

Heritage Update is sent to members and supporters of The Heritage Alliance 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. The Heritage Alliance is an operating name of Heritage Link.

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Civic Society Initiative to launch as Civic Voice

The Heritage Alliance warmly welcomes the news that a national body for the civic movement will launch on 17 April; the result of a yearlong intensive debate following the closure of the Civic Trust. To register for the launch see <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/launch.html>

Tony Burton, Director of the Civic Society Initiative, said: "Civic Voice will work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. It will speak up for civic societies and local communities across England. Civic Voice will promote civic pride and combine an effective national body for the civic movement with a strong local voice. Over 920 civic societies have registered with the Civic Society Initiative, which is over 250 more than were registered with the Civic Trust when it closed. We are now asking civic societies and other groups wishing to become full members to pay an annual levy of £1.50 per member with a view to establishing Civic Voice on an independent financial footing."

The Alliance strongly supports a voice that can bring local societies into national policy-making, and that can co-ordinate this huge resource, whose remit includes the historic environment. Voluntary groups, local authorities, parish and town councils, businesses and individuals are eligible to join. The benefits of membership are set out at <http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk/tenreasons.html> Civic Voice is also looking for eight Trustees including a Chair and Treasurer with applications requested by 14 March. Visit <http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk/governingbody.html> . [Back](#)

Cameron launches proposals for "radical reboot" of the planning system

The Conservative Party's long-awaited green paper on planning was unveiled on Monday (22 February). Entitled Open Source Planning, the paper sets out the party's plans to scrap central elements of the current "broken" planning system and shift power to local authorities and communities based on the principle of "open source democracy" to encourage sustainable development.

Specific proposals include: allowing local communities to create 'bottom-up' local plans where residents shape and protect the character of their neighbourhood; scrapping the powers of the Planning Inspectorate to rewrite communities' local plans; abolishing regional planning; offering incentives to encourage building new homes and businesses; maintaining national Green Belt protection and other special protections for wildlife and the countryside, whilst allowing sustainable development elsewhere in accordance with the local plan; using new local infrastructure blueprints to coordinate strategic matters crossing boundaries, with a new duty on public authorities – including the Highways Agency – to co-operate with local councils; abolishing the Infrastructure Planning Commission, whilst retaining a fast-track process to avoid planning inquiries taking years and giving Parliament a new role to vote on and ratify national planning policy; and tackling 'garden grabbing' and over-development in residential neighbourhoods.

Launching the paper at a speech to the Post Bureaucratic Age conference in London, Leader of the Party David Cameron said: "Our local plans represent one of the biggest shifts in power for decades. It's genuinely one of the most radical and transformative policies that a Conservative government – or any government – can introduce. Suddenly, you can see how a system that was controlled by a few can be run by the many. You can see how it's possible to get neighbourhoods to come together to solve problems together. So this won't just help to improve our broken planning system – it'll help to build stronger communities and help to mend our broken society too."

Significantly the Green Paper states: "we need a planning system that enables local people to shape their surroundings in a way that...is also sensitive to the history and character of a given location". Should the Conservatives form the next government, then empowering local people to specify what kind of development and use of land they want to see in their area, as they propose, will put local heritage groups right at the centre of debate.

For the full paper, visit

http://www.conservatives.com/News/News_stories/2010/02/~media/Files/Green%20Papers/planning-green-paper.ashx [Back](#)

Conservative Party launches policy for the future of farming

On Tuesday (23 February) Shadow Secretary of State for DEFRA Nick Herbert launched the policy document *A New Age of Agriculture: Our Agenda for British Farming*, in a speech to the annual conference of the National Farmers' Union (NFU). The paper sets out five key aims, including: to enable increased production whilst protecting the environment, to promote fair competition, to reduce the burden of regulation, to further reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and to take action on animal disease. It also highlights the party's pledges to: "Commission within the first three months of taking office an industry-led review of all existing regulations with a view to reducing burdens without compromising standards", to "Introduce legislation on country of origin labeling if a comprehensive voluntary agreement cannot be reached" and to "Ensure that all food served in Government departments meets British standards of production, wherever this can be delivered without increasing overall costs."

