | Member: £46

Concessionary member: £36 | Free inclusion places available

[Register here](#)

University of Liverpool | Lessons from the Past

January 28, 11am - 4pm
Online



About the Event

Registration has opened for “Lessons from the Past 2026”, a hybrid conference hosted by the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology, in partnership with the interdisciplinary Centre for Sustainable Research (ICSR), and the Victoria Gallery and Museum at the University of Liverpool, March 23rd and 24th 2026.

World leading experts from a range of disciplines are lined up to deliver inspiring concrete recommendations on solving today's problems with their expertise of the past.

Delegates will be asked to vote on their top three recommendations at the conclusion of day 1, with day 2 dedicated to poster presentations and discussion rooms to explore the three selected talks in more detail.

Thanks to the generous funding of the Arts and Humanities Research Council, we are able to offer Early Bird discounts (£15!) until the start of 2026. In person ticket price includes full conference access, refreshments, lunch on both days, and access to the wine reception at the end of day one. Unfortunately, no other associated costs can be covered. Online ticket price only includes online access to the talks on day 1, as all activities on day 2 necessitate in person attendance.

Abstract submission has closed, but poster submissions remain open until the end of January.

[Register here](#)

Arab-German Young Academy | A Global History of Collecting: Objects, Institutions, and Knowledge Practices across Cultures

Abstract deadline: January 31



Call for Contributions

Following up on the international AGYA conference “Collecting as Cultural Practice: Collecting Cultures and Object Itineraries in Eurasia and the MENA region”, AGYA members PD Dr habil. [Phillip Grimberg](#) and Dr. [Ghada Mohamed](#) are delighted to invite contributions for an edited volume that rethinks the global history of collecting through the lens of the sociology of knowledge. This interdisciplinary book project seeks to examine collecting not merely as a cultural or aesthetic activity, but as epistemological practices – a powerful epistemic mechanism through which institutions and individuals across the globe have shaped systems of value, identity, memory, and authority.

By focusing on the “social lives of objects” and their role in the production, circulation, and contestation of knowledge, this volume interrogates collecting practices from antiquity to the digital age, encompassing contexts as diverse as African royal courts, East Asian philosophical traditions, indigenous American rituals, Islamic manuscript culture, and contemporary digital heritage.

Aims and Scope

We aim to bring together contributions from scholars of diverse disciplinary, regional, and methodological backgrounds to explore how collections – whether royal treasuries, ethnographic cabinets, temple inventories, or digital repositories – construct, stabilise, and transmit forms of knowledge.

In bringing these perspectives into dialogue, the volume proceeds from the recognition that acts of collecting are always embedded within broader historical, political, social and cultural frameworks. Understanding collecting in this way reveals its entanglement with diverse spheres, including:

- Epistemic and cultural authority
- Colonial and imperial histories
- Religious and philosophical worldviews
- The politics of memory and restitution
- Institutional and state-building processes
- Digital transformation and algorithmic curation

The scope of the volume is comparative and transregional in nature, covering a wide range of regions and contexts.

[Learn more](#)



Palgrave Macmillan | Palgrave Studies in Cultural Heritage and Conflict

palgrave
macmillan

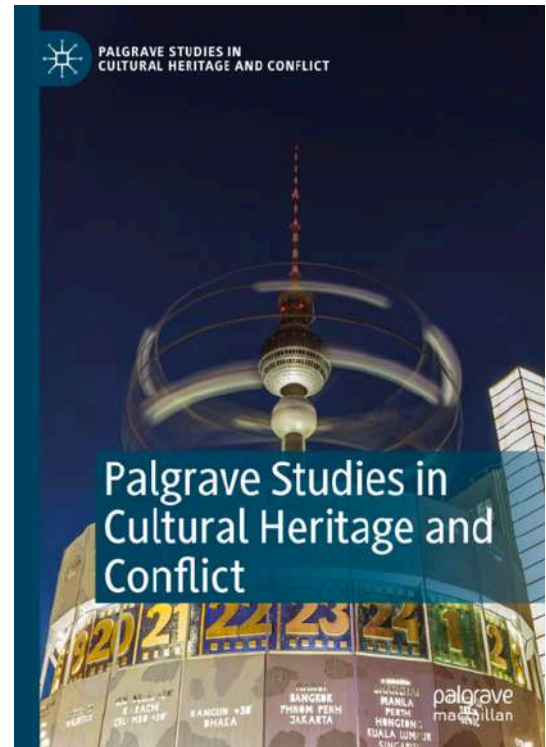
Series editors: Ihab Saloul & Britt Baillie

