



Introduction

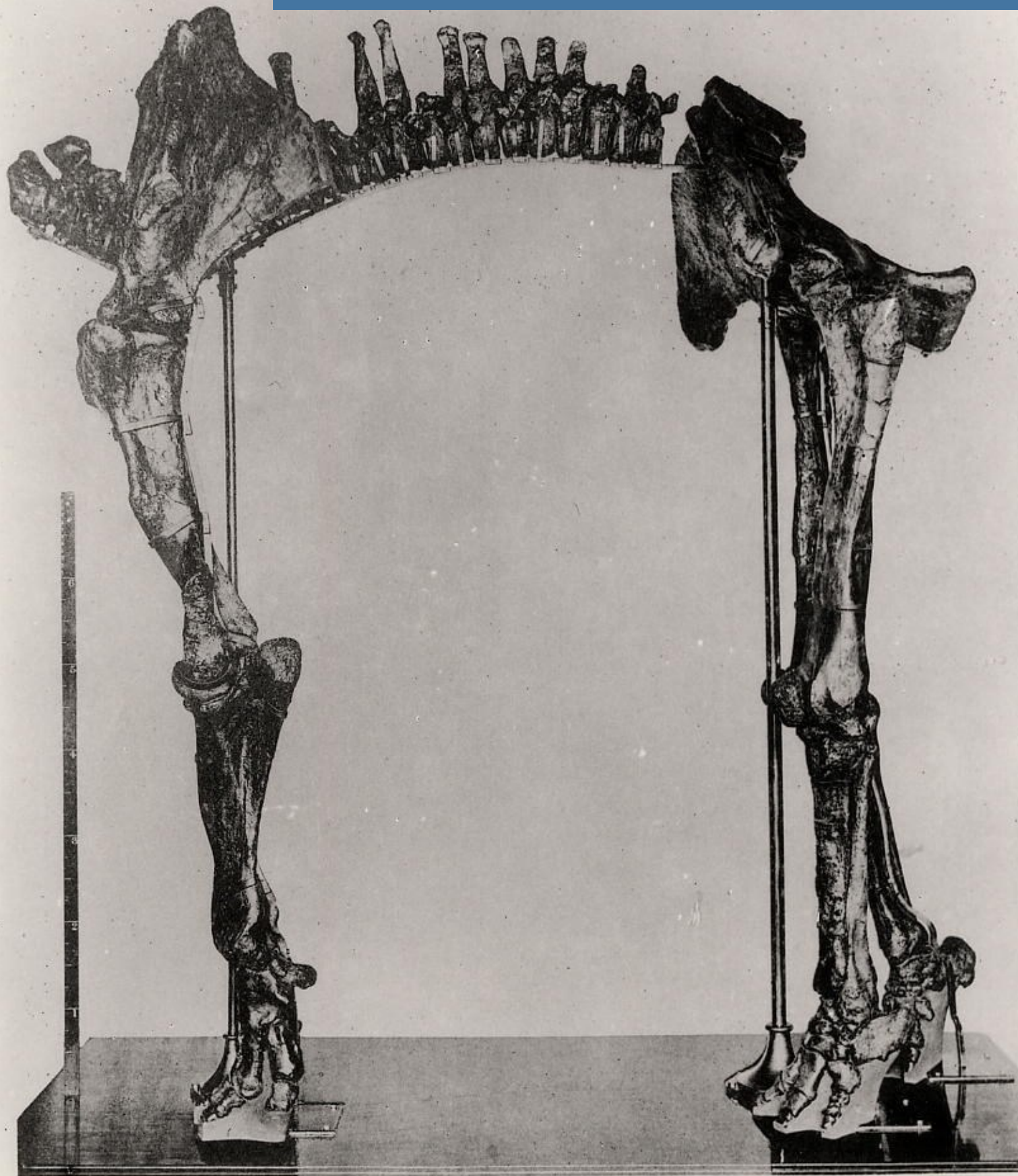
Medway benefits from a rich and diverse heritage. From mammoth tusks to miniature railways; Medway's heritage encompasses history from the earliest times to the present day. Our heritage is important; it is an irreplaceable resource that influences the way we perceive our surroundings, contributes to the making of Medway as a place, delivers health and well-being benefits, provides substantially to the local economy, and underpins the distinctive character of the area.

