

## DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - THE CONTRIBUTION OF ENGLISH HERITAGE

The Deputy Prime Minister launched the Communities Plan (*Sustainable Communities: Building for the future*) in 2003. “It sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, and the quality of our public spaces. The Plan includes not just a significant increase in resources and major reforms of housing and planning, but a new approach to how we build and what we build.”

Early in 2005 ODPM published *Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity*. This defined sustainable communities as prosperous places to live, with the jobs, schools, healthcare, transport and other services that people need, with the ultimate objective of creating ‘communities that will stand the test of time’. Full details of the Sustainable Communities programme can be found at [www.odpm.gov.uk](http://www.odpm.gov.uk).

This document outlines how English Heritage is already helping to deliver the Sustainable Communities agenda. It also sets out possible future work and explains both of these in relation to our recently published Strategy for 2005-2010 *Making the Past Part of our Future* (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.8755>). This document elaborates on our belief that the best elements of past development can have important lessons for the changes that will happen in the near future: “The story of English post-war development has shown that, where the historic environment has been valued and cared for, social and economic benefits can be generated for everyone, creating desirable, distinctive and economically successful places. Where its potential has not been recognised or harnessed, where it has been ignored, degraded or destroyed, the quality of people’s lives has been impoverished and opportunities stifled. English Heritage helps and encourages people to nurture their historic environment as an integral part of life today and as a foundation for tomorrow.”

English Heritage believes that we are in a unique position to be able to offer expertise and advice to all those involved in delivering the objectives set out in the Sustainable Communities plan. Through our understanding of what has happened in the past (and in particular what has proved to be long-lasting), we believe we are well placed to advise on how the historic environment can contribute to the work being carried out by central and local government, regional bodies, regeneration agencies and the private sector that is designed to implement the Sustainable Communities plan. To this end, English Heritage has produced a range of more detailed documents and research on specific sustainable communities’ topics including:

- *Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment*
- *Building Sustainable Communities: Actions for Housing Market Renewal* (with CABE, Environment Agency, Commission for Integrated Transport and the Sustainable Development Commission)
- *Local Strategic Partnerships and the Historic Environment*
- *Homes with History* (with the Housing Corporation and the Institute of Field Archaeologists)
- *Regeneration and the Historic Environment*
- *Streets for All* (national and regional publications)
- *A Welcome Home: A sense of place for a new Thames Gateway*

- *Growing Places: Heritage and a Sustainable Future for the Thames Gateway*
- *Thames Gateway: Historic Environment Characterisation Project*
- *Historic Environment Issues in the Proposed London-Stansted-Cambridge Growth Area*
- *Milton Keynes Urban Expansion Historic Environment Assessment* (with Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council)
- *Capital Solutions*
- *Capital Spaces: Transforming London* (with the Royal Institute of British Architects)
- *Planning Sustainable Communities: A Green Infrastructure Guide for Milton Keynes and the South Midlands* (with the Environment Agency, the Countryside Agency, English Nature and the River Nene Regional Park)
- *Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning* (with the Environment Agency, English Nature and the Countryside Agency)

Most of these publications can be obtained from English Heritage Customer Services Department on 0870 – 333 1181 or by email at [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk). Alternatively, they can be found on either the English Heritage ([www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)) or HELM ([www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk)) websites – see <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.7739>.

More publications are being prepared, including a document outlining the part historic suburbs can play in positive planning, to be available in early 2006.

## Table identifying links between EH and Sustainable Community Goals

(EH aims from *Making the Past Part of our Future- EH Strategy 2005-10* along top, ODPM Sustainable Community elements in left hand column. Target 6 Make the Most Effective Use of Our Assets has been omitted as it is entirely internal to EH in scope).

EH Aims: Sustainable Community elements:	1. Develop understanding of the historic environment	2. Get the historic environment on other people's agendas	3. Enable and promote sustainable change to the historic environment	4. Help local communities care for the historic environment	5. Stimulate and harness enthusiasm for the historic environment
<b>A: Accelerating housing provision</b> Recent and current EH work	EH helps provide evidence base to all relevant parties to inform decisions, e.g. historic landscape characterisation which is now available throughout the Growth Areas in the East, South East and London regions, encouraging the preparation of conservation area appraisals by LPAs.	EH has responded to several ODPM consultations on related areas, including Planning for Housing Provision.  We have carried out characterisation work, and encouraged others to do so, thus ensuring the historic environment can play a positive part in growth plans.  English Heritage is currently organising and holding seminars to disseminate the findings of the characterisation study in the Thames	EH has streamlined dealing with planning applications to help speed up decision-making, and now deals with all cases within agreed deadlines.  We have published guidance such as <i>Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning</i> ( <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Environmental_Quality_in_Spatial_Planning.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Environmental_Quality_in_Spatial_Planning.pdf</a> ) to ensure people understand that heritage is not a block on change.	English Heritage is working to persuade every local authority to appoint an elected Member to act as their Historic Environment Champion and to lead on heritage issues.  We have delivered training for Champions (in conjunction with CABE) in four regions to date.  As part of our HELM (Historic	We have published a series of documents as part of the HELM project to demonstrate the cross cutting nature of the historic environment and how it relates to many different areas of public policy and everyday life.  Events run through HELM emphasise how

