

Heritage Link Update 135

Heritage Link Update is sent to members and supporters of Heritage Link as a way of sharing information of relevance to the historic environment sector. Please feel free to circulate copies within your organisation and to forward copies to anyone else who might be interested.

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Draft Heritage Protection Bill: heritage protection to be an integral part of public life

The draft Heritage Protection Bill was finally published on 2nd April. Secretary of State Andy Burnham declared 'Heritage protection is as important as anything else we do in this Department'. 'But', he continued 'nobody can sit in an office in London and decide what is heritage or not. Local communities have strong feelings about their own heritage and it is important that those voices are heard.' Indeed so!

'By unifying the protection regimes, encouraging wider participation, and making the system more transparent we aim to make heritage protection easier to understand and manage, and' in the most significant phrase 'help it become an integral part of public life.'

'The draft Bill we are publishing today follows long and extensive consultation. It reflects Government policy as expressed in last year's White Paper, and the consensus reached on that. But it is not the last word, because consultation goes on. That's why we're publishing it in draft.

'We welcome the widest possible debate and, if there are proposals for further changes, we will consider them carefully in the light of all the views expressed. I am grateful for the time and trouble that so many organisations and individuals have taken getting us to this point.'

The draft Bill will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny before its passage through Parliament. If the Bill is introduced in the Queen's Speech in the autumn and passed in the 2008-09 session, the new system could be implemented in 2010. [Back](#)

Pre legislative scrutiny and public consultation – use it or lose it

The heritage sector has been closely involved in the Bill since 2001 through formal consultations, panels, working groups and sounding boards. The House of Commons Culture Media and Sport Select Committee is likely to scrutinise the Draft Bill, and in addition, the public is invited to comment to DCMS via andrew.lewis@culture.gsi.gov.uk. Although a formal deadline has yet to be set, it is understood that comments should be received by the end of May.

Margaret Hodge, not known for her commitment to the listing system, is quoted: 'We are publishing it in draft to encourage the widest – and most searching - scrutiny possible, from Parliament and the public. I very much look forward to debating its principles over the months to come.' Given her 'personal' views on listing twentieth century buildings and the need to consider economic factors in their designation, this may be a risk to the current level of protection which her predecessors assured us would be maintained.

So we need to make this Bill happen. The Draft Bill broadly delivers what was in the Heritage White Paper. The level of detail may be frustrating, curiosities abound, the language may be clunky but the consultation and pre-legislative scrutiny process is the way to get the detail right before it reaches the Queen's Speech in the autumn. [Back](#)

Strong support from English Heritage

At least Lord Bruce Lockhart, Chairman of English Heritage, has no doubts 'Today's publication of the draft Heritage Bill is a major step forward towards the way England's heritage is identified, protected and managed. Although most people believe the present system has served us well, it has grown over the last 100 years through incremental legislation. We are left with a system which is over-complex, with confusing overlaps, and hard to understand.

'We now need reform which simplifies, which brings efficiency and effectiveness, which involves the public and adds clear and visible accountability.

'Our Heritage is a glorious national asset that gives us a sense of belonging and of local and national identity. It helps us to understand who we are and to take pride in our past. Today over two thirds of the public visit and enjoy heritage sites. Our heritage is vital to tourism and our economy. It is central to successful regeneration. It is a unifying force for cohesion and a foundation for a self-confident future.

'Strong and simplifying legislation will be of great value to all those in the public, community and private sectors who are involved together in managing our heritage. I welcome the publication of the draft Bill and look forward to its scrutiny by Parliament.' [Back](#)

Reactions round-up: what's yours?

Heritage Link, together with the National Trust, Historic Houses Association, Civic Trust and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings welcomed the Draft Bill in a letter to the Daily Telegraph on 2nd April. It responds, they agreed 'to the strong and growing interest people have in their surroundings'. But reflecting concern across the sector, they warned that 'the Bill cannot achieve its purpose without sufficient resource to implement it and skilled practitioners on the ground to support it. 'Much as we want a more modern system, the Government must recognise that we are all partners in its successful operation and as partners, we need to be convinced that the Government will back its aspirations with resources to match.'

The Historic Houses Association pointed out that two thirds of Britain's heritage is maintained by private owners and urged Government and local authorities to recognise the importance of private owners working in concert with public bodies. In particular it welcomed the new appeals systems and the new Heritage Partnership Agreements (HPAs). See http://www.hha.org.uk/metadot/index.pl?id=25607&isa=DBRow&op=show&dbview_id=23127

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) welcomed the Draft Bill 'which should bring heritage protection more fully into the planning system.' and in particular 'we want to see a more open

system, much needed reform of conservation area protection and proper resources to deliver social services'. See http://www.ihbc.org.uk/press_releases.htm

The National Trust welcomed the 'emphasis on closer public involvement and engagement in how we manage our built heritage' but noted 'the gap between the positive vision of the Bill and having the necessary resources and funding to implement the reforms at the local level.' The Trust also identified an urgent need to provide important historic parks and gardens with extra levels of protection from gradual encroachment by new development'.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings commented 'interim protection, which the Bill should bring, is much needed to safeguard structures when designation is being considered – particularly now this process is conducted more openly.'

