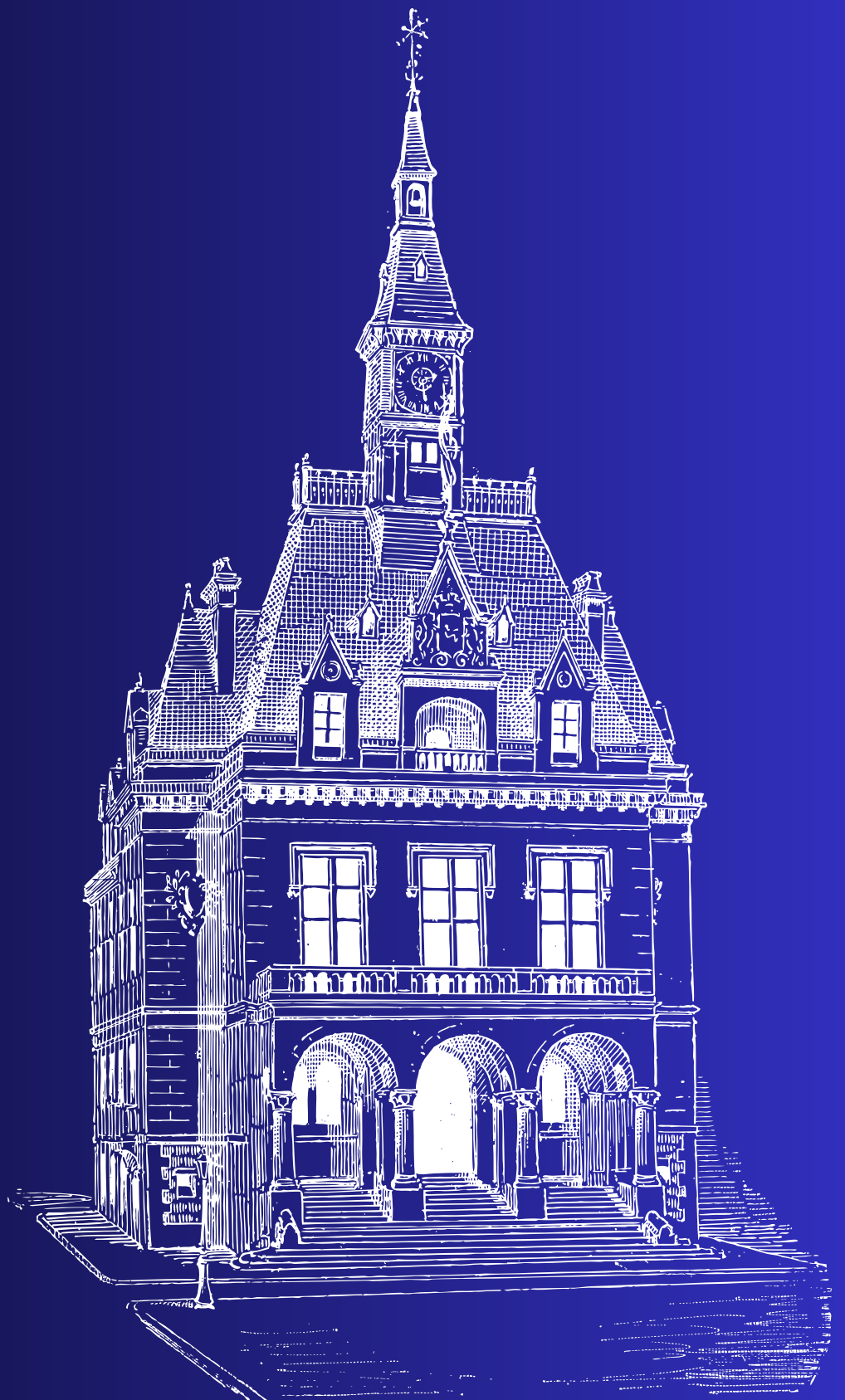


THREE WEAVE
Aerial Intelligence

HERITAGE GUIDANCE SERIES • HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP

The Five Pillars of Heritage Stewardship

**A Practical Framework for Custodians of
Historic Buildings and Heritage Assets**



Using this Handbook

This handbook has been designed to support a continuous approach to heritage stewardship. While it can be read from beginning to end, many of the templates and worksheets are intended to be revisited throughout the year as part of an ongoing stewardship cycle.

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Important Information & Disclaimer

Purpose of This Guidance

This publication has been prepared by Three Weave as a general heritage stewardship resource. It is intended to help custodians, churchwardens, trustees, committees, charities, owners, occupiers and organisations develop a structured approach to observing, recording and planning the care of historic buildings and heritage assets.

The information is provided for general guidance only. It is not a condition survey, structural assessment, specification, risk assessment, conservation management plan or professional inspection report, and it should not be relied upon as a substitute for advice relating to a particular building, defect, project or set of circumstances.

