

# News from English Heritage

## Coastal heritage and regeneration

In October 2007 English Heritage hosted a major conference to celebrate the rich but inadequately appreciated architectural legacy of England's seaside towns. The event was attended by more than 180 delegates, including four MPs, and one of its key aims was to demonstrate the crucial role that the heritage can play in the social and economic regeneration of coastal towns and communities. To make sure this evidence reaches the widest possible audience of opinion-formers and decision-makers a series of parallel publications include the policy guidance document *Regeneration in Historic Coastal Towns*, a new monograph on seaside architecture, *England's Seaside Resorts*, a supporting research report *An Asset and a Challenge: Heritage and Regeneration in Coastal Towns in England* and an illustrated book focusing on the rich seaside heritage of Margate. Contact: Tim Brennan, tel: 0207 973 3279; e-mail: tim.brennan@english-heritage.org.uk

## Heritage Counts 2007

The sixth annual survey of the state of the England's historic environment was launched on 31 October in Greenwich. In a well-received opening speech James Purnell, then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said 'I want to work across government to continue to make clear the important connections between the built environment and the wider government agenda – be that housing, education or place making'.

It is five years since the publication of the original *State of the Historic Environment Report* and this year's report looks at the principal trends in the historic environment since 2002. It also includes a focus on the historic environment as a learning resource and on the issues faced by the sector in relation to the skills of the workforce. Alongside this national report, a suite of supporting reports provides further detail on the state of the historic environment in each of the nine government office regions. Copies of all these documents can be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/hc)  
Contact: Peter Robinson, tel: 0207 973 3730; e-mail: peter.robinson@english-heritage.org.uk

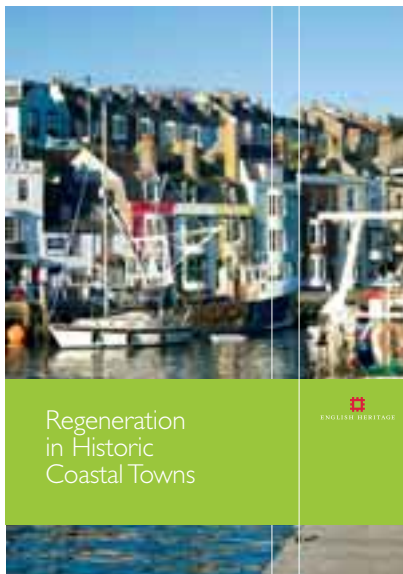
## History Matters campaign

As a follow up to 2006's hugely successful *History Matters – Pass It On* campaign the National Trust, English Heritage, Heritage Link, Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Houses

Association, have launched a joint publication to remind government, the media and opinion formers of the public's enormous enthusiasm for its shared national and local heritage ([www.historymatters.org.uk](http://www.historymatters.org.uk)). More than 1.2 million people took part in hundreds of events and activities across the country and an astonishing 46,000 people wrote 'One Day in History' diaries that are now archived for posterity in the British Library. The overwhelming message from *History Matters* is that people care. History fuels a passionate fascination with the world around us, it underpins our individual and collective identities and it informs our priorities about the future.  
Contact: Yvonne Harris, tel: 0207 973 3852; e-mail: yvonne.harris@english-heritage.org.uk

## Building in Context toolkit

New development is good for the economy and vitality of our towns and cities. But how do we deal with new development in existing places, especially when they are of historic and architectural importance? Developed by English Heritage, CABE and the Kent Architecture Centre, the *Building in Context Toolkit* is a training programme that gives decision makers a framework to help them ensure that projects respond well to their surroundings. Aimed at local authority Design Champions and Historic Environment Champions it is being offered free of charge to local authorities in all of England's regions. More information about the toolkit and its resources can be found at [www.building-in-context.org](http://www.building-in-context.org)  
Contact: Charles Wagner, tel: 0207 973 3826; e-mail: charles.wagner@english-heritage.org.uk



## Piling and archaeology

English Heritage has recently published guidance on *Piling and Archaeology*. This guidance has been prepared to assist planning and archaeological officers, developers and their consultants on the relative merits of a range of piled foundations.

