



Torbay Heritage Strategy 2026 – 2031

Part One

Adopted DATE

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Cover image: Torre Abbey

Foreword

The Torbay Heritage Strategy has been revised and updated to reflect the progress made since 2021 and to reaffirm our commitment to putting Torbay's fascinating history and rich heritage at the heart of the area's economic, cultural and social life.

Since 2021, the Strategy has contributed significantly to our ability to attract grant funding, develop positive relationships with key partners such as Historic England and support the local heritage sector. It's now time to build on this foundation and set out our ambitions for the next five years.

In recent years, the profile of our distinctive built, cultural and natural heritage has continued to rise. In 2024, Torbay was given Heritage Place status by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, with Torbay Council as the local lead organisation. This gives the Council and our communities a golden opportunity to attract investment from the Heritage Fund that increases pride in place and connects residents and visitors with heritage.

We know that there are many competing priorities for limited resources, so this strategy considers how to prioritise heritage, including assets on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. The heritage review was conducted by our Heritage and Design team. Our thanks to the team and to all our partners and stakeholders who contributed to the process.

This strategy will sit alongside and complement a new five-year cultural strategy for Torbay that is currently in development following a cultural infrastructure review that took place in 2025. It is aligned with the existing Torbay Local Plan 2012-2030 and the draft Torbay Local Plan 2025-2045, the Torbay Community and Corporate Plan, the English Riviera Destination Management Plan, the Torbay Economic Strategy, the Torbay Story, and the UNESCO Global Geopark Management Plan 2023-2033.

Research consistently shows that built, cultural and natural heritage have significant positive impacts on economic and social development. We hope that this strategy provides a pathway towards fully realising the benefits of our unique heritage for everyone in Torbay, and acts as a tool for positive regeneration and economic growth.

Signatories:

Introduction

Vision

We envisage heritage at the heart of the cultural and creative development of Torbay, making our home – the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark - a better place in which to live, work, learn and visit.

Caring for our outstanding historic assets and sharing our stories will maximise the potential for heritage to bring social, cultural and economic benefits to all parts of the Bay. To do this, we will develop better understanding of the risks to historic places and of the diverse meanings of heritage to different people. In line with the Local Plan, the Community and Corporate Plan and the Torbay Story, heritage will be key to driving the visitor economy as Torbay attracts new audiences seeking distinctive experiences.

We recognise that our built, natural and cultural heritage are essential to Torbay's sustainable growth. In Torbay, heritage is a key economic driver that supports tourism, regeneration, investment and place-making. The bay's historic buildings, conservation areas, archaeological assets and cultural landscapes contribute to a distinctive identity that attracts visitors, businesses and residents. By conserving and enhancing these assets, this strategy will support sustainable economic growth, strengthen town centres, create skilled employment and reinforce Torbay's position as a unique coastal destination.

Purposes

The Torbay Heritage Strategy enables our vision to be realised by setting out a clear and focussed agenda for elected Council members and officers at Torbay Council to follow until 2031. It is also a tool to involve and inspire developers, building owners, heritage organisations and voluntary groups.

There is enormous interest in local heritage among Torbay residents, and this strategy encourages opportunities for all our communities to understand, enjoy and share our history. It provides a focus for the historic environment and highlights our museum and archive collections. It encourages new development and diversification of use that respects and finds inspiration in the distinct characters of our towns and countryside.

Attracting new and younger visitors and lengthening the tourist season are fundamentally important to Torbay's future economy. This strategy puts heritage at the centre of our visitor offer.

The climate emergency affects every area of our work so this strategy considers both the risks to historic assets and how we can decarbonise the way we work at and visit heritage sites.

All of Torbay's human stories have their roots in the land and the sea. The international significance of our geology and the environment, heritage and culture associated with it is recognised in the English Riviera's designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark. This strategy supports the Global Geopark as an overarching framework within which the social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of conserving our heritage are fully utilised to build a thriving future.

Approach

This document updates the Torbay Heritage Strategy 2021-2026. It takes into account progress made and issues that have arisen since 2021 along with changes to the local and national policy framework. It will sit alongside and complement the new five-year cultural strategy that is in development.