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Three Weave is an aerial intelligence provider. Unless expressly stated within a separate written appointment, Three Weave does not act as a:

- Chartered building surveyor or structural engineer;
- Conservation architect, archaeologist or historic-building consultant;
- Builder, roofer, stonemason, electrician or other specialist tradesperson;
- Health and safety adviser, fire-safety adviser or legal adviser;
- Planning, listed-building, faculty or statutory-consent adviser; or
- Person competent to inspect, access, repair or work upon a building or structure.

Nothing in this publication should be interpreted as professional certification that a building, component, access method, proposed repair or working practice is safe, compliant, appropriate or free from defects.

Inspections, Access and Safety

The templates and observational prompts in this guide are intended to support stewardship discussions and record keeping. They do not instruct readers to access roofs, towers, scaffolds, fragile surfaces, confined spaces, unsafe structures or other hazardous locations.

No person should undertake inspection, access, testing, maintenance or repair work unless it is safe and they possess the appropriate competence, training, experience, equipment and authority. Work at height must be properly planned, risk assessed, supervised and undertaken by competent people using suitable equipment. These obligations can apply to employers, building owners, facilities managers and others who control the work.

Where deterioration, instability, water ingress, falling material, electrical risk, fire risk, hazardous substances or any other safety concern is suspected, access should be restricted where appropriate and advice should be obtained promptly from a suitably qualified professional.

Important Information & Disclaimer (continued)

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Before commissioning or carrying out work, users must determine which professional advice, permissions, consultations, consents and approvals are required. These may include planning permission, listed-building consent, scheduled monument consent, building regulations approval, faculty or denominational approval, landlord consent, insurer approval and other statutory or organisational requirements.

Requirements vary according to the building, its designation, use and location within the United Kingdom. Listed-building consent and planning permission are separate controls, while certain places of worship may operate under ecclesiastical exemption and their own internal consent systems.

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Use of the Templates

Any priorities, observations or assessments recorded using this guide represent the views of the person completing them. Terms such as low, medium, high, monitor, priority and urgent are provided as general stewardship prompts only. They do not constitute a professional diagnosis, safety classification or formal risk assessment.

Users remain responsible for verifying information, maintaining appropriate records and obtaining competent professional advice before making decisions or taking action.

Limitation and Review

Three Weave has taken reasonable care in preparing this publication but does not warrant that it is complete, suitable for every heritage asset or applicable to every legal or organisational context within the United Kingdom. Guidance, legislation and professional standards may change after publication.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, Three Weave accepts no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, deterioration, cost or liability arising from reliance upon or use of this general guidance. Nothing in this disclaimer is intended to exclude or restrict liability where it cannot lawfully be excluded or restricted.

Version 1.0 | July 2026

INTRODUCTION

Stewardship Is About Understanding, Not Perfection

Historic buildings are never "finished."

They continue to change through weather, age, occupation and the passage of time. The responsibility of stewardship is not to eliminate change but to understand it, record it and respond appropriately.

Whether you care for a parish church, listed hall, museum, estate building, monument or another important heritage asset, the aim remains the same:

Protect significance through informed decision-making.

This framework has been developed to provide custodians with a practical structure for understanding their building, monitoring condition and planning maintenance throughout the year.