The guidance contains sections summarising the different types of pile, their impacts upon archaeological deposits, and a range of mitigation options available to manage and reduce these impacts. Case studies are provided to illustrate some mitigation strategies, along with a summary of best practice and recommendations for further research. The guidance draws on field and laboratory research carried out over the last ten years, and provides guidance based on up to date understanding of piling impacts and the most appropriate methods of mitigating these affects.

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## Minerals Guidance

Minerals are all around us in the historic and natural environment, whether on or below the ground or in marine and other submerged contexts. From the stone in Stonehenge to the iron in Ironbridge, the extraction of minerals in prehistory through to the modern era is a story of remarkable human endeavour and ingenuity. Some of our most remarkable and characteristic landscapes have been formed by millennia of mining and quarrying activity and the continued supply of some minerals is fundamental to the upkeep of our locally distinctive built heritage. Nevertheless, the scale and technical proficiency of the modern extractive industries means that they can have a profound effect on what we value most about the historic environment.

This document sets out the English Heritage position on mineral extraction and the high-level policies that will form the basis for responses and views put forward by English Heritage on any matter relating to the winning, working and safeguarding of minerals. Its principal purpose is to guide the work of English Heritage, but it will also be of interest to the wider historic environment sector, government, local authorities, the minerals industry and other organisations that care for the environment.

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## HELM HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT LOCAL MANAGEMENT

The HELM website is a one-stop-shop for historic environment guidance and information. Its aim is to provide decision makers in local authorities, regional agencies and national organisations with the tools to manage change in the historic environment with increased skill and confidence.

Expert English Heritage guidance specially tailored for distribution through HELM covers topics as diverse as regeneration, housing, renewable energy, mineral extraction, farming historic landscapes, areas of outstanding natural beauty, historic school buildings, transport and streetscapes.

The website also contains information on training events, useful web links and news. There are searchable databases of good practice case studies and of local authority historic environment publications. These have been collected from across England to encourage the sharing of knowledge, experience and good practice across the sector.

HELM and other English Heritage guidance can be read online or downloaded as PDF documents from [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk). We are continually updating the site with more guidance and policy, so please join our email list to receive news. A database of guidance on the historic environment produced by local authorities, amenity groups and other bodies is also continually updated.

For more information about Helm just visit [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk)

# The National Monuments Record

## News and Events

The NMR is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes more than 10 million archive items (photographs, drawings, reports and digital data) relating to England's historic environment. Catalogues are available online and in the NMR search room in Swindon. Contact the NMR at: NMR Enquiry & Research Services, National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ  
tel: 01793 414600  
fax: 01793 414606  
email: [nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk)  
web: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr)

### Recent NMR acquisitions

In 2007 the NMR acquired two important published records, which constitute some of the earliest-known photographic interiors of Westminster Abbey and some early records of archaeological finds.

#### Westminster Abbey

*The Interior of the Abbey of Westminster* is a published set of 23 photographs that depict the medieval monuments inside Westminster Abbey. Taken in 1860 by the photographer Victor A Prout, these are probably the first detailed interior views of the abbey and they show some of the major funerary monuments prior to later restorations. Before this date, photographic technology was not sufficiently



Four fibulae photographed at Leeds in 1868. The lower, enamelled specimen is Saxon, the two smaller ones are Roman, while the large example is from Denmark.

© English Heritage. NMR AL2029/008

advanced to deal with the problems of window glare and gloomy recesses and therefore could not create adequate records. The only other known copies of this publication are in Westminster Abbey Archives and the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.

#### Archaeological finds

A detailed series of archaeological finds were part of the *National Exhibition of Works of Art* mounted in Leeds in 1868, and clusters of these were published in 16 photographs by Cundall & Fleming of New Bond Street in 1869. All show objects made of gold, bronze and other media then in private collections. Some of the objects are now known to be in public collections but others must be unique early records of ornaments and jewellery excavated in Britain and abroad during the 1850s and since lost.