UK UNESCO also welcomed the Draft Bill. Sue Davies, Chair of the Commission's Culture Committee, noted, "The draft Heritage Bill is a welcome step towards the protection and management of historic places in the UK. Particularly encouraging for us will be the added protection for World Heritage Sites and the proposals for greater public and community involvement in heritage protection.' See http://www.unesco.org.uk/UserFiles/File/Press%20Release/Heritage%20Protectioni%20Bill_042008.pdf

Let us have your views on the Draft Bill to feature in future issues of Heritage Link Update. Send them to kate.pugh@heritagelink.org.uk [Back](#)

Draft Heritage Protection Bill: what's in it

The Draft Heritage Protection Bill replaces provisions in Acts dating from 1990, 1953 and 1979 and 1973 and sets in place the legislative measures to deliver the proposals in the Heritage White Paper. For the text of the Draft Bill and explanatory notes go to <http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/43C14579-6DE4-4A9F-8228-A89719859BFB/0/DraftHeritageProtectionBill.pdf>

The draft primary legislation, says Government, makes provision to:

- unify the designation processes for terrestrial heritage assets to replace the current system of listing, scheduling and registering;
- create unified Heritage Registers for England and Wales bringing together buildings and structures, archaeology, parks, gardens, historic landscapes (Wales only), battlefields, marine heritage sites and World Heritage sites;
- introduce a unified heritage consent regime that brings together Listed Building Consent and Scheduled Monument Consent, to be administered by local authorities;
- provide a statutory framework for new management arrangements for owners of complex historic sites to enable a proactive and less bureaucratic approach to long-term management of such sites;
- transfer responsibility for designation of terrestrial heritage assets in England from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to English Heritage;
- introduce a new statutory responsibility for local authorities to maintain or have access to Historic Environment Records, putting responsibility for the historic environment in the hands of the local community;
- reform the designation and licensing regime for the marine historic environment in England and Wales, broadening the range of marine assets that can be protected and bring flexibility to the licensing system.

EH Heritage Protection Reform Newsletter at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/HPR_Newsletter_April_08.pdf gives a quick overview. Future issues of Update will look at specific areas in more detail. [Back](#)

Draft Heritage Protection Bill: what's not in it

It doesn't so far include the raft of secondary legislation and guidance that was expected. Listed at the end of the Explanatory Notes are the omissions from the present draft - the most important of which is Conservation Area reform. All references to the Planning Bill are tentative but at least Clause 155 sets out the fundamental principle on the local planning authority's duty to have regard to the preservation of registered heritage structures and open spaces in the exercise of planning functions.

Other major areas where detail is awaited relate to the all-important Local Authorities' outcomes framework that English Heritage will draw up and criteria for designation and consultation as well as further guidance on HERS. Guidance and a planning circular concerning protection for World Heritage sites were promised in the Heritage White Paper as was separate legislation to deal with changes to Class Consents in order to prevent archaeological damage from agricultural activities. The timetable for these additional policy documents is not known. [Back](#)

Impact Assessment: estimate of new administrative burdens

In the accompanying Impact Assessment, many of the benefits of the reforms introduced by the Draft Heritage Bill are non-monetisable and are better expressed in terms of public value and sustainability. Where monetised, the figures given in the Impact Assessment relate only to the administrative burdens imposed by the Draft Heritage Bill.

Government and English Heritage will incur the majority of costs through providing extra funding to enable local authorities to take on new responsibilities. English Heritage has monetised costs, mainly the £1m needed to create a new unified and publicly accessible electronic register of heritage assets. One-off costs are estimated at £2.26m and average annual cost of £1.02m giving total costs of £6.52m. But the benefits to Government, English Heritage and local authorities made by savings through more streamlined processes and voluntary management arrangements amount to £4.80m over 5 years.

It concludes 'Total costs of changes effected by Draft Heritage Bill based on available estimates of monetisable costs will be around £6.52m over 5 years. Monetisable savings to DCMS, EH and other key groups of about £4.80m over 5 years.' The net monetisable cost is expected to be 'reasonably low' at £1.72m over 5 years.

It is difficult for outsiders to know on the basis of these figures whether the financial predictions are accurate or adequate. So the reiterated commitment by DCMS to meet the cost of additional burdens to local authorities, such as the increased responsibilities for maintaining Historic Environment Records, is welcome. What is clear is that although the net cost may be 'reasonably low', upfront investment is required to achieve longer term savings.

