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# My journey to securing a fellowship

# My FLF project

- Sonic heritage and environmental change on England's East Coast, 1718-present
- Preserving, reconstructing and understanding sound heritage.
- £1.4m over 4 years
- Partner institutions: University of Oxford, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Partners: National Trust, Britten Pears Arts, Suffolk Archives, local music and heritage groups





# Career to Jan/Feb 2024

2005-2009

PhD

2010-2015

Leverhulme ECR,  
University of Nottingham

2016-2023

Oxford, KCL (numerous short-  
term research or teaching posts

Sep 2023-

Lecturer (2-year contract!),  
Birmingham City University

# Other things happening during that time ...





# Important research experience

2015-2018

RA, digital musicology project and follow-on

2019-2021

Knowledge Exchange Fellowship: National Trust and British Library

2020-2021

Oxford Humanities Cultural Fund participatory research project

2023

Unsuccessful bid for AHRC Early Career Fellowships in Cultural and Heritage Institutions scheme



## Developing the application – first steps

- Conversations with Head of Research/Deputy about developing unsuccessful project
- Internal funding for 2 weeks of research/site visits
- AHRC standard grant vs FLF
  - Questions of eligibility
  - Scale of ambition
  - Innovation/interdisciplinarity
  - Big research question
  - Community/partner involvement
  - \*My\* career trajectory and leadership



## Developing the application – ongoing work

- Initial EoI
- Internal deadlines for drafts
- Research office support
- Peer review
- Numerous mentoring conversations
- Starting conversations with partners early
- Recruiting my team
- Thinking about my training and development



## Host institution support

### What I asked for:

- Commitment to training and removal of teaching/admin duties
- Discussion of pathway to leadership e.g. research centre
- PhD students

### What I wish I'd asked for:

- More admin support!



## Key advice

- Think big
- Work hard
- Don't be shy about asking for advice and bringing people on board