

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

PROJECT TITLE				
Anglo-French relations during the age of Revolutions				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution		University of Warwick		
Lead regional city		Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/> Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation		English Heritage		
Website		English Heritage Home Page English Heritage (english-heritage.org.uk)		
<p>Overview</p> <p>This research project will explore Franco-British exchange at key English Heritage sites during the period from the start of the French Revolution to the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo and transform our understanding of how people, ideas, texts, and material objects from France and its colonies were circulating in Britain.</p> <p>Project:</p> <p>This collaborative studentship will extend our knowledge of English Heritage sites of the south of England as ‘contact zones’ between Britain and France between the start of the French Revolution in 1789 and the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. This will transform our understanding of the extent to which people, ideas, texts, material objects from France and its colonies were coming into contact with people in Britain despite the almost continuous period of war between the 2 countries. You will explore questions about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conditions of captivity but also points of interaction and sociability, most notably at Dover and Portchester castles, which held thousands of French prisoners of war at this time • French visitors to Britain during the brief peace of Amiens in 1802 • Émigré presence along the south coast, from July 1789 immediately after the fall of the Bastille • Imagined military exchange through the construction of the Western Heights and the Martello towers during the Napoleonic period • Comparing and contrasting Anglo-French relations at EH sites with those managed by others, such as Hartwell House (NT, home of Louis XVIII in exile), or Sissinghurst Castle (NT, another prisoner-of-war camp) <p>Process:</p> <p>To carry out this project, you will acquire site-specific knowledge, research the broader socio-political context of the period and undertake archival work, primarily at the National Archives at Kew, but also in France (both in Paris and some of the Channel ports). Archival material will provide data and evidence of exchange between individuals as well as between governments and include data sets (lists of passengers, prisoners, émigrés, goods) as well as correspondence, documents and maps. The project will involve fieldwork on site at English Heritage properties where you will benefit from the expertise of properties’ curators and archaeologists as well as historians. You should be willing to improve or acquire skills in reading 18th-century handwriting in English (and ideally also handwriting in French).</p>				

Place:

You will be based at the University of Warwick with supervisors who are experts on the Revolutionary and Napoleonic periods: Professor Kate Astbury (Modern Languages) and Charles Walton (History). You will need to spend some time at the key English Heritage sites that are the focus of the project and at the archives. You will also have a supervisory team at English Heritage with whom Professor Astbury has worked for a number of years. English Heritage has a strategic priority to increase the depth of historical understanding about its sites and add nuance to well-trodden narratives and academic collaboration with Warwick is key to the reinterpretation of sites and outreach activities. By highlighting and elaborating the stories behind Anglo-French exchange at a time of conflict, this project will explore the breadth of exchange at the time as well as how it is lived with and experienced. This collaboration will create an opportunity for focussed research on an aspect of a number of sites that has not so far been properly examined or understood.

Person:

You don't need to have done any archival work before – we will train you – you just need to be able to pay attention to details and think critically. You should have an undergraduate degree and interests in either modern languages or history or similar. You need to be willing to immerse yourself in the topic of Anglo-French exchanges of the late 18th and early 19th centuries and contribute to the dissemination of new knowledge. We expect the things you discover to feed into exhibition panels, guidebooks, outreach activities etc. A good knowledge of French and a demonstrable interest in this period are desirable but you will have the opportunity to learn and/or improve your French through the Language Centre at Warwick when you arrive. There is a full range of additional training options available, and we will identify together those that would be most beneficial to you when you start. You will need to be adaptable and able to work well on your own and as part of a team.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE. Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Katherine Astbury
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