For the breakdown see <http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/C87DAD10-26E2-4E87-A169-BF85AEF63DA1/0/ImpactAssessment.pdf> Costs are to be reviewed 5 years after implementation. The new system will also be monitored through Heritage Counts. [Back](#)

Costs to non government stakeholders

The Impact Assessment refers only briefly to non government sector. Amenity societies (voluntary sector) may incur costs in providing advice on all designations. But, according to the Impact Assessment 'while they may be statutory consultees, they are not statutorily obliged to respond so are therefore free to fulfil this role in the light of their resources and priorities'. So costs are not estimated.

The Bill is expected to have limited impact on the private sector with little or no new administrative burdens. Owners and developers may incur start up costs in Heritage Partnership Agreements but again these will be voluntary agreements and should deliver net savings over time.

However, the Bill makes provision for local planning authorities to charge for information provided from the Register, though on a not-for-profit basis. It is not yet known whether planning permission for demolition and partial demolition in conservation areas, which is likely to take the place of conservation area consent, will require a fee. [Back](#)

Draft Marine Bill published with consultation to 26th June

Moving on to the rest of the news, another long-awaited draft Bill contains proposals to create a network of marine reserves and a new Marine Management Organisation to regulate development and activity at sea and enforce environmental protection laws. Environment Secretary Hilary Benn said 'Our proposals will raise protection and management of our seas to a new level, halting the decline in biodiversity to create clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.' But much of the media coverage has focussed on access to the UK's coastline which has had a mixed reception from landowners.

Liberal Democrat environment spokesman Martin Horwood said 'New organisations set up in the bill will have a lot of power over our coastline so ministers need to ensure they are democratically accountable.' Shadow DEFRA Secretary Peter Ainsworth recommended that 'Greater coastal access should be based on voluntary agreements with incentives for landowners alongside appropriate protection for sensitive habitats which may be damaged by open access.'

DEFRA's website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm> gives links to the key proposals and a useful What does it mean for me with subsections for individuals, industry and environmental groups. It also gives details of the consultation period and how to respond. [Back](#)

Sub National Review: CLG/BERR consultation on the future of regional planning to 20th June

The Departments for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Communities and Local Government (CLG) jointly issued their consultation paper on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration (SNR), published in July 2007. The Review proposed a streamlining of regional plan-making, with Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) given executive responsibility for drawing up a single regional strategy and agreeing it with local councils in the region. A new role for councils in economic development was proposed, including a statutory duty to prepare an economic assessment.

Several heritage and environmental bodies including Heritage Link and CPRE expressed dismay at the focus on a single economic growth target rather than sustainable growth. Further widespread concern has been voiced over the democratic deficit that will result from transferring regional planning powers from elected Regional Assemblies to RDAs - which are accountable to Ministers in Whitehall. See the LGA's statement <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=406606> ; CPRE at <http://www.cpre.org.uk/news/view/484>; Heritage Link's submission to Ministers in December 2007 is at <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/news.asp>

Prosperous Places: Taking Forward the Review of Sub National Economic Development and Regeneration invites views on the government's detailed proposals for implementing SNR, with a deadline of 20th June. Legislation is expected in the next parliamentary session, beginning in November 2008. Copies can be downloaded from <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45468.pdf> [Back](#)

CLG Committee call for VAT reform to improve efficiency of old homes

The Communities and Local Government Committee warned on 2nd April that ministers had given 'insufficient priority' to improving the green credentials of existing properties. Current housing policy concentrating on improvement to future housing design 'risks neglecting the environmental impact' of more than 25 million homes in the UK's existing housing stock, said the report.

But its finding that homes built at least 90 years ago emit nearly twice as much carbon as new ones, is at odds with the report published by Empty Homes Agency and reported in Update 134.

The report recommends that minimum performance standards be set for existing homes as well as new builds. Energy performance certificates should be made more widely available but the report recommends that different ratings could apply in the short to medium term for the homes that are the hardest to improve 'such as those built before 1919'. It does recognise the value of appeal 'The bulk of our housing, however old and leaky it may be, is capable of the kind of improvement that will deliver the necessary reduction in carbon emissions without destroying the visual character that makes it uniquely ours,' it said.

The Committee calls on the Government to remove the VAT anomaly that makes it cheaper to demolish a building than refurbish or renovate it to higher environmental standards. Local authorities should be encouraged to offer large-scale, area-based programmes for basic home improvements, such as cavity wall or loft insulation, so that economies of scale and wider environmental benefits can be achieved.

The CLG Committee report Existing Housing and Climate Change and written evidence can be found at http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/clg/clg_200708_pn33.cfm [Back](#)

Scotland: Historic Environment Policy on Gardens, Design Landscapes and Properties in care
Government policy on Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Properties in Care has been launched by Scottish Ministers. It is one of a series of Scottish Historic Environment Policy papers (SHEPs) that

set out Ministers' policies to ensure sustainable use and management on diverse areas of the historic environment. See http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/news/news_article.htm?articleid=17661
[Back](#)

Heritage Lottery Fund unveils 3rd Strategic Plan

On 7th April, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) launched its new strategy, *Valuing our Heritage: Investing in our Future* to cover the period 2008-13.

