

Review of monuments, statues and plaques within Gloucester

Terms of Reference

Introduction

On Thursday 9th July 2020 the following motion was passed at a meeting of the Council:

'Council is appalled by and condemns the recent killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA.

Council recognises and supports the 'Black Lives Matter' efforts to raise awareness of racial inequality and institutionalised racism within the United Kingdom, however deplores any violence and damage in the name of the campaign.

Council notes that black people in the United Kingdom are:

- *8 x more likely to be stopped as part of 'stop and search laws' than white people*
- *More likely to be in low paid jobs or unemployed*
- *More likely to live in poor housing conditions*
- *Less likely to have good educational opportunities*
- *More likely to die from the COVID-19 pandemic*

Council recognises that whilst we have generally good community relations in the City, and these are reinforced by our cross party equalities working group we remain committed to tackling racial discrimination and working with our BAME community to address issues of racial discrimination.

Council resolves to:

1. *Write to the American Ambassador on behalf of the City setting out our deep concerns and condemnation at the killing of George Floyd.*
2. *Set up a Commission with partner organisations in the City including the Police & Crime Commissioner, County Council, NHS, the Civic Trust and representatives of BAME community to review race relations in Gloucester with a view to producing recommendations to improve the lives of and enhance opportunities for BAME communities within the City.*
3. *Undertake a review of all monuments, statues and plaques including Bakers Quay within the City connected with the slave trade/ plantation ownership and for Cabinet and Scrutiny to consider its recommendations, taking advice from the Commission, and further resolves to review the way in which the contribution of minority communities is presented as part of the City's history, including at the Museum of Gloucester.'*

This document seeks to address the third of the above actions – and is specifically concerned with the undertaking of a review of all monuments, statues and plaques within the City connected with the slave trade/ plantation ownership. This document outlines a methodology and timescale for undertaking the above review.

Aims

The aim of this project is to produce a report for the Commission to consider on the historic links to the slave trade in Gloucester. That report will consist of a list of identified monuments, statues, plaques and street names (hereafter 'heritage assets') as well as notable individuals associated with the City and connected with the slave trade and/or plantation ownership. It will include:

- The location of each identified heritage asset;
- A description;
- A summary history of the associated individual/organisation and the asset (including references); and
- Recommendations for the commission to consider.

Terms of Reference

The motion in support of Black Lives Matter committed the council to a review of *'all monuments, statues and plaques including Bakers Quay within the City connected with the slave trade/ plantation ownership'*. For the purposes of this project we assume the following:

- That monuments includes buildings, structures and public spaces;
- That plaques include educational and information plaques as well as memorials; and
- That unless there is a necessary exception¹ this project will not include funerary monuments.

For ease of reference these monuments, statues and plaques will be referred to hereafter as 'heritage assets'.

This project will focus on the historic core of Gloucester but can include sites in the wider district where justified. The project is intended to identify the following:

- Heritage assets linked to individuals or organisations involved in, or benefiting from, the slave trade or plantation ownership; and
- Heritage assets constructed using funds from the slave trade or plantation ownership (including income from government compensation following abolition).

To enable a comprehensive approach involvement in this project will be invited from the following organisations and individuals:

- Gloucester City Council
- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucestershire County Council Archives Service
- Gloucester Cathedral
- Gloucester Civic Trust
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- National Waterways Museum
- Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd
- The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
- University of Gloucestershire
- Individual historians and members of the public with local expertise
- The Diocese of Gloucester
- The Gloucestershire Black Workers Network

¹ A necessary exception in this case would be where a funerary monument promoted or commemorated the life of an individual linked to the slave trade or plantation ownership.

- The Gloucestershire Afro-Caribbean Association
- Historic England
- Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit

Project Plan

Project management

The project will be managed and coordinated by Gloucester City Council, and structured as follows:

Project Sponsor – Anne Brinkhoff, Corporate Director

Project Manager – Andrew Armstrong, Archaeologist (Growth and Delivery)

Project Support – Miranda Bopoto, Charlotte Bowles-Lewis and Kate Biggs (Democratic and Electoral Services and Heritage)

Project coordination

To be undertaken by Andrew Armstrong (Archaeologist Gloucester City Council) with support from colleagues within the City Growth and Delivery service and Democratic Services. This would involve:

- Coordinating the various tasks being undertaken as part of the overall project;
- Liaising with volunteers and stakeholders;
- Regular (monthly) individual meetings of the various volunteers and stakeholders assigned to each task;
- Updating various parties on the new information found; and
- Producing the draft report
- Reporting to and liaising with the Commission

The project will comprise discrete stages (*involvement of partner organisations has not been confirmed and is currently only hypothetical*):

Part 1: formation of a steering group comprising the City Council, relevant partner organisations and individuals

The steering group will be led by the City Council and will report to the Commission. At its first meeting the steering group will agree the scope of the project and sign off the terms of reference.