Two new proposals outlined in the report were the Conservative intention to introduce rules into the new national planning framework to prevent the development of the most fertile farmland (in all but exceptional circumstances); and to fundamentally reform the Rural Payments Agency, appointing the Minister for Farming as Chair of its Management Board with the aim to "improve accountability, reduce costs and drive up performance".

John Sell, Chair of The Heritage Alliance's Rural Advocacy group, commented on the proposals outlined in the paper: "We welcome the objective of shifting CAP resources to the Rural Development Programme. Funding for the historic environment through the CAP is vitally important to rural regeneration. For this reason, current levels of funding through the Rural Development Programme must be maintained." Members of The Heritage Alliance The Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) have both issued statements on the paper: http://www.cla.org.uk/News_and_Press/Latest_Releases/Farming_Futures/Sustainable_food_and_Farming/1001609.htm <http://www.cpre.org.uk/news/view/656>

For the full paper, visit

http://www.conservatives.com/News/News_stories/2010/02/~media/Files/Downloadable%20Files/aneuage_ofagriculture.ashx
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Hunt and Vaizey: Shadow DCMS outlines plans for future of the arts

It's been a busy week for the Tories; on Monday Shadow Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Shadow Arts Minister Ed Vaizey published their proposals for the future of the arts sector, should the party form the next Government. In *The Future of the Arts with a Conservative Government*, the shadow DCMS sets out its plans for how to "provide coherent and sustained support for the arts." The paper outlines Hunt and Vaizey's approach to the sector based on three core principles: securing long term funding for the arts based on the mixed economy and 'arm's length principle'; the promotion of excellence in the arts; and enjoyment of the arts by as many people as possible, of all ages and backgrounds. The paper reaffirms the commitments the party has made to restoring the Lottery to its four core aims (the arts, heritage, sport and charities); reforming the rules surrounding philanthropy to make giving easier (including reforming the acceptance in lieu scheme and Gift Aid procedure); and reducing the administration costs of the main arts funding organisations.

In reference to the proposal to establish a joint Museums and Heritage Bill, the shadow DCMS states: "We will introduce a Museums and Heritage Bill which will establish a new administrative status for non-departmental public bodies within the cultural and heritage sectors. This will recognise their role as public organisations with responsibility to steward the nation's assets. But it will also allow them the independence to be truly effective and entrepreneurial fundraising bodies. They must have both the ability and responsibility to raise money both for capital projects and also for endowments to give them funding security over the long term."

For the full paper visit <http://www.shadowdcms.co.uk/pdf/TheFutureoftheArts.pdf> [Back](#)

Lib Dems propose new cabinet committee to support joint working

News that the Lib Dems would rule out a minority partnership in hung parliament to focus instead on supporting specific policies, coincides with the launch of the party's proposals for the arts and creative industries *The Power of Creativity*, published on 5 February. This proclaims "the arts are a central part of civic and community life, not an optional extra. They give people a place in which they can exercise and enjoy their imagination. They define and bind communities, provide understanding of the world we inhabit and of what makes us human. They contribute to innovation, education, diversity, social inclusion and the creative industries are the fastest growing sector of the economy."

Shadow Culture Secretary Don Foster's proposals include changing the way the National Lottery is taxed to Gross Profits Tax, (after the prize money has been distributed) to generate more money for arts and heritage as well as for the Treasury. This would raise an estimated £270m extra funding for the good causes as well as an additional £12m for the Treasury over a period of ten years. This would provide support for new start-ups in the creative industries and enable more businesses to offer internships and apprenticeships. Foster would strengthen the role of DCMS and its sponsored bodies by setting up a cabinet committee on creativity responsible for securing cross-departmental support and increased levels of joint working. The paper also supports the creation of a new administrative status for the National Museums.

