

# News

## from English Heritage

### Select Committee report on protecting heritage

The House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee published its final report, *Protecting and Preserving Our Heritage*, on 20 July. As part of an eight-month process, the committee received 124 written submissions and held six hearings with 32 separate organisations giving evidence in person. The inquiry considered the entire heritage sector, but with particular reference to the roles played by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and English Heritage.

The report makes clear the committee's belief that the evidence gathered demonstrates not only the intrinsic importance of England's historic environment but also the contribution it makes to much wider government objectives such as regeneration and community cohesion. The proposals to reform the heritage protection regime are welcomed to ensure that the historic environment continues to play this role and should be implemented as soon as possible.

However, the committee expresses concern over the continuing downward trend in resources for both the historic environment in general and for English Heritage in particular. The MPs point out the strain that this has put on English Heritage's range of activities (such as the grants programme) and the implications for the rest of the sector if it is not reversed. The committee concludes that DCMS should secure more money from the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review for the historic environment 'if public funding is to match the public value placed upon it'. Additionally, it argues that English Heritage requires greater political support as the sector leader – failure to do so could be 'disastrous' for the sector.

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### Living Buildings in a Living Landscape

*Living Buildings in a Living Landscape: Finding a Future for Traditional Farm Buildings* is a policy statement produced jointly by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, in collaboration with the University of Gloucestershire Countryside and Community Research Unit. The booklet examines the pressures on the traditional

farm-building stock, and together with a companion series of documents available on-line ([www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.7740](http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.7740)) also establishes a framework for improving understanding of their local character. Above all, it sets out our views on how the inevitable process of change can be handled most effectively. It complements existing guidance from the Countryside Agency on sensitive approaches to new building in the countryside and will be amplified later this year when English Heritage publishes guidance on achieving high standards in the conversion of traditional farm buildings.

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### Development and the maritime historic environment

With proposals for new ports and other development coming forward at Shellhaven and elsewhere, the English Heritage policy statement *Ports: The Impact of Development on the Maritime Historic Environment* is intended to inform developers and others about the importance and relevance of the historic environment in relation to

ports, and how it must be taken into account in development proposals. It focuses mainly on the marine aspect of new developments.

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### Local Area Agreements

*Local Area Agreements and the Historic Environment: Interim Guidance* was launched at the national conference for Historic Environment Champions on 12 July. It outlines how the historic environment can add value to Local Area Agreements, case studies and the type of advice English Heritage provides. It is intended to support elected members and staff in local authorities, local strategic partnerships and government offices.

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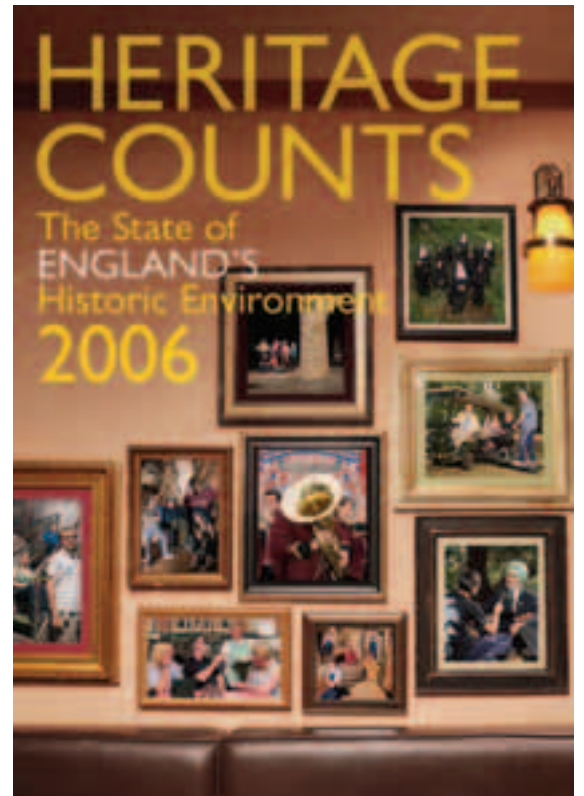
### Heritage Counts

*Heritage Counts 2006*, the fifth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment, will be published on 15 November. The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus on the role that *communities* play by valuing and engaging in England's heritage.