Part 2: Background research into links between Gloucester, the slave trade and plantation ownership

It is hoped that staff and volunteers at the Gloucestershire Archives would be able to lead on this, assisted by any local historians who are willing. It may also be appropriate for a student dissertation and the University of Gloucestershire will be approached. The task would consist of:

- A high level research project to identify figures and organisations involved in the slave trade with links to Gloucester;
- The identification of any heritage assets within the City linked to those individuals and organisations; and
- The feeding back of information to the project coordinator.

The results from this piece of work would be used to inform other tasks.

Part 3: Review of heritage assets by individual partner organisations

Review of any heritage assets held by the Museum of Gloucester:

To be undertaken by appropriate staff at the Museum of Gloucester (Cultural Services). This task will consist of:

- An initial review of the museum collections for anything that may fall under the remit of this review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of the museum collections in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of heritage assets in City Council ownership:

To be undertaken by members of the Heritage Team (Growth and Delivery). This task will involve:

- An initial review of all heritage assets in City Council ownership (to include monuments, statues and a plaques);
- The identifying of any assets that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of City Council assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of assets in Gloucester Cathedral Close:

It is hoped that this can be undertaken by appropriate representatives of the Dean and Chapter. Ideally by the Cathedral Archivist or associates. This task will involve:

- An initial review of all heritage assets in the Cathedral Close;
- Research into Church of England links to the slave trade and plantation ownership – to identify any links to Gloucester Cathedral;
- The identifying of any assets that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of Cathedral assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of assets in Diocesan ownership:

It is hoped that this can be undertaken by appropriate representatives of the Diocese. This task will involve:

- An initial review of all heritage assets in Diocesan ownership in Gloucester;
- Research into Church of England links to the slave trade and plantation ownership – to identify any links to Gloucester;
- Review of any links to George Whitfield in C of E ownership;
- The identifying of any assets that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of Diocesan assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of assets associated with Gloucester Docks:

There are a number of parties who may be able to assist with this task, they include local historians, the Canal and Rivers Trust and the National Waterways Museum. This task would involve:

- Review of the history of the Docks for links to the slave trade or plantation ownership;
- Following the above, the identification of sites or assets in the Docks area that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of docks-based assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of assets in County Council ownership:

Ideally this would be undertaken by staff at Gloucestershire Archives. It would include:

- An initial review of all heritage assets in County Council ownership;
- The identifying of any assets that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of County Council assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of other assets within the project area (including street/place names):

It is anticipated that this could be carried out by volunteers from local societies and the Civic Trust. The task would involve:

- Researching assets highlighted by the background research (see above) which are in the project area but are not owned by any other stakeholders. For example; businesses and homes in private ownership;
- The identifying of any assets that fall under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of assets in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Review of blue plaques managed by Gloucester Historic Buildings (GHB):

It is anticipated that this work could be undertaken by GHB themselves with support from Gloucestershire Archives where appropriate. The task would involve:

- Review and research blue plaques;
- The identifying of any plaques with content that falls under the remit of the review;
- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of plaques in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum:

It is hoped that this could be undertaken by volunteers and staff at the Museum (possibly with support from Gloucestershire Archives). This task will consist of:

- An initial review of the museum collections for anything that may fall under the remit of this review;

- The reporting of any such finding to the project coordinator; and
- Ongoing capacity to undertake further checks of the museum collections in response to any new information found over the course of the project.

Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit

To is proposed to consult with the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit regarding anything that falls under the remit of this review. At this stage we are unclear if the Circuit is in anyway able to assist with this project but given the role of George Whitfield as a founder of Methodism it seems appropriate to engage with them.