This book series explores the relationship between cultural heritage and conflict. The key themes of the series are the heritage and memory of war and conflict, contested heritage, and competing memories. The series editors seek books that analyze the dynamics of the past from the perspective of tangible and intangible remnants, spaces, and traces as well as heritage appropriations and restitutions, significations, musealizations, and mediatizations in the present. Books in the series should address topics such as the politics of heritage and conflict, identity and trauma, mourning and reconciliation, nationalism and ethnicity, diaspora and intergenerational memories, painful heritage and terrascapes, as well as the mediated reenactments of conflicted pasts.

View books in the series [here](#).

Contact Senior Editor Camille Davies to discuss your book idea at camille.davies@palgrave.com.

Submit a book proposal to the series [here](#).



[Learn more](#)

Abstract deadline: February 2

Digital Archives: Agency, Activism, and Contestation

edited by Britt Baillie, Merit Maran, Mario Panico and Marjolein Uittenbogaard

Across memory and heritage studies, the archive has long been a central concern as an institution of recordkeeping, preservation and actualization of the past. In the digital age, producing and maintaining the archive takes place beyond traditional heritage institutions. Today, the 'archive' has become a metaphor, used to denote a variety of websites, databases, social media outlets and personal cloud storage with archival functions.

Yet these archival sites are far from neutral. Indeed, they have become contested spaces and at times even spaces of conflict, where emerging forms of digital activism challenge established hegemonic narratives and shape how heritage is represented and negotiated. However, algorithmic interference, virtual echo chambers, and the governing power of platforms reveal a pressing question in our engagement with digital archives: who has agency in the digital archive, and how may the archive itself act as an agent?

This special issue, developed as part of the Horizon Europe Twinning project DIGHT-Net, critically examines how digital technologies transform the semiotic capacities of the archive and decentralize the human as sole arbiter of preservation. Contributors explore the interplay between archives, agents and activists, for instance, through theoretical reflections on human and non-human agencies and emotional affordances in the archive, including those of the archivist, the heritage community and the user, as well as the role of the (virtual) museum as an archival agent.

The issue also welcomes practical perspectives on agency in the digital archive that consider the 'politics of digitization' influencing what cultural heritage is made available in the digital space; the (absence) of ecological agency in enabling the digital data repositories; and the pitfalls and potential that digital heritage poses in rectifying or reinforcing global power and information asymmetries. Moreover, it invites case-study approaches on the agencies of non-human actors in the digital archive, including those of generative AI and commercial platforms, and how these dynamics mediate, amplify or distort online and offline processes of conflict, security, democracy, and peace.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts of **no more than 500 words**, together with a **150-word biography**, by the **2nd of February 2026**.

[Apply Here](#)

Heritage Call for Papers | Cultural Tourism, UNESCO Sites and 2030 Agenda: Where Are We At?

Abstract deadline:
August 31



heritage

Just 5 years from the 2030 milestone and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, our proposal intends to take stock of the codified good practices or, more simply, the experimental solutions still underway, to govern the economic development processes based on cultural tourism in sites with tangible and intangible values, starting from those recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage, to measure their carrying capacity and mitigate the impacts of their enhancement.

These could be some of the topics for which contributions could be directed:

1. Assessment of the carrying capacity of territories and sites and tools for mitigating pressures on local communities and cultural heritage;
2. Assessment of the impacts of cultural tourism;
3. Strategic planning and organization of the cultural-tourist offer;
4. Governance models, community involvement and redistribution of benefits;
5. Real estate dynamics;
6. Strategic classification of cultural assets for their enhancement as touristic resources (from a historical standpoint, too);
7. Networks;
8. New trends, new markets.

Keywords

Agenda 2030 | overtourism | best practices | UNESCO sites | cultural tourism governance | markets

Submission information

Manuscripts should be submitted online at www.mdpi.com by [registering](#) and [logging in to this website](#). Once you are registered, [click here to go to the submission form](#). Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. All submissions that pass pre-check are peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website. Research articles, review articles as well as short communications are invited. For planned papers, a title and short abstract (about 100 words) can be sent to the Editorial Office for announcement on this website.