Heritage and the historic environment play a significant role in delivering sustainable development and are integral to achieving the objectives of the Medway Local Plan. The Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017 provides an overview of the historic environment in Medway, outlining its significance and identifying opportunities for further protection and enhancement. In order to make the most of these opportunities, a set of objectives have been identified that collectively form the Medway Heritage Strategy:

- **Objective 1:** Conserve and enhance Medway's heritage assets.
- **Objective 2:** Work with Medway's heritage assets to help deliver sustainable development.
- **Objective 3:** Increase the understanding and community involvement with Medway's heritage assets.

Through the delivery of these objectives, the Medway Heritage Strategy aims to provide the framework for how we conserve, enhance and enjoy our heritage both in the immediate and long term future.

The 'Upnor Elephant', a 4m tall headless but largely intact skeleton of a straight-tusked elephant discovered in 1913, thought to be of Middle or Late Pleistocene age. Mammoth tusks have also been found nearby.



H G Herring photo

C. Whittingham & Griggs Ltd Imp

Elephas antiquus Falconer.

The role and recognition of heritage through existing Medway Council strategies

The objectives of the Medway Heritage Strategy cross-cut a number of other council strategies, therefore it is important that a consistent approach is maintained throughout. The following sections detail how other Medway Council strategic documents address heritage and the historic environment.

Medway Local Plan

The Medway Local Plan supported by the Medway Heritage Strategy set out a positive and clear strategy for the conservation, enjoyment and enhancement of the historic environment in Medway. The aim of the Local Plan is to ensure that Medway grows sustainably; providing land for the homes, jobs, infrastructure and services that people need, whilst protecting and enhancing the qualities of the area's environment and heritage.

A range of strategic and development management policies have been included to support Medway Council's ambitions.

Medway 2035

Medway 2035 is the regeneration strategy for Medway, setting out the aims and objectives for across six priority areas, including the preservation and maintenance what makes Medway special; from the river, ecology and green spaces to the culture and heritage.

Priority 1 includes several references to the importance of Medway's heritage, acknowledging the importance it provides in creating the setting for a modern city, its place in building Medway's identity and ensuring that it remains relevant for the existing communities and growing population.

Through engaging with Medway's heritage, the strategy seeks to increase the number of visitors to Medway, as well as means of identifying opportunities to strengthen links between heritage assets to improve the unique attraction that the heritage offers.

The Great Lines Heritage Park Vision and Masterplan are also promoted; highlighting the benefits of increasing the quality and quantity of publicly-accessible greenspace and heritage at the heart of Medway, and providing a major green link between town centres and a significant health and well-being asset.

Medway 2035 is closely linked to the Medway Local Plan, and will be accompanied by a Regeneration Delivery Plan - a framework for delivering the identified objectives, with short, medium and long-term actions.

Medway Green Infrastructure Strategy

Content TBC...

Medway Cultural Strategy

Medway's cultural offer has a pivotal role to play in the regeneration and place making of Medway, making Medway an attractive place to live, work, study and visit.

The cultural partnership comprising partners from across Medway's cultural offer has produced the existing cultural strategy based on the following 4 key priorities:

- Strategic priority – Stewardship
Preserve, interpret and enhance Medway's heritage, green spaces and public realm for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.
- Strategic priority – Engagement
Increase active engagement and satisfaction with cultural activities to increase quality of life, providing the essential place making for the significant regeneration that is taking place in Medway.
- Strategic priority – Contributing to Economic Prosperity
Harness and foster the creative talent within Medway and maximise the opportunities the universities and further education, tourism, creative sector and cultural offer create for Medway's economy.
- Strategic priority – Health and Wellbeing
Increase active participation to address obesity, mental and spiritual health, promoting active minds, bodies and lifestyles and seeking to address social isolation.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Delivering the Medway Heritage Strategy

The Medway Heritage Strategy comprises three key objectives, of which the elements can be achieved collaboratively alongside the priorities of the other council strategies, and delivered through sustainable planning and development. Collectively, the objectives create a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in Medway.

Objective 1: Conserve and enhance Medway's heritage assets

Demonstrate commitment in Medway to the conservation and enhancement of our heritage.