On philanthropy, that magic bullet so cherished by politicians, the Lib Dems would give more political recognition to major donors, simplify the Gift Aid scheme and pilot an extension to the Acceptance In Lieu scheme to cover lifetime gifts. See

<http://www.libdems.org.uk/siteFiles/resources/PDF/Power%20of%20Creativity%20print.pdf> [Back](#)

Cut the VAT Coalition report: more cash for existing buildings, more skills, more jobs

On Tuesday (23 February) the Cut the VAT Coalition launched its report *The Opportunities and Costs of Cutting VAT*, in conjunction with Experian. The Coalition, made up of 19 varied organisations (including The Heritage Alliance, The National Trust, The Country Land and Business Association and The Theatres Trust) lobbies for a reduction in VAT from 17.5 per cent to five per cent for all maintenance and home improvement work; which it believes would bring empty properties back into use, help protect the countryside, create opportunities for skilled apprenticeships and more jobs, 'Green' existing housing stock to help the Government cut carbon emissions, regulate 'cowboy builders' and help those who can't afford vital repairs to their homes.

The report concludes that cutting VAT would contribute more than £1.4bn to the UK economy in 2010, rising to £17bn by 2019. An extra £450m a year for the improvement of existing housing stock would be enough to renovate or bring back into use approximately 19,000 homes a year. If it would take more than 130 years to replace the UK's existing housing stock with carbon-zero homes, cutting VAT could generate £123bn approx over the next decade to fund energy efficiency measures on existing housing stock, which would equate to an extra 174,000 homes being 'greened' by 2019 – and saving up to 337,000 tonnes of carbon. The report also stated that cutting VAT could create 55,000 new jobs in 2010 alone, and 81,500 jobs by the end of the decade; many of these in the construction skills sector.

Addressing representatives from the Coalition and the wider sector, MPs Lorely Burt (Lib Dem), Gordon Banks (Labour) and Brian Binley (Conservative) spoke at the launch. All were broadly supportive of the Coalition's report and the argument for cutting VAT, but with varying degrees of commitment. Lorely Burt backed the policy, stating "reducing VAT is a no-brainer" and that she would "be delighted to work with any party prepared to implement this policy". Gordon Banks was also supportive, stating "now is the time", criticising the industry's "throwaway" approach to demolishing existing housing stock and stating that cutting VAT "makes environmental sense by returning renovated properties back into the market" – but saying it was a Treasury decision, not a CLG decision. Again, Brian Binley was enthusiastically supportive of the campaign as "an eminently sensible way to encourage the re-use of older buildings" and said he would "love to support it", but he clearly stated that committing to a VAT cut at this stage would be irresponsible – "I cannot commit to supporting these proposals at this stage" – but confirmed he would promote the report within the shadow Business team.

For more information, visit <http://www.cutthevat.co.uk> [Back](#)

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Inland Waterways Association launches revised proposals for waterways conservancy

On 12 February the Inland Waterways Association (IWA – a member of The Heritage Alliance) unveiled its updated proposals for the future of the nation's waterways, in a consultation document entitled *An Inland Waterways Conservancy - The IWA Vision*. This updated vision, based on proposals from co-founder Robert Aikman over 50 years ago, aims to stimulate wider public and stakeholder discussion about a model for sustainable governance of the waterways at a time where there is a good opportunity to do so; following recent proposals from British Waterways to move itself into the third sector in *Setting a New Course: Britain's Waterways in the Third Sector* (Update 177) and Defra's consultation *Waterways for Everyone* (also reported in Update 177).

Clive Henderson, National Chairman of IWA, outlines the proposals: "Our vision is to encourage the formation of a larger, rationalised organisation, incorporating both British Waterways and Environment Agency managed waterways, together with the opportunity for other publicly and non-publicly funded navigations to join a national Inland Waterways Conservancy. BW in its 2020 vision has already identified that a move to the third sector will open up new funding possibilities; we believe these are even more likely for a Conservancy that has a larger role and scope."

To view the full document and submit a comment visit http://www.waterways.org.uk/documents/inland_waterways_conservancy [Back](#)

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Developing Historic Environment Records for the 21st Century

On 15 February English Heritage opened a new scheme within its Historic Environment Enabling Programme (HEEP). In 2010/11 it will make a total of £400,000 available towards research and development into Historic Environment Records (HERs), to help owners and users bring HERs into line with proposals set out under Heritage Protection Reform.

Karen Bewick, The Heritage Alliance's Heritage Protection Reform Coordinator, said: "Any initiative that assists in broadening the scope and depth of HERs is welcome. HERs have a crucial role to play in informing planning decisions relating to the historic environment, particularly in the context of a significance based heritage protection system, which PPS15 would introduce. The implementation of policy that encourages the development of HERs is therefore vital to realising their full potential."

