



# PART 3: ACTION

## 3.1 Action: for the Government

### As an immediate priority

Require Regional Development Agencies and Local Strategic Partnerships to take full account of the historic environment in preparing economic and community strategies and implementing neighbourhood renewal. *(Recommendation 1)*

Equalise VAT at 5% for all building work. *(Recommendation 2)*

Set funding targets for English Heritage and local authorities to clear the backlog of repairs to buildings, monuments and parks and gardens at risk within 10 years. *(Recommendation 3)*

Commission a full review of the management and maintenance of public parks. *(Recommendation 3)*

Accelerate the switch of funding from agriculture production support to agri-environment measures. *(Recommendation 4)*

Use existing legislation more effectively to protect the marine and coastal environments. *(Recommendation 4)*

Make public bodies accountable, through regular monitoring, for their performance in maintaining their historic estate. *(Recommendation 6)*

Use Best Value to encourage local authorities to maintain high quality historic environment services. *(Recommendation 13)*

Reduce permitted development rights in Conservation Areas. *(Recommendation 13)*

Eliminate unnecessary double-handling in notification and referral procedures. *(Recommendation 13)*

Publish regular 'state of the historic environment' reports. *(Recommendation 15)*

Ensure that local authorities have access to properly curated Historic Environment Record Centres. *(Recommendation 16)*

Extend the responsibilities of 'green ministers' to encompass the historic environment. *(Recommendation 18)*

### During the next Parliament

Require every local authority to produce an empty property strategy. *(Recommendation 2)*

Require public bodies to take training policies into account when awarding contracts, and supporting regional centres of excellence for skills training and development. *(Recommendation 7)*

Integrate historic environment teaching with related subjects such as citizenship, geography, environmental science, architecture and design in the National Curriculum in ways that reflect our contemporary multi-cultural society. *(Recommendation 8)*

Give a higher priority to improving consultation and participation procedures as part of its *Modernising Planning Initiative* *(Recommendation 10)*.

Encourage Lottery distributors and Regional Development Agencies to support Architecture Centres. *(Recommendation 10)*

Encourage local authorities to use spatial masterplans based on character assessment by including them as Best Value performance indicators. *(Recommendation 12)*

Require applications for planning permission to be submitted in a standardised form that covers wider environmental implications. *(Recommendation 13)*

Provide funding to make electronic information on the historic environment widely accessible. *(Recommendation 16)*

Extend the role of departmental 'design champions' to cover the public sector's management and maintenance of its own historic estate. *(Recommendation 18)*

Require government departments to follow the advice issued by DCMS on the care of historic buildings and ancient monuments when considering the sale of redundant assets. *(Recommendation 18)*

Strengthen the relationship of English Heritage with DETR and other government departments. *(Recommendation 18)*

Ratify and implement relevant international charters. *(Recommendation 18)*

### When a legislative opportunity is available

Legislate to transfer responsibility for marine archaeology to English Heritage. *(Recommendation 4)*

Introduce a statutory duty of care on owners of listed buildings, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens, provided it is supported by fiscal incentives and the wider availability of grants. *(Recommendation 6)*

Legislate to give statutory force to conservation plans and management agreements for individual listed buildings and registered landscapes. *(Recommendation 12)*

Legislate to remove inconsistencies and implement uncontroversial amendments to the current system. *(Recommendation 13)*

### In the longer term

Consider how to work towards an integrated system of land-use planning and conservation controls over the next 10–15 years. *(Recommendation 12)*

## 3.2 Action: for the heritage sector

Work at all levels to encourage high quality new architecture and landscape design. *(Recommendation 5)*

Develop a joint strategy with CABI to ensure that new development enhances the historic environment. *(Recommendation 5)*

Promote a shift from cure to prevention by encouraging regular condition surveys and planned maintenance and piloting self-help initiatives and low-cost insurance schemes. *(Recommendation 6)*

Set up a national conservation training forum to bring together all training and qualifications initiatives and promote equal opportunities in the historic environment sector. *(Recommendation 7)*

Broaden the training of conservation officers to encompass related specialist professional skills. *(Recommendation 7)*