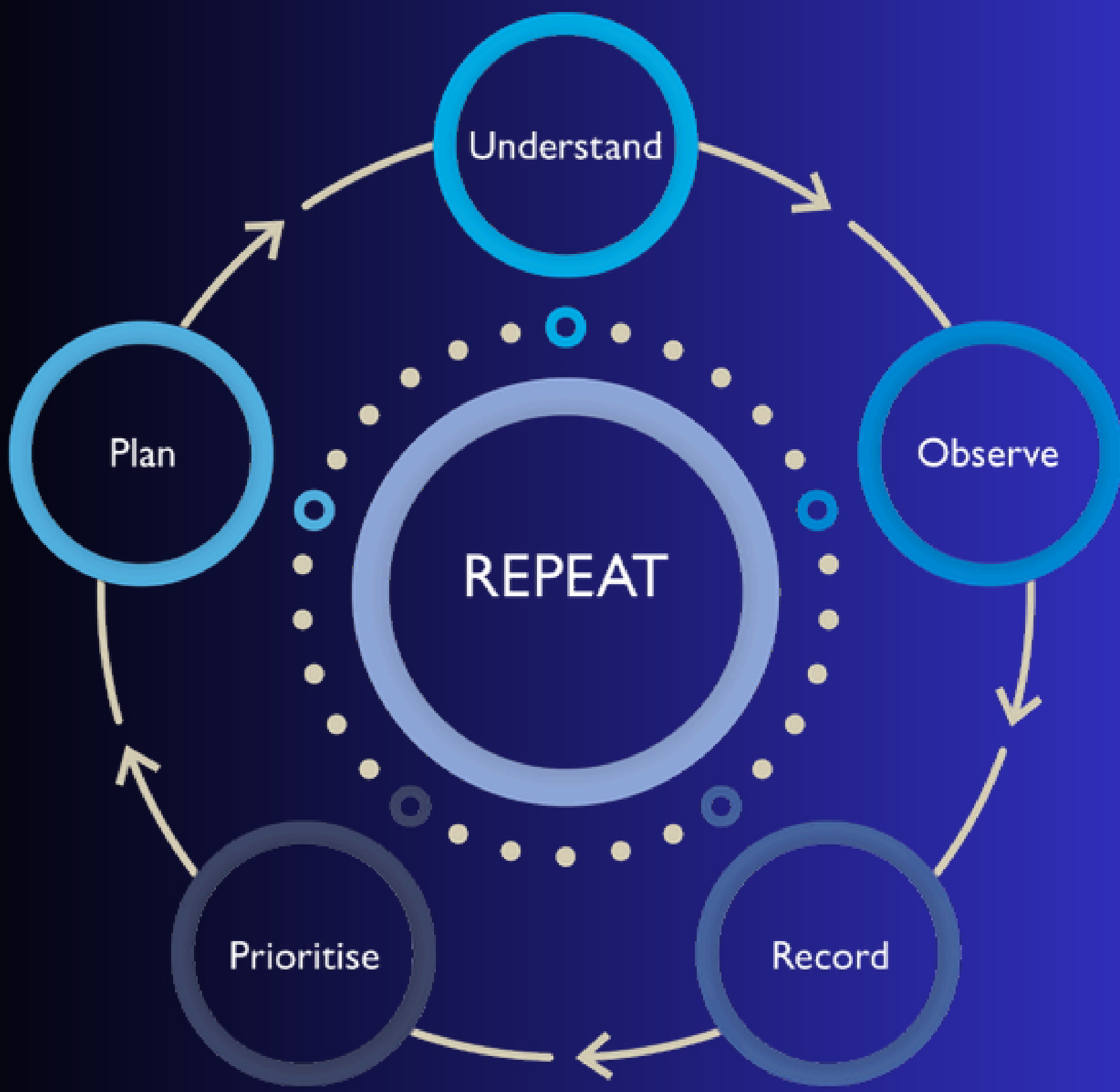
Rather than focusing on individual defects, it encourages a repeatable process that can be adapted to buildings of different ages, sizes and purposes.

The framework complements existing conservation advice and can be used alongside professional inspections, maintenance plans and specialist reports.



INTRODUCTION

The Stewardship Cycle



Good stewardship is continuous.

Every inspection informs the next.
Every record improves understanding.
Every planned intervention protects the future.

Pillar One: Understand the Asset

OBJECTIVE

Develop a clear understanding of the building's construction, significance, vulnerabilities and previous history before planning maintenance or interventions.

Why It Matters

No two heritage buildings behave in exactly the same way. Traditional materials, historic alterations, environmental exposure and previous repairs all influence how a building performs over time.

Understanding these factors provides the foundation for every future decision.

Stewardship Questions

- 1. Do we understand how the building was constructed?
- 2. What are the most vulnerable parts of the building?
- 3. Have previous repairs been documented?
- 4. Where are the difficult-to-access areas?
- 5. What are our known recurring maintenance issues?
- 6. Do we understand why the building is historically significant?

Committee / PCC Discussion Questions

Do we have a shared understanding of the building's current condition and its most vulnerable areas?

Are we retaining important knowledge about previous repairs and inspections, or does it rely on individual members?

Have any changes to the building or its use altered our maintenance priorities?

Are there parts of the building we know too little about to make informed decisions?

What additional information would help us better understand the building over the coming year?

DO:

- Build a complete picture before making decisions.
- Keep key building information in one place.
- Share knowledge across the whole committee.

AVOID:

- Relying on one person's memory.
- Assuming hidden areas are unchanged.
- Losing records when people move on.

Practical Actions

- ✓ Maintain a simple information file.
- ✓ Record previous repairs
- ✓ Keep copies of historic reports
- ✓ Identify areas requiring closer monitoring
- ✓ Record changes to the building

Record Keeping Suggestions

- Building Description
- Construction Materials
- Previous Inspection Reports
- Historic Photographs
- Repair History
- Known Defects

Annual Review Prompt

Have we improved our understanding of the building during the past twelve months?

What new information have we gained?



Pillar Two: Observe Regularly

OBJECTIVE

Detect change before deterioration becomes significant.

Why It Matters

Regular observation is one of the most effective forms of preventative stewardship. Historic buildings rarely deteriorate suddenly; changes usually develop gradually through weathering, movement, biological growth or water ingress. By observing the building consistently and comparing its condition over time, custodians can identify emerging issues before they develop into more significant conservation challenges.

Routine observation also creates confidence. It enables committees, trustees and custodians to make decisions based on evidence rather than assumptions, helping to prioritise maintenance and demonstrate responsible care of the asset.

Stewardship Questions

- 1. What has changed since the last inspection?
- 2. Has vegetation increased?
- 3. Have cracks changed?
- 4. Has biological growth increased?
- 5. Have previous repairs remained effective?