English Heritage will issue tenders for some of this work. These will be posted as appropriate on <http://englishheritage.gov.uk/>. However, the majority of the funding will be available as grants accessed via applications to the HEEP and will focus on developing exemplars and good practice, delivering guidance and assisting with infrastructural improvements to provide working models. The details can be found in the [HER21 Scheme document](#). The grants scheme is for one year only and all projects must be complete by 15 March 2011.

One excellent example of a local society using HEEP funding to enhance local authority historic environment services is Skipton Civic Society, which was awarded £2000 in 2006-7 for research into the listed buildings of the town centre <http://www.uwhg.org.uk/projects/skipton/skipton.html>. [Back](#)

Third Sector partnerships in heritage-led regeneration: new report published

This is a collaborative report from Heritage Works and the North of England Civic Trust (a member of The Heritage Alliance).

Adding value: Third Sector partnerships in heritage-led regeneration looks at examples of heritage-led regeneration, with focus on the mechanisms that made them reality. It considers the role of the third sector within mainstream regeneration agendas and outlines recommendations to improve partnership working across the different sectors. The report particularly considers how the third sector could contribute most effectively to heritage-led regeneration to help stimulate economic recovery in the current, challenging financial climate: "Acting in the public interest, the third sector can often be of use where the public sector cannot justify the risk, and the private sector sees no return for the risk...All sectors are finding access to funding increasingly difficult. However, by working together, playing to the strengths of each sector and seeking out innovative partnership mechanisms to effectively share the risks and ownership over the life of a project, it will be possible to continue to move forward." For the full report visit <http://www.nect.org.uk/index.php?page=regeneration-momentum> [Back](#)

Vetting and Barring: what you need to know

The Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) new Vetting and Barring scheme (VBS) was originally established as a recommendation of the Bichard Inquiry following the Soham murders, which advised that all people with close contact with children and vulnerable adults are properly vetted to minimise the risk of harm. Individuals are required to be ISA registered (new starters from 26 July and a phased 5-year roll out for those already employed) if they fall into one of two categories: a/ *specified place* (individuals who work in specific places such as schools or children's hospitals where contact with children and / or vulnerable adults is 'frequent' or 'intensive'); b/ *regulated activity* (individuals who carry out regulated activity such as teaching, training or supervision where they have frequent or intensive contact with children and / or vulnerable adults). In this context, 'frequent' contact means contact with children / vulnerable adults at least once a week, and 'intensive' contact means contact with children / vulnerable adults for four days, or part days, in one month or if there is overnight contact.

With regards to working with children and / or vulnerable adults in the heritage sector, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has advised that it considers there to be a difference between 'teaching' and 'knowledge sharing'. 'Teaching' children means formal education leading to a consequence if the teaching is not carried out properly, whereas 'knowledge sharing' means sharing knowledge with children with no consequences if the child does not take the knowledge on board. For example, if a child visits a heritage site, there are no consequences for the site Guide if the child doesn't learn anything as the Guide is not responsible for teaching the child. What this means in general practice is that each employer has a wide discretion to decide whether their employee is 'teaching' or 'knowledge sharing'. Application of this across organisations will vary according to individual circumstances, but generally speaking few employees at heritage sites will fall into the 'teaching' category.

The above is a brief, general overview of the new scheme. For a detailed Q&A and to ask specific questions relating to the circumstances of your organisation ring the VBS hotline on 0300 123 1111 or visit http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/faqs/vetting_and_barring_scheme.aspx#startreg [Back](#)

Apply for Challenge Funding from the Council for British Archaeology

Each year the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) offers grants of up to £750 to support new or existing research projects carried out by local societies, groups and communities, through its Challenge Funding scheme. There is still money available to support groups and societies in this financial year, but applications must be submitted by 31 March. Groups, societies and individuals working in a voluntary capacity or promoting voluntary involvement are challenged to put forward proposals for projects which will either: say something new about the history of local surroundings and thus inform their future care and appreciation; or, contribute to archaeological innovation (ie new or under-studied aspects of the historic environment, or new methods, techniques and approaches); or, help non-government bodies to establish long-term resources or facilities to enable others to carry out their own original research. For further details of how to apply visit www.britarch.ac.uk/grants/challengefunding [Back](#)