Torbay Council commissioned an independent heritage consultancy, Heritage Arts and People (HAP), in January 2020 to produce the previous version of this document. The approach was to consult widely both internally and externally at the start of the process and to develop our Strategy in response.

There was an online residents' consultation that received 745 responses. It found that local people care deeply about special places and are enthusiastic about opportunities for greater engagement as visitors, volunteers and event attendees. This strategy was created in response to the priorities, concerns and ideas raised by this consultation.

There was also a stakeholders' gathering for heritage sector organisations, in addition to individual meetings, and many local heritage organisations kindly contributed their expertise and views. Stakeholders were also invited to contribute their views to the revision of the Strategy in 2026.

From this process, we drew out a series of stories that make Torbay special and developed a set of objectives around them.

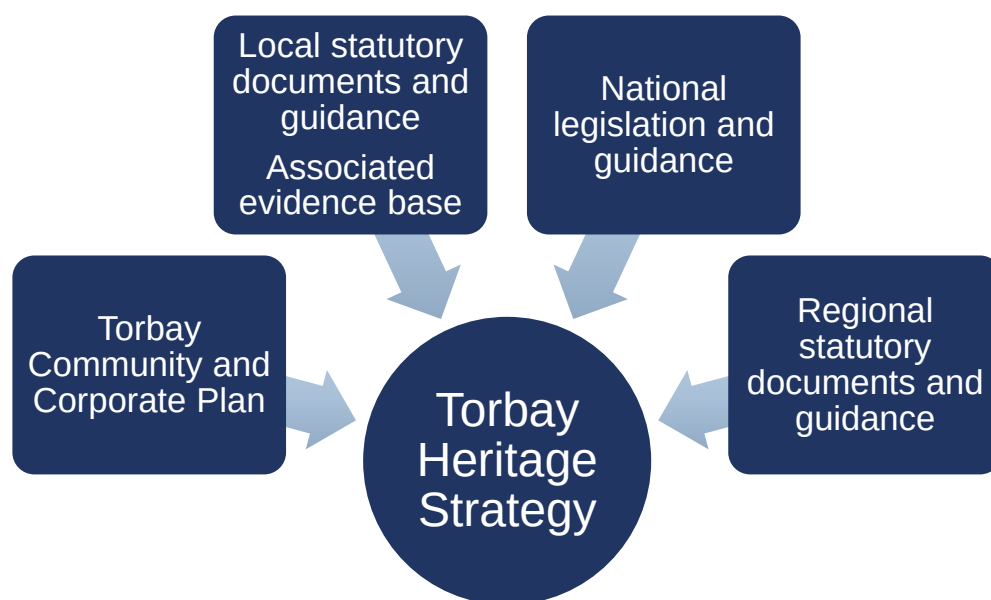
The list of objectives is set out in full at the conclusion of Part One, on pages 16-19. Some of these objectives will be fully achievable by 2031, while others will progress as part of a longer-term process.

In Part Two, we explore each story in more detail and list its main historical assets. Key sites are presented in order of priority for action, using a ‘traffic light’ system. A table shows the objectives associated with each story and lists how we will know if we are on course to achieve them. The strategy does not set out individual tasks – these are set in a complementary Annual Heritage Action Plan.

In addition to the main stories, we examine cross-cutting issues and consider how heritage relates to wider public services in ‘Heritage sector and services’.

Policy context

The Torbay Heritage Strategy does not exist in isolation; it supports and is supported by a series of interlocking policy documents. As heritage interacts with so many aspects of life, this strategy complements Torbay Council’s approach to a wide range of policy areas and functions within the context of national and local planning.



Policy Framework Diagram

National

[The National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) was revised in August 2026. It sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It states very clearly the importance of the conserving and enhancing the historic environment and a wide range of heritage assets. Both the NPPF and the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#) are material considerations in relevant planning applications.

Torbay

[Torbay Council's Community and Corporate Plan 2023-2043](#) articulates at a strategic level the ambitions of the Council and the principles within which the Council will operate. It sets out the ambition for a healthy, happy and prosperous Torbay for all, within themes of people and community, pride in place and economic growth.