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*Heritage Counts 2007* will also be on the theme of learning and skills. Drawing on material from across the historic environment sector, it will explore the sector's contribution to curriculum development in schools and to education outside the classroom. It will look at the development of 'historic environment' modules within mainstream qualifications and the possible role of 'creative apprenticeships'. The emerging agendas of the sector skills councils that are relevant to the sector will be discussed. Two key sub-themes will be the skills needed within local authorities to enable them to deliver the Heritage Protection Review and specific issues around the skills and training needs of the voluntary and community sector.

Contact Peter Robinson, tel: 0207 973 3730; e-mail: [peter.robinson@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:peter.robinson@english-heritage.org.uk).



### Investment Performance of Listed Office Buildings – 2005 Update

This is the only study in the world to monitor the investment performance of listed office buildings as against their unlisted counterparts. The study, which is jointly sponsored by English Heritage, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Investment Property Forum, was carried out by Investment Property Databank Limited (IPD), who are the property industry's leading firm of statistical analysts. IPD identified a sample of 221 offices that were designated either Grade I or Grade II and measured their performance against the unlisted offices within their databank, which totalled 2,779. The respective capital values were £1.6 billion and £35.2 billion. The West End accounted for three-fifths of the listed offices owned by investors at the end of 2004, measured both by number of properties and by the capital value. The key finding is that over the long term, listed buildings have performed as well as, and in some cases better than their unlisted counterparts. The full IPD study is available on English Heritage's website ([www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)).

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## Inspired!

Work continues on the English Heritage *Inspired!* campaign tackling the problems facing historic places of worship belonging to all the faith groups. Very positive feedback has been received following a presentation to the All-Party group in July. Work will begin shortly on a publication covering both the conversion of redundant places of worship and part-conversions for other uses for places of worship that remain in religious use.

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## Putting learning into practice

Now in their fourth year, the University College London (UCL) Centre for Sustainable Heritage and English Heritage short courses come highly commended by heritage professionals from museums, historic houses and galleries throughout Britain and from overseas.

Taking place in historically significant properties throughout England, these courses, taught in small groups, combine the resources of UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage and English Heritage – giving you the tools, techniques and systems to provide quality care for your historic collections.

For more details, please contact: Skye Dillon, Short Course Coordinator, UCL Centre for Sustainable Heritage, tel: 0207 679 5903; email: skye.dillon@ucl.ac.uk.

## Courses at West Dean College

West Dean College's exciting annual programme of building conservation courses developed out of the English Heritage Masterclass programme, which was transferred to the college in 1997. Courses for the winter and spring include:

- Conservation and Repair of Timber, 27–30 Nov 2006
- The Historic Interior: Commissioning and Managing Conservation Research, 4–6 Dec 2006
- Conservation of Stone Surfaces and Detail, 22–25 Jan 2007
- Specifying Conservation Works, 5–8 Feb 2007
- Conservation and Repair of Architectural Metalwork, 5–8 March 2007
- Conservation and Repair of Brick, Terracotta and Flint Masonry, 19–22 March 2007.

Course fee: £410 (except The Historic Interior: £275). Discount of 10% on course fee for English Heritage employees. Accommodation from £120 for 3 nights.

For more information contact: Liz Campbell, West Dean College, tel: 01243 818219; e-mail: liz.campbell@westdean.org.uk.

## Illuminating history

*English Heritage Historical Review* is a new and unique source of historical research and interpretation edited by Richard Hewlings. Published annually, the journal focuses on discoveries from the English Heritage estate, including landscapes, structures, properties and their contents. It reveals English Heritage's fundamental commitment to, and core skills in providing new historical interpretation that will stimulate further discussion and debate.

The contributors to the journal include English Heritage historians, archaeologists and curators, and other experts writing on English Heritage properties. The research is previously unpublished and lavishly illustrated throughout.

- The Roman Amphitheatre at Chester: An Interim Account
- The Dating of the Pyx Door
- Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, and the Great Gatehouse of Dunstanburgh Castle
- Moreton Corbet Castle
- The Staircase from Anderson Place, Newcastle upon Tyne
- The Later Stuart Portraits in the Suffolk Collection
- Three Drawings by John James at Audley End
- Painting like Devis: Edward Haytley
- Thomas Hyde Page and Landguard Fort, 1778–1803
- Calshot Castle: The Later History of a Tudor Fortress, 1793–1945

For information about an annual subscription or to buy a copy of the journal (£20 + P&P) call 01761 452966 or email: sales@gillards.com.