Register now for the Festival of British Archaeology 2010

This year the Council for British Archaeology's (CBA) Festival of British Archaeology is celebrating 20 years of inspiring events that have been encouraging people all around the UK to take an active interest in archaeology and the historic environment. There are plenty of opportunities for organisations and individuals to take part in the Festival; either as an event organiser or as a visitor to one of the hundreds of events that are taking place in July and August. Events will be held at a wide variety of venues, with an array of formats and themes.

The Festival will run between 17 July and 1 August and is entirely reliant on the participation and support of heritage groups, societies and organisations around the UK. Organisations interested in putting on an event as part of the Festival can visit the dedicated Organiser Information section of the Festival website for information to get you started; including a background to the Festival, event guidelines and some event ideas <http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk> For further details of the event and how to register visit:

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/news/100202register> [Back](#)

Constructing Excellence North-East Awards 2010: new Heritage Award

Held every year in May, the Constructing Excellence in the North East Awards is a celebration of the North East construction industry's achievements. Winners are selected across twelve categories including innovation, integration, value and sustainability and go on to compete in the National Constructing Excellence Awards, held every year in the autumn. The Heritage Award is a new category for this year, and seeks to recognise schemes that may include conservation; improvement and enhancement that has significantly improved the aesthetic quality of the building/project; the repair or restoration of a listed building; the alteration, improvement or extension of a listed building or similar; or the improvement to external spaces, gardens and courtyards. The judges will be looking for evidence of team members trained in heritage skills, including the use of traditional methods and materials. The 2010 awards will be held on 7 May in Newcastle. For more information visit

<http://northeast.constructingexcellence.org.uk/default.jsp> [Back](#)

How to write Conservation Reports: a guide for non-specialists

The Prince's Regeneration Trust (a member of The Heritage Alliance) has published a guide to writing Conservation Statements and Conservation Management Plans, specifically aimed at non-specialists. To download the Guide visit <http://princes-regeneration.org/pdf/how-to-write-conservation-reports.pdf> For more Guides visit The Prince's Regeneration Trust's publications page <http://www.princes-regeneration.org/publications.php> [Back](#)

Construction Skills Competencies Scheme (CSCS) Heritage Skills 'Quick Guide'

As reported in Update 179, a new Quick Guide to CSCS for the Built Heritage Sector was launched in February. At the time of going to press this had not yet been made available on the National Heritage Training Group website <http://www.nhtg.org.uk/>; but interested parties can ring Karen Smith at NHTG on 0300 456 5517 for a paper copy.

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Value volunteering? Join i-volunteer

Dubbed 'the Facebook for volunteering' by Volunteering England, the social networking site i-volunteer aims to enable people who value volunteering – either as volunteers or by managing the work of volunteers – to network with, learn from, inspire and support each other. i-volunteer is free to use.

Visit www.i-volunteer.org.uk. [Back](#)

Thank you for your venue ideas

Due to the overwhelming response to our request for venue information in the previous Update (179), The Heritage Alliance has been unable to reply to individual emails; but we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who submitted details for consideration. Thanks to your efforts we now have an excellent database of superb venues available for hire throughout the country. If you would like to forward details of any facilities for hire then please send them to karen.bewick@heritagelink.org.uk.

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Rural councils to share £1m from Rural Masterplan Fund

On 19 February Housing Minister John Healey and Rural Affairs Minister Lord Davies named 36 rural councils that will share a £1million funding pot to provide expert support to design and plan up to 10,000 new homes in rural areas. The £1m fund, provided jointly by Communities and Local Government (CLG) and Defra will provide expert assistance and training on masterplanning and urban design. A large proportion of the new homes will be affordable to local people, with the aim of allowing local people to remain in the area and supporting local businesses and community infrastructure. The councils in receipt of the funding were selected through a planning and design competition run by CABI and the HCA, and are receiving sums ranging from £4,000 to £70,000 to support masterplan projects that aim to focus on making the most of existing buildings and creating more attractive places to live. For the full story and list of the 36 councils in receipt of funding, visit