	<p>English Heritage also collates and provides accessible advice through its Thames Gateway Steering Group</p>	<p>Gateway in order to demonstrate its advantages to local planning authorities.</p> <p>We have also engaged with ODPM at a strategic level in order to ensure that historic environment issues are taken into account at all stages.</p>	<p>We have also published <i>Local Strategic Partnerships and the Historic Environment</i> (<a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Local_Strategic_Partnerships_and_the_Historic_Environment_(2005).pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Local_Strategic_Partnerships_and_the_Historic_Environment_(2005).pdf</a>) which aims to show how heritage considerations can contribute to Community Strategies and economic, social and environmental objectives.</p> <p>We are working with DCMS and other organisations to implement the new heritage protection legislation which will form a clearer and simpler system of designation and protection.</p>	<p>Environment – Local Management) project we have run a series of seminars for local authority staff and Members on a variety of related subjects.</p> <p>Our work on historic environment characterisation in the Growth Areas has been made available for use by all parties, including local communities.</p> <p>Publication of <i>Local Strategic Partnerships and the Historic Environment</i> has stimulated discussion.</p> <p>Possibility of direct access to TG characterisation on the web. For others the EH web site gives access to sources of information.</p>	<p>the historic environment can help deliver new housing without undue damage in the growth areas.</p>
<p>EH work 2005-07</p>	<p>Encouragement of further work in growth areas to support evidence base. (certainly true and can now cite examples in Aylesbury, Southend, Western Corridor, Northants)</p> <p>Preparation of a guidance note on the historic environment in the growth areas is also underway.</p> <p>Research &amp; Standards group is working towards extending the principles of characterisation.</p> <p>Edition of Conservation Bulletin on the Sustainable Communities plan.</p>	<p>Publication/website information on historic environment dimension of housing supply, suburbs etc.</p> <p>There will be campaigns and debates on key issues such as how to achieve the intensification of housing in suburbs without consequent loss of character.</p> <p>English Heritage will be leading the debate about the content and provisions of the forthcoming Planning Policy Statement 15 to promote a more constructive relationship between the historic environment sector, planning authorities and the commercial development sector.</p> <p>We are also currently developing research into valuation techniques and the historic environment.</p>	<p>Maintaining efficient dealing with key housing provision planning applications.</p> <p>Advice to planning authorities to minimise delays caused by historic environment issues.</p> <p>Timely implementation of the findings from the Heritage Protection Review.</p>	<p>There will be further publications on related areas (such as suburbs and the growth areas), training and dissemination as part of the HELM project and through other channels.</p> <p>During 2005/06 there will be further training delivered (in conjunction with CABE) for local authority Historic Environment Champions and Design Champions.</p>	<p>Possible series of events focusing on the intensification of housing in suburban areas.</p>

<p><b>B: Affordable Housing</b> Recent and current EH work</p>	<p>EH research provides successful historic models for affordable housing (e.g. Pathfinder whirlwind surveys)</p>	<p>EH has undertaken work analysing and comparing costs of housing repair vs replacement costs which has demonstrated the advantages in monetary and sustainability terms of regular maintenance of historic buildings.</p> <p>English Heritage grant aid in certain conservation areas effectively subsidises provision of some housing.</p>	<p>Advice offered to LPAs through EH regional offices. Publication of <i>Homes with History</i> (<a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Homes_with_History_2003.pdf">http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Homes_with_History_2003.pdf</a>) with Housing Corp and IFA.</p>	<p>Making relevant publications and information widely available through EH website, HELM, seminars etc</p>	<p>Publicity generated from EH research and publications eg <i>Capital Spaces, Heritage Dividend</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/capitalspaces.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/capitalspaces.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Heritage%20Dividend%202002.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Heritage%20Dividend%202002.pdf</a></p>
<p>EH work 2005-07</p>	<p>Encourage others to use EH-developed methodologies.</p>	<p>Further research in areas of particular concern</p>	<p>Dissemination of advice, consideration of future guidance if needed</p> <p>New work on the modern landscape - Change and Creation - helps to frame EH's advice within an understanding of the dynamics of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.</p>	<p>Further outreach work. More publications, training and disseminations through HELM and other channels.</p> <p>Engagement with relevant bodies on regional spatial strategies.</p>	<p>Identify and publicise successful historic environment case studies</p>
<p><b>EH Aims: Sustainable Community elements:</b></p>	<p><b>1. Develop understanding of the historic environment</b></p>	<p><b>2. Get the historic environment on other people's agendas</b></p>	<p><b>3. Enable and promote sustainable change to the historic environment</b></p>	<p><b>4. Help local communities care for the historic environment</b></p>	<p><b>5. Stimulate and harness enthusiasm for the historic environment</b></p>
<p><b>C: Tackling Homelessness</b> Recent and current EH work EH work 2005-07</p>	<p>EH research on Workhouses etc helps us to understand how issues were tackled in the past</p> <p>Consider if any new research is appropriate</p>	<p>Promotion of heritage-led regeneration to address housing issues and other public sector priorities</p> <p>Awareness of homelessness issues when commenting on regeneration work</p>	<p>EH promotion of Living over the Shop initiatives as part of wider regeneration programmes in historic areas.</p> <p>Ensure that the kinds of change being promoted by EH assist rather than damage attempts to reduce homelessness.</p>	<p>Encourage local groups such as Building Preservation Trusts to tackle problem historic buildings and provide new housing units.</p> <p>Ensure local historic environment consider homelessness issues when carrying out housing-related work</p>	<p>Celebrate successful housing schemes through HELM website etc</p> <p>Consider how work to improve the historic environment (particularly housing stock) can play a positive role in reducing homelessness.</p>
<p><b>D: Decent Homes</b> Recent and current EH work</p>	<p>EH research provides evidence of how standards have changed and how some past housing types may be useful examples for solving current issues</p>	<p>Ensuring that the benefits of historic housing stock are widely understood, compared to replacement.</p> <p>English Heritage publishes Heritage Counts (<a href="http://www.heritagecounts.org.uk">www.heritagecounts.org.uk</a>) which sets out evidence of the contribution of the historic</p>	<p>Advice to housing associations and others restoring historic properties on appropriate ways of modernising without compromising the historic essence of buildings.</p>	<p>Ensure evidence to help communities actively engage in housing standards is available through <i>Heritage Counts</i> and other publications. Specialist advice offered where appropriate.</p>	<p>Disseminating messages from <i>Managing Change in Conservation Areas</i> which looked at a number of residential areas and showed how</p>

EH work 2005-07	Consider if any new research is appropriate	environment in sustainability terms. Place greater emphasis on practical ways historic homes can meet standards	Consider if further published advice will be of benefit to the housing sector	Ensure decent homes issues are considered by all groups delivering improvements in housing-related work.	Consider whether possible future publications or website material can encourage suitable historic environment-friendly standards
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<b>E: Addressing Low Demand Housing</b> Recent and current EH work	Survey work carried out in many Pathfinder areas to help with decision-making regarding the significance of the existing stock.	English Heritage has engaged with all the Pathfinder organisations on an individual basis, and also sits on the CABA Design Task Group.  We have also published <i>Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment</i> , and <i>Building Sustainable Communities: Actions for Market Renewal</i> <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Building_Sustainable_Communities_Actions_for_housing_and_market_renewal_2003.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Building_Sustainable_Communities_Actions_for_housing_and_market_renewal_2003.pdf</a>	In 2005 EH published <i>Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment</i> . This made clear our position that we would not object to demolition where careful analysis has shown it to be essential in the interests of re-structuring a local housing market. It also sets out a range of actions for local authorities and others involved in housing market renewal which we believe will lead to the most sustainable outcomes.	Work with communities, such as in Liverpool and Nelson to develop their understanding of historic environment issues. & S. Yorkshire HLC	The historic environment dimension of the low-demand issue has received a huge amount of publicity; through publications and engagement with stakeholder groups EH has tried to ensure views are based on facts.
EH work 2005-07	Consider if any new research is appropriate Ongoing urban HLC projects in Liverpool, S. Yorks, Black Country and others - providing a basis of understanding for future decisions	Ensure Pathfinders, local authorities and general public understand the historic environment dimension and implications of current policy. Creation of an English Heritage  Northern Way steering group to collate and disseminate relevant evidence and advice about the historic environment.	We will continue to engage and work closely with all of the Pathfinder Partnerships in developing policy and strategy to recreate confidence in the housing market in their areas.  We will also continue to promote the sustainable re-use of existing buildings where appropriate.	Ensure local communities are aware of EH research, publications and views in this area.	Continue to disseminate findings from EH work in Pathfinder areas
<b>F: Liveability</b> Recent and current EH work	EH has carried out research and published documents on historic parks, streetscapes etc such as <i>Capital Solutions</i> <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/CapitalSolutions.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/CapitalSolutions.pdf</a>	The <i>Save Our Streets</i> campaign during 2005 raised the profile of streetscape issues considerably. We produced <i>Streets for All</i> streetscape manuals for each region, and which were aimed at local highway engineers, elected members and other transport professionals. <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/saveourstreets">www.english-heritage.org.uk/saveourstreets</a>	There is an emphasis in EH funded area regeneration schemes that social and economic issues should be addressed, rather than simply environmental ones.  English Heritage is committed to working with local authorities and other partners on the development Local Area Agreements (LAAs).	Education packs for street audit work through the <i>Save Our Streets</i> initiative to encourage young people to understand and engage in liveability issues.  There will also be collaboration with Green Infrastructure studies in Milton Keynes South	Awareness of the positive contribution of historic environment issues raised through publicity for campaigns, publications etc.  Education work to engage school children