HLF has reviewed its funding in light of the impact of Lottery funding for the 2012 Olympics, as well as its own approach to committing funding in advance. Whilst competition for funds is expected to be tougher over the coming years, HLF will still be the largest source of heritage funding available in the UK, and all main funding programmes will continue.

Between 2008 and 2013, HLF will distribute some £180 million in awards per year (£220 million in 2008/9). Fresh developments include a simpler application and assessment process intended to make applying to HLF easier and less costly. Online application forms for the Heritage Grants, Your Heritage and Young Roots programmes will be available at www.hlf.org.uk from April, with all others following in July. Where appropriate, HLF will offer a mentoring service provided by specialist advisers to reduce risks in project development, improve the overall quality of projects and provide inexperienced applicants with extra help. Applicants will be asked to 'green' their projects, minimising environmental impacts and encouraging innovative thinking and practice on sustainable use of resources.

Whilst continuing the successful Young Roots programme, HLF will be developing a new youth participation strategy, engaging more with young people, helping them gain skills and experience of heritage as well as becoming the potential 'heritage champions' of the future. It has also launched an annual awards scheme Heritage Heroes [below](#) with Nationwide Building Society, giving the public a chance to nominate their local heritage hero.

A document outlining the details of HLF's third strategic plan *Valuing our heritage, investing in our future* can be downloaded from www.hlf.org.uk [Back](#)

First Coastal Towns to benefit from Sea Change programme

Blackpool, Dover and Torbay will be the first towns to benefit from up to £4 million each for cultural and heritage projects, Culture Secretary Andy Burnham has announced. Communities Secretary Hazel Blears said the English seaside is 'set for a renaissance'.

The grants are the first to be made as part of *Sea Change*, the new funding programme which aims to kick start wider economic regeneration in coastal areas through specific investment in culture and heritage. In total the three year programme led by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) will give £45 million to coastal resorts.

Sea Change projects are intended to act as catalysts for further economic regeneration in the towns - bringing in new visitors and revenue, giving the local residents a new cultural heart and a renewed pride in the community. The key criterion in choosing the resorts is that they are areas of social and economic deprivation in need of regeneration. Blackpool, Dover and Torbay were identified by CABE in partnership with the Regional Development Agencies as priority areas for regeneration. [Back](#)

Sea Change: open applications invited

In addition, the *Sea Change* programme includes up to 12 smaller grants of £200,000 to £1,000,000 via an open application programme. Any coastal resort with a cultural project that would be a catalyst for regeneration can apply for this funding. The deadline for applications for 2008 is June.

Local authorities can put forward projects to CABE along with their business and project management plans but must find match funding of at least 100 per cent to qualify. The money will be used for work on cultural infrastructure - improving historic public spaces such as high streets, promenades, harbours or gardens; constructing new buildings or converting existing ones for use as cultural centres; enhancing existing galleries, concert halls, dance spaces, theatres and arts centres.

Sea Change will run for three years from 2008 to 2011, giving £15 million each year to seaside resorts. It is led by CABE working the Regional Development Agencies, English Heritage, the Museums,

Libraries and Archives Council, Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. For further details and how to apply for the open application grants go to www.cabe.org.uk/seachange [Back](#)

Community Assets programme shortlist announced

The Community Assets programme has announced the shortlist of schemes to reach final assessment. The programme, which is funded by the Office of the Third Sector and delivered by the Big Lottery Fund, is a programme to enable third sector organisations to have greater control over the assets they use, such as community buildings.

From listed buildings in urban areas to small village halls, the projects, working across England, will refurbish and renovate derelict buildings and expand existing community centres to create multi-use community facilities offering new activities for local groups. Amongst others, the facilities to be offered by the shortlisted schemes include, healthy eating and keep fit services, and cutting edge theatre and art facilities.

Hugely oversubscribed, the 37 shortlisted organisations to receive 'in principle' grant offers will now have six months to develop their detailed plans and present them to BIG for a non competitive assessment.

Further information on the Community Assets programme can be found at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/community_action/community_assets.aspx The shortlisted schemes can be found at http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/ca_march_08_awards.xls [Back](#)

English Heritage: Your Heritage Needs You

Currently 70% of local authorities have chosen a heritage champion so, seeking to increase that figure, English Heritage have published *Your Heritage Needs You*.

Heritage Champions are the network of local authority representatives, usually Councillors, who have been chosen by their authority to champion the local historic environment. Champions help to ensure that the historic environment plays a central role in the development of their authority's policies and strategies. They are able to use their local knowledge, along with the expert advice, training and networking opportunities provided by English Heritage, to recognise and respond to local issues.

This new leaflet is designed to highlight to those authorities who have not yet appointed a Heritage Champion the benefits of doing so. It outlines how both the authority and the Champion gain from the scheme and is available on the Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) website <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/New-Champs.pdf>.