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1475334> [Back](#)

Over £15.7m for England's Historic Places of Worship

On 18 February English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced more than £15.7m would support urgent repair work to 154 Grade I and II* listed places of worship across England. The grants were awarded under the organisations' joint Repair Grants for Places of Worship scheme. Places of worship set to benefit include the Presbyterian Church of St Peter (West Liss, East Hampshire); The Prince's Road Synagogue in Liverpool; and the Christian Church of St George in Cullercoats, North Shields. For the full story visit <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.17640> [Back](#)

UK City of Culture shortlist announced

The four cities vying for the title of UK City of Culture were revealed on Wednesday (24 February) as Birmingham, Derry, Norwich and Sheffield. Culture Minister Margaret Hodge congratulated the four cities, which were chosen from a list of 14 (in December). The winner is due to be announced in the summer, with the successful city holding the inaugural title in 2013. For more information visit <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8534425.stm> For full details on the UK City of Culture competition see report in Update 177 <http://www.heritagelink.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Heritage-Update-177.pdf> or visit http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/communities_and_local_government/6015.aspx [Back](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy consultation: response summary and impact assessment

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new hypothecated local levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to introduce to fund infrastructure in their areas. CIL will be charged on most types of development and is forecast to raise an additional £700m per year by 2016. Local authorities can choose the CIL rate that they wish to set, but must set this out in a new legal document (a 'charging schedule') which is independently examined to ensure that it is evidence-based and appropriate for the local area. On 10 February Communities and Local Government (CLG) published a summary of responses received to the consultation on the detailed proposals and draft regulations for the introduction of the CIL (which took place between 30 July 09 and 23 October 09) and the CIL Final Impact Assessment (which assesses the costs and benefits of CIL as laid before Parliament). Both documents can be downloaded by visiting

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/infrastructurelevyfinal> Subject to approval by MPs, it will come into force on 6 April. [Back](#)

What does the future hold for Abbey Road Studios?

Abbey Road Studios, the iconic North London music studio where The Beatles recorded during the 60s, could be put up for sale by the EMI group according to The Financial Times. Following the whisperings on 16 February, The National Trust (a member of The Heritage Alliance) has been on the receiving end of "an astonishing outpouring of public emotion" from members of the public asking it to save the

studios for the nation. The Trust has consequently set up a webpage to gauge levels of public support for a potential campaign – visit http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-global/w-news/w-latest_news/w-news-should-national-trust-save-abbey-road-studios.htm. Following press coverage of the fact that DCMS has been sitting on an English Heritage listing recommendation since 2003, on 23 February Margaret Hodge announced that the building (an 1830s villa adapted in 1930s by Wallis, Gilbert and Partners, architects of the Hoover Factory) was to be listed; but caused further controversy by suggesting that this was primarily on grounds of its “cultural interest” as a key site for the British Music Industry. Visit http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6700.aspx [Back](#)

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The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG): Not In My Back Yard! 3 March

Part of the *21st Century Challenges* series, this event will look at the balance between social and environmental benefits and the consequences of development. Is it time to put nationally important projects ahead of local concerns? Or does this just bypass the democratic right to object? An expert panel will be on hand to explore these issues and take questions, consisting of Dame Fiona Reynolds (Director General of The National Trust); Jim Steer (Director of Steer Davies Gleave transport consultants) and Antony Oliver (Editor of *New Civil Engineer* magazine). Chaired by the *Guardian's* chief leader writer Julian Glover, this discussion aims to explore the big issues likely to affect our society in years to come.

