



# Inclusive European Heritage Residency Hardwick, Derbyshire United Kingdom 14-20 June 2025

Call for Participants  
Apply by 14 April 2025

[www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org)



## ***INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN HERITAGE RESIDENCY 2025***

### ***CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS***

[Europa Nostra](#), the leading European heritage civil society network, the [National Trust](#) and [INTO - the International National Trusts Organisation](#) will organise the **first edition of the Inclusive European Heritage Residencies** from **14 until 20 June 2025** on the **edge of the Peak District, Derbyshire, United Kingdom**. Around **10 heritage stakeholders** will be selected to come together and discuss **heritage best practices, drawing upon the National Trust's new 10-year Strategy and Hardwick Hall's response through its new Whole Estate Plan (WEP) process**. Participants will explore the twin roles of heritage places in enriching people's lives and restoring thriving natural environments.

**Based on an exploration of the National Trust** (for England, Wales and Northern Ireland)'s **brand-new strategy, 'People and Nature Thriving'**, we will use a real property in central England as a case study to explore how heritage professionals and places across Europe can 'Restore Nature', 'End Unequal Access', and 'Inspire Millions'.

**Hardwick Hall** is a spectacular Elizabethan house filled with rich furnishings and tapestries and was once home to a formidable Elizabethan woman, 'Bess of Hardwick'. Hardwick provides a physical and contextual backdrop to a week of discussions, learning, and debating about how to care for, present, and tell stories about cultural sites. The 2000-acre estate will provide a case study for exploring the role of historic places in supporting nature to recover and people to thrive. This programme aims to provide a comprehensive and immersive experience, fostering knowledge exchange, active learning, and meaningful dialogue among participants. By focusing on Hardwick's Whole Estate Plan, the Residency will also contribute to the ongoing efforts to elevate Hardwick Hall's impact and significance. Throughout the week, delegates will focus on a 'live brief', contributing their ideas and expertise to Hardwick's plans for the future. These proposals will be presented to key Hardwick personnel and the rest of the group at the end of the week for potential inclusion in the Hardwick Whole Estate Plan.

The Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2025 is organised in the frame of the network project **Europa Nostra Heritage Agora** (2025-2028), co-funded by the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union. It builds on the success of the [European Heritage Youth Residencies](#) co-organised by Europa Nostra in 2023 and 2024.

The Inclusive European Heritage Residencies are an opportunity for heritage professionals and stakeholders to experience first-hand how heritage policies and projects are implemented in practice. This **immersive programme** is designed to support participants in gaining **practical insights** into heritage conservation, fostering **collaborative solutions**, and advancing **knowledge sharing** and **intergenerational dialogue** about heritage across Europe. The **peer-learning methodology** of the programme is designed to stimulate interaction, collaborative learning, and solution-building in a supportive expert environment. By focusing on Hardwick's Whole Estate Plan, the Residency 2025 will also contribute to the ongoing efforts to enhance the significance and impact of this iconic site.

The **key learning objectives** of the Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2025 include:

- To gain a greater understanding of heritage significance and community engagement (using Hardwick Hall's model as a vehicle for learning);
- To gain confidence in engaging diverse and under-served audiences through effective storytelling and engagement techniques;
- To develop a wider understanding and appreciation of heritage conservation skills and maintenance;
- To broaden perspectives and understanding of heritage contexts (through participation in a diverse cohort and intergenerational dialogue);
- To explore how the heritage sector can enable people to connect to heritage through cultural landscapes, thriving natural habitats, and access to the outdoors; and
- To identify your own current organisational and professional challenges and develop action-oriented plans to address these.

Participants will have the opportunity to present their work and experience in heritage site management. This includes sharing successful local policies and projects, as well as top tips, pitfalls, and learnings. The residency will provide useful information and ideas for improving or initiating the participants' local projects or ideas on how they might transfer some of the presented practices to their localities.

## WHEN

The programme will be held from **15 to 19 June 2025** (arrival on 14 June, departure on 20 June).

## WHO

The programme is designed for heritage students, professionals, site managers, and stakeholders. We welcome applicants from a diverse range of expertise, backgrounds and experience. Applicants from all ages, races, faiths, genders, sexual orientations, and with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Adaptations to the programmes will be made wherever possible to ensure it is accessible according to the participant's needs.

The working language will be **English**.

## COSTS

The programme will cover the participants' accommodation for six nights, and all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and local travel. Participants will be hosted in Hardwick's own and nearby **Holiday Cottages** in shared or individual rooms. Participants are kindly asked to arrange and pay for their own travel expenses, and medical insurance.

## **DRAFT PROGRAMME**

### **Saturday 14 June: Arrival Hardwick, Doe Lea, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S44 5QJ, UK**

(The closest airports are Birmingham, East Midlands, or Manchester; the closest train station is Chesterfield) - optional evening programme including an outdoor theatre performance of 'Elizabeth I' by The Three-Inch Fools

### **Sunday 15 June: Introduction and Orientation**

- Familiarity with the Hardwick site and navigating key locations
- Emerging understanding of the significance of features of the Hardwick estate
- Getting to know each other as a cohort

### **Monday 16 June: Heritage and Storytelling**

- Understanding how the National Trust delivers its charitable purpose
- Familiarity with the National Trust and INTO
- Familiarity with the main narrative of the property – Bess of Hardwick
- Understanding of the context of Hardwick's current audiences and visitors
- Understanding Hardwick's approach to planning for the future

### **Tuesday 17 June: Heritage, Engagement and Storytelling, Intergenerational Dialogue and Community**

- How can the legacy of Bess of Hardwick be made increasingly relevant for audiences today?
- What is the role of heritage storytelling in the 21st Century?
- Which story is unique to this place?
- Who can this story most positively impact?
- How do we tell this story here (and not here)?