This strategy will help us deliver these ambitions through:

- Thriving people: access to heritage and culture can contribute to improved health and wellbeing. This strategy will contribute to creating positive places.
- Thriving economy: there is significant change in the strategic funding context. This strategy will support key funding bids. Attracting new and younger visitors and lengthening the tourist season are fundamentally important to Torbay's future economy. This strategy puts heritage at the centre of our visitor offer.
- Tackling climate change: this strategy considers climate change and its impact on heritage assets and how they can be used to support decarbonisation.
- Council fit for the future: Torbay Council owns and manages a range of heritage assets and is a leading organisation within the Bay which supports the wider heritage sector. This strategy aims to strengthen the sector and explains our priorities for key locations.

[The Torbay Local Plan Update \(2025-2045\)](#) and the three adopted (made) Neighbourhood Plans for Torquay, Paignton and Brixham Peninsula together provide the basis for planning decisions within Torbay. It aims to maximise heritage and cultural opportunities for the enjoyment and benefit of residents and visitors.

A revised and updated five-year cultural strategy for Torbay is in development at the time of writing.

[Torbay Council's Economic Growth Strategy](#) recognises that the visitor economy is fundamental to economic growth and sets the framework for capitalising upon our heritage.

[The English Riviera Destination Management Plan 2022-2030](#) identifies heritage and culture as one of six 'signature experiences' that make up the visitor experience in Torbay.

The [Urban Design Guide](#) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in 2007 to guide the general form and design of future development. New guidance is likely to result from the Local Plan review process that will need to enhance consideration of Torbay's unique environment, townscape character and urban form and heritage. Brixham Neighbourhood Plan includes supporting bespoke design guides with historic references to the distinctive character areas.

The [Greenspace Strategy](#) (to 2026) is a SPD which outlines how Torbay Council and the community intend to deliver and maintain high quality green spaces which enable equal access and opportunity for all, as well as protecting and enhancing the local environment. A refresh of the Greenspace Strategy is likely to emerge as part of the Local Plan review process.

Torbay Council's Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was adopted in 2021. It includes heritage assets in the assessment of trip generators and attraction. Heritage considerations and opportunities will be considered in future updates to the Torbay LCWIP and within the strategic design and development of the Council's pipeline of walking, wheeling and cycling projects.

Torbay Council's [Strategic Asset Management Plan](#) sets out our approach to the strategic management of the assets that we own. It forms part of a suite of key strategic documents for the Council's vision for the built environment which have been developed in consultation with the community, including the Torbay Heritage Strategy.

[Torbay Story](#) promotes the area and highlights its positive aspects and potential. The aim is to attract external investment and to support economic growth and development for Torbay. There is potential for heritage to have a greater presence in the Torbay Story in the coming years.

Local

[South Devon National Landscape Management Plan](#) commits to conserving and enhancing the National Landscape's historic features and distinctive vernacular buildings as part of a living and working landscape. Ten special qualities summarise the unique 'natural beauty' for which the South Devon National Landscape is designated as a nationally important protected landscape. These include, 'A landscape with a rich time depth and a wealth of historic features and cultural associations'. The current Plan is due to be reviewed in summer 2026.

[Torquay, Paignton, Brixham Neighbourhood Plans](#) all aim to protect and enhance local identity and the historic environment. Brixham Neighbourhood Plan includes supporting bespoke design guides with historic references to the distinctive character areas in the Peninsula.

There are 24 Conservation Areas in Torbay. During the period until 2031, we intend to roll out a programme of reviewing and updating our [Conservation Area Appraisals](#) and developing Conservation Area Management Plans in collaboration with local communities.

Torbay's history in brief

The foundation of Torbay's exceptionally long human story is its geology. The sea carved out the Bay from the soft red sandstone, leaving the limestone headlands at Hope's Nose and Berry Head. Torbay's geology has fascinated scientists for centuries and is the source of the name used around the world for the period in which these features formed: the Devonian. More recently, over the last two million years, rainwater seeping through cracks and fissures slowly dissolved the limestone to form caves such as Kents Cavern in Torquay and Windmill Hill Cavern in Brixham. Discoveries in the caves have revealed human occupation going back half a million years, making Torbay internationally important for Palaeolithic archaeology. There is evidence here of three of the four human species ever to have lived in Britain.

Later, Neolithic and Bronze-Age farmers left signs of their passing at Wall's Hill and Broadsands tomb. Evidence of an early Iron Age settlement was recently uncovered at Churston. This was the beginning of the small-scale farming and fishing that were the way of life for generations of Torbay people who shaped the landscape we see today.