For more information on Heritage Champions call Owain Lloyd-James on 0207 973 3841 or email champions@english-heritage.org.uk [Back](#)

English Heritage Conservation Bulletin: Adapting to a Changing Climate

EH's latest Conservation Bulletin (issue 57) includes a review of the conference earlier this year *Inventing the Future: Buildings in a Changing Climate*. It gives a huge amount of information on the subject with contributions from UK Climate Impacts Programme, UCL's Centre for Sustainable Heritage, ALGAO, English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic Houses Association and Church of England. Sections cover Facing the Facts, Anticipating the Impacts, Inventing the Future (review of the conference), Learning to Adapt and Finding out More. Copies can be ordered from customers@english-heritage.org.uk [Back](#)

English Heritage: microgeneration guides

Complementing the publication above, two guides from English Heritage address the impact of small scale renewable energy options on traditional buildings. *Small scale solar electric (photovoltaics) energy and traditional buildings* sets out firmly that in deciding how best to incorporate a renewable technology, the principle of minimum intervention and reversibility should be adopted whenever and wherever possible. Separate guides then look at generation, solar energy, bio-fuels, heat pumps and combined heat and power, explaining how each system works and what needs to be considered when install it in or on a historic building. See <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/49357-SolarElectric.pdf>

A second guide in the series *Small scale solar thermal energy and traditional buildings* deals with solar thermal energy. It lists the factors to consider before installing a solar water heating system on a property. The illustrated leaflet looks at installation options, maintenance requirement and estimated working life of the installation. It finishes with a list of useful contacts and sources of grants. See http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/17999-SolarThermal_08.pdf [Back](#)

English Heritage: Engineering the past to meet the needs of the future

This paper, the first in a series of information guides *Principles of Conservation Practice*, aims at providing easy to understand advice on the most appropriate conservation and installation principles for building services in historic or traditionally constructed buildings, many of which are listed.

With the earliest historic services dating from around 1850-1860, building services are often viewed as the 'youngest' and least historically important part of a listed building. A lot of early examples of heating, ventilation and lighting systems have been badly converted, removed or lost. But with the relative short life expectancy of 25–30 years for building services, even for those early systems of historic significance, doing nothing is rarely an option for building services engineers. The paper covers water, electrical, heating, lighting and fire alarm systems. See <http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/BsEST1.pdf> [Back](#)

English Heritage: Guidance on Thatch and Thatching

English Heritage has long been concerned at the lack of an agreed history of thatching and thatching materials, and at the difficulty which the planning system has in conserving these traditions. Each of the three traditions prevalent today (water reed, combed wheat reed and long straw) are all valid with historic methods of preparation and application. Each has its qualities and may be regarded as a local tradition to be cherished.

This new guidance note suggests that thatch should be repaired, rather than replaced. Local authorities should control the loss of thatch, when a change of material or style is suggested, by listed building consent. The onus should be placed on the applicant to explain the need for change - in line with general policy - but in turn the local authority's policy should be based on a thorough knowledge of local traditions of thatching.

The leaflet sets out the history, evolution and distribution and types of thatch across England. It looks at conservation and maintenance, building regulations, fire and safety factors as well as regional diversity. Local authorities, it maintains, hold the key to stronger conservation policies. Such policies should aim to recognise regional diversity, sustain materials and techniques, conserve the character of an area and protect material of archaeological interest. These factors should also be taken into account where grants are being considered. The Appendices include a glossary, list of further contacts and of recommended reading. See http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/Thatch_and_thatching.pdf [Back](#)

Community and Heritage Awards: nominate your heritage heroes by 28th April

The closing date for entries to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Nationwide Building Society's Community and Heritage Awards 2008 is 28th April, so there's still time to nominate people or groups who deserve recognition for community or voluntary work that has made a real difference to people's lives. Nominations for the most inspirational volunteers in the UK can be made in either the Community Champion or Heritage Hero category.

Gordon Brown, Prime Minister, said 'Volunteers make a difference every day to life in our communities and they are hugely important to the nation as a whole. These awards will celebrate the contribution of those everyday heroes who do so much for our national life, and I congratulate them all for what they have done.'

For more information on the awards, or to nominate a Heritage Hero go to http://www.nationwide.co.uk/about_nationwide/community_and_environmental_affairs/nationwide_community_and_heritage_awards/ [Back](#)

Olympic Park archaeological programme

Archaeological investigations are now complete on the five main Olympic venue sites and over 80 per cent of trenches elsewhere on the Park have been dug. A year-long 'discover' community and schools

project for the five Host Boroughs was launched at the Museum of London that includes school visits, a community dig and roadshows giving local people an insight into the history of the Olympic Park site.

Archaeological finds from the Olympic Park site were displayed at the launch, including one of four prehistoric skeletons found buried in graves on the site of the Aquatics Centre. The skeletons are believed to be over 3,000 years old. Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell said: 'This is yet another example of how hosting the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games means much more than just a fortnight of sport – rather a source of education, interest and community participation before, during and after the Games.'