Committee / PCC Discussion Questions

Are we observing the building often enough to identify change before it becomes a larger problem?

Have any recurring issues emerged since our last review?

Are we comparing observations over time, or only reacting when concerns are raised?

Have recent weather events highlighted areas requiring closer attention?

Is there a clear process for recording and reporting new observations?

Practical Actions

- ✓ Routine visual observations.
- ✓ Seasonal inspections.
- ✓ After severe weather.
- ✓ Compare photographs.
- ✓ Document observations immediately.

Record Keeping Suggestions

- Inspection Dates
- Weather Conditions
- Photographs
- Locations Inspected
- Observed Changes

Annual Review Prompt

What recurring issues appear every time ?
Have changes accelerated ?



- DO:**
- Inspect the building at regular intervals.
 - Compare observations with previous years.
 - Pay close attention after severe weather
- AVOID:**
- Waiting until problems become obvious.
 - Looking only at familiar areas.
 - Ignoring small changes over time.

Pillar Three: Record Evidence

OBJECTIVE

Create a reliable history of the building.

Why It Matters

Accurate records are the foundation of informed stewardship. Inspection reports, photographs and maintenance histories create a reliable record of how a building changes over time, helping custodians identify trends, support conservation decisions and preserve valuable knowledge for future committees and custodians. Good record keeping ensures decisions are based on evidence rather than memory, providing continuity in the long-term care of the building.

Stewardship Questions

- 1. Can we demonstrate change?
- 2. Would a future custodian understand this building from our records?
- 3. Are inspection reports easy to find?
- 4. Can we compare conditions over time?

Committee / PCC Discussion Questions

Are our inspection records complete, organised and accessible to future custodians?

Can we easily compare the building's condition with previous years?

Would a new committee member understand the building from our records alone?

Are important photographs, reports and maintenance records stored together?

Are we creating a reliable history that supports future conservation decisions?

Practical Actions

- ✓ Take photographs consistently.
- ✓ Store reports together.
- ✓ Maintain maintenance logs.
- ✓ Keep invoices.
- ✓ Record decisions.

Record Keeping Suggestions

Inspection Reports
Drone Imagery
Maintenance Records
Insurance Documents
Faculty Permissions
Grant Information
Meeting Decisions

Annual Review Prompt

Are your records complete ?
Can someone else understand them ?



Pillar Four: Prioritise Risk

OBJECTIVE

Direct resources where they will have the greatest conservation benefit.

Why It Matters

Historic buildings often present more maintenance needs than available time or resources. Prioritising risk helps custodians focus on the issues that have the greatest potential impact, ensuring maintenance is planned, proportionate and evidence-led. By understanding which defects require monitoring, planned work or urgent attention, resources can be directed where they will provide the greatest benefit to the building.

Stewardship Questions

- 1. Which issues require monitoring?
- 2. Which require maintenance?
- 3. Which require specialist advice?
- 4. Which pose the greatest risk to historic fabric?

Committee / PCC Discussion Questions

- Are we creating a reliable history that supports future conservation decisions?
- Are we focusing our resources on the areas of greatest risk to the building?
- Which issues require action now, and which can continue to be monitored?
- Do we have sufficient evidence to justify our maintenance priorities?
- Have any risks changed in priority during the past year, and why ?
- Are we balancing immediate repairs with longer-term conservation planning?

DO:

- Focus on issues with the greatest impact.
- Review priorities each year.
- Base decisions on evidence, not assumptions.

AVOID:

- Treating every defect as equally urgent.
- Delaying decisions unnecessarily.
- Allowing small problems to become major ones.

Practical Actions

- ✓ Maintain a simple risk register
- ✓ Review annually.
- ✓ Update after inspections.
- ✓ Review after storms.

Suggested Risk Categories

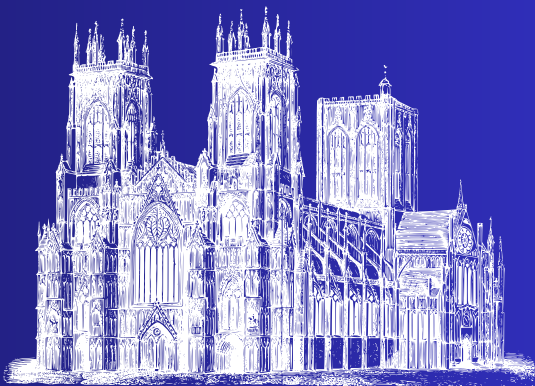
- Low
- Medium
- High

Record Keeping Suggestions

- Risk Register
- Inspection Evidence
- Photographs
- Dates
- Actions Completed

Annual Review Prompt

Have any risks changed in priority during the past year, and why?



Pillar Five: Plan Intervention

OBJECTIVE

Protect historic fabric through informed, proportionate action.

