

[Gentle happy music]

[Text on screen: Heritage Action Zone]

[Text on screen: What is a Heritage Action Zone?]

[Annalisa Ward is sitting next to a window, speaking to camera]

Annalisa Ward: I'm Annalisa Ward. I'm the Heritage Action Zone project manager for Bishop Auckland.

[Historic black and white bird's-eye footage of Bishop Auckland town plays, then merges into modern colour footage of the same area.]

Annalisa: The Heritage Action Zone in Bishop Auckland is a partnership between Historic England and Durham County Council. It works closely with the Brighter Bishop Auckland Board, who are coordinating and driving forward the regeneration of the town.

[Bob McManus is sitting next to a window, speaking to camera]

Bob McManus: I'm Bob McManus. I'm chairman of Bishop Auckland Civic Society and chairman of the Heritage Action Zone for Bishop Auckland.

[Photos of a shopping street in Bishop Auckland]

Bob: Heritage action zones are a relatively new concept. They've been introduced approximately a year ago and are now 18 in the country. The point of heritage action zone is to look at regeneration, economic regeneration, of societies through heritage and history, and this dovetails very nicely with what the Auckland Project are trying to do in terms of regenerating the town through its heritage and its past. So this is a very apposite thing to happen at the moment.

[Photos of Bishop Auckland market place, Auckland Tower and the gateway which leads into Bishop Auckland Castle]

[Text on screen: What does the Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone involve?]

[Photos of old buildings in Bishop Auckland]

Annalisa: The Heritage Action Zone is a five-year program of around 50 projects, some still in development, and we hope to invest around one million pounds. That money will come from Historic England, Durham County Council and from private businesses who are going to be investing in the town.

[Jules Brown is sitting next to a window, speaking to camera]

Jules Brown: I'm Jules Brown. I work for Historic England, the government's champion for the historic environment in England and my job for the Heritage Action Zone is to inspire the partners to work together to get the delivery plan for the five-year project in place and then to help oversee and put the programme into action to bring lasting benefit to the historic environment of Bishop Auckland.

[Text on screen: What do we want for the future of Bishop Auckland?]

[A series of before and after photos of the town, showing vacant properties brought back into use]

Jules: We want to use the heritage of the town to work harder for the town's future, for its economy. We want to bring vacant buildings back into use and get more people coming to visit the town and to understand and enjoy its exciting heritage.

[Bob McManus is sitting next to a window, speaking to camera]

Bob: The Heritage Action Zone has to leave something permanent for Bishop Auckland. I think the town has suffered in the past from having many schemes looking at its structure and its organisation and its redevelopment but unfortunately very few of them have come to any substantial consequence.

[Photos of the closed down Beales department store]

Bob: The Heritage Action Zone must be different, so, it hasn't just to be a nice journey that we enjoy on the way along and enjoy the activities and the research that's going on into the various different aspects of the project. It has to have both tangible and quantifiable outcomes at the end of the day.

[Text on screen: How can you get involved?]

[Annalisa Ward is sitting next to a window, speaking to camera]

Annalisa: Over the course of the five-year program we'll be engaging with local schools and we'll also be providing opportunities of people to learn new skills, skills that will enable them to get jobs as a result of the regeneration and economic development within the town. There are lots of different ways to get involved with the Heritage Action Zone. We will be running events ourself and with other partners. You'll be able to keep up to date with regular newsletters and of course hear our news through social media.

[Text on screen: Share in your town's history and heritage through our planned events and activities.
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#BishopAucklandHAZ]