See <http://www.london2012.com/news/media-releases/2008-03/archaeologists-find-early-eastenders-on-olympic-park-site.php> [Back](#)

Heritage Lottery Fund procurement

The Heritage Lottery Fund is undertaking procurements for Monitors, Mentors and Expert Advisers - see the two contract notices on the Tenders Electronic Daily website www.ted.europa.eu - search all current notices with 'heritage lottery fund'.

PEOPLE

New Chair for the Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) have announced that Jenny Abramsky, currently Director of BBC Audio & Music, will join the Board as new Chair in October 2008. She takes over from Dame Liz Forgan who steps down after seven years. Ms Abramsky will chair the 15-strong Board of Trustees, which includes leading figures from the heritage sector, appointed by the Prime Minister to run both Funds.

Jenny Abramsky commented 'I'm tremendously excited to be taking on this new role as I am a passionate supporter of our heritage. The HLF plays a unique role in sustaining and safeguarding our wonderful rich and varied heritage for the whole nation and I'm looking forward immensely to the challenge and opportunities'.

She has spent her working life at the BBC, where she was the editor of the Today programme on Radio 4; launched BBC Radio Five Live, BBC News Online and BBC News 24 as well as 5 digital radio stations. She is also Chair of the Hampstead Theatre, a Trustee of the Central School of Ballet and an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music. Previously she served as Governor of the British Film Institute and on the Economic Social and Research Council. She was awarded the CBE in 2001 for services to Broadcasting. [Back](#)

EVENTS

Historic Scotland's Free Weekend 12th and 13th April

For one weekend on 12th and 13th April, over 70 historic attractions in Scotland will open to the public for free, as Historic Scotland encourages visitors to discover more about the nation's past.

Historic Scotland has set up a special text locator service: by texting OUR HISTORY to 84118 people can find their nearest Historic Scotland attraction included in the Free Weekend. A full list of properties involved is available at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk Opening times are 09.30 to 17.30 (last admission 17.00) unless otherwise stated and some of the smaller properties may close over lunchtime. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Discounted membership of Historic Scotland will be available. [Back](#)

Sustaining Tradition Evening Lecture Series: Wednesday evenings to 28th May

This evening lecture series has been devised in association with the Evening Standard's Homes & Property section as part of the celebrations to mark the 10th Anniversary of The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment.

The line-up of speakers includes country homes expert, Jeremy Musson *Cherishing the Old* on 16th April; Patrick Holden, The Soil Association *A Sustainable Food Strategy for Britain* on 23rd April; Timothy Mowl, University of Bristol *New Bats in Old Belfries - Resurrecting the Genius of the Place* on 30th April; former RIBA president George Ferguson *The Frailty of Fashion* on 7th May; Steven Parissien, The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, *The Misuse of History: Interpreting the Past for the Future*

on 14th May; Philip Venning The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings *The short term, the long term and the very long term* on 21st May; and Tony Juniper, Friends of the Earth *Sustaining Tradition - Managing Progress*, on 28th May.

These events, either at The Prince's Foundation at 19-22 Charlotte Road, London EC2 or the Honourable Artillery Company in City Road, London EC2, start at 5.30pm, with a glass of wine before the illustrated talk. Each talk costs £10 and more information and booking details are available on <http://www.princes-foundation.org/index.php?id=269> To reserve your place, email gareth.davies@princes-foundation.org or call 020 7613 8573. [Back](#)

ICOMOS UK Conservation series: Our Sacred Landscapes, 23rd April

Coinciding with International Sites and Monuments Day, an evening event hosted by ICOMOS-UK (International Council on Monuments and Sites UK) will focus on the heritage of belief and religious diversity followed by light refreshments and a chance to chat. *Conversations* is a new series of events organised by ICOMOS-UK which explores different aspects of how past and present cultural activities influence and change our historic surroundings.

Contributors include *A Dark Trail at the Coffin Works*, Elizabeth Perkins (Birmingham Conservation Trust), *Religious Landscapes of Birmingham*, Dr Richard Gale (Department of Sociology, University of Birmingham), and *The Anglo-Sikh Heritage Trail and the West Midlands*, Harbinder Singh (Anglo-Sikh Heritage Trail).

The event will take place from 6.30-8.30pm at the School of Jewellery, Victoria Street, Birmingham, B1 3PA . To book a ticket, download the flyer from <http://www.icomos-uk.org/news/events/> or email tehminagoskar@icomos-uk.org [Back](#)

The Welsh Historic Environment in Focus: 30th April

This one-day conference will provide an opportunity for people interested in historic places to help inform government policy in Wales. Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Minister for Heritage at the Welsh Assembly Government will address the conference and launch discussion on a strategic statement on Wales's historic environment. The conference will allow voluntary, public and private sector representatives to help shape the evolution of Wales' built heritage and to harness cultural ambitions. A central theme will be how people can work together to create more effective partnerships, helping the sector secure a sustainable future for historic places within a better Wales. There will also be an opportunity for an update on the proposed new heritage protection legislation.