[Learn more](#)



Student Awards and Grants

Are you a student interested in Industrial Archaeology and Heritage? The AIA offers:



Undergraduate and Postgraduate dissertation awards

Separate awards for undergraduates and postgraduates of £400 each year.



Research grants

The total fund available in any single year is £1,500 and multiple grants may be given



Travel bursaries

Up to £1,500 contribution towards the cost of travel, accommodation and fees for research site visits, attendance at conferences and relevant training activities.



Publication awards

To encourage high standards in the publication of research and recording in industrial archaeology, awards of up to £500 are offered.

The closing date for applications (excluding travel bursaries) is the 31st of January each year. You can join AIA for as little as £22 a year. For more information, [visit the AIA's website](#), or scan the QR code



[Learn more](#)



Opportunities

University of Gothenburg |
Senior Lecturer in Cultural Heritage



January 15

Closing date: 15th January 2026

Conditions: Must speak Swedish (or other Scandinavian language).

Role description

The position of senior lecturer includes teaching and supervision in the main field of cultural heritage as well as in one of the main areas of history, archaeology or ancient culture and social life. We are looking for a person who can be a driving force in the development of cultural heritage as the main field of both within the framework of the department's current educational offering and with a view to the development of new courses and programmes. The role also requires research, administration, course planning, development work and information and collaboration with the surrounding society. Tutoring and teaching at the postgraduate level may also occur.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must have completed a doctoral degree in history, archaeology or ancient culture and social sciences, or have competence that the employer deems to be equivalent, and possess a documented research and educational competence in the main field of cultural heritage. Documented good ability to teach in Swedish (alternatively Scandinavian) and English is a requirement.

Application

The application must be written in Swedish (or other Scandinavian language), and contain:

- A personal application letter.
- A scientific and educational report that each describes your qualifications.
- A CV that in point form clearly describes your scientific, pedagogical, administrative and other relevant qualifications.
- Certified certificates of degrees, employment and completed university pedagogical courses.
- A complete publication list.
- A maximum of 10 scientific publications (including the thesis).
- Examples of possible educational publications (e.g. teaching materials), and/or other documents that highlight the pedagogical skills (maximum 10 documents).
- Contact information for three academic reference persons.

[Learn more](#)





Opportunities

Ulster University | PhD Studentship: Developing New Pathways in Mental Health Heritage and Local Research

February 27

Closing date: 27th February 2026

Start date: September 2026

Salary: £21,000 p.a. + tuition (3 years)



Collaborative Doctoral Partnership with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Belfast

This collaborative project will broaden understandings of rural mental health and local communities, emphasising institutional experiences, the role of asylums as employers, stigma and the historical nature of institutionalisation in Ireland.

It aims to develop original research into Armagh's three asylums - the District Lunatic Asylum, Retreat Loughgall and Course Lodge, Richhill – covering the period 1875-1936. Historically, the asylums served as microcosms of the societies surrounding them, reflecting the complex social relations that formed between the Famine and post-partition, inflected by considerations such as class, gender, religion and political affiliation.

The successful applicant will spend periods working at Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), developing skills in archival conservation, digitisation of records and developing a toolkit relating to using AI in archives.

Based at PRONI for 3 x 6 week blocks of time (distributed evenly across the three year studentship), the researcher will be provided with office space and professional training. The awardee will gain skills in cataloguing and making material of regional significance files more visible.

The researcher will also work collaboratively with PRONI and County Armagh Museum to develop a temporary exhibition on the region's asylums, developing innovative pathways in an under-researched area: mental health heritage.

To apply for this opportunity, a detailed and clearly defined research proposal is required along with articulate personal statement. Please note that we will only accept one application per applicant. Multiple applications will not be considered.

Essential criteria

- a First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree in a relevant subject
- Experience using research methods or other approaches relevant to the subject domain
- A comprehensive and articulate personal statement
- Research proposal of 1500 words detailing aims, objectives, milestones and methodology of the project

[Learn more](#)





Contribute

We would be especially interested in hearing from you about events and opportunities. Contributions in the form of short reviews of conferences, exhibitions, publications or other events/material that you have attended/read are also welcome. Please note that advertisements for any non-CHRC events, jobs, or programs do not imply endorsement of them.

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If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive our bulletin, or if you have a notice to post, please contact the editor (heritage-bulletin@arch.cam.ac.uk).

For more information about the Heritage Research Group, visit the CHRC website:

www.heritage.arch.cam.ac.uk

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