Medway is a unique area, with a rich array of heritage that spans millennia. This heritage forms the Medway that we experience today and underpins the character of the area. Its significance cannot be down-played; therefore the role of heritage in the future growth of Medway is of utmost importance.

Medway Council will demonstrate its commitment to the conservation and enhancement of our heritage through leadership, collaborative-working and community involvement, that in-turn will help to provide a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Ensure the protection and enhancement of Medway's heritage assets through the objectives of the emerging Local Plan and development management decision making.

Comprehensive policies have been included into the emerging Local Plan that will ensure that Medway's heritage assets are given appropriate consideration in planning decision making. The policies will be further supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Guidance Notes that will help provide additional information and advice to developers, planners and members of the public as required.

Create a Local Heritage List which will help enhance and protect non-designated heritage assets that play a vital role in the establishment of the distinct local characters of the separate areas of Medway.

Medway benefits from a wealth of heritage assets, many of which are protected by a national designation such as a Listed Building, Scheduled Ancient Monument, Historic Parks and Gardens, or are covered by a Conservation Area. Many other buildings and structures however do not benefit from such designations, but are identified to require particular consideration when determining planning applications due to their local historical importance.

As part of Medway's on-going work to better understand, interpret and enhance its heritage assets, work has commenced on the creation of a database of buildings and other structures that require such special consideration. The aspiration is that the database will help inform the creation of a Local Heritage List. Over 500 individual buildings and sites have been identified and added to the database so far. It is accepted that many of those identified so far will not make the final List, however the database provides a starting point, acting as a means of recording potential candidates.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

The council will look to work in partnership with the local community to identify additional candidates for the list, along with establishing of criteria for designation (such as age, rarity, aesthetic interest, archaeological interest, historical association, or social and communal value) which will help ensure the list is both comprehensive and robust. Regular reviews of the list will be undertaken periodically to ensure it remains up to date.

Establish a 'Heritage at Risk' register for Medway which includes Grade II Listed Buildings and non-designated heritage assets.

Historic England compiles an annual Heritage at Risk register which identifies Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas which are at risk from neglect. There are a number of conditions for each type of designation to be included onto the Register:

- Vacant Listed Buildings: In very bad, poor or fair condition;
- Occupied Listed Buildings: In very bad or poor condition;
- Scheduled Monuments: Depends on their condition, vulnerability, trend of their condition and their likely future vulnerability; and
- Conservation Areas: Those that are deteriorating or in very bad condition and are not expected to change significantly in the next 3 years.

Grade II Listed Buildings are not included onto the Register; however it is an aspiration of the council to work towards establishing a register that builds on that published by Historic England and include both Grade II Listed Buildings and non-designated heritage assets currently at risk.

The Register will help provide a means of actively working with the owners of heritage assets to prevent further deterioration of their condition and bring them back into use.



Case Study: Heritage at Risk

Restoration of the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Upper Stoke

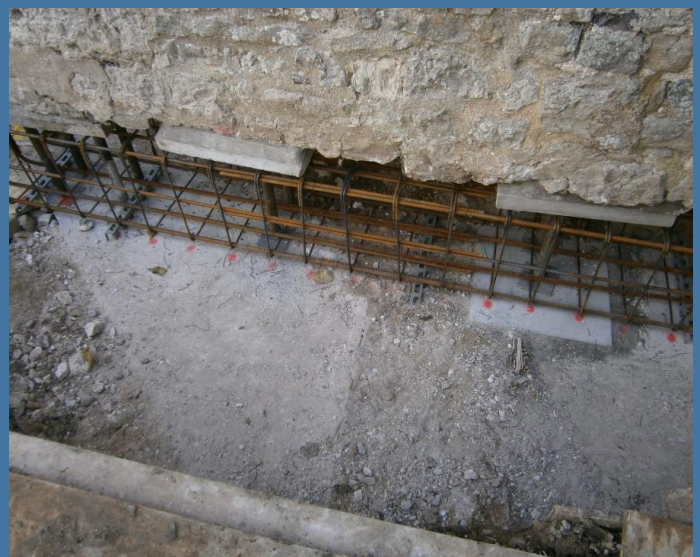


The earliest parts of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Upper Stoke date from the late 12th century. The church sits at the centre of the village, positioned on the high ground overlooking the saltmarshes of the River Medway. The last major restoration of the church was undertaken in 1898, including the roofs and floors and the rebuilding or remodelling of the porch.