A picture of Torbay in the Roman period has started to emerge from digs in an around Torbay in recent years. Archaeologists have found varying amounts of Romano-British material at these sites, suggesting that communities here embraced 'Romanisation' in differing ways.

In the Middle Ages, Torquay developed around the Saxon hamlet of Torre (from 'tor' meaning hill or craggy peak). Torre Abbey, one of the most important historic buildings in the Bay, was the base for the monks who controlled much of the Bay and are credited with building the first fishing quay. Paignton appeared in the Domesday Book in 1086 as Peinton. The earliest settlement is believed to have taken place around 700 AD – the name means 'the farm of Paega's people'. Meanwhile, Brixham evolved from the Saxon 'Briseham'. Higher Brixham was originally a rural settlement while in Lower Brixham fishing was the main activity.

The harbour at Brixham grew due to the safe anchorage created by the shape of the Bay. William of Orange, later King William III of England, landed with his army there in 1688. It was used by the naval fleet during times of crisis, prompting the construction of the Berry Head Forts during the Napoleonic Wars.

Napoleon himself was an early tourist attraction on a prison ship anchored off Torquay, while the families of naval officers came to settle in the area. Torbay became famous for its mild climate and beauty and a resort began to grow at Torquay. From the Georgian period and accelerating in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, the grand villas and mansions that give much of the town its distinct

character were built for visiting gentry. The town's prosperity was reflected in fine civic buildings such as the Town Hall. Agatha Christie was born in Torquay in 1890 and spent much of her early life in Torbay.

As mass tourism became a possibility with the development of the railways, so new structures sprang up in Torquay and Paignton, including promenades, parks and gardens, theatres, picture houses and dance halls.

Brixham in the nineteenth century was a thriving fishing port and shipbuilding centre. It was here that deep sea trawling was pioneered, a development that had a profound impact on all the sea fishing communities of Northern Europe.

In the twentieth century, Torbay played an important role in the First and Second World Wars, as a site for war hospitals, training and troop billeting, and an embarkation point for the D-Day landings. Refugees from Belgium found sanctuary in the Bay during both wars, particularly in Brixham.

In the post-war period British tourists took advantage of new cheap ways to travel abroad and Torbay as a resort (the English Riviera), felt the effects of a decrease in the popularity of seaside holidays. Torbay became a popular retirement and relocation destination for people from other parts of the UK, in particular the English Midlands. Being coastal, Torbay has always welcomed overseas travellers, and in the twenty-first century it became home to a new Polish community, among others.

The thread that runs throughout our history is the coastal landscape. The richness of the sea and the land and the mild climate have attracted people for millennia and continue to do so. Countless generations have left their mark here, shaping the rural and urban landscapes that we know today. These layers of history are an essential part of Torbay's unique character and the foundation of a dynamic, inclusive heritage for everyone who lives, works and visits here.

Heritage assets and designations

A heritage asset is defined in Annex B: Glossary of the NPPF (2026) as:

‘A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes but is not limited to designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)’.

When producing this strategy, we undertook a detailed assessment that rated Torbay’s designated assets according to their significance, vulnerability to climate change and other threats, their potential for viable use and their accessibility. The types of designation included are listed below. The information about the designated status of sites was taken from the National Heritage List for England, March 2026.

In addition, we believe that although they are not part of the planning system, artefacts and archives profoundly enrich our understanding of places and should be cherished and understood in tandem with them. Torbay holds collections of enormous interest, including items of international importance. Therefore, these types of asset are also listed in relation to the places and stories they illuminate.

Listed buildings are considered to be of national importance and are therefore protected. Listed buildings come in three categories of significance:

- Grade I for buildings of the highest significance
- Grade II*
- Grade II

There are currently 864 listed buildings in Torbay. 96% of these are Grade II listed. In the limited space of this strategy, we consider Grade I and Grade II* buildings individually while Grade II listings are largely considered collectively as part of Conservation Areas. Occasionally a Grade II listed building is considered individually where it is of particular relevance.

Conservation Areas exist to manage and protect the special architectural and historic interest of a place. There are some extra planning controls and considerations in place to protect them. Torbay currently contains 24 Conservation Areas. There are 16 in Torquay, four in Paignton and four in Brixham.

