



Historic Royal Palaces is the charity that looks after:

Tower of London
Hampton Court Palace
Banqueting House
Kensington Palace
Kew Palace
Hillsborough Castle

We help everyone explore the story of how monarchs and people have shaped society, in some of the greatest palaces ever built.

We raise all our own funds and depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, sponsors and volunteers.

Northern Bridge Consortium – Collaborative Doctoral Award

Historic Royal Palaces at Hillsborough Castle and Queen's University, Belfast, are offering a Collaborative Doctoral Award in the Northern Bridge Consortium 2019 competition. Providing the opportunity to develop the knowledge of a previously understudied period in the history of Hillsborough Castle (one-time official residence of the Governors of Northern Ireland and now managed by Historic Royal Palaces), this project will explore archival material, oral histories, and the spaces of the house and gardens themselves to provide a basis for the outreach and public engagement ambition of Historic Royal Palaces.

Potential applicants are asked to contact Dr Olwen Purdue at Queen's University Belfast (o.purdue@qub.ac.uk) to discuss ideas and to submit a project summary before **Monday 26 November 2018**. This will undergo an assessment by HRP/QUB in late November and one project will be selected to be supported into the main competition with Northern Bridge. This is due to be submitted to Queen's University by **Wednesday 9 January 2019**.

Within the broad outline of the project, potential applicants should develop their own emphasis and approach.

If successful, the student will be supported by a supervisory team to include Dr Christopher Warleigh-Lack, Senior Curator at Hillsborough Castle.

The public history of space, gender and class in Hillsborough Castle 1925-1972

This proposed research project explores the twentieth-century social and cultural history of Hillsborough Castle from the perspective of the women that lived and worked in it. It will focus in particular on the wives of the Governors of Northern Ireland: the Duchess of Abercorn, Lady Granville, Lady Wakehurst, Lady Erskine and Lady Grey. Known, in the main, through their husband's titles, but influential women within their own right, it will seek to understand what influence and effect these women had on the function performed by their husbands in their role of Governor of Northern Ireland. In the alteration of the physical spaces of Hillsborough Castle following purchase by the British Government, reflecting the change from an Anglo-Irish Big House to a government/diplomatic residence, what influence, if any, did the female inhabitants have? Did these or subsequent changes to the spatial layout of the Castle reflect their tastes and interests? Was there a gendered or spatial dimension to the ways in which the Castle was used? And what about the women who worked in and around the Castle? What was their experience of life in the Castle, or the nature of their relationship with the women behind the governors?



And is this gendered dimension to history of the Castle reflected in the experiences and expectations of the public who visit the castle today? Early market research carried out by Historic Royal Palaces in 2013 indicated that potential visitors to the castle were not interested in the history of ‘crusty old men who came to rule us’. Is this view fair and accurate? What other, hidden histories, exist behind this statement? Are women adequately represented in the interpretation of historic buildings such as Hillsborough Castle? And in what ways might this be redressed?

The research would involve working with uncatalogued material in the Hillsborough Castle archive, the Government of Northern Ireland archives held at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and papers held in other archives in England and Scotland.

There may also be opportunities to contribute to the development of community outreach and public engagement activities with the Public Engagement team at Hillsborough Castle through fieldwork, including oral histories. A placement of up to six months’ duration may focus on this.

