



ENGLISH HERITAGE

## Commission

### Open minutes of the 253rd meeting held at 1:00pm on Tuesday 24 March 2009 at the Matfen Hall Hotel, Newcastle

**Commissioners present:** Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe CBE – Interim Chairman  
Ms Lynda Addison OBE  
Mr Manish Chande  
Mr Michael Jolly CBE  
Ms Jane Kennedy  
Lord Leicester CBE  
Ms Elizabeth Williamson

**Staff present:** Dr Simon Thurley – Chief Executive  
Mr Steven Bee – Director of Planning and Development  
Ms Vida Cody – Commission Secretariat Manager  
Ms Magdalen Fisher – Development Director (Items 16 and 19)  
Mr Keith Harrison – Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Dr Edward Impey – Director of Research and Standards  
Ms Deborah Lamb – Director of Policy and Communications  
Mr Mark Pemberton – Director of Properties and Outreach

**Observers/others present:** Mr Stephen Mills – Business Development Research Consultants (Item 8)  
Mrs Deborah Osborne – PA to the Chairman

#### Item 1 – Apologies, Announcements, Declarations of Interest

##### Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Maria Adebawale, Mrs Joyce Bridges, Professor Sir David Cannadine, Mrs Gilly Drummond and Mr Chris Wilkinson.

##### Announcements

- 1.2 Attention was drawn to four new English Heritage publications:

- *England Observed – John Gay*
- *Great Lengths – The Historic Indoor Swimming Pools of Britain*

- *Britain's Oldest Art – The Ice Age Cave Art of Cresswell Crags*
- *Hambledon Hill, Dorset – Excavation and Survey of a Neolithic Monument Complex and its Surrounding Landscape*

1.3 Commissioners were informed that the announcement of the new EH Chairman would now be made after Easter.

#### Declarations of Interest

1.4 There were no declarations of interest.

#### Item 2 – Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2009 (CP 2009/17)

2.1 The open minutes of the 252nd meeting held on 27 January 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Item 3 – Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2009 (CP 2009/18/E)

3.1 The exempt minutes of the 252nd meeting held on 27 January 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Item 4 – Matters Arising

4.1 There were no matters arising.

#### Item 5 – Chairman's Report (Oral)

5.1 The report on *Nighthawking* had been launched at the Society of Antiquaries and EH was following up on its recommendations.

5.2 Chairman recommended that Commissioners visit the new exhibition at Down House, *Uncovering Origins*, charting the progression of Darwin's ideas and the controversy surrounding them.

5.3 Chairman had attended a presentation at Dover Castle on the Great Tower and how it would in future be displayed. He had also attended the Hereford Cathedral Close celebrations.

5.4 Staff and architects for the new Visitor Centre had visited Stonehenge and a magnetometer survey had been carried out. The site for the new Visitor Centre had been agreed but not yet announced.

## **Item 6 – Chief Executive’s Report**

### Open report (CP 2009/19)

6.1 The Chief Executive introduced his report, commenting on a selection of items including:

- The success of the *Missing Out* conference
- EH’s involvement in the evolution of the Severn Tidal Energy Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- The appointment of a Keeper of the Wellington Collection at Apsley House
- The awards given to some of our properties and staff by VisitBritain and the Group Travel Organisers Association. Commissioners joined the Chief Executive in congratulating all staff concerned.

### Exempt report (CP 2009/20/E)

6.2 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

## **Item 7 – Committee Minutes**

a) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Open) – 21 January 2009 (CP 2009/21)

7.1 A Commissioner asked for the minute on Fylingdales Moor to be made clearer (paragraph 5.2) as it appeared that nothing had been done to consider the lessons learnt from the fire of 2003 until now.

**ACTION: *Martin Harrison***

7.2 **Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 21 January 2009 subject to the above amendment.**

b) English Heritage Advisory Committee (Exempt) – 21 January 2009 (CP 2009/22/E)

7.3 **Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the English Heritage Advisory Committee held on 21 January 2009.**

c) Business Committee (Open) – 22 January 2009 (CP 2009/23)

7.4 **Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the Business Committee held on 22 January 2009.**

d) Business Committee (Exempt) – 22 January 2009 (CP 2009/24/E)

7.5 **Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the Business Committee held on 22 January 2009.**

- e) London Advisory Committee – 6 February 2009 (CP 2009/25)
- 7.6 Commission noted and endorsed the open minutes of the London Advisory Committee held on 6 February 2009.
- f) London Advisory Committee – 6 February 2009 (CP 2009/26/E)
- 7.7 Commission noted and endorsed the exempt minutes of the London Advisory Committee held on 6 February 2009.