Scheduled Monuments are important historic buildings or sites that are not used as dwellings or for worship. There are 11 Scheduled Monuments in Torbay with a further two on the border with the South Hams.

Registered Parks and Gardens are planned open spaces such as private gardens, town squares, parks and cemeteries. There are currently six Registered Parks and Gardens in Torbay. Full definitions of these designations can be found on the Historic England website:

[What is Listing? | Historic England](#)

Non-designated heritage assets are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets. They are identified through the conservation area review process and through the production of a local heritage list. The need for a list is a requirement of the 2026 NPPF, Policy HE1 e.

Environmental designations

Many heritage sites in Torbay also have high environmental value and so have multiple designations. This strategy complements Torbay Council's work on green infrastructure and we believe that our approach to heritage and the environment must be co-ordinated. Therefore, this strategy takes account of environmental designations where they apply to heritage sites. These include:

- National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Public Right of Way (PRoW)

Assets beyond Torbay

There are some heritage assets beyond the boundary of Torbay that are intrinsically connected to our heritage and are therefore included in this strategy. All of the sites in this category are in the South Hams and are managed by the National Trust. We intend to work closely with colleagues at South Hams District Council and the National Trust to ensure that we develop a connected and consistent approach to these important places.

There are no known Protected Wrecks within the boundary of Torbay Council's remit as a planning authority, which extends as far as the low water mark. Beyond this, responsibility for heritage assets at sea lies with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). The Lyme Bay and Tor Bay marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is overseen by Natural England. We intend to maintain a close working relationship with the MMO and Natural England on matters related to maritime heritage in Torbay.

Vulnerabilities and opportunities

Vulnerabilities

Climate emergency

Climate change threatens Torbay's historic buildings, landscapes and archaeology in a number of ways:

- Coastal flooding as the sea level rises
- Impact of extreme weather events such as intense storms and drought
- Increased coastal erosion from wave action
- Changes to habitable ranges of invasive vegetation, fungus and pests
- Damage from increased rainfall
- Soil instability and chemical changes
- Different planting necessary in parks, gardens and farmland

Unsuitable development

Heritage assets in both urban and rural areas can be vulnerable to development that detrimentally changes their character. This type of threat can range from large new developments that overwhelm the historic character of a whole area to small changes to individual buildings. Over time, the incremental effect of these changes can erode the qualities that make a place special. However, positive development management can use the historic environment to promote high-quality development and a better sense of place.

Lack of investment in historic fabric

Over many decades, under-investment in Torquay, Paignton and Brixham town centres was a significant issue. While a transformative programme of town centre regeneration is now underway in Torbay, risks to heritage assets remain. Linked to the unviable and unsustainable uses, a lack of appropriate maintenance that can lead to an 'unloved' appearance eroding the special sense of place, and more serious problems with the fabric and structure of buildings, has arisen.

Lack of local access

Heritage is at greatest risk of being lost if it is not experienced and valued by local people. A particular problem for areas that have long-established tourism industries is that residents can feel shut out of key sites that are focussed on attracting visitors.

When we asked for suggestions to help local people better engage with heritage in our 2020 heritage survey, the most popular suggestion (25% of all answers) was better and more easily

accessible information. There was also a strong feeling that inadequate or expensive parking was a barrier. When combined with our commitment to decarbonising Torbay, it is clear that better access to heritage sites by walking, cycling and public transport is needed.

Heritage crime, vandalism and anti-social behaviour

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings. However, other crimes such as theft, criminal damage, arson and anti-social behaviour offences can also damage and harm heritage assets and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

Opportunities

Torbay Heritage Place

In 2024, Torbay was awarded 'Heritage Place' status by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Heritage Places is a long-term, strategic investment in up to 20 different places across the UK that will last until 2033. As the lead organisation for Torbay Heritage Place, Torbay Council is coordinating a programme of heritage projects with our partners and communities. We will also support local organisations to apply for funding under the Torbay Heritage Place umbrella. Torbay Heritage Place will seek to deliver the objectives set out in this Strategy

Torbay Culture and Heritage Forum

Since the previous version of this strategy was adopted, the Torbay Culture and Heritage Forum has been established, facilitated by the Council's Culture and Events team. This is a very positive development that will nurture opportunities for collaboration and mutual support between different culture and heritage organisations.