Why It Matters

Identifying issues is only the beginning of good stewardship. Planned intervention ensures maintenance is timely, proportionate and informed by reliable evidence. By acting before deterioration becomes more significant, custodians can protect historic fabric, reduce the likelihood of emergency repairs and support the long-term conservation of the building through considered, preventative maintenance.

Stewardship Questions

- 1. Do we have sufficient evidence before commissioning work?
- 2. Is this repair appropriate?
- 3. Can deterioration be monitored before intervention?
- 4. Have appropriate specialists been consulted?

Committee / PCC Discussion Questions

Are planned maintenance activities supported by reliable evidence?

Are we intervening at the right time to prevent more significant deterioration?

Have we identified where specialist advice may be required?

Are completed repairs being reviewed to ensure they remain effective?

What should be our highest stewardship priorities for the coming year?

Practical Actions

- ✓ Develop annual maintenance plans.
- ✓ Budget realistically.
- ✓ Monitor completed works.
- ✓ Review outcomes.

Record Keeping Suggestions

- Maintenance Schedules
- Contractor Reports
- Photographs Before / After
- Guarantees
- Professional Advice

Annual Review Prompt

- Which interventions were successful ?
- What should be monitored next year ?



DO:

- Plan maintenance before defects escalate.
- Record all completed works.
- Review repaired areas during future inspections.

AVOID:

- Relying only on reactive repairs.
- Ignoring the cause of the defect.
- Treating maintenance as a one-off task

Annual Stewardship Planner

Spring



01: Primary Focus

Assess the building following winter weather, establish the year's baseline condition and identify any areas requiring monitoring or early intervention.

Spring is an ideal time to understand how the building has responded to the challenges of winter. Storms, prolonged rainfall, frost and fluctuating temperatures can all leave subtle signs of deterioration that may not be immediately obvious. By carrying out a structured review early in the year, custodians can establish an accurate picture of the building's condition, prioritise maintenance activities and create a benchmark for future observation.

02: Recommended observations

- Roof coverings, ridges and valleys following winter weather
- Rainwater goods, gutters, hoppers and downpipes
- Masonry showing signs of moisture, movement or weathering
- Vegetation growth on roofs, walls and drainage systems
- External joinery, windows and exposed timber
- Areas affected by frost, ice or standing water
- Previously identified defects requiring review



03: Questions to Consider

- Has winter caused any noticeable changes to the building?
- Are previously identified issues becoming more significant?
- Have drainage systems performed during periods of heavy rainfall?
- Are there areas requiring closer monitoring throughout the year?
- Which maintenance activities should be prioritised before further deterioration occurs

04: Recommended Records

- Spring condition photographs
- Inspection notes and observations
- Weather-related damage or changes
- Updated maintenance records
- Priority areas for monitoring

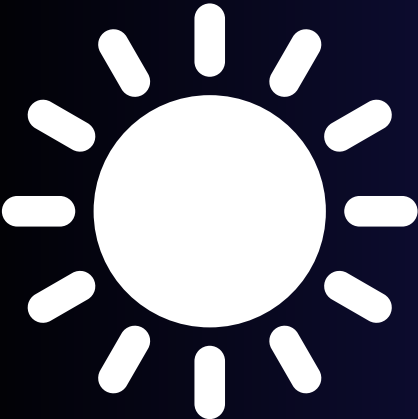
Consider Planning:

- Summer condition inspections
- Preventative maintenance works
- Obtaining specialist advice where required
- Updating maintenance budgets
- Scheduling planned repairs

Use below to add notes:

Annual Stewardship Planner

Summer



01: Primary Focus

Carry out a detailed review of the building's external condition while weather conditions and daylight provide the best opportunity for observation, recording and planned maintenance.

Summer is often the ideal time to undertake more comprehensive inspections, compare condition records with previous years and complete preventative maintenance before autumn and winter weather increase the demands on the building.

02: Recommended observations

- Roof coverings, ridges and valleys
- Leadwork, flashing and parapets
- Masonry, pointing and mortar joints
- Windows, glazing and external joinery
- Rainwater goods, and drainage systems
- Vegetation growth on roofs, walls and gutters.



03: Questions to Consider

- Has the condition of the building changed since the spring review?
- Have any minor issues developed into higher priorities?
- Are there defects that should be addressed before autumn?
- Are there areas that require specialist advice or further investigation?
- Have any previous repairs deteriorated?

04: Recommended Records

- Photographs
- Inspection notes
- Maintenance actions
- Weather events
- Completed preventative works

Consider Planning:

Repeat Photographic Survey • Minor Repairs • Contractor quotations • Specialist inspection if required • Budget Updates

Use below to add notes:

Annual Stewardship Planner

Autumn



01: Primary Focus

Prepare the building for the wetter months ahead by reducing preventable risks and ensuring drainage systems, roofs and vulnerable external features are ready for increased rainfall and adverse weather.

Autumn provides an opportunity to complete preventative maintenance before winter conditions make access more difficult and defects more likely to worsen.