For further information, please contact: Ian Leith, NMR Acquisitions Officer, tel: 01793 414730; email [ian.leith@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:ian.leith@english-heritage.org.uk)

### Online resources from the NMR

#### New look to our websites

The *Images of England*, *PastScape* and *ViewFinder* websites have all been revamped. They now have a standard 'look and feel' and you can easily switch between all three.

Westminster Abbey in 1860. A view looking east along the South Ambulatory towards Henry VII's Chapel with St Nicholas Chapel on the right. The tomb of Edward III is to the left.

© English Heritage. NMR AL2028/003





*Images of England*: documenting the past for the future. This bridge at the head of Boscastle Harbour, Cornwall, was photographed in 2001 prior to the devastating flood of 2004.

© Mr N E Ward  
(IOE 68728)

### **Images of England**

*Images of England* ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)) is a unique online photographic record of England's listed structures. The project has finally come to an end after seven years of hard work by our volunteer photographers and more than 13,000 rolls of film, and The *Images of England* 'point-in-time' website is now complete with some 320,000 images of England's listed buildings.

The completion of the project was officially celebrated at an event held at Wellington Arch, London, in September 2007. Many friends of the project attended and had the opportunity to view the new-look website. Host and keynote speaker, Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, marvelled at the project's tremendous achievement and value to future generations. He pointed out how the website shows that listed buildings are not just country houses but include many more unusual structures, representing the extraordinary array of cultural achievements England has to offer. For further information please contact: [ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk)

### **Standards**

#### **MIDAS Heritage**

English Heritage has worked with the heritage sector during the last three years to complete *MIDAS Heritage*, a new UK-wide data standard to assist the sharing of knowledge of the past. That knowledge is contained in many hundreds of databases held by different organisations up and down the country, run by local authorities, national agencies, university departments and amenity societies. Different approaches mean that the same buildings or archaeological sites are

recorded in different ways by different organisations, making it difficult to get a full picture.

Building on the success of an earlier edition, *MIDAS Heritage* for the first time relates to all the interests of the UK heritage sector. It sets a standard for the records that document individual buildings or sites, but also covers whole areas of towns or landscapes at one end of the scale down to individual artefacts at the other.

*MIDAS Heritage* also sets new standards for recording the work undertaken to understand, protect and manage change to the historic environment. *MIDAS Heritage* will make it easier to find out what work has been done, how decisions were made and where to find out more.

Is it just for 'techie's'? No. Although the actual sharing of digital data between organisations needs specific agreed technical standards such as XML schemas, that work can start only when there is agreement on what the information is that we need to share. *MIDAS Heritage* puts that agreement in place, so it is relevant for everyone who manages a database in the heritage sector.

Because this edition is an electronic publication, it will be updated on a regular basis, and the heritage sector is encouraged to submit updates and new areas for inclusion. Just send in your suggestions via the new website at: [www.midas-heritage.info](http://www.midas-heritage.info).

Moving forward, the Forum on Information Standards in Heritage (FISH) ([www.fish-forum.info](http://www.fish-forum.info)) will maintain the new *MIDAS Heritage* standard on behalf of the sector. For further information, please contact: Lisa Mullen, Information Standards & Partnerships Manager, tel: 01793 414727; email: [lisa.mullen@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:lisa.mullen@english-heritage.org.uk)



MIDAS Heritage is the UK data standard for information about the historic environment – a vital key to sharing knowledge about the past contained in many hundreds of separate databases up and down the country.

# Legal Developments

## Not all that looks green is gold

Mike Harlow *Legal Director, English Heritage*

A proposal to install a domestic wind turbine sits on the moral high ground. In practice, the turbine may be sited far below – in a steep-sided windless valley surrounded by tall historic buildings.

A wind turbine may cost more in energy to produce and deliver to site than it ever generates in its lifetime. If the proposal has no real impact on the historic environment, perhaps it does not matter that its green credentials mean the new kit will be nothing more than a dinner party talking point. But when a planning application comes forward that is potentially harmful, what support is there within the planning law and policy framework for an argument that the damage to the historic environment should not be outweighed by something that is only green on the surface?