The church received national designation in 1966, benefitting from Grade I Listed Building status; however in 2013 it was added to Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' register when it was found that the south aisle had moved away from the main body of the church causing cracking to the stonework and disturbance to the roof that required urgent underpinning to rectify the issue.

Architect Rena Pitsilli-Graham was appointed in 2013 to manage the project and to coordinate with the council to gain Listed Building consent and to agree a programme of works.

To pay for the underpinning the church sought external financial support. A successful application was made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £245,000, with additional funding being provided by WREN (landfill tax), Friends of Kent Churches and the Wolfson Foundation.



Further support came through private donations and fund-raising events held by members of the congregation; then in 2015 the church were informed that they had been successful in an additional Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £215,000. This extra funding helped with the cost of an extensive range of repairs to the tower, reroofing of the church and the installation of an accessible toilet to help modernise facilities.

Case Study: Heritage at Risk

Scaffold was erected around the church in April 2015, together with a shelter roof to protect the church from the elements during the works. The roof tiles were removed and replaced over the following months, along with repairs to the buttresses, windows, roof timbers, repointing of the stonework, re-plastering of the inside of the chancel and the installation of the new toilet facilities. The project was brought to a close with the placing of a new weathervane atop the turret.



Through 2015 nearly 1,600 people visited the church for services, meetings and open days, demonstrating its importance to the community.

In 2016 the church was removed from the Heritage at Risk register, and then in 2018 the restoration project was one of six shortlisted for the National Churches Trust King of Prussia award. Despite not winning, the project was highly commended; testament to the hard work and dedication of those involved in restoration of the church for the enjoyment and celebration by future generations.



All images courtesy of the Church of St Peter and St Paul

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Update the Medway Landscape Character Assessment 2011, taking into account the findings of the Hoo Peninsula studies undertaken by Historic England and the Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2014.

The Medway Landscape Character Assessment was published in March 2011 with the primary purpose to support and inform landscape planning policies and to provide a landscape planning guidance document for the countryside and urban-rural fringe areas of Medway. The Landscape Character Assessment also provides insight into the significance of historic landscapes across Medway, their influence on present and historic land-uses, how they have altered through human interaction, and their role in establishing the local character and distinctiveness.

The scope of the Landscape Character Assessment looks to define individual character areas of Medway's landscape, assessing their character, distinctiveness and value, and providing guidance on their condition and sensitivity to future development.

The Landscape Character Assessment is due to be updated as part of the Medway Local Plan; however the content of the 2011 document is still currently valid.



Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Produce planning guidance on building heights, viewpoints and vistas in Medway to ensure that important historic views of and from heritage assets are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Medway benefits from a unique topography consisting of hills, valleys, woodland, rivers and salt marsh, providing a range of viewpoints to enjoy the picturesque historic landscapes that the area has to offer. Understanding these views and their role in defining Medway's historic environment is of particular importance as they help inform approaches to development and place-making.

Medway also benefits from a range of large or prominent heritage assets and landmark buildings that characterise the historic skyline and can be viewed from a range of locations. Often these heritage assets have historically been a focal point for navigation (such as St Mary Magdalen church in Gillingham), form part of a historic setting (such as Rochester castle and cathedral), are placed in a particular location as a memorial for remembrance (such as the Naval Memorial on the Great Lines), or are of strategic military importance, such as the defences and fortifications encircling Chatham Dockyard.

To provide recognition and protection of these important heritage assets, guidance on Medway's important views and vistas will be produced. The document will provide information on building heights, protected vistas, important viewpoints, along with recommendations for enhancement.

"Landscape is more than just 'the view'. What turns land into landscape is our perception of a place, combining how we appreciate its aesthetic qualities – its patterns, colours, smells, textures and sounds – and the associations we attach to them, such as memories, feelings of familiarity or a sense of awe." (CPRE: Landscapes for Everyone, 2015)



Delivering the Heritage Strategy



Undertake Conservation Area Appraisals for all of Medway's Conservation Areas with a longer-term aim of creating character appraisals, design guidance and palettes of typical materials for areas within Medway where there is particular historic significance, for example:

- ***Historic settlements;***
- ***Military establishments;***
- ***Areas of industrial influence such as ship-building and the brick, cement and lime industry.***

Currently, just 6 of Medway's 24 Conservation Areas have published Conservation Area Appraisals, with another 2 currently in production.

