

## How we carried out the review

We were asked to consult all relevant interests in carrying out this review, and widespread participation has been the hallmark of the whole process. The Review has been guided by a Steering Group (*see back flap*) and by five working groups, which met three times and at a large seminar in September, bringing together a further 180 or so experts. Senior government officials were involved throughout.

We twice consulted more widely. The first consultation was through an invitation to participate. It shaped the overall direction and scope of the review by attracting over 200 letters from key organisations and interest groups. The main consultation was over the summer. Its five discussion papers, under the title *Viewpoint*, were sent to over 4,000 people. It brought detailed responses from 630 organisations, many of them speaking on behalf of large memberships, so that the reactions represent the views of many tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people who care about the future of the historic environment. Both consultations were issued on the web as well as in printed form, thus reaching even wider audiences.

We also commissioned MORI to find out what people in England think about the historic environment and its future, and what they value. This was a major, large sample, piece of research, the most comprehensive ever in this field, using two opinion polls, focus groups, and background social research. It confirmed strong public interest in caring for the historic environment as a vital part of modern life, and as something significant that defines the country's character and the identity of its people. The results, available on the English Heritage website, have strongly influenced this report. We believe our recommendations to Government come with strong popular support.

The Review's Steering Group and its working groups have benefited from an unprecedented wealth of opinions, ideas and expertise. They have drawn on the views of all parts of the historic environment sector, of business and tourism, of the academic world, of private owners and voluntary organisations, and of local and central government. They have considered the views of communities of place, interest and faith, and, of course, through MORI, of a very broad, representative sample of everyone living in England. The conclusions of this report – that understanding and cherishing the historic environment will create a better country – is not just that of the Steering Group, but is shared by the majority of the country's population.

*Front cover:* **Electric Avenue, Brixton, London;** an urban Conservation Area significant as one of the first London streets to be lit by electricity (1885)