02: Recommended observations

- Roof coverings following summer weather
- Gutters, hoppers and downpipes
- Leaf accumulation and vegetation
- Trees affecting the building
- Drainage around the building
- Masonry exposed to prevailing weather
- External access routes and surrounding grounds.



03: Questions to Consider

- Are rainwater systems operating effectively?
- Could vegetation cause problems during winter?
- Have seasonal weather conditions exposed any new defects?
- Are there maintenance tasks that should be completed before winter?
- Is the building prepared for periods of prolonged rainfall?

04: Recommended Records

- Autumn inspection photographs
- Rainwater system observations
- Vegetation management records
- Completed maintenance works
- Updated risk register

Consider Planning:

- Winter monitoring arrangements
- Emergency contact information
- Contractor availability during winter
- Reviewing insurance documentation
- Updating maintenance priorities

Use below to add notes:

Annual Stewardship Planner

Winter



01: Primary Focus

Review the year's stewardship activities, monitor the building following periods of severe weather and prepare maintenance priorities and budgets for the coming year.

Although external inspections may be limited by weather conditions, winter provides an opportunity to evaluate records, identify recurring issues and strengthen long-term maintenance planning.

02: Recommended observations

- Storm-related damage where safe to observe.
- Water ingress or internal signs of moisture.
- Areas known to be vulnerable during winter.
- Drainage performance following heavy rainfall.
- External features affected by frost or freezing.
- Temporary repairs requiring future review.



03: Questions to Consider

- Did any recurring issues emerge during the year?
- Were maintenance priorities appropriate?
- What have we learned about the building over the past twelve months?
- Which areas require closer monitoring next year?
- Are maintenance budgets aligned with the building's highest priorities?

04: Recommended Records

- Annual condition summary.
- Completed maintenance log.
- Updated building condition and maintenance history.
- Photographic comparisons.
- Budget and expenditure records
- Risk register review.

Consider Planning:

- Next year’s inspection programme • Annual maintenance budget • Funding and grant opportunities
- Committee review meetings • Updating the stewardship framework • Planning spring inspections

Use below to add notes:

The Continuous Stewardship Cycle

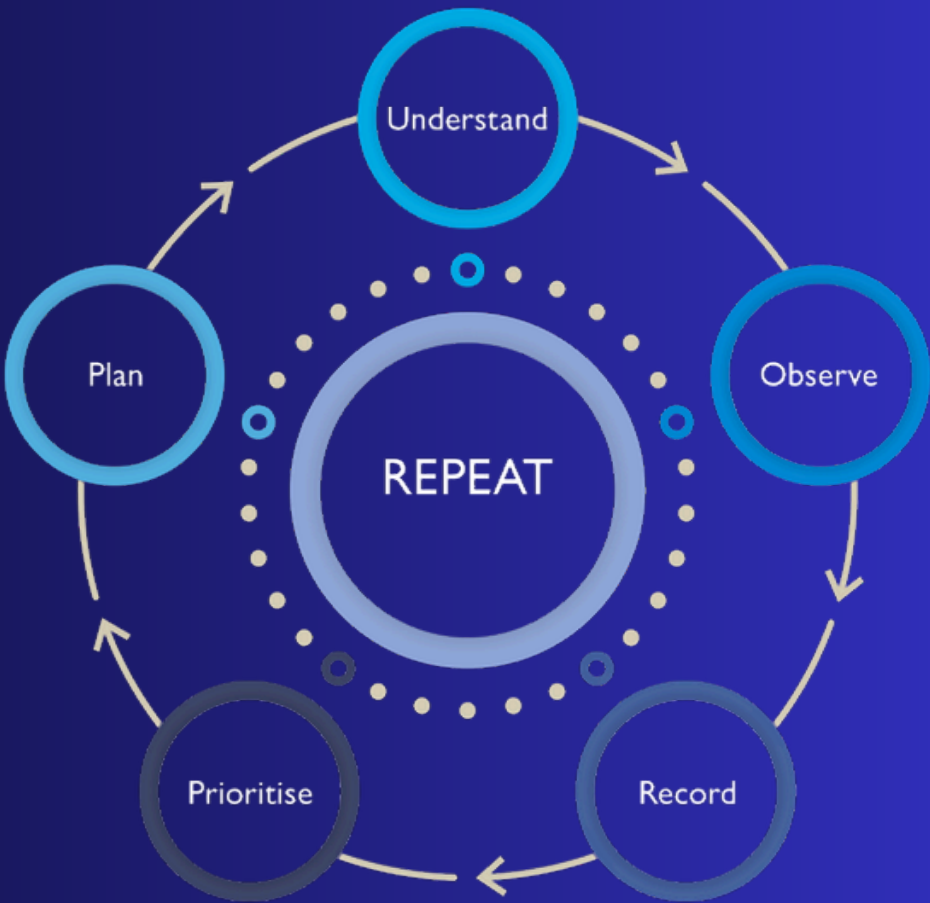
Good stewardship is built through consistent observation, reliable records and informed action over time.