Heritage assets

Torbay boasts an extraordinary range of heritage assets spanning millennia of human activity. Our collections, monuments, landscapes and buildings connect us to stories of international significance. The popular perception of Torbay as a seaside holiday destination has obscured the area's fascinating history and now is the time for its importance to be more widely recognised.

English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark

All of human history in Torbay has been shaped to some extent by the underlying geology. The UNESCO Global Geopark designation, therefore, can be used as a catalyst for funding, tourism,

education and outdoor activity and offers an umbrella under which all aspects of heritage can be explored and celebrated.

Local engagement

The Torbay Heritage Survey 2020 showed an enormous interest in heritage among local residents. 99% of respondents said that experiencing the heritage around them was important to their quality of life, with 77% saying it was very important. Many respondents were keen to participate in more active care of heritage assets.

The huge public interest in the future of iconic buildings such as Oldway Mansion, Torquay Pavilion and Paignton Picture House shows that local people are passionate about protecting much-loved sites. Groups devoted to Torbay's heritage on social media attract thousands of followers and contributors. Our residents are eager to engage with local history and there is great potential to involve more people in collective efforts to care for and promote our heritage.

New tourist audiences

Research in 2025 as part of the development of Torbay Heritage Place revealed that heritage (including natural, built and cultural heritage) was an attracting factor for 67% of visitors to Torbay, and that almost all will engage with at least one heritage site in some way during their trip. The total value of heritage tourism to Torbay was estimated at £249 million in 2024. The researchers identified potential to significantly grow the market for heritage-driven tourism, especially among younger audiences and through amplifying the connection between heritage and wellbeing, and then utilising this growth to maximise the revenue income of these sites.

Development and reuse

Torbay's heritage can inspire new development that enhances our historic environment and makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness. Meanwhile, historic buildings can be restored and protected for the future by finding appropriate new and viable uses. Torbay Council encourages the use of traditional materials for all development and refurbishment proposals where it is appropriate and viable to do so, including those materials that are locally sourced. This benefits the local economy by supporting local businesses and encouraging the development of conservation skills.

The historic environment can be used to support Torbay Council's regeneration programme which will bring economic and social benefits across local communities within the Bay. This strategy will

seek to support this regeneration programme and the positive enhancement of the local historic environment.

Sites formerly managed by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust

Torbay Council has recently taken over the management of outdoor heritage sites which were previously managed on the Council's behalf by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, after the Trust went into administration. These include Berry Head, Walls Hill and the grounds of Cockington Court. This presents an opportunity for Torbay Council to protect and enhance historic assets and biodiversity on these sites, while enabling residents and visitors to enjoy their heritage.

South West Coast Path

The South West Coast Path (SWCP) National Trail will mark its 50th anniversary in 2028 – an opportunity to celebrate and promote the section through Torbay. In March 2026, the King Charles III England Coast Path (ECP) National Trail was opened, following the route of the SWCP in Torbay. In addition to providing additional funding to improve the route of the SWCP, the establishment of the ECP also delivers new open access rights around the coast including around the whole of Torbay, helping connect people with the natural and cultural heritage of the landscape.

Objectives

ID	Objective
SEC01	Everyone in Torbay, including looked-after children, people with support needs, and those who face barriers to participation and opportunity, can access, experience and enjoy heritage.
SEC02	Torbay attracts more visitors seeking a heritage destination.
SEC03	Torbay's heritage sector is strong, connected, inclusive and collaborative.
SEC04	Heritage assets in Torbay are protected from the effects of climate change and carbon reduction is central to their management.
SEC05	The special and distinctive characteristics of Torbay's Conservation Areas are, where appropriate, preserved and enhanced.

