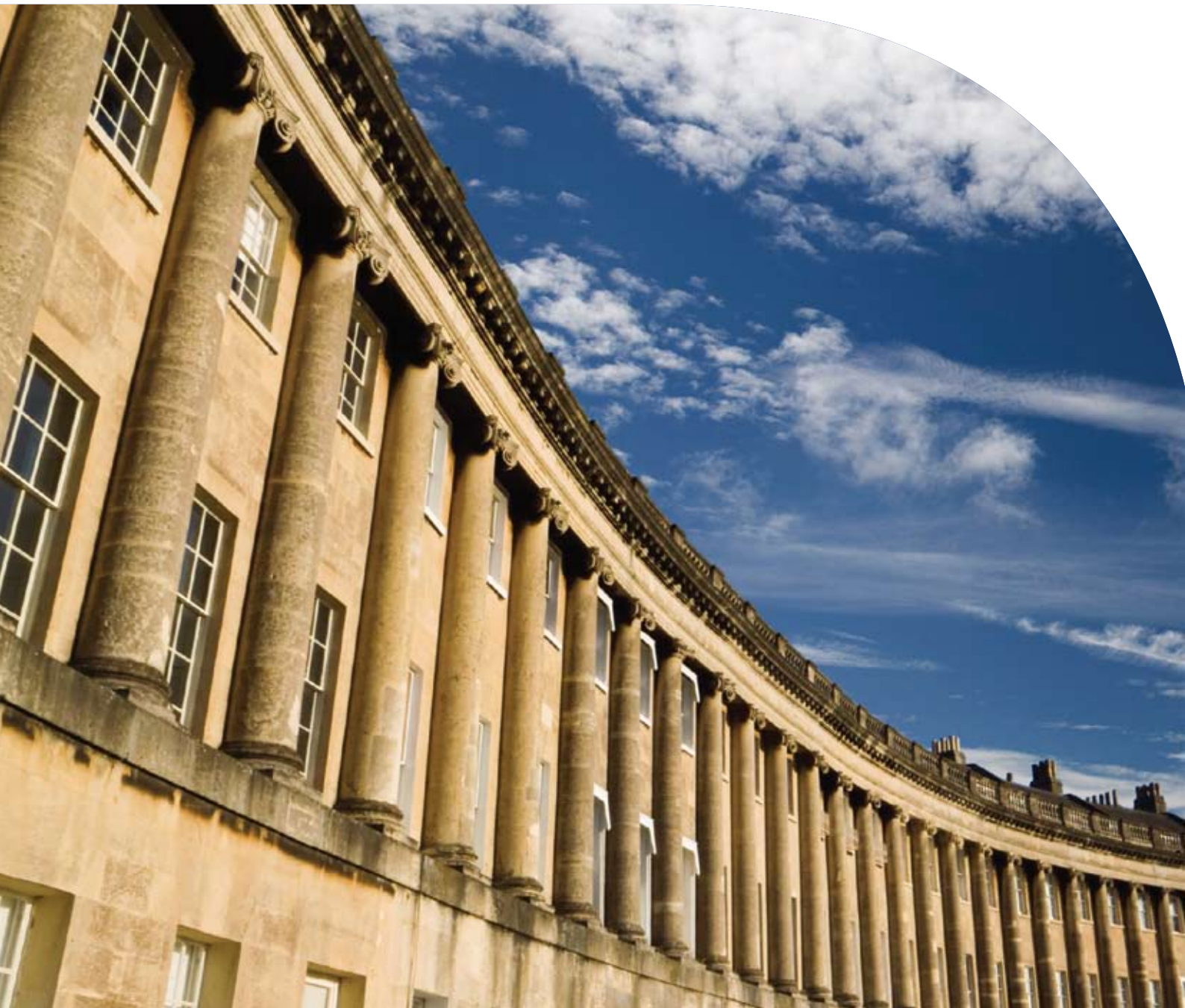


Saving Britain's Past

How does our attitude to the past shape who we are?



Saving the Decades

Programme running: 7 x 30 mins Production: BBC

As we build new shops and schools and people try to make a living, how much of the past can we preserve? Old buildings are often beautiful and are a part of our history, but they can be expensive to keep, difficult to repair and may not suit modern uses. How do local communities, planners and heritage organisations negotiate what we keep and what we lose?

The City

As World War 2 threatened to destroy important historic buildings, the government made an official list of which ones deserved the greatest protection. In the aftermath of bombing raids, quick decisions were made about which buildings should be propped up for repair and which ones demolished. Yet many buildings believed safe by the public were still being destroyed.

Streets in the Sky

The rise, fall and rise again of Britain's most controversial housing estate. The modernist Park Hill flats were one of the most pioneering public housing projects of fifties' Britain but by the nineties council tenants were desperate to avoid the estate, now a haven for muggers and drug dealers. English Heritage listed Park Hill as one of the most architecturally significant post-war housing estates in the country and the decision divided the community.

The Country House

An exhibition on the 'Destruction of the Country House' at the Victoria and Albert Museum seemed an odd idea. Yet when it opened in 1974, it was the shock hit of the year. Almost overnight, the rotting state of thousands of great country houses became headline news. Does the country house belong to the upper classes or is it everyone's heritage?

The Market

Covent Garden Market in London, a thriving hub of trade, faced demolition in the 1970s. The market was saved by local campaigners, but quickly became a jungle of boutiques and tourist souvenir shops. Is it better to preserve the buildings or the activities that take place within them?

The Pit

The closure of the mines in the mid 1980s left whole communities with no jobs. However, several mines re-opened in the 1990s as heritage attractions, winning awards. How do ex-miners and their families feel about the end of the mines and the opening of the museums?

The Crofters

A pioneering group of "crofters" employed on Scottish estates won the right to buy the land they worked on in the 1990s. Land once reserved for the local Laird was opened up to a much wider public. However, the democratically organised crofters had to decide the best way to manage the land. Who makes the decisions and who gets to join the group of locals invested with this power?

The Street

In a city of immigrants, one London street has welcomed more communities than any other. Brick Lane sums up 21st century multicultural society, with mosques that used to be churches and art galleries that used to be breweries. This episode follows the immigrant communities that have called this area home and the conflicts that this street has witnessed.

Image: Anthony Brown

Distributed by Open University Worldwide, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, UK, MK7 6AA
To find out more, please contact our Sales Team on +44 (0) 1908 659083
email: ouw-broadcast-sales@open.ac.uk or visit our website at:

www.ouwworldwide.com