Historic buildings continually respond to weather, ageing, environmental conditions and everyday use. A single inspection provides a valuable snapshot, but repeated observation reveals how the building is changing and whether known issues are stable, improving or becoming more significant.

The Annual Stewardship Planner supports this process by creating a regular rhythm of observation, recording, review and maintenance. Each season contributes new evidence, helping custodians recognise patterns, establish priorities and respond before gradual deterioration becomes a more serious conservation problem.

Over time, photographs, inspection notes and maintenance records form a living history of the building. This accumulated knowledge gives current and future custodians a stronger basis for planning work, seeking professional advice and directing resources where they will provide the greatest benefit.

A well-maintained heritage building is rarely the result of one major intervention. More often, it reflects years of careful observation, thoughtful planning and proportionate action



Why This Matters

Gradual deterioration can be difficult to recognise when observations are made in isolation. A continuous stewardship approach allows changes to be compared over time, helping committees and custodians move from reacting to visible problems towards planned, preventative care.

The objective is not simply to complete inspections. It is to build understanding, preserve knowledge and support better decisions throughout the life of the building.

Building Stewardship Record

A practical record to support the ongoing care, maintenance and continuity of your heritage building.

Building Overview

Building Details

Building Name:		Grade / Listing:	
Address:		Construction Date (if known)	
		Primary Construction Materials	

Key Contacts

Role	Organisation	Contact Name	Details
Church Warden / Custodian / Building Manager			
Architect			
Conservation Architect / Surveyor			
Specialist Contractor			
Emergency Contact			
Aerial Inspection Provider			

Important Documents

Document	Location
Quinquennial or Periodic Condition Inspection	
Consents, Faculties or Statutory Approvals	
Maintenance Log	
Inspection Reports	
Insurance Information	
Historic Plans / Drawings	
Conservation management plan, where applicable	
Emergency Plan	

Building Stewardship Record

A practical record to support the ongoing care, maintenance and continuity of your heritage building.

Significant Features

Record the principal building elements and heritage assets that require ongoing observation or specialist maintenance.

Examples: Roofs • Masonry • Timber • Windows and glazing • Decorative features • Rainwater goods • Boundary structures • Ancillary buildings

Current Areas Being Monitored

Area	Reason	Since

Recent Maintenance

Date	Work Completed

Next Planned Reviews

Document	Date
Annual Inspection	
Periodic / Quinquennial Review	
Roof Inspection	
Rainwater Goods	
Masonry Review	

Good stewardship depends on continuity. Keeping this record up to date helps future custodians understand the building, maintain valuable knowledge and make informed decisions based on evidence rather than memory.

Annual Stewardship Review

Good stewardship is not measured by the absence of defects, but by the consistency with which a building is understood, observed and cared for.

Use this review each year to reflect on your stewardship practices, celebrate progress and identify priorities for the year ahead. The aim is not to achieve perfection, but to support informed, evidence-led decision making.

Stewardship Self-Assessment

Stewardship Area	Developing	In Progress	Established
We have a good understanding of our building and its condition.			
We inspect and observe the building regularly throughout the year.			
Inspection records and photographs are organised and accessible.			
Maintenance priorities are based on evidence and assessed risk.			
Planned maintenance helps prevent unnecessary deterioration.			

Annual Reflection

What stewardship activities have worked well this year ?

What have we learnt about the condition of the building?

What are our three highest priorities for the coming year ?

1.

2.

3.

Committee Review

Before closing your annual stewardship review, consider the following:

Have we improved our understanding of the building this year?

Are decisions supported by evidence rather than assumptions?

Have we recorded information that will benefit future custodians?

Are we addressing the right priorities with the resources available?

What one action would most improve our stewardship over the next twelve months?

Review completed by:

Date:

Next annual review due:

Guidance template only. This document is not a professional survey, safety assessment or specification. Obtain advice from appropriately qualified and competent professionals before undertaking inspections, access, repairs or other work.

Heritage Risk Register

Recording, Monitoring and Prioritising Building Risks

Use this register to record significant risks affecting the building, monitor changes over time and support evidence-based maintenance planning. Review and update it as part of your annual stewardship cycle.

Building Element	Issue / Risk Identified	Priority (H/M/L)	Action Required	Review Date	Status

Priority	Typical Response
High	Immediate action or specialist assessment required to prevent significant deterioration or safety concerns.
Medium	Monitor closely and include within planned maintenance programmes.
Low	Record, observe during routine inspections and review at the next stewardship cycle.

Stewardship Reminder

- When assessing risk, consider:
- The likelihood of further deterioration.
- The potential impact on historic fabric.
- The consequences of delaying intervention.
- Whether further investigation or specialist advice is required.
- Opportunities to address the issue through planned maintenance.

Highest Priority Actions for the Coming Year

1.
2.
3.