Conservation Area Appraisals are extremely important documents that explain the architectural and historical qualities that make a Conservation Area special. They help the council and others to judge whether new development will preserve and enhance the Conservation Area, and ensure that the architectural and historic significance of an area is taken into account when considering development proposals and schemes.

Outside of Conservation Areas, Medway also benefits from an abundance of designated and non-designated heritage assets that play a significant role in contributing to the character of the area, both physically and culturally. The Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017 provides an insight into the key factors that help influence the character of Medway today; exploring their origins, role and geographical distribution. These factors and influences provide direction and can help shape the location, form and type of development in Medway; ensuring that development responds positively, and where possible, enhancing the local character and heritage assets; reflecting the identity, materials and design of the local surroundings and reinforcing a sense of place.

To help achieve this, a suite of documents will be produced to support the aims and objectives of the Medway Local Plan where required; providing information on the guiding influences of the locality; such as the architecture, design, density, massing, height, layout, landscaping and appropriate materials for the distinct character areas across Medway.



Canal Road, Strood in the 1920s, highlighting the areas industrial roots and moreover the historic importance of the river to everyday life in Medway.

By the Pier at Strood.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy



Objective 2: Work with Medway's heritage assets to help deliver sustainable development.

Make use of heritage assets as a catalyst for social and economic regeneration, through:

- *Identifying funding streams and other initiatives to help kick-start regeneration; and*
- *Bringing heritage assets back into use through management plans and support provided to the owners.*

The historic environment has an increasingly important role in supporting sustainable growth and is considered a substantial resource which can stimulate regeneration and growth in towns, cities and rural areas. Integrating heritage assets into regeneration schemes has been shown to create popular, successful developments, bringing life back into under-performing or neglected areas. The unique qualities of heritage assets can help add to the overall benefits of a regeneration scheme, for example:

- Historic buildings create a focal point that people can relate to and are familiar with – giving a sense of place;
- They are often well loved local landmarks which the community identify with and will rally around to support or save;
- The fabric and design can add a distinctive identity to the new build part of a regeneration scheme – enhancing townscape and lifting the overall quality of the built environment;
- They may have interesting historical and cultural associations which can be interpreted and developed through the wider regeneration area;
- They may attract tenants and occupiers who would not be interested in a less distinctive building;
- They can assist in achieving sustainable development objectives; and
- They feed people's interest in the past.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

The renovation and restoration of heritage assets can be expensive for owners, often requiring specialist knowledge and craftsmanship to ensure that the work is undertaken and completed to an appropriate standard. To kick-start the commencement, or to assist in the completion of works to neglected heritage assets, grant funding and other resources can be sought from a number of different places, including:

- **The Heritage Lottery Funding** is the largest funder of heritage in the UK, providing over £7.7billion of funding since 1994.
- **The Coastal Communities Fund** is delivered by the Big Lottery Fund on behalf of the government to support economic development in coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs.
- **The Heritage Action Zone initiative** is operated by Historic England and engages with communities and local authorities with the aim of restoring and bringing historic buildings back into use, delivering improvements to conservation areas to help kick-start regeneration and renewal.



Eastgate House in Rochester benefitted from a £1.3m Heritage Lottery Fund grant to help with refurbishment to open it as a tourist attraction and multi-functional community space.

Medway Council will look to continually pursue heritage funding and grants to help support and enhance the historic environment; identifying opportunities to make full use of heritage assets as an integral part of delivering the regeneration programme. The council will also strive to work closely with stakeholders in securing grants and other resources required for the upkeep and restoration of their heritage assets.

A positive approach will be taken to the reuse of heritage assets in Medway through planning decision making with regard to the sensitive restoration and maintenance of heritage assets through sustainable and appropriate reuse, taking into account the wider objectives of the Local Plan.

Case Study: Heritage-led Regeneration

The Rochester and Chatham Townscape Heritage Initiative



The Townscape Heritage Initiative ran between 2004 and 2014 with the primary objective of regenerating the eastern part of the Star Hill to Sun Pier Conservation Area between historic Rochester and Chatham.