### **Wednesday 18 June: Conservation and Skills Active Learning**

- Awareness of how practical conservation skills are utilised for heritage preservation
- Understanding of the current conservation work taking place at Hardwick Hall
- Practical experience of heritage skills including Stone Masonry and conservation joinery
- Understanding of the context and future plans for another National Trust property, Clumber Park

### **Thursday 19 June: Restoring Nature and Welcoming People: Peak District and Chatsworth Visit**

- Deeper understanding of the National Trust's strategy and goals
- Consideration of what unequal access to nature means
- Understanding of how another National Trust area is aiming to improve nature and access for people
- Experience a different heritage context, the privately owned Chatsworth House and Gardens
- Celebration of the week

### **Friday 20 June: Reflection, Presentation of Live Briefs, Personal Action Planning and Departure**

- Reflections on the week and assimilation of key learnings
- Delivery of presentations and shared learning
- Personal action plans

## HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application via the [following link](#). Make sure to upload your CV (max one page). In case you have difficulties, please send your CV to Mihaela Voydenova at [mv@europanostra.org](mailto:mv@europanostra.org).

The deadline to submit applications is **14 April 2025**.

The following criteria will be considered in the selection:

- Overall quality of the application
- Professional or educational background linked to the topic
- Motivation to participate in a specific peer learning visit: to improve a certain practice or project; or, to implement a new practice or project
- Relevance of the theme of the Residency to the needs of the applicants

The organisers will aim for an equal balance of gender, age, and nationality, to ensure a good level of representation and diversity among the participants. Selected candidates will be informed by **5 May 2025**.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The organisers (Europa Nostra, the National Trust, and INTO) will do their best to provide a safe environment and offer sufficient instructions to ensure the safety of participants during the Residency activities. The organisers will not accept liability for any loss or damage to property, nor injury by any cause. The organisers are not responsible for any loss associated with disruption or cancellation of travel plans. The selected participants will be expected to have sufficient medical and travel insurance to take part in the Residency and the associated activities.

During the Residency, photos and videos will be taken. By applying for the Residency, the selected participants give the right to the event's organisers to use any photograph/video taken without further permission of those depicted within the photographs/videos. The organisers may use the photographs/videos in publications or other media material produced, including but not limited to: social media, brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc. Participants should contact staff to withdraw this permission.

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- **14 April 2025:** Deadline for applications
- **5 May 2025:** Selection of participants
- **14-20 June 2025:** Inclusive European Heritage Youth Residency (14 June: arrival; 20 June: departure)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ORGANISERS

#### The National Trust

With 5.37 million members, 10,000 staff, and thousands of volunteers, the [National Trust](#) for England, Wales and Northern Ireland is now the biggest conservation charity in Europe, caring for more than 250,000 hectares of farmland, more than 780 miles of coastline, and more than 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves, for everyone, for ever.

#### INTO - the International National Trusts Organisation

[INTO](#) brings the global National Trust family together to share knowledge and tools for the protection of cultural and natural heritage. With over 100 members worldwide, we are a global movement of people who care about nature and culture and are inspired to celebrate and protect it. Our [programmes](#) and [projects](#) facilitate collaboration in the international heritage sector.

#### Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies, and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and other international bodies. Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites, and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates and disseminates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the [European Heritage Hub](#) pilot project (2023-2025). It is also a partner of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and a leading European member and supporter of the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

Europa Nostra implements the network project **Europa Nostra Heritage Agora** (2025-2028), co-funded by the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union. The Inclusive European Heritage Residency 2025 is part of this project's activities promoting training and advice to heritage professionals.

### SUPPORT

#### Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy, and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.

## LOCATION

[Hardwick Hall](#) is a spectacular Elizabethan house filled with rich furnishings and tapestries preserved by successive generations of the Devonshire family.

It was the formidable 'Bess of Hardwick' who first built the house and developed the surrounding estate in the late 1500s. Her descendants, the Dukes of Devonshire, treasured Hardwick, while lavishing much of their attention and money on nearby Chatsworth. Their success – intimately associated with the empire over 400 years and across the globe – preserved Hardwick, and their interests elsewhere saved it from significant alteration. In the 20th century, keenly aware of Hardwick's great significance and unique appeal, the Devonshires ensured that this remarkable building was passed on to the nation with its Elizabethan splendour intact. The Hardwick Estate is open every day, for countryside walks with picturesque views, woodland family play trails, locally sourced gifts in the shop, and delicious seasonal menus in the restaurant.

The Gideon Tapestries received a [Europa Nostra Award 2024](#) in the Conservation and Adaptive Reuse category. The Gideon Tapestries are a unique document of both Flemish tapestry production and English taste in the 16th century, and are the largest tapestry set to survive in Britain today. The 24-year-long project, carried out by hand using traditional sewing and stitching techniques, exemplifies the National Trust's commitment to preservation.