Organised by the Civic Trust for Wales and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, and funded by Cadw, the Welsh Assembly Government's Historic Environment service, the conference is expected to attract over 120 delegates from across the historic and built environment sectors.

Venue: Wales Millennium Centre Cardiff. Fee: £10-£40. Further details from www.treftadaeth.org.uk or call 02920 484606. [Back](#)

Victorian Society anniversary exhibition from 6th May

A photographic exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects will celebrate the work of the Victorian Society this spring, fifty years after the charity was founded to save the nation's best Victorian and Edwardian buildings from the wrecking ball.

Curated by architectural historian Gavin Stamp, *Saving a Century* will illustrate some of the Victorian Society's most remarkable campaigns, among them the battles for St Pancras, Liverpool's Albert Dock, the Foreign Office and the much-regretted Euston Arch. Using archive photographs and material from throughout the Victorian Society's fifty years of fighting for historic buildings, the exhibition will chart the successes and defeats of the organisation that has done so much to change public attitudes towards the best of nineteenth century architecture.

Saving a Century runs from 6th May to 29th May at the RIBA Gallery, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1B 1AD. [Back](#)

Rising to the challenge: Volunteering skills in East of England, 13th May

Voluntary and Community sector organisations are well-placed to work with individuals and communities to help support volunteering activity, but often lack the resources of time and expertise to be as successful as they would wish. This East of England conference Rising to the Challenge looks at developing capacity and capability to support volunteering in the sport and culture sector. The conference is being sponsored by GO-East, with the support of the Regional Skills & Competitiveness Partnership, and the 2012 London Olympics Nations & Regions East as well as Volunteering and Skills & Education Groups.

The day will bring people up to date with current initiatives designed to increase skills within the volunteering sector, and to use delegate feedback to inform future planning across the sector.

The conference will take place on 13th May from 9.30-3.30pm at The West Wing at Ickworth, near Bury St Edmunds. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be plenty of opportunity to network.

Register now at www.alivecom.co.uk/events A number of partner organisations are providing exhibition stands. If you would like your own organisation to be included, complete the exhibition section when you register. [Back](#)

Planning and the Historic Environment: Tall Buildings, 16th May

In July 2007, English Heritage and CABE issued a revised version of their joint *Guidance on Tall Buildings*. This course at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education offers participants the chance to learn more about the thinking behind the Guidance and the roles of English Heritage, local authorities and architects. There will be a particular focus on the impact of tall structures on the historic environment. The day will allow for substantial opportunities for debate and discussion.

For further details see www.conted.ox.ac.uk/X7271 or email professional.arch@conted.ox.ac.uk [Back](#)

IHBC Annual School Historic Areas: Managing the Spaces In-between, 26- 29th June and Day School, 27th June

The IHBC's 2008 Schools, at the University of Surrey Guildford, will examine the management of spaces, context and settings.

Attractions at the 2008 Annual Schools include insights into new planning & heritage legislation & guidance, from DCLG, Baroness Kay Andrews, who is the keynote speaker; from RTPI, Rynd Smith, and from English Heritage, Richard Morrice, The school also covers area assessment techniques and applications supported by the Landscape Institute, the Urban Design Group and English Heritage. Practical learning opportunities include: project funding & management; laser surveying; information resources (SMRs & HERs); lime mortars; characterisation & masterplanning. Study visits are planned to Guildford; Odiham, Bramshill, Caterham and the Watts Gallery; Student research presentations (the 'Fringe School' with free booking); and many other networking, business and social, and other professional capacity building opportunities.

The Annual School and Day School are sponsored by English Heritage, and supported by a host of other contributing organisations See IHBC Home Page for links to details and on-line booking at www.ihbc.org.uk [Back](#)

SITUATIONS VACANT

The Churches Conservation Trust: Regional Managers 4 new posts

The Churches Conservation Trust which cares for 340 churches no longer in regular use is looking for four outstanding candidates to drive the agenda in the regions - the North, South West, East Anglia & South East and Midlands - promoting community use and visitor enjoyment of important historic churches.

As experienced managers, the postholders will lead and develop a team of staff and volunteers to deliver regional plans, setting and meeting challenging targets. TCCT is looking for dynamic individuals who have a track record in creating and managing projects, developing and managing a geographically dispersed service and attracting resources through partnerships and fundraising.

Salary c£29,000 + generous annual leave and pension. For an informal discussion, contact Colin Shearer, Director for regions, on 020 7213 0660. For an application pack, email hr@tcct.org.uk, log onto www.visitchurches.org.uk, or contact HR at 1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE. Closing date 10.00am on 30th April.

