

Legacies of Enslavement Programme x Greater Manchester Moving Commission Heritage in Action Walking and Wheeling Routes

WHO ARE WE?

The Scott Trust [Legacies of Enslavement](#) (LoE) programme is a 10-year restorative justice initiative launched in March 2023 in response to the [Guardian founders' connections](#) to transatlantic enslavement. It is being designed and carried out in consultation with descendant communities in the US, Jamaica, the UK and elsewhere, centred on long-term initiatives and meaningful impact.

The programme incorporates a range of **restorative justice actions** spanning apology and acknowledgment, truth-seeking and telling, and reparative actions.

A major part of the programme is creating meaningful partnerships in Greater Manchester (GM), where the newspaper was founded, to increase knowledge and engagement with the region's connections to transatlantic enslavement. In 2026, Greater Manchester Moving will work with The Scott Trust to develop four new walking and wheeling routes that will feature as a part of the annual [GM Walking Festival](#).

[GM Moving](#) curate and promote the annual GM Walking Festival each May during national walking month. The Walking Festival is a **celebration** of walking and the **benefits it brings** to people through **the joy of walking and wheeling**. A range of community groups and organisations from across GM organise free group routes to bring people together through walking, and people benefit from moving more and connecting with others, making connections with place, and coming together around a shared culture and something in common. Walking and wheeling means to move at walking pace, so pushchairs, wheelchairs, and other forms of mobility aids are included in this definition.

For the 2026 GM Walking Festival we will be asking organisers of the routes to focus on **‘celebrating connected communities’**, and will amplify the power of walking in a group, and walking with a purpose to bring people together.



WHAT ARE WE COMMISSIONING?

The Legacies of Enslavement programme will commission four new routes across Greater Manchester that will feature in the GM Moving Festival 2026:

- Each route developer / creator will receive a fee of **£2,000** to create and activate a new route in **May 2026**
- Routes will be activated at least twice between **1st-4th May** and **25th-29th May**
- Each route developer will attend a series of compulsory training sessions in February and March to support with the creation of their route
- Workshops will cover topics such as interpreting local history, working inter-generationally, technical aspects of creating a route for your community and the social model for disability
- Each route must respond to the theme of Legacies of Enslavement programme - **Heritage in Action** and the GM Moving Festival theme – **Celebrating Connected Communities**.
- Each route will be developed with **accessibility** in mind to ensure a variety of audiences can engage
- Route creation will involve recording audio and providing notes for the routes to be turned into online resources. This will allow for the material to exist in the programme and festival archives after May 2026
- We are defining a “route” as a planned walk that can be done independently or as a guided tour.



WHY?

The Scott Trust [acknowledges](#) that it has a commitment to **raise consciousness** of the region's connections to transatlantic enslavement and the slavery economy.

The Legacies of Enslavement programme understands restorative justice as a process of dialogue and collaboration aimed at repair and healing between The Guardian - an institution that benefited from transatlantic enslavement - and descendants of the enslaved.

Manchester was the first industrial city in the world. This was built on the [cotton trade](#). The development of the Greater Manchester boroughs is a part of this legacy. The Guardian founders used funds directly from this trade to create the newspaper in Manchester. This is a **shared history**.

Greater Manchester has a brilliant walking culture. We have heritage walks, parades, [football match routes](#), community walking groups and more. Walking is a part of our history. From the [Suffragettes](#) to the [Peterloo protesters](#), we know that if we want to get something done, we have to get moving. From [Reclaim the Night](#) to the [Black Lives Matter](#) marches, we still know how to take to our feet to get our voices heard. From the [Caribbean Carnival](#) to the [Manchester Parade](#), we know how to bring our communities together for a joyous movement that allows us to appreciate all the rich cultures bubbling from this city region.

GM Moving is a charity with a clear purpose to change lives through movement, physical activity and sport. We lead, support and connect people and partners to develop and deliver on the whole system vision and approach towards active lives for all. We believe that moving more contributes to thriving communities and a healthier, happier and more connected Greater Manchester.

We understand that there are many cultural, political, environmental, social and personal reasons why people may not be active and we seek to work with people in communities, organisations and system partners to tackle the inequalities in movement, physical activity and sport.



HOW TO APPLY

We are happy to accept **expressions of interest that are a maximum of three A4 pages (PDF) or 3 minutes in audio (mp4) maximum.**

You do not need to have created a route before and you do not need to be part of a walking / moving group.

Please answer the following questions in your expression of interest.

- 1) How will your route demonstrate the theme of Heritage in Action?
- 2) How will your route demonstrate the theme of Celebrating Connected Communities?
- 3) How many people do you think your route could accommodate?
- 4) How long do you think your route will be in time and distance?
- 5) What part of Greater Manchester would you like to highlight with your route?
- 6) What is your current relationship with walking / moving / wheeling, if any? i.e.: part of a walking group, delivering heritage tours, walk to work? (If you currently have no relationship with walking or wheeling, please explain how you would like to build walking and wheeling into your every day by creating this route.)
- 7) Please provide your availability between 9th February – 31st March. (Route developers will be attending compulsory training workshops.)
- 8) Please let us know if you have any access needs and caring responsibilities.

The deadline is **8th January at 8am.**

Please send expressions of interest to: legacies@guardian.co.uk

We will be delivering **online Q&A sessions** at the following times for anyone who wants to find out more before applying.

Monday 1st Dec – 12pm-1pm

Friday 5th Dec – 8am-9am

Thursday 11th Dec – 6pm-7pm

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