The issue is covered by *PPS 22: Renewable Energy*. Although this policy is principally concerned with large-scale wind farms and the like, its approach is of equal application to micro-generation. This national policy is, of course, very supportive of increased development of renewable energy resources. But it does not provide blanket blessing for categories of development. It says ‘the wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations’. It adds that ‘*development proposals should demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures*’ (my emphasis; Key Principles 1(V) and (VIII), PPS 22).

In the usual hierarchy, regional spatial strategies and local development plans should follow this national policy. As an example, the London Borough of Camden’s planning guidance almost steps into line, saying that while the importance of renewable energy may mean that a greater level of visual impact is acceptable than would otherwise be the case, ‘viability of the installation in providing a reliable source of energy must be proven’. This is focusing on a narrower issue than the broad assessment of demonstrable environmental benefits that PPS 22 refers to.

Examining the net environmental effect of the proposal logically must take into account the energy cost of materials, production, importing, erection and maintenance. Simply looking at whether something will be a net producer of

electricity on any given day is to ignore other elements of the environmental equation.

This holistic view should obviously be part of any sensible decision and so such data ought to be obtained from the manufacturer and presented as part of the application. In reality, though, there may be significant difficulties in establishing the true environmental credentials. A certification scheme would clearly help. I understand there are some in gestation.

The national policy does not suggest that one renewable energy idea can be rejected simply because it is not as environmentally advantageous as another. Nor is the government keen to persuade owners to look at works to improve efficiency (like double-glazing) before generation. It is clearly for the owner to choose their green approach.

‘Planning policy is not blind and there is no need to accept that all that is labelled green is gold.’

Critically, of course, environmental justification for harm can only be taken into account when there is a need for planning permission. Government has consulted on the introduction of permitted development rights to take away the need for a planning application for certain microgeneration equipment. The viability of a particular approach could not then be assessed in the circumstances of the site. That said, permitted development rights within conservation areas should be more limited and listed building consent will always be required where there are works to a listed building (or a curtilage building) that affect its special character.

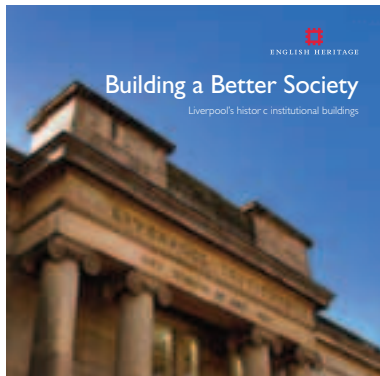
In any event, local authorities should have the power to issue an Article 4 direction to remove such permitted development rights where the historic environment justifies it.

Government policy is clearly very supportive of initiatives that genuinely reduce our burn through the world’s resources. But planning policy is not blind and there is no need to accept that all that is labelled green is gold. This is not an anti-green point. It is itself anti-green to waste resources on equipment that will have no positive environmental effect, whatever it seems to promise.

# New publications from English Heritage

Throughout 2008 Liverpool will be celebrating its status as European Capital of Culture. As its own contribution to the event English Heritage is publishing five new books that explore the buildings and places that give this great mercantile city its unique character.

Like other titles in the Informed Conservation series, the aim of these books is to show how a greater understanding of an area's buildings and public spaces can make a significant contribution to its future social and economic well-being.



## **Building a Better Society: Liverpool's Historic Institutional Buildings**

by Colum Giles

Liverpool's landscape, both in the city centre and throughout its historic suburbs, is studded with institutional buildings, some – like the great hospitals – very prominent, others – like Sunday Schools and chapels – punctuating ordinary street scenes. All, however, tell the story of how charity and public authorities responded to the desperate need of the poor and vulnerable in the 19th century.

