

Notes

Designation Review

The DCMS and English Heritage Review of Heritage Protection was announced by the Secretary of State in November 2002. The aim is to improve and re-focus the way in which England's historic environment receives statutory protection.

There are several reasons to carry out such a review now. First, there are at present separate systems for designating monuments, buildings of historic importance or architectural merit, gardens, battlefields, ecclesiastical buildings and wrecks. The DCMS policy statement, *A Force for our Future* (2002), identified the need to examine these systems.

Second, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is revising PPG15 and 16 in addition to carrying out a review of consent regimes. Legislation now before Parliament will achieve major reform of the land use planning system. Heritage protection needs to operate effectively alongside the new arrangements. This affects in particular the role of the historic environment in regeneration and redevelopment in both urban and rural contexts.

Third, in recent years there has been growing interest in the context and setting of the historic environment as a whole, rather than just the component parts. For major complex sites, the modern approach of conservation plans and management agreements covering areas rather than single buildings needs to be fully reflected in the designation regimes.

Fourth, following the quinquennial review of English Heritage, work is already well advanced to improve processes in English Heritage and to direct resources to programmes and projects in areas of regeneration and redevelopment. This work, including pilot projects to test different protection methods, will continue alongside the Heritage Protection Review.

The review has three phases. Up to the end of May, the DCMS and English Heritage will have sought views and ideas from all stakeholders – developers, local authorities, other government departments, archaeologists, architects, heritage experts, owners of listed buildings and many others. Afterwards, the DCMS will issue a Consultation Paper in July setting out the main

changes the Government is minded to make. Finally, having listened to the response, the Government plans to publish a White Paper early in 2004.

Review of grants strategy

English Heritage is reviewing its grants strategy to ensure that it is focused on *A Force for Our Future and State of the Historic Environment Report* (SHER) priorities and is supported by modernised procedures. This will include regionally-based strategies for the delivery of both advice and grants casework. Strategies for the nine regions will be published as consultation drafts in the autumn.

In order to allow for the implementation of changes to grant priorities and procedures, any grant applications received after 30 September 2003 will not be processed until the new system is in place and may not receive a decision until at least April 2004.

Directory of funds for historic buildings launched on the Internet

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), with the support of English Heritage and Cadw, has launched a unique and comprehensive online guide to the funding available for rescuing and restoring historic buildings. The guide, *Funds for Historic Buildings*, can be accessed free of charge at www.ffhb.org.uk

Looking after historic buildings costs money. The website details over 140 sources of funding and will be the first port of call for people seeking funds for vital restoration and regeneration projects in England and Wales. A search function enables users to find the sources of funds most likely to apply to them. The website also provides invaluable practical information and includes easy-to-read sections on topics such as how to make funding applications, fundraising from individuals and companies, and where to get advice on restoration work.

The AHF can be contacted on 020 7925 0199; ahf@ahfund.org; and www.ahfund.org.uk

Project APPEAR

Accessibility Projects. Sustainable Preservation and Enhancement of urban subsoil Archaeological Remains

The APPEAR Project is a three-year, EU-funded research project, led by In Situ (Centre for Archaeological Research) and the University of Liège in Belgium and carried out in partnership with a number of organisations, including English Heritage, that are involved in urban planning and archaeology in six European countries.

It forms part of the European Commission's Fifth Framework Programme for Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Key Action 4 – The City of Tomorrow and Cultural Heritage, Action 4.2.3: to foster the integration of cultural heritage in the urban setting.

The research focuses on accessibility projects, schemes that make urban subsoil archaeological remains accessible *in situ* to the public.

The project was inspired by the case of the remains of the foundations of the gothic Cathedral of St Lambert in Liège, which were destroyed at the beginning of the 19th century. The excavated site – which also includes prehistoric, Roman and early medieval remains – has been the focus of a number of initiatives over the years to preserve and open to the public those parts not destroyed by the building of a car park and other nearby urban improvement works. These programmes have been fraught with difficulties and have led to a series of delays in the opening of the site. A review of practice elsewhere in Europe led to the realisation that these problems were relatively common and prompted In Situ and the University of Liège to put forward the project proposal.

Over the last few decades, inhabitants of European cities and towns have shown a growing awareness of, and interest in, their archaeological remains as a means of identifying with their cultural heritage. At the same time, increased urban planning, the exponential growth of towns and technological advances in urban development have led to conflicting priorities in terms of the preservation of the subsoil heritage.