IFA Workplace Learning Bursary for Assistant Archaeologist (Development Control/Historic Environment Record)

Applications are invited for an HLF-funded IFA Workplace Learning Bursary based at Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. This is an excellent opportunity to gain extensive workplace training in development control archaeology and HER work under the supervision and mentorship of David Strachan and Sarah Winlow. There may also be an opportunity to work towards a vocational Qualification in Archaeological Practice. Candidates should have a background in archaeology with qualifications to degree level (or equivalent experience), with good IT skills (including Access database and GIS) and a sound understanding of Scottish archaeology. Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.

The successful candidate will be based in Perth, though the post will involve travel to sites throughout Perth and Kinross. For an informal discussion on the post, contact dlstrachan@pkc.gov.uk or telephone 01738 477081.

12 months full time bursary. Salary £16,945. Closing dates for applications: Friday 9th May. Interviews Wednesday 28th May. For further details and information on how to apply, see <http://www.pkht.org.uk/Archaeology.asp?ID=12>

Weavers' Triangle Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Project Officer

This is an opportunity for a self-motivated person, educated to degree level with at least two years post-qualification experience at a senior level in a work area related to the conservation of historic buildings. A knowledge of building construction and common building problems occurring in historic structures is essential. Familiarity with funding regimes and their monitoring requirements would also be desirable. This is a full time, fixed term contract until 30th June 2012.

For an informal discussion on the content of the job description or person specification please contact Erika Eden-Porter or Cecilia Whitaker, Policy and Environment Team on 01282 425011 ext 2545 or 2553.

Salary Grade 11 - £29,728 - £32,436. Recruitment packs available on-line only. For a pack or to apply on line visit www.burnley.gov.uk/jobs

The St James the Less Preservation Trust New Mills High Peak Derbyshire

The Trust wishes to appoint a suitably qualified Project Development Manager to take forward this exciting restoration and conversion of a Victorian Chapel into a vibrant community arts centre. Experience of working in conjunction with Heritage Lottery and other funders is essential. The post will entail dealing with appointed consultants on the Trust's behalf, day to day management of the project and the seeking of additional funding. A full job brief is available to interested applicants. This is a part-time post expected to last no more than eighteen months.

Salary up to £16,000 for the completed task. To apply contact pakendall@toucansurf.com or call 01663 746074 or 744233. Closing date 25th April.

Heritage Lottery Fund: Major Projects Co-ordinator

A key member of the HLF Policy and Development Department, the post holder will co-ordinate the Fund's major grant programme and advise on issues of excellence in capital projects, including construction/conservation industry best practice; advise operational teams on assessment and monitoring issues, maintain a register of support services and promote good practice internally through training and policy work.

Salary £28,908-£38,380 + possible market supplement. Based in London. For more information and to apply visit www.hlf.org.uk or call 020 7649 6037. Closing date 25th April. Interview w/b 5th May.

Public Catalogue Foundation: Oil Paintings Catalogue Coordinators

The Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) requires County Catalogue Coordinators to oversee the production of proposed catalogues of all oil paintings in public ownership in a variety of English locations, including: Bristol, Devon, East Riding of Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northumberland and Tees Valley, South Yorkshire: Sheffield, Wiltshire, selected parts of London and all counties in the North West.

This is a part-time and temporary role. County Coordinators are expected to work approximately 2-3 days a week for around 12-15 months. All the necessary training will be provided by the PCF. Payment will be a fixed fee of approximately £6,500-£7,500 spread over the contract life. For further information contact Katey Goodwin, Coordinator Manager, at katey.goodwin@thepcf.org.uk

National Trust: Volunteering Adviser (Groups)

This post lies in the central volunteering team and will lead on work supporting 200 volunteer groups. Candidates will need to be a graduate in a related discipline or equivalent with a strong background in working with volunteers. The postholder will work closely with property and regional communities, learning and volunteering teams across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. He/She will be responsible for developing resources and managing people and budgets.

Starting salary £29,000-£32,000 based in Central Office Swindon with opportunity for flexible and home working. For full details and to apply on line, visit www.ntjobs.org.uk Ref NT08/02219. Closing date 23rd April. Interviews 30th April.

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1. We are grateful to Chris Blandford Associates for sponsorship of Update. Chris Blandford Associates (www.cba.uk.net) is a multi-disciplinary consultancy specialising in the sustainable planning, design and management of the historic and natural environment.

2. It is estimated that Heritage Link Update reaches about 9000 mailboxes in the UK and beyond.

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Individual subscription: £25.00pa (cheques preferred, payable to Heritage Link; for address see 6 below).

Corporate subscription:

- For forwarding to less than 50 mailboxes £150.00pa
- For forwarding to more than 50 mailboxes £500.00pa
- For forwarding to more than 1000 mailboxes £1000pa

The subscription for formal membership for voluntary bodies concerned with the historic environment is £100.00pa. For enquiries, please contact the Secretary at Heritage Link.

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