This fascinating riverside hinterland, historically known as Chatham Intra, was a once vibrant commercial district supporting the Naval Dockyard at Chatham. It featured fine shops and houses along the High Street, with brewing, ship repair and other industrial activities taking place between the High Street and the River Medway. However, with changing retail trends Chatham Intra had become an increasingly run down secondary area with obvious dereliction and attendant social problems.

Since the closure of Chatham Dockyard in 1984, plus the general decline in industry, much of the riverside area of Chatham Intra had become abandoned or given over to low value uses. This was compounded by changing retail trends leading to the concentration of retail activity towards the centre of Chatham to the east, and the development of a tourist and leisure economy in historic Rochester to the west. Furthermore, the area suffered from some unsympathetic modern development, gradually eroding the historic character. The decline in economic activity led to many of the retail buildings along the High Street becoming run-down and in need of major repair. Five of the listed buildings in the area were considered to be at risk and one of these was in danger of collapse.



Case Study: Heritage-led Regeneration



The THI scheme had an overall budget of £1.6m, jointly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Medway Council, and with the aim of reversing a trend of economic and physical decline in the area through a comprehensive conservation strategy. This was delivered by granting aid for building repairs and renovations in order to:

- Secure the future of historic structures and make it economically viable to bring vacant properties into use;
- Improve public and business perceptions of the area such that building owners and developers are prepared to invest in it.
- Create an area which is attractive and welcoming, as part of the growing evening and leisure economy, to the growing student population; and
- Encourage the cultural and creative industries sector to set up in the area.

The scheme was considered to be a success with 95% of the total budget being spent on a wide range of individual building projects. The appearance of the area was considerably improved, and along with other Council initiatives, has seen the beginnings of a transformation towards a leisure and arts based economy.



Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Objective 3: Increase the understanding and community involvement with Medway's historic environment

Work positively with the stakeholders of key heritage assets in Medway to ensure assets are protected and to identify opportunities to increase their enjoyment by the community and visitors to Medway.

Many of the heritage assets in Medway are maintained and managed by trusts, groups, public bodies, private companies and charities. Medway Council fully understands the importance of the role of these organisations in the continued upkeep and running of such valuable assets; and will therefore continue to positively work with these organisations to help conserve and enhance their heritage assets, exploring opportunities to improve their viability and continued use.



Command of the Heights is a joint project between Medway Council and Fort Amherst Heritage Trust to help restore areas of Fort Amherst. A range of community and educational events are included throughout the works.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy



Provide support to local groups and societies in the understanding and management of heritage assets.

Local groups and societies sit at the centre of the maintenance and management of several of Medway's heritage assets as well as operating open days and taking part in festivals throughout the year. Many of these organisations played an integral part in the production of the Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017, providing knowledge and insight that proved invaluable.

The passion of these groups is evident through their on-going voluntary work, which in-turn promotes Medway as a heritage destination and results in the significant benefits that this type of recognition and tourism brings.

The council currently provides assistance through a number of different projects alongside heritage groups, including the Command of the Heights and the annual Dickens festival and Rochester Sweeps Festival. Medway Council will strive to work closer with local heritage groups and societies, providing support and resources where possible, and looking for opportunities for recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Support Neighbourhood Forums and Parish/Town Councils in the production of Neighbourhood Plans.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011, the concept of which is to pass decision-making to a more local level, from national and local government to local communities. Parish/Town Councils and designated Neighbourhood Forums can produce Neighbourhood Plans for their local areas, putting in place a strategy and policies for the future development of the area. Part of the process includes establishing an evidence base, which may include undertaking research to gain a better understanding of the historic environment to inform design guidance or to create policies for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets. Several of Medway's Neighbourhood Forums have shown interest in pursuing policies that address the historic environment and its role in their emerging Neighbourhood Plans.

Medway Council recognises the importance of Neighbourhood Planning and the benefits of local level decision-making for the development of diverse and cohesive communities and will therefore actively support Neighbourhood Forums and Parish/Town Councils in the production of their Neighbourhood Plans, providing support and a range of materials wherever possible.



