Westminster Media Forum policy conference: Next steps for UK heritage and tourism policy

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 9th September 2025

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER MEDIA FORUM

9.00 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 Key considerations for the UK's heritage landscape

Lizzie Glithero-West, Chief Executive, The Heritage Alliance

Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 Supporting the needs of the heritage sector - planning, funding, skills, and driving local growth

role of built heritage in driving local growth | building on the success of Heritage Action Zones | assessing the economic impact of historic building restoration | implications of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill | balancing development with heritage protection | policy barriers, such as EPC requirements and listing processes | adequacy and distribution of sector funding, including long-term and revenue models | cultural infrastructure investment and alignment with the Industrial Strategy | impact of local devolution | supporting a skilled and diverse workforce

Senior representative, built heritage

Senior representative, planning

Senior representative, local authority

Senior representative, skills

Senior commentator

Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 Assessing best practice in integrating heritage conservation into place-based regeneration

Senior representative, regeneration
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 Chair's closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

10.55 Break

11.05 Chair's opening remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 Unlocking innovation and collaboration in heritage and conservation science

Professor Meggen Gondek, Head, Research Infrastructure for Conservation and Heritage Science (RICHeS), AHRC Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 Priorities for the design and implementation of the National Visitor Economy Strategy

Senior representative, tourism

11.45 Key considerations for driving growth in the UK's visitor economy and how heritage can support strategic aims

driving growth in the domestic and international visitor markets | the Government's 2030 ambition and the role of heritage | role of local devolution in supporting strategic aims | options for the introduction of a visitor levy | developing the inventory of intangible cultural heritage | design and implementation of the National Visitor Economy Strategy | priorities for growing heritage-led tourism | balancing preservation and economic growth | assessing best practice from devolved nations and local authorities | outcomes from the Industrial Strategy

Professor Dimitrios Buhalis, Professor, Marketing, Strategy and Innovation, and Director, eTourism Lab, Bournemouth University

Sarah Karlsberg, Manager, Frontier Economics

Senior representative, devolved nation

Senior representative, intangible cultural heritage

12.05 Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 Priorities for future-proofing the UK's heritage sector

Senior speaker confirmed from **Historic England** Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 Chair's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

Thomas Howard, Westminster Media Forum