



English Heritage Investment Funding Priorities for WEST MIDLANDS REGION 2009 – 2010

Applications for investment funding under the schemes listed overleaf will be assessed against scheme criteria and in the light of our national and regional priorities stated below.

Our national priorities for funding are:

- Significant elements of the historic environment at risk; and
- Proposals that seek to strengthen the ability of the sector to manage the historic environment.

If your project meets one of our national priorities, we will assess it to establish whether:

- There is a financial need for grant;
- The work that needs to be done is required within two years;
- There will be long-term viability of the historic asset.

We will also take account of any wider benefits your project will provide. Such benefits can include:

- Economic regeneration;
- Training and skills development;
- Visitor access and interpretation;
- Social and educational benefits for the wider community;
- Partnership with other funding sources.

Within these national priorities our regional priorities for the West Midlands Region are:

Buildings, monuments and designed landscapes

We will give priority to:

- Redundant buildings at risk that have the potential to be brought back into active use and to contribute to key local and regional strategies, with particular reference to industrial buildings;
- Non-beneficial buildings and monuments at risk that cannot be adapted for new uses, particularly ruined structures in rural areas which are key examples of their type;
- Designed landscapes at risk requiring repair of essential historic features the need for which have been identified in comprehensive conservation management plans;
- Country houses and other estate buildings forming part of an historic entity in long-term ownership where vital structural repairs identified in comprehensive condition surveys are needed to prevent buildings from becoming or remaining at risk.

Statutory action

We will give priority to supporting local authorities in underwriting urgent works notices and repairs notices on buildings at risk in a critical condition in those cases where negotiations with the owner have failed, provided there is a reasonable prospect of a long-term solution.

Project development work

We will give priority to supporting the preparation of conservation management plans, condition surveys and other specialist studies which will help to formulate detailed proposals for the rescue of buildings, monuments and designed landscapes at risk.

(continued over)

Capacity building

We will give priority to projects which:

- Develop traditional crafts and skills in building conservation;
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the heritage and help local communities to deliver positive change in the historic environment;
- Encourage greater access to heritage sites by all sectors of the community;
- Deliver key region-based information needs.

Management Agreements

Priority will be given to scheduled monuments at risk where agreements are necessary to ensure effective maintenance and management regimes are in place, to include small scale structural repairs where necessary, to halt the deterioration of earthworks and standing remains and to ensure the survival of key sites.

Partnership working

We will work in partnership with local authorities to assist the development and support the funding of grant schemes in conservation areas where there is clear evidence for deterioration of the historic buildings stock. Priority will be given to the following:

- Conservation areas which are at risk or likely to become so;
- Industrial centres or market towns in decline with scope for regeneration;
- Areas with clear economic need, especially areas of deprivation;
- Areas that have not previously benefited from funding or where grant is essential to complete an existing programme;
- Schemes with potential for attracting funding from other sources.

English Heritage Funding Schemes

The priorities above apply to the following English Heritage funded investment schemes:

- Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes
- Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas
- Regional Capacity Building for the Voluntary Sector
- Grants to local authorities to underwrite urgent works notices
- Acquisition grants to local authorities to underwrite Repairs Notices

More information can be found on our website at the following address:
www.english-heritage.org.uk/grants

The website also has information on *Repair Grants for Places of Worship in England* and other jointly funded schemes.

Making an application

You are strongly advised to contact the English Heritage Regional Office to discuss any potential application for funding:

English Heritage West Midlands Region
The Axis
10 Holliday Street
Birmingham B1 1TG
Telephone: 0121 625 6820
Email: westmidlands@english-heritage.org.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Published September 2009 © Copyright English Heritage 2009 Product Code 51273

SELECTION OF INVESTMENT FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Our Heritage at Risk Register forms the basis of our strategy for grant-aid in the region. We use the register to help plan and prioritise our work in finding solutions for those heritage assets most at risk, focussing our funds on those cases most in need of help. Our secular grants in the region will therefore be targeted on:

1. **Grade I and II* listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments** at risk in need of urgent repair where the repair costs clearly outstrip the end value of the repaired building (ie there is a 'conservation deficit') and the costs are beyond the resources of the owner.
2. **Grade I and II* registered Parks and Gardens (and grade II's in CAs)** whose historic significance is at risk due to neglect or change and need help in formulating management strategies for their future care and for the repair of historic features.
3. **Conservation Areas** in economic decline where groups of buildings are in need of repair and we can work in partnership with local authorities and owners to help regenerate the area.
4. **Statutory Action** by local authorities to undertake urgent works on listed buildings at risk and/or their acquisition where necessary to rescue a building.

We will also support **Capacity Building** projects in the region which will deliver real benefits in promoting the conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment in the region.

As resources available in any one year will not cover all priority cases, we will focus on those projects which offer realistic opportunities to achieve progress, combining with other grants if required. We are particularly keen to support schemes which enable redundant buildings to be brought back into beneficial use, and are willing to help with project development work which will facilitate solutions for problem buildings and other heritage assets at risk.

Buildings and Monuments which do not have a beneficial use, especially ruined remains and the many field monuments in the region, require a different approach. In these cases we will work with owners and occupiers through our **Management Agreements** programme to ensure that essential maintenance and consolidation works are carried out.

We are mindful of the need for early action to prevent buildings getting into a serious state of repair. Historic estates, such as country houses, which form historic entities can be problematic due to the scale of the work involved. It is for this reason that we also give priority to these cases if extensive repairs are needed which are beyond the means of the estate, in order to keep the entity intact and to prevent it from becoming 'at risk'.

While this sets out national and regional priorities it is not intended to preclude applications which address any other aspects of the historic environment at risk.