

## Green Heritage Homes LEAD

Increasing rates of retrofit in listed buildings by developing confidence and understanding among homeowners and buildings professionals, showcasing positive examples in Bath & North East Somerset

### Activities

This project piloted a service for **Level 0 pre-application advice for energy retrofit in listed buildings**. The initial service (at £69) provided a **site visit and report** from a B&NES Conservation Officer, to help homeowners understand what measures may be appropriate for their listed home, and requirements for listed building consent and/or planning permission.

Homeowners could take part as Listed Building Energy Champions to receive a heavily discounted service, at £90, for a **joint site visit from a Conservation Officer and an Energy Assessor**, who provide a **Level 0 pre-application report**, a **Home Energy Efficiency Plan** (worth £420) and, if needed, an **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)** (worth £85).

**Listed Building Energy Champions** agreed to have their home featured as a case study, participate in follow-up questionnaires, keep B&NES informed of works progress, and in some cases host monitoring equipment from the University of Bath to help validate survey model assumptions. The project also delivered specific engagement with landlords, running a webinar for landlords and recruiting a small number of landlords to the project.

Some of the Listed Building Energy Champions volunteered to participate in a Home Energy Network of surveyed Champions, and hosted 'house warming parties' to share their experiences with others in the local community, including through other projects such as Green Open Homes events.

**Training** was provided to upskill buildings professionals on assessing heritage significance and the listed building consent process, with a two-part webinar created to fill a gap in provision.

Very popular public **joint surgeries, events and talks** were delivered by a Conservation Officer and Retrofit Coordinator.



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### Key project information

**Awarded:** £344,308

**Duration:** Oct 2023 to Mar 2025

**Reach:** Bespoke advice to 320 people, 1,300 people engaged overall

**Lead partner:** Bath and West Community Energy (BWCE)

**Supporting partners:** Bath & North East Somerset Council (B&NES), Bath Preservation Trust (BPT), Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and People Powered Retrofit (PPR)



## Replication

- Introducing Level 0 advice and a positive approach to retrofitting heritage buildings needs senior support within the local planning authority.
- Green Heritage Homes benefited from strong councillor support for retrofit, and B&NES and BWCE's well-established relationship.
- This approach focused specifically on retrofit and listed buildings. It could be integrated into existing Conservation Officer workloads for pre-application advice, but requires extra resource for additional services such as Home Energy Efficiency Plans.
- Both Conservation Officers and Retrofit Assessors can greatly benefit from undertaking the Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency for Older and Traditional Buildings.
- Buildings professionals and homeowners commonly have misconceptions about heritage conservation principles and retrofit, so education is a key part of the process.
- Level 0 advice dovetails well with other methods, such as Green Open Homes, Not-Yet-Green Open Homes and expert Q&As.

## Resources

- [Project website](#), hosted by BWCE, includes a 'Listed building consent factsheet' and 'Listed building energy measures factsheet' alongside [Listed buildings retrofit](#): a series of short videos on suitable solutions.
- Detailed [case study](#) of the project hosted by RISE
- B&NES [Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\): Energy efficiency, retrofitting, and sustainable construction, Local Plan and Draft Core Strategy Policies \(SCR1 and CP2\)](#).
- Energy Efficient Listed Buildings webinar training (15 May 2024) by BWCE and B&NES: [Part 1](#) (length: 48:32) and [Part 2](#) (length: 47:39) available on BWCE YouTube channel
- The [Home Retrofit Planner](#) (built by People Powered Retrofit) is available under licence for community energy organisations.
- Other relevant LEAD Toolkit contents (see [South West Net Zero Hub website](#)): **Level 0 advice** (method), **Training professionals** (method), **Community Champions** (method), **Expert Q&As** (method), **Traditional Buildings Retrofit** white label presentation.
- Green Heritage Homes contributed to the SWNZH LEAD Webinar Series webinar (22 Oct 2024) [Innovations in domestic retrofit advice - Retrofit, Planning and Historic Housing \(20:06 to 39:03\)](#) (see also [full slides](#)).
- B&NES and BWCE took the [Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency for Older and Traditional Buildings](#) through The Energy Trust.

## Supporting partners

Green Heritage Homes was supported by BWCE's wider partners:



## About LEAD

LEAD is managed by South West Net Zero Hub and funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The programme is trialling innovative approaches to retrofit advice for hard-to-reach groups and hard-to-treat homes. Find out more [here](#).

## Contact this project

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