Provide help and advice for private owners on whom to ask for advice and where to find experienced consultants and skilled craftsmen. *(Recommendation 7)*

Provide guidance for owners on educational programmes that acknowledge the contributions, values and needs of different social groups. *(Recommendation 8)*

Work with museums, archives and community groups to support life-long learning. *(Recommendation 8)*

Find out what people value about their historic environment and why, and take this into account in assessing significance. *(Recommendation 9)*

Work with museums, libraries and archives to widen access. *(Recommendation 9)*

Work with excluded groups to develop access policy and practice. *(Recommendation 9)*

Continue to develop best practice guidance for owners of historic properties on physical access. *(Recommendation 9)*

Work with local authorities to draw up programmes to engage people currently excluded from the planning process. *(Recommendation 10)*

Initiate a detailed review of the needs and potential of the voluntary sector. *(Recommendation 11)*

Continue to develop conservation and management plans as a methodology for evaluating significance and identifying opportunities and constraints *(Recommendation 12)*.

Develop management plans for major tourist destinations as well as World Heritage Sites. *(Recommendation 12)*

Ensure that heritage professionals have the skills and training to involve people in decisions, think creatively and find solutions to problems. *(Recommendation 13)*

Develop a co-ordinated research strategy. *(Recommendation 14)*

Provide greater quality control over research, particularly the archaeological work commissioned by developers. *(Recommendation 14)*

Secure better arrangements for the storage of records and finds from excavations commissioned by developers. *(Recommendation 14)*

Re:source should nurture curatorship as a means of protecting and enhancing the knowledge base. *(Recommendation 14)*

Create an electronic network of information about the historic environment, accessible to professional and public alike, linked to *Culture Online*. *(Recommendation 16)*

Back people who make things happen. *(Recommendation 17)*

Develop local 'heritage links' bringing together non-governmental organisations, agencies and local government. *(Recommendation 17)*

### 3.3 Action: for local authorities and regional bodies

Regional Development Agencies should use their investment programmes to promote conservation-led renewal as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth, enterprise and regeneration. *(Recommendation 1)*

Take full account of the historic environment in preparing the community strategies required by the Local Government Act 2000. *(Recommendation 1)*

Produce empty property strategies. *(Recommendation 2)*

Where necessary, restore cuts in the funding of neglected public parks. *(Recommendation 3)*

Work with local businesses to use Town Improvement Schemes to improve the management and maintenance of streets, parks and other public spaces. *(Recommendation 3)*

Use the planning system to encourage new design that responds creatively to its context. *(Recommendation 5)*

The education sector should emphasise the role of the historic environment in teacher training and develop the necessary skills and teaching resources, reflecting the multi-cultural society. *(Recommendation 8)*

Regional Cultural Consortia should ensure that regional and local cultural strategies both identify and address previously neglected influences on the historic environment and identify opportunities to improve access to information *(Recommendation 9)*

Provide support for local Architecture Centres. *(Recommendation 10)*

Adopt spatial masterplans based on character appraisal as Supplementary Planning Guidance. *(Recommendation 12)*

Ensure that all Conservation Areas have character appraisals. *(Recommendation 12)*

Ensure that all local authorities dealing with the historic environment have access to relevant information and specialist advice. *(Recommendation 13)*

Facilitate public access to properly funded and curated Historic Environment Record Centres. *(Recommendation 16)*

Work with regional bodies and the heritage sector to draw up a national programme for training elected members on issues affecting the historic environment. *(Recommendation 17)*

Back people rather than structures. *(Recommendation 17)*

### 3.4 Action: for owners

Show sensitivity, understanding and imagination in commissioning new design. *(Recommendation 5)*

Carry out routine maintenance and regular condition surveys. *(Recommendation 6)*

Owners of complex historic sites, buildings or landscape should draw up conservation plans or statements before preparing development proposals. *(Recommendation 12)*

#### Owners of heritage attractions should:

Provide facilities and educational material to encourage visits by schools and community groups. *(Recommendation 8)*

Draw up access programmes to attract new audiences. *(Recommendation 9)*

Ensure that people with disabilities can visit and enjoy historic properties in an easy and dignified way. *(Recommendation 9)*

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