



ENGLISH HERITAGE

By e mail
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19 March 2010

Dear Sirs

Subject: Consultation on Development Management

English Heritage welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on Development Management

English Heritage is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with our funding agreement signed by CLG and DEFRA. We work in partnership with central government departments, local authorities, voluntary bodies and the private sector to conserve and enhance the historic environment, broaden public access to our cultural heritage, and increase people's understanding and appreciation of the past.

We are the UK Government's statutory advisor and a statutory consultee on all aspects of the historic environment and its heritage assets. This includes archaeology on land and under water, historic buildings sites and areas, designated landscapes and the historic elements of the wider landscape. *Conservation Principles* <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.9181> sets out the guidelines for engagement with the historic environment which have informed the consultation draft of Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15).

We are fully supportive of the move from the traditional development control approach to handling development proposals to a new development management approach. The historic environment is at the heart of effective place shaping and we consider working proactively with local planning authorities and developers is more likely to have a positive outcome and secure heritage led regeneration and the proportionate approach to 'significance' advocated in *Conservation Principles*. The proposed guidance will make it easier for all parties to engage in this way. A nationally prescribed fee structure would provide greater clarity and consistency

We currently spend more than half the time we spend on casework on pre-application enquiries. We appreciate that pre-application discussions may demand resources from local planning authorities which are not always available and which cannot always be financed in full from any fees that may be charged. However, if the degree to which pre application discussions were used by the local planning authority became an indicator of high performance there might be a greater incentive for participation in this process.

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www.english-heritage.org.uk

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Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



The participation of elected members is fundamental to the successful outcome of a development proposal and we support the principle of heritage champions within local authorities. We therefore welcome the move to encourage members to participate at the pre-application stage along with the community as a whole.

A full response to the consultation questions is attached.

Yours faithfully

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