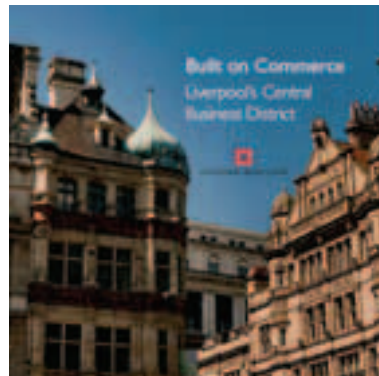
Attractively illustrated by photographs and drawings, this book emphasises the importance of institutional buildings to our understanding of Liverpool's character and demonstrates how new uses can ensure that they continue to form part of the city's historic environment.

PUBLICATION DATE: March 2008  
PRICE: £7.99 + P&P

ISBN: 978 1 905624 14 0 /

PRODUCT CODE 51332

Paperback, 80pp



## **Built on Commerce: Liverpool's Central Business District**

by Joseph Sharples and John Stonard

The vast trade that passed through Liverpool's historic docks was managed and organised in an increasingly specialised and sophisticated business district. New and ever-larger offices, banks, warehouses and salerooms, often innovative in design and of spectacular architectural quality, were built in a highly concentrated area, which powerfully represents the confidence and prosperity of the period.

This book, attractively illustrated by photographs and drawings, tells the story of the business quarter from the 18th century to the present day and emphasises that conservation of historic commercial buildings is important in retaining the area's distinctive character.

PUBLICATION DATE: March 2008  
PRICE: £7.99 + P&P

ISBN: 978 1 905624 34 8 /

PRODUCT CODE 51331

Paperback, 80pp



## **Religion and Place: Liverpool's Historic Places of Worship**

by Sarah Brown and Peter de Figuereido

From unpromising beginnings as a small fishing port with only one church, Liverpool grew to be a city of churches and chapels. In the 20th century some of the most exciting English churches of the period were built in Liverpool.

However, shrinking congregations and the decline in clergy numbers have all taken their toll on Liverpool's places of worship. Those that remain face many challenges, but with energy, imagination and the right kind of help the places of worship celebrated in this profusely illustrated book can remain some of the most beautiful, exciting and diverse aspects of Liverpool's historic environment.

PUBLICATION DATE: May 2008  
PRICE: £7.99 + P&P

ISBN: 978 1 873592 88 5 /

PRODUCT CODE 51334

Paperback, 80pp



**Places of Health and Amusement: Liverpool's Historic Parks and Gardens**  
by Katy Layton-Jones and Robert Lee

This book explores the rich legacy of parks in Liverpool, from the forgotten open spaces of the 18th-century town, through the pioneering creation of a 'ribbon of parks' in the 19th century, a period of decline after the Second World War, to the situation today.

Attractively illustrated with archive and contemporary photographs and drawings, the book shows how parks have been used and enjoyed, how they have changed to meet new challenges and ideas, and how the arguments used to justify their creation in the 19th century are being used again to spark a revival in their fortunes and future.

PUBLICATION DATE: July 2008  
PRICE: £7.99 + P&P  
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**SPECIAL OFFER**

Until 30 June 2008 the first three of these titles (*Building a Better Society, Built on Commerce and Religion and Place*) will be available to *Conservation Bulletin* readers for the special price of £5.99 plus £1.50 p&p per item through English Heritage Postal Sales at the address shown above right.



**Ordinary Landscapes, Special Places: Anfield, Breckfield and the Growth of Liverpool's Suburbs**  
by Adam Menuge

Most of England's larger towns and cities are ringed by extensive suburbs dating from the 19th and 20th centuries. They range from the opulent, spacious

and leafy villa suburbs of the prosperous middle class to the dense gridirons of working-class and lower middle-class housing. The product of rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, these suburbs, once derided or disregarded, now face major change themselves. The story that emerges will surprise many, and may prompt a re-evaluation of these 'ordinary' places.

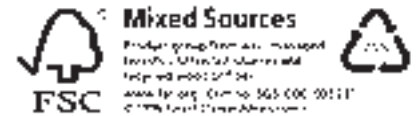
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