#### **Item 8 – English Heritage Strategy 2010-2015: Stakeholder Survey Results (Oral)**

- 8.1 Commissioners were reminded that the stakeholder survey was carried out every two years and that the research had again been undertaken by Business Development Research Consultants (BDRC). Stephen Mills from BDRC presented the results. These included reinforcement of the core EH image of protecting and conserving the historic environment, the positive impact made by the Heritage at Risk publication, better (and more personal) communication and added value to EH sites. Areas for concern included low awareness of grant programmes and consistency of advice across the regions. Commissioners congratulated staff on the generally positive tone of the survey.
- 8.2 Seventy eight stakeholders had been invited to take part. One Commissioner questioned whether the results had been influenced by the stakeholders having been supplied by EH while another Commissioner noted that very few local authorities had been involved and that it was not therefore very representative of the 400 or so that existed. Staff commented that separate research had been undertaken with local authorities evaluating the HELM project and that the results of the different surveys would need to be brought together at a later stage as there was not much overlap between them. The comment was also made that the stakeholders chosen were groups that EH regularly dealt with. It was agreed that EH needed to consider more how it influenced government as the perception is sometimes that it has little influence, for example regarding the Heritage Protection Bill.

#### **Item 9 - English Heritage Strategy 2010-2015: Public Engagement and Participation (CP 2009/27/E)**

- 9.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

**Item 10 - English Heritage Strategy 2010-2015: Relationship with Local Authorities (CP 2009/28/E)**

- 10.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

**Item 11 - English Heritage Strategy 2010-2015: HPR (Oral)**

- 11.1 It was agreed after Commission papers had been sent out to defer this item until the meeting in May.

**Item 12 – Implementing the Heritage Protection Reforms: local authorities and EH staff resources (CP 2009/29/E)**

- 12.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 36: prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.*

**Item 13 – Financial Overview (CP 2009/30/E)**

- 13.1 It was noted that the outlook was broadly in line with reporting in previous months.

**Item 14 – 2009/10 Budget (CP 2009/31/E)**

- 14.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

**Item 15 – Funding Agreement 2008/9-2010/11 (CP 2009/32/E)**

- 15.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: future publication.*

**Item 16 – A Charitable Trust for EH Fundraising (CP 2009/33/E)**

- 16.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

### **Item 17- Sustaining England's Industrial Heritage – the Way Forward (CP 2009/34)**

- 17.1 Commission had agreed at its January meeting that sustaining England's industrial heritage should in principle be one of EH's corporate priorities in the forthcoming Strategy. Commissioners were now requested to consider the proposed way forward.
- 17.2 It was questioned how the selection of key sites would be made and the extent to which local authorities would be engaged in helping determine priorities. It was noted that some sites belong to local authorities and that the final selection adopted, supported or put on the At Risk Register would be open for consultation. It was noted that some historic buildings are only sustainable through tourism use and that, as much industrial heritage is in areas where EH wants to engage more with the public, this represented a great opportunity to do so.
- 17.3 Commission agreed that other nations did not have such a rich industrial heritage as England and that it was in a special category of its own. There were, however, a large number of targets to cover and it was suggested that these would have to be reduced.
- 17.4 Commission agreed that a strategy and a programme that is funded and works well is desirable and that industrial heritage should be one of the priorities in the new Strategy but that it was not yet possible to decide on the priorities.

### **Item 18 – New Planning Policy Statement for the Historic Environment (CP 2009/35/E)**

- 18.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 22: future publication.*

### **Item 19 – Properties and Outreach Third Party Partnerships (CP 2009/36/E)**

- 19.1 *This item is included in the exempt minutes of this meeting as it contains information that is potentially exempt from public access under the Freedom of Information Act, Section 43: commercial interests.*

### **Item 20 - Any Other Business**

#### **Future Commission visits**

- 20.1 One Commissioner had raised the question of future meeting locations, noting that they were becoming further and further away which, although rewarding and necessary if Commissioners were to find out first hand about work in the regions,

was becoming increasingly demanding on Commissioners' time. It was asked whether more meetings could be arranged within easy distance of London while keeping the visits elsewhere.

- 20.2 Commissioners commented that they appreciated the visits, found them very helpful and learnt much from them. It was agreed that London meetings would not be preferable and would become fragmented if the meetings were in London and the visits outside. Video conferencing or a telephone link were suggested as alternatives to allow those unable to travel the distance to participate still (including staff) but it was noted that not all venues could accommodate this. It was agreed to explore the alternatives further.

**ACTION:** *Vida Cody*

- 20.3 Commission noted that the next meeting would be on 12 May in Penzance with a visit to one of the Scilly Isles (St Mary's) the following day.
- 20.4 Commission noted that the July meeting would include a visit to the Great Tower at Dover Castle and the unveiling of a plaque within the Castle grounds to the late Lord Bruce-Lockhart, former EH Chairman.

**Vida Cody**  
**Commission Secretariat Manager**  
**April 2009**