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Maintenance Planning Worksheet

Turning Evidence into Action

Effective stewardship is achieved through planned, preventative maintenance rather than reactive repairs. Use this worksheet to identify, prioritise and schedule maintenance activities based on inspections, condition records and the Heritage Risk Register. Review and update this plan as part of your annual stewardship cycle.

Building Element	Maintenance Required	Priority (H/M/L)	Target Date	Responsible Person / Adviser	Status	EstimateCost / Budget Provision

Planning Considerations

Before scheduling maintenance, consider:

- Does the work address the underlying cause rather than just the visible symptom?
- Is specialist conservation advice required?
- Can this work be combined with other planned maintenance?
- Have seasonal access, weather or building use been considered?
- Has sufficient evidence been gathered to support the proposed intervention?

Annual Maintenance Priorities

Immediate (0-3 months)

Short Term (3-12 Months)

Longer Term (1-3 Years)

Planned maintenance is one of the most effective ways to protect historic buildings. Small, well-timed interventions often prevent more extensive repairs, reduce long-term costs and help preserve the significance of heritage assets.

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Heritage Photographic Register

Building a Visual History of Your Heritage Asset

Photographs provide one of the most valuable records of a heritage building's condition. When taken consistently and stored alongside inspection records, they help custodians identify gradual change, monitor known defects and support evidence-based maintenance decisions.

Photo Ref	Date	Building Element / Location	Reason for Photographs	Observer	Next Review

Good Practice

When creating a photographic record:

- Photograph the same locations during each inspection.
- Include both overall views and close-up details where appropriate.
- Record the date, location and reason for each photograph.
- Link photographs to inspection reports or maintenance records.
- Store images in a single, organised location for future comparison.

Typical Areas to Photograph

- Roof coverings and flashings
- Rainwater goods
- Chimneys, towers and parapets
- Masonry and pointing
- Windows and doors
- Structural movement or cracking
- Areas under active monitoring
- Completed repair works

A single photograph records a moment in time. A consistent photographic record tells the story of how a building changes over time.

Guidance template only. This document is not a professional survey, safety assessment or specification. Obtain advice from appropriately qualified and competent professionals before undertaking inspections, access, repairs or other work.

Where Aerial Intelligence Fits Within the Stewardship Framework

Supporting Better Decisions Through Better Evidence

Good stewardship is built on understanding how a heritage building changes over time. While routine observations from ground level remain an essential part of caring for any historic asset, some areas are difficult to inspect safely or accurately without specialist access.

Aerial intelligence provides an additional source of evidence, allowing custodians to examine roofs, towers, masonry and other inaccessible features in greater detail. Used alongside regular inspections, maintenance records and professional advice, it helps build a clearer understanding of the building's condition and supports informed, evidence-based decision making.

Pillar	How Aerial Intelligence Contributes
Understand	Improves knowledge of inaccessible areas and the building's overall condition.
Observe	Enables repeat inspections to monitor change over time.
Record	Creates a consistent photographic archive for future comparison.
Prioritise	Provides evidence to help assess and prioritise maintenance needs.
Plan	Supports informed maintenance planning and conservation decisions.

Stewardship in Practice

During an annual inspection, comparison with photographs from the previous year identified a small section of displaced lead flashing that had not been visible from ground level. The change was recorded, monitored and repaired as part of planned maintenance before water ingress occurred.

The value was not simply identifying a defect—it was recognising change early enough to make an informed decision before a more significant problem developed.

Looking Beyond the Technology

The real value of aerial intelligence is not the technology itself, but the confidence it gives custodians to make better-informed decisions. When integrated into a structured stewardship programme, repeat aerial inspections provide reliable evidence that complements routine observations, maintenance records and professional advice.

Used consistently over time, aerial intelligence becomes more than a way of viewing a building—it becomes part of a long-term commitment to understanding, protecting and preserving heritage assets for future generations.

THE STEWARDSHIP CYCLE

Further Resources

Continue building your knowledge with our wider Heritage Guidance Series. These resources expand on the principles introduced in this handbook, providing practical guidance, technical insights and real-world examples to support the long-term stewardship of historic buildings.



Aerial Intelligence for Heritage

Learn about our heritage inspection services



Aerial Intelligence Guidance

Explore our technical guidance and best practice



Roof Risk Centre

Understand common roofing defects and risks



Case Studies

See how the framework is applied in practice



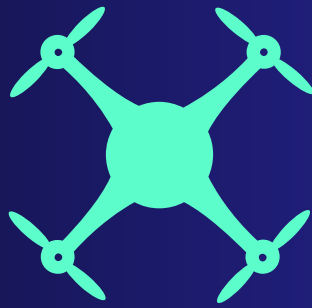
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Heritage Insights

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THREE WEAVE
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HERITAGE GUIDANCE SERIES • STEWARDSHIP

THE FIVE PILLARS OF HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP

The purpose of stewardship is not simply to preserve buildings, but to preserve understanding. Every inspection, every record and every informed decision contributes to the long-term care of our shared heritage.

Contact Us



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