The lack, however, of a proven reference framework to facilitate dealing with the complex issues often faced by those concerned with the decision-making process has sometimes led to missed opportunities or the application of inappropriate solutions to the problems

associated with the integration of archaeology into the social and economic fabric of urban centres.

The APPEAR project seeks to redress this by developing practical solutions and advice for those working on accessibility projects. It will adopt a multi-disciplinary approach by involving representatives from all stakeholder groups, including architects, archaeologists, historians, curators, developers and planners. An extremely important group it also intends to target is the public who in the past have often not been involved in the process and whose views have not been taken into account.

Through the close collaboration of the various participants, step-by-step guidelines will be produced for use by all parties involved in the process of instigating and managing these projects. The resulting practical system will allow a universal approach, but it will also be flexible and adaptable to local conditions.

The end product will consist of two elements:

The **APPEAR Guide**: this will allow users to:

- make coherent and well-founded choices concerning the conservation, integration, enhancement and exploitation of urban archaeological sites
- defend these choices based on tried and tested methods and indicators, and on noteworthy examples
- identify, put into place and carry out the operations induced by these choices.

The **Existing Practices Database**: this database will contain examples of successful and unsuccessful accessibility projects. It will be added to throughout the life of the project and beyond, providing a dynamic aid to decision-making. It will be available on the APPEAR website that will be developed within the first few months of the project.

The aim of the APPEAR project is to provide clear procedures for use by all those involved in accessibility projects for urban archaeological sites, in order to ensure their full integration within the sustainable urban development programme and to allow the public maximum benefit and enjoyment from their heritage.

For further details, please contact Valerie Wilson at English Heritage: Tel 01793 414745; Fax 01793 714770; valerie.wilson@english-heritage.org.uk

Notes **Regional priorities**

English Heritage has produced a plan for each of the nine regions outlining priorities for the next two years. If you would like copies of any of them, please contact Customer Services on 0870 333 1181 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk

Green Heritage Sites

A new Green Flag Award

English Heritage is sponsoring a new Green Flag Award for Green Heritage Sites to promote the value of, and best practice in, the care and upkeep of parks and green spaces that are of local or national historic interest. The Green Heritage Site forms part of the Green Flag national standard adopted by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

This award aspires to give voice to public expectations about what parks can and should offer. It aims to set standards for management and to promote the value of parks and green spaces as social places as well as places for walking, play, informal sports and for contact with the natural world. The Green Flag Award has now become the benchmark against which the quality of public parks and green spaces can be measured. It also recognises the diversity and value of green space to the local community, including: town and country parks, formal gardens, nature reserves, cemeteries and crematoria, water parks, open space, millennium greens, doorstep greens and community-run green spaces. For more information, please visit www.civictrust.org.uk

Bouldnor Battery on the Isle of Wight, scheduled in the 1960s. The national importance of this site was confirmed by the Monuments Protection Programme's assessment of coastal batteries



AIHV 2003

The British Section of the International Association for the History of Glass (AIHV) will host the 16th Congress of the AIHV in London, 7–13 September 2003. The AIHV exists to promote the study and enjoyment of all aspects of glass from antiquity to the modern period and holds a congress every three years. Its membership includes archaeologists, art historians, artists, collectors, museum curators, scientists and researchers from over 30 countries. At the Congress, based at Imperial College, there will be a full programme of lectures, two poster sessions, the opportunities to visit collections both in London and elsewhere in the south-east of England and a full social programme. It will be followed by a post-congress tour to the south-west of England. Everyone interested in glass is warmly invited to take part.

Further details can be obtained from The General Secretary AIHV, 16 Lady Bay Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BJ. Alternatively, please visit the website of the organising committee www.historyofglass.org.uk where you can find full details of the congress. More details of the AIHV can be found on www.aihv.org

Building conservation masterclasses

WEST DEAN COLLEGE Near Chichester, West Sussex

A collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage, and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, sponsored by the Radcliffe Trust

Each course is an intensive combination of lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises. All courses are £515 Residential and £410 non-residential.

For further information, please contact Patricia Jackson, West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, PO18 0QZ; Tel 01243 818294/811301; pat.jackson@westdean.org.uk or liz.campbell@westdean.org.uk;

www.westdean.org.uk