Work is currently being progressed for a number of Neighbourhood Plans in Medway, including for the parish of Cliffe and Cliffe Woods.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy



“HERs are an important starting point for anyone interested in the archaeology, built heritage, and history of an area. They can provide information on a wide variety of buildings and sites, from finds of prehistoric flint tools to medieval castles and Second World War pillboxes. HERs are a primary source of information for planning, development-control work, and land management.” (Historic England website)

Work with colleagues at Kent County Council in maintaining the Kent Historic Environment Record as the main repository and source of information for the historic environment.

The Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) is a publicly accessible information resource for the county’s heritage and is maintained by Kent County Council. The KHER contains information on over 40,000 archaeological discoveries and Listed Buildings, and also includes more than 4,000 archaeological reports, along with numerous photographs and maps.

Through the ongoing research and development of knowledge of Medway’s history and heritage, Medway Council will continue to work alongside Kent County Council to report new information to the HER and provide updates where appropriate on the existing records.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Work with Historic England and other organisations in the undertaking of studies into Medway's historic environment.

The Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017 collated information from a range of sources, including a number of reports and assessments produced by external organisations. One of the most notable recent reports was the Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project undertaken by Historic England between 2009 and 2012. The project aimed to increase knowledge and understanding of the historic environment of the Hoo Peninsula, capturing how its history and archaeology have contributed to the character of the modern landscape, including the estuarine and marine environments. The project has already proved to be extremely beneficial; providing a greater understanding of the Hoo Peninsula, assisting with decision-making and enabling the historic environment to fully inform the planning and development.

Reports such as these are an invaluable resource for increasing knowledge and understanding about our surroundings and how the historic environment can play an even greater role in Medway's future. Medway Council will continue to work alongside external organisations in the production of similar reports to those noted in the Medway Heritage Asset Review 2017; providing support and resources for their production wherever possible.

Explore Medway's cultural heritage with the support of Medway Archives, identifying opportunities for its representation in the modern built environment.

Medway's historic environment extends past the tangible heritage assets we enjoy; it is also expressed through our cultural heritage. Historic England provide a definition of 'cultural heritage' as: *"Inherited assets which people identify and value as a reflection and expression of their evolving knowledge, beliefs and traditions, and of their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of others."*

Medway has a rich cultural heritage owing due to the range of historic trades and industries, and the diverse community that has settled in the area. Due to not being a physical asset in its entirety, cultural heritage can unfortunately be diluted and even lost over time and through development; therefore it is of great importance that provisions are made for its recognition and preservation wherever possible through the planning and development process.

The Medway Archives Centre provides a significant resource for local cultural heritage, including collections of photographs, maps, plans, publications, newspapers and magazines, films and a range of other records.

New development should take account of Medway's cultural heritage therefore Medway Council will urge developers to utilise resources such as the Medway Archives Centre and the Kent Archives to provide a greater recognition and representation of the local cultural heritage through new development proposals.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy



Stroud born Isaac Newell is considered to be one of the pioneers of football in Argentina. His son Claudio went on to establish one Argentina's most successful football clubs *Newell's Old Boys*, named in honour of his father.

Image courtesy of Newell's Old Boys

Delivering the Heritage Strategy

Ensure that heritage is fully incorporated within Medway's tourism offer.

The historic environment plays an important role in attracting tourists to Medway, in-turn providing jobs, contributing to the local economy and giving Medway the recognition it deserves as a heritage tourism destination.

Medway has an established Cultural Partnership that works together to preserve and develop all that makes Medway an attractive place to live, work, study and visit. It aims to encourage participation, to attract inward investment and support Medway's continued regeneration.

Wherever possible and appropriate through planning, Medway Council will look to support the work of the Medway Cultural Partnership in the delivery of the key priorities and ambitions of the Medway Cultural Strategy.



Attracting nearly 5 million visitors each year, tourism supports 6,000 jobs in Medway and brings £313m to the local economy.

Delivering the Heritage Strategy



Rochester Castle provides the stunning backdrop to the Medway Mile where thousands of runners, joggers and walkers take to the streets of Rochester.

Recognise the role that heritage plays in health and well-being in Medway.

The historic environment enriches our lives. It's a source of pride and identity; it provides a deep emotional connection, it is a focus for shared experiences. As a society, understanding our heritage helps make sense of our place in the world. It helps create a sense of familiarity and belonging, bringing communities together and connecting us to our shared past, in all its diversity. There is a growing evidence base and recognition that the historic environment has a role to play in maintaining and improving our mental and physical health.

Medway Council will explore opportunities to utilise the historic environment to help maintain and improve people's mental health and physical well-being through collaborative working with the Medway Council Public Health team.

Case Study: Collaborative working

The regeneration and reuse of the former Royal Navy dockyard at Chatham

The association between the Royal Navy and Medway can be dated back to around 1547 when a few modest storehouses in the area of the Old Gun Wharf at Chatham were used to resupply the fleet. This association lasted for over 400 years to 1984 when Chatham Dockyard was finally closed. During this time the Dockyard substantially increased in size, incorporating land from Rats Bay in Chatham way to Gillingham Pier, covering an area in excess of 500 acres. This was further supplemented by the Royal Navy barracks of HMS Pembroke, covering an area of around 50 acres, north of Brompton Barracks.

Through collaborative working, nearly 150 acres of the land formerly occupied by the Navy has been brought back into sustainable use through sensitive heritage led-regeneration, establishing itself as one of Medway's most sought-after locations to work, live learn, visit and invest.



Medway is home to four universities, three of which (University of Kent, Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church) have taken up residence within the former HMS Pembroke Navy barracks, reusing a number of original buildings whilst sensitively adding others to provide a full range of learning facilities.

The Pilkington building and the Drill Hall library were joint winners of the Building Renovation Award at the 2007 Kent Design Awards.



St Mary's Island is a vibrant new community located to the north of the three dockyard basins and surrounded on three sides by the River Medway. The island boasts nearly 2,000 homes, a primary school and community church, a community centre, doctor's surgery and a late-night pharmacy. There is also extensive open space, a riverside walk, cycle paths as well as sports fields and play areas. The development has since won a number of awards, including a silver 'Building for Life' award in 2004.

Case Study: Collaborative working

Part of the regeneration programme for the former Navy dockyard included establishing a range of office, retail and leisure facilities to the south of the basins. As part of the retail offer the Dockside outlet centre was developed inside of the Grade II* Listed Boilershop, and complemented by a multiplex cinema, modern offices, a range of restaurants and bars, gyms, a 412-berth marina and The Quays; two modern residential towers and winner of two housing awards at the 2010 Kent Design Awards.



Soon after the closure of the dockyard, the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust was established and tasked with the stewardship of an 80 acre site for the conservation for future generations, promoting its significance in British history to the public.

The Historic Dockyard Chatham is the most complete dockyard of the age of sail in the world. A continuous process of investment since 1984 has resulted in the majority of the site's formally dilapidated buildings and infrastructure being brought back into appropriate condition and use.

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust has successfully created a mixed community in which 400 people live, over 100 small businesses and organisations thrive, and around 170,000 people now visit the living museum annually (including over 22,000 educational visits); contributing substantially to the local economy.

The site includes over 100 buildings and structures (47 Scheduled Monuments, 11 at Grade I and 33 at Grade II* Listed Buildings) and through sensitive regeneration has amassed a wealth of awards; including the Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA) South East Award 2017, RIBA South East Conservation Award 2017, RIBA South East Building of the Year 2017 and RIBA National Award 2017 for the Command of the Oceans project alone!

Managing the Heritage Strategy

Managing and Monitoring the Heritage Strategy

The on-going management and monitoring of the Heritage Strategy will be achieved through internal reviews and annual monitoring, with indicators on its success published as part of the Authority Monitoring Report. Indicators used for monitoring the success of the Heritage Strategy could include:

- Conservation Area Appraisals completed and adopted;
- The creation of the Local List;
- The creation of an 'At Risk' register;
- Heritage assets removed from the 'At Risk' registers;
- Heritage assets brought back into use; and
- The number of visitors to local heritage attractions and cultural events.

Resourcing the Heritage Strategy

The council will act as a leader and facilitator in promoting and delivering the objectives of the Medway Heritage Strategy, working collaboratively with stakeholders, volunteers and the local community to ensure its success.

Through the delivery of the regeneration programme and sustainable development in-line with the objectives of the Medway Local Plan, Medway Council will demonstrate its commitment to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment; that in-turn will help to provide a rich legacy for future generations that is as good as, if not better than the one enjoyed today.



The iconic Thomas Waghorn statue, pointing north towards the High Street in Chatham, rather than east towards India as originally intended.