



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Kate Cross
Priority Regulatory Outcomes Consultation
Local Better Regulation Office
The Axis
10 Holiday Street
Birmingham
B1 1TG

Our ref:
Your ref:

Telephone 020 7973 3826
Fax 020 7973 3574

21 March 2011

Dear Ms Cross

Priority Regulatory Outcomes Consultation

Thanks you for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

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.

There has been legal protection for buildings and sites of historic interest in the UK since 1882 when the Schedule of Monuments was started. Buildings started to be protected through being listed because of their architectural and historic interest as a result of the widespread programme of demolition and rebuilding that followed the destruction of World War II. In the 1970s a further category of designation was added to protect historic areas as 'conservation areas'. There are now some 500,000 listed buildings, 20,000 scheduled monuments, and 10,000 conservation areas. Parliament has provided specific offences in law to protect them against damage and unlicensed alteration. In addition there are a number of mainstream offences which offer protection from, for example, criminal damage, theft, arson, and anti-social behaviour which apply to the types of designation referred to above and to other types of designated sites such as Registered battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, protected Wreck Sites, Protected Military Remains and World Heritage Sites and undesignated sites including archaeological sites that are currently unknown but which may have national or even international importance, which do not otherwise have a specific protection in law.

1 WATERHOUSE SQUARE, 138-142 HOLBORN, LONDON EC1N 2ST

Telephone 020 7973 3000 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



Responsibility for protection is split between local authorities, the police and English Heritage. In response to a perceived need for a more co-operative approach Chief Inspector Mark Harrison has been seconded to English Heritage to set up a sustainable co-ordinated approach to crime reduction in the historic environment. The Alliance for the Reduction of Crime Against Heritage (ARCH) was formally launched on 11 February 2011. The objective is to reduce the amount of crime that causes damage to the historic environment.

In the light of the above we consider the draft priority regulatory outcomes do not accurately address the regulatory issues and risks facing England. Whilst there is reference to the 'historical environment' the opportunity has not been taken within the document to consider how it might best be protected. The historic environment and the heritage assets within it (scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, battlefields and undesignated archaeological sites) have a value and evidential interest to this and future generations. The historic environment also has a direct impact on economic prosperity, (both through its contribution to the quality of place which attracts business investment, and through its contribution to the tourism industry), it also has the potential to impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals. Evidence shows the more deprived the neighbourhood, the more likely it is to have social and environmental characteristics presenting risks to well-being, which will include higher rates of crime involving heritage assets and their associated setting.

We would be pleased to assist in re-drafting the document to take into account the historic environment. For this and further information on ARCH please contact Joanne Fisher, our Legal Adviser, on 020 7973 3824 or by e mail joanne.fisher@english-heritage.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Pat Aird
Head of National Planning Advice
E-mail: pat.aird@english-heritage.org.uk



1 WATERHOUSE SQUARE, 138-142 HOLBORN, LONDON EC1N 2ST

Telephone 020 7973 3000 Facsimile 020 7973 3001

www.english-heritage.org.uk

*Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available*

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact
our Customer Services department:
Telephone: 0870 333 1181
Fax: 01793 414926
Textphone: 01793 414878
E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk