

Transferring all Listing Administration to English Heritage

DCMS and English Heritage have made a number of changes to the administration of the listing system, in line with the aims of Heritage Protection Reform.

When will the transfer of listing administration to EH happen?

2nd November 2009.

What is changing about how buildings are listed?

The main change is that the listing process is being made faster and more open to the public. Owners and local authorities will now have a chance to comment on the information that English Heritage has gathered about a building before our recommendation goes to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. That way we can all be better informed and the process is more open. English Heritage is also being asked to do much more of the administration of the listing process for the DCMS and will now undertake notification and compilation and amendment of the List of designated sites on behalf of the Secretary of State, which should speed up the process. We want to give the public better access to this List via our website and hope to have created an online database of all the nationally designated sites, complete with maps and background information by the end of 2010.

How did it work before?

Although owners and local authorities were notified that their building was being considered, there was no consultation on the information gathered before an assessment was completed and the advice forwarded to the DCMS. The administration for applications was also double-handled before reaching the Minister; first processed by English Heritage and then by DCMS officials, which lengthened the time it took to process each building.

Why did it change?

As part of our programme of Heritage Protection Reform, English Heritage wanted an opportunity to open the listing process up and make sure that we can gather as much information from as many sources as

possible. Previously, when comment could be provided by others it was very late in the process and tended to extend timescales. This new consultation period is earlier on and allows all representations to be considered before our assessment is completed. The option to seek comment is still flexible, as where a building is in immediate risk the process can be minimised or bypassed to cope with urgent situations. We also wanted to create an efficient and less time consuming designation process.

What changes will I notice if I suggest a building for listing?

All applications about listing will now have to be submitted to English Heritage, and applicants will also be included in our consultation. When a Listing Schedule is produced (the official signed document, essentially the list entry) it will look slightly different and be signed by an English Heritage rather than a DCMS official, though these can only be produced after the Secretary of State has agreed with our recommendations.

Is the process still as accountable?

Yes, although we are handling all of the administration, the Minister is still making the decision on each case. We would argue that now that we can begin this wide level of consultation it will be even more accountable.

Can I see the criteria on which English Heritage bases its advice?

Yes, the Principles of Selection and more detailed Selection Guides show clearly how we assess every type of building and these are available from our website.

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact
our Customer Services department:
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