

# Skills Training & Education Initiatives

Hawick CARS will develop a programme of relevant traditional skills awareness and training events for both building owners and local construction professionals and contractors.

The traditional skills awareness and training programme aims to promote the need for regular building maintenance to prevent costly future repairs, whilst also providing increased knowledge and skills in the use of appropriate traditional repair techniques to ensure long term local capacity to look after the towns built heritage.

In parallel with the Skills Training programme, Hawick CARS is promoting and developing a three-year educational programme in conjunction with local schools, community organisations, and interested individuals aimed at encouraging community involvement and raising the awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Hawick's rich heritage.

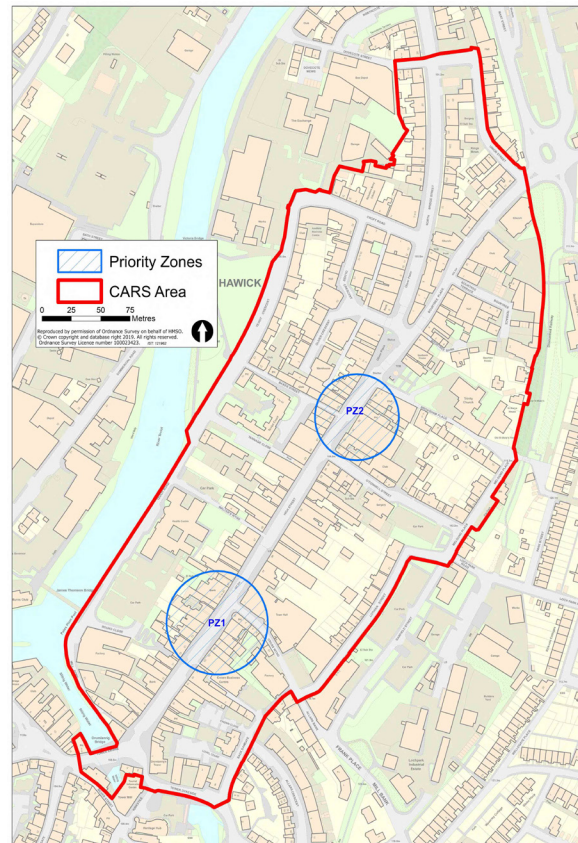
The educational programme will adopt a contextual 'living heritage' approach to interpretation that aims to engage with all sections of the community, from adult through school age audiences, using a variety of methods, both physical and digital, as well as seeking opportunities to maximise national and international awareness of the town's history and heritage to both attract additional tourism to the town and enhance the visitor experience where possible.



## Contact Details

For general information about Hawick CARS or specific information about the grant scheme or the skills training and education programmes please contact:

Hawick CARS Project Officer  
Planning & Regulatory Services  
Scottish Borders Council  
Newtown St Boswells  
Melrose, TD6 0SA  
t. 01835 825563  
e. [HawickCARS@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:HawickCARS@scotborders.gov.uk)



[www.scotborders.gov.uk/HawickCARS](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/HawickCARS)



# Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme



## Hawick CARS

Hawick Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) is a partnership project developed by Scottish Borders Council in conjunction with a community based Hawick CARS Steering Group, which successfully obtained funding from Historic Environment Scotland in April 2019 for a heritage led regeneration project for Hawick town centre. Hawick CARS is focused on a range of heritage and conservation based regeneration activities within the town centre over a five year period. The scheme will offer grant aid towards repair works to traditional buildings as well as supporting complementary initiatives, such as Traditional Skills Training and Community Heritage Projects, to increase awareness and understanding of the town's rich heritage.

The project has an overall budget of just over £1.5million, funded by Historic Environment Scotland (£1,314,800), the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (£60,000) and Scottish Borders Council (£200,000) and will run until March 2024.

Hawick CARS is made up of four distinct components, each with their own budget and targets, which will offer the community a variety of ways to become involved with the initiative. These are:

### Priority Buildings Grants

Funding has been allocated to specific buildings identified by the Hawick CARS Steering Group as being located in prominent positions and currently having an adverse impact on the town centre due to their condition or appearance. The scheme aims to help these buildings establish a sustainable future as well as demonstrating the benefits of Heritage Led Regeneration. Normal maintenance work is not eligible and the works must be carried out to conservation standards by a suitably experienced professional / contractor.

Six Priority Building Projects have currently been identified and discussions will be undertaken with the property owners to try and develop an appropriate programme of repairs that can be implemented during the HawickCARS project.



### General Repair Grants To Property Owners

The majority of older properties within the defined Hawick CARS boundary (see map) are eligible for consideration for grant aid for traditional repair and restoration works, including shopfronts and commercial properties. Normal maintenance work is not eligible and the works must be carried out to conservation standards by a suitably experienced professional / contractor. Grant aid cannot be offered for works already completed.

Grant aid will generally be in the range of 50% to 75% for repair works and up to 90% for reinstatement of original architectural features up to a maximum of £15,000 of funding for major repairs and £5,000 of funding for minor repairs.

Applications will be invited in a series of rounds throughout the duration of Hawick CARS and will be assessed via a set of scoring criteria (to include need, prominence, quality and deliverability) Priority will be given to properties located within the Priority Zones (see map) in each round provided that the other assessment criteria are also met.

Grant offers can be made to owners up to October 2022 and all grant-aided works must be completed and claims finalised by December 2023.

### Conservation Standards

Grant eligible works must be undertaken by a suitable experienced building professional (works over £5,000) and / or building contractor and must be to accepted conservation standards.

All potential applicants for grant support are encouraged to discuss their proposals with the Hawick CARS Project Officer in advance of submitting a formal application.



### Public Realm

Hawick CARS will contribute to a programme of works developed by Scottish Borders Council as part of the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme associated with the repair and enhancement of the arrival point of the James Thompson Bridge at Mill Port and in particular the use of materials, finishes and traditional skills appropriate to an outstanding conservation area.

The main programme of works will be developed with the Flood Protection Scheme and local community and are scheduled to be undertaken in 2022/23.