Part 4: Report production

To be undertaken by the project coordinator with support from colleagues. Draft to be submitted to partners and commission for review. Final document then submitted.

Project timescale and structure

The timescale currently envisaged is as follows:

Part 1

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| 1. Invite partners and stakeholders to join Steering Group | October 2020 |
| 2. Review scope in response to partner and stakeholder response | |
| 3. Steering Group meets to finalise project team and scope | November 2020 |

Part 2

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| Background research into links between Gloucester, the slave trade and plantation ownership | Nov 2020 to April 2021 |
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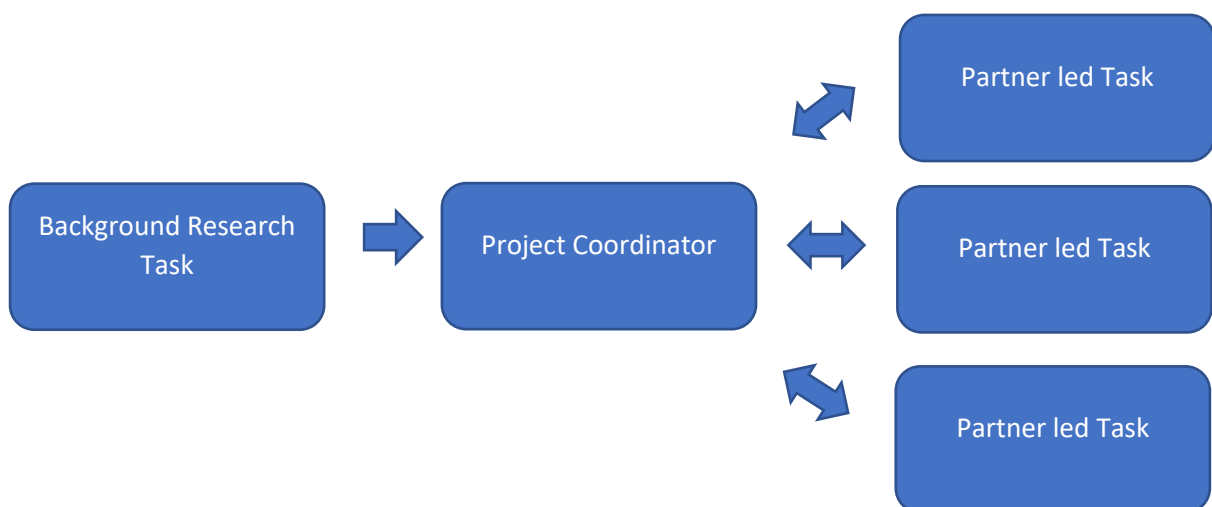
Part 3

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| Review of Assets by individual partner organisations Undertake tasks outlined above | Jan to July 2021 |
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Part 4

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| Draft report for Steering Group | August 2021 |
| Final report and recommendations to Commission | Sept 2021 |

The project would be structured as indicated:



Over the course of the project any new information found via background research would be reported to the project coordinator, who would in turn forward that information to the appropriate partner. New discoveries made by other project partners would be reported to the project coordinator who would be responsible for sharing that information appropriately. By its nature, this project is likely to follow an iterative process with new discoveries requiring investigation as the project goes on.

There would be monthly meetings between the partner leading on each task and the project coordinator outlining any new discoveries, any problems or any information needed. When reporting discoveries to the project coordinator, the following information should be submitted:

- The location of each identified heritage asset;

- A description (including a photograph if possible);
- A summary history of the associated individual/organisation and the asset (including references); and
- Recommendations for the commission to consider.

The project coordinator will:

- Begin drafting a report on the basis of these meetings and summaries;
- Transfer relevant information between different task groups; and
- Identify any further research needed by any particular task group
- Liaise between the task groups and report to the Council steering group

Report structure

At the end of the task-based stage of the project the project coordinator will produce a draft report outlining the results of the project. This will be submitted for comments to the project partners in the first instance and then to the Commission to Consider Race Relations in Gloucester.

Following this a final agreed report will be produced. That report will include:

- Background to the project;
- Methodology;
- Results section, discussing each identified heritage asset by turn – including the following:
 - The location of each identified heritage asset;
 - A description of the asset;
 - A summary history of the individual/organisation and the asset (including references); and
 - Recommendations for the commission to consider.