SEC06	Building owners, retailers and developers are encouraged and equipped to enhance the built environment in historic areas.
SEC07	Public spaces in historic areas are easy to navigate and, if possible, enhanced by appropriate street furniture and signage.
SEC08	Walking and cycling to Torbay's heritage sites and in the historic environment is easy, enjoyable and popular.
SEC09	Collections related to Torbay within the Devon Archives are secure, well managed and where appropriate, easily accessible.
SEC10	Torbay's Historic Environment Record is comprehensive and well managed.
SEC11	National and international visitors are attracted to the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark (ERUGGp). Visitors and residents experience, enjoy and understand the Geopark through easily accessible, high quality and consistent information and opportunities for engagement at multiple sites.
SEC12	The UNESCO Global Geopark designation is secure for the future and the work of the ERGO is sufficiently resourced to deliver its aims.
SEC13	Historic assets in the care of Torbay Council are in good condition, sustainably managed and safeguarded for the future.
GEO01	Natural sites where underlying geology is most accessible and visible are in excellent condition.
GEO02	Local stone worked features in churches and other historic buildings are in excellent condition.
HMN01	Torbay's story of early human evolution and migration, and the role of archaeological pioneers here, is widely known, valued and celebrated.

HMN02	Visitors and local people experience and enjoy Torbay's internationally important prehistoric sites and collections at multiple locations.
HMN03	Ashhole Cavern is managed appropriately and protected for the future.
HMN04	The chambered tomb at Broadsands is managed appropriately and protected for the future.
MED01	Torre Abbey, including its grounds and collections, is conserved and enhanced, and its future is secure. Local people and visitors experience and enjoy it as a key heritage site, accessible open space and high-profile event venue.
MED02	The special character of Old Paignton Conservation Area is preserved and enhanced
MED03	The Bishop's Palace is managed appropriately and protected for the future
AGR01	The special character of Torbay's agricultural landscape is understood, preserved and enhanced.
AGR02	Access to and around rural areas is easy and enjoyable by public transport, walking and cycling.
AGR03	Walls Hill ancient field system is managed appropriately and protected for the future.
AGR04	Rural sites with significant historic assets are in Countryside Stewardship where appropriate.
NPL01	Battery Gardens is appropriately managed, maintained and protected for the future, and visitors are encouraged to engage with the site's heritage.

NPL02	Visitors and local people experience and enjoy Torbay's Napoleonic heritage at multiple locations.
TRW01	The special character of Brixham Town Conservation Area is preserved and enhanced.
TRW02	<i>Vigilance</i> is functioning as a high quality, popular heritage asset for Brixham, engaging residents and visitors with trawling history and natural heritage.
RST01	Oldway Mansion, including its outbuildings, gardens and pleasure grounds, is where appropriate, conserved and enhanced, and its future is viable, sustainable and secure. Local people and visitors experience and enjoy it as a key heritage site and accessible open space.
RST02	Torquay Pavilion is conserved and where appropriate enhanced, with a viable and sustainable commercial use.
RST03	Lupton House is conserved and where appropriate enhanced, and its Italianate garden is restored and maintained.
RST04	Princess Gardens and Royal Terrace Gardens are maintained and protected for the future
RST05	The special characters of Roundham and Paignton Harbour and Torquay Harbour Conservation Areas area preserved and where appropriate enhanced.
RST06	Babbacombe Cliff Railway is recognised as a heritage asset and is protected for the future.
LIT01	Paignton Picture House is fully restored, is well used by the community and is an anchor heritage site within a regenerated town centre.

LIT02	People seeking an Agatha Christie experience are attracted to Torbay in significant numbers.
LIT03	Visitors and residents experience, enjoy, understand and contribute to Torbay's literary heritage.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to the staff and volunteers of the following organisations who gave their time and expertise to help produce the Torbay Strategy 2021-2026 and were invited to comment on the updated strategy for 2026-2033.

Brixham Town Council
Devon Gardens Trust
English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark*
Friends of the Vigilance
Historic England
Kents Cavern
Lupton Trust
National Lottery Heritage Fund
National Trust
Paignton Heritage Society
South Devon AONB Partnership (now South Devon National Landscape Partnership)
South West Coast Path
South West Heritage Trust
Torbay Civic Society
Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust (no longer in existence)
Torbay Community Development Trust
Torbay Culture (no longer in existence)
Torquay Museum
Torre Abbey

Our thanks also to the staff and volunteers of the following organisations who gave feedback on the revised Strategy in 2026:

Brixham Heritage Museum
Devon County Council
Paignton Picture House Trust

*A full list of Geopark partners can be found on the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark website at www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats.
For more information please contact heritageanddesign@torbay.go.uk