EH work 2005-07		English Heritage has also produced <i>Capital Spaces – transforming London</i> which analysed the potential of historic parks, and greenspace	The Save our Streets campaign has also highlighted the contribution the historic environment can make to the Liveability agenda in transport and streetscape terms.  Work on Cleaner Safer Greener Communities initiatives, principally in relation to historic landscapes.	Midlands.  We will also work to ensure that our area grants schemes are as effective as possible through LAAs and their work to ensure the complementarity of regional funding.	in historic environment liveability issues.  Direct outreach work.  Encouragement of general public to become directly engaged in local activities
	Consider if any new research is necessary – for example on any correlation between the state of the local historic environment and how people feel about their area	Continue to disseminate existing documents and consider new publications as appropriate	Focus principally on ensuring key decision-makers understand the historic environment dimension.  Full engagement with local authorities, government offices for the regions and others regarding the development of LAAs.  Heritage Counts 2006 will have a community and social inclusion theme and will include survey statistics and other evidence on related areas.	Encourage more educational involvement in liveability and the historic environment issues	Help historic environment sector to focus on the positive role they can play in delivering liveability goals.
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<b>G: Protecting the Countryside</b> Recent and current EH work	EH has published the findings of research on the re-use of historic farm buildings ( <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Building_Value_summary_revised.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Building_Value_summary_revised.pdf</a> )  Extensive HLC and EUS coverage available across the Growth Areas and the Market renewal areas.  Heritage Counts 2005 focused on the rural historic environment	Publications on countryside topics including <i>Outstanding Beauty: Outstanding Heritage</i> on AONBs ( <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Outstanding_Beauty_Outstanding_Heritage_AONBs_and_the_historic_environment.pdf">http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Outstanding_Beauty_Outstanding_Heritage_AONBs_and_the_historic_environment.pdf</a> ), a series on <i>Farming the historic landscape</i> ( <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.7727">http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.7727</a> ) and submissions on PPS7  Using HLC publication.  English Heritage has funded 15 Historic Environment Countryside Advisor posts in local authorities	Setting out clear but pragmatic positions on issues such as re-use of farm buildings.  Work with National Parks and AONBs to ensure their work has an appropriate historic environment element.	Heritage Counts 2005 focused on the rural historic environment.  Outreach work in relation to our rural properties to help people understand how the rural historic environment adds to their quality of life.	Dissemination of research and publication messages. Education and outreach work.
EH work 2005-07	Disseminate findings of relevant research and consider new research as	Continue to push the rural historic environment dimension with DEFRA, ODPM, local authorities etc.	Consider future work with partners.	Ensure that publications and key messages are accessible to local groups and organisations	Help historic environment sector to demonstrate how

	appropriate.	Review the Historic Environment Countryside Advisor scheme.			protecting the historic environment need not mean preventing change.  Ref to Change and Creation - which acknowledges the value of newly created character in the late 20 <sup>th</sup> century. the
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