



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES

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SPACE TO STIR AND BE STIRRED

TOWER OF LONDON • HAMPTON COURT PALACE • BANQUETING HOUSE
KENSINGTON PALACE • KEW PALACE • HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS



AHRC FUNDED EARLY CAREER RESEARCH (ECR) FELLOWSHIPS IN CULTURAL AND HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS

Online Townhall Meeting
30 September 2025

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ABOUT HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES (HRP)

HRP is responsible for six magnificent and historically significant royal palaces:

- Tower of London (a UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Hampton Court Palace
- Kensington Palace
- Banqueting House, Whitehall
- Kew Palace, Queen Charlotte's Cottage and the Pagoda (within Royal Botanic Gardens Kew)
- Hillsborough Castle and Gardens



ABOUT HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES (HRP)



Our collections include:

- the Arts Council England designated Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection
- Archaeological finds
- Architectural drawings collection
- Many of the items on display at our palaces, including the Crown Jewels, are part of the Royal Collection.



PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Global histories of places and people, 1066- present (all sites)

This may include: the relationship between the Tower of London and local or global communities; any aspect of the history and/or materiality of the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection, particularly global histories; early Tudor global histories and exploration (Hampton Court Palace).



PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS



Health and wellbeing, 1066 – present (all sites)

This may include: medical history; the history of childbirth; experiences of disability in the palaces. Projects may also consider the contemporary context of wellbeing in historic sites, such as social prescribing, and sensorial engagement.

PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

Untold stories of the court and royal household, 1066-present (all sites)

This may include: the history of Grace and Favour residents and their households at Hampton Court Palace in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; women's history in the late eighteenth/nineteenth century at Hillsborough Castle, Northern Ireland; the archaeology, history and materiality of private royal spaces. Projects may also consider untold stories connected to our other sites too, such as the history of torture and imprisonment at the Tower of London.



PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS



Heritage management and public engagement (all sites)

This may include: measuring research and public engagement impact in a heritage context; projects which explore and use community-based research as methodology; or projects that examine visitor agenda, interpretive strategies and family learning.

PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS

We would also welcome applications which address one or more of our **Priority Research Themes** more widely (outlined in our *Research Strategy*):

- **Identities and Perceptions** – *the multiple personal and constructed identities of British monarchs and members of the royal family; how they were perceived historically and today.*
- **Materiality and Environment** – *the materiality of our buildings, landscapes and collections through scientific, archival, architectural and archaeological research.*
- **Inclusivity and Diverse Heritages** – *inclusive research which unearths the hidden histories and untold stories to give a voice to underrepresented communities and narratives.*
- **Interactions and Relationships** – *how individuals interacted with each other within our sites; how monarchs interacted with their people, both locally and globally; how we can harness digital technology today to engage audiences with our sites.*



NEXT STEPS

Please direct any questions to:

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