The event will take place at the Royal Geographical Society in London. Doors open from 6.00pm and the evening starts at 7.00pm. Tickets are £10, or £7 for RGS-IBG members. Book online at www.rgs.org/21cc or ring 0207 591 3100. For more information visit <http://www.21stcenturychallenges.org> [Back](#)

ASCHB conference: Today's Legacy and Historic Places, 4 March

This conference, from the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings (ASCHB), focuses on the current forces acting on, and conservation direction of, the historic environment. Speakers include Eddie Booth, Colin Davis, Dave Chetwyn, Neil Burton, Claire Wright, Nigel Barker, Sunand Prasad and Ian McCaig. The conference will take place at The Art Workers Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1 between 10.30pm and 5.30pm. £100 per person including a buffet lunch and refreshments. For more information see www.aschb.org.uk and to book a place contact John Adams by emailing mandjadams@btopenworld.com or ringing 020 7720 4764. [Back](#)

Discovering Sacred Britain: day seminar, 18 March

This day seminar will launch Discovering Sacred Britain's Marque of Excellence, which acknowledges sacred site or faith centres' achievement of a high degree of openness, hospitality and interpretation. The launch follows the development of the Marque in the North-West over the last three years. The seminar will discuss openness, information, interpretation and hospitality with artists, educationalists, tourist authorities and those concerned with community cohesion. The event will take place between 10.00am and 4.00pm at the Gorton Monastery Conference Centre in Manchester. Visit <http://www.discoveringsacredbritain.org.uk/> for a programme and booking details. [Back](#)

Institute for Archaeologists: Early Bird booking deadline for 2010 conference, 14-16 April

The IfA 2010 conference will be held in Southport from 14-16 April. Sessions have been confirmed covering a diverse range of topics, such as Palaeolithic/Mesolithic coastal and marine archaeology, Archaeology and the Media, PPS Implementation and The Archaeology of Love. In addition to this there will be round table discussions, a BarCamp on the latest IT developments, conference dinner and the usual tours. The conference will take place at the Southport Theatre and Convention Centre, Southport, PR9 0DZ. For full details, fee information and booking information visit <http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=216>

The Early Bird booking deadline is 5 March. [Back](#)

Black Environment Network (BEN): Showcasing Environmental Opportunities and Innovative Ethnic Minority Projects, 14 April

This BEN networking conference and AGM aims to showcase the range of environmental opportunities available in order to increase access by ethnic minority communities, to highlight innovative Ethnic Minority Projects integrating social, cultural, economic and environmental themes and to share ideas and inspire action. The conference will run from 9.30am-5.00pm at The Oasis Centre, 75 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7HS. Places are free but must be booked in advance. To book please email

ukoffice@ben-network.org.uk For further information please ring Saleem on 0161 273 1970 or mobile 07952 062 912. [Back](#)

Inland Waterways Association (IWA): National Waterways Conference, 17 April

The IWA's National Conference for Waterway Societies aims to bring together all waterway organisations that have an interest in the well being, development or restoration of canals or river navigations. Prominent speakers will advise on the important issues facing the waterways today and in the future, particularly concerning volunteering and maintaining efforts to bring waterways back into use. The conference will take place on 17 April at Sandwell MBC Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DE. To register to attend or receive more information contact gemma.bolton@waterways.org.uk
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University of Cambridge: Vernacular Architecture in the Fens, 24 April

Part of the University's series of Historic Environment Research Conferences, this event includes sessions entitled The Vernacular Traditions of the Fen-Edge, Norfolk Stone and Stone Buildings, Building Materials in Fenland and Railway Buildings: The End of the Vernacular Tradition?

The conference costs £35 per person and will take place at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Law, CB3 9DZ. For full details and booking information visit http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk/institute-media/pdfs/research/pdfs/historic_environment_research_conferences.pdf [Back](#)

SITUATIONS VACANT

We expect all organisations whose posts are advertised below to offer equal opportunity to all and to welcome applications from all sections of the community. [Back](#)

HONORARY / VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

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The National Trust: senior governance positions

The National Trust is currently looking to fill a number of senior governance positions. While these are all voluntary, the Trust will pay expenses.

Chairman for Arts Panel – the Arts Panel advises staff and the Board of Trustees on the curatorship and conservation of historic interiors and collections.

Members to join Council – the Trust's Council is the guardian of the spirit of the Trust and its main responsibilities are to ensure accountability, shape policy development and inspire support.

Member for Senior Management Remuneration Committee – this role will actively contribute to the Trust's future by making sure the senior team is rewarded fairly. Later on in 2010 the Trust will also be looking for Chairmen for the South East and West Midlands regional committees.

All positions are for an initial three year term. For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gov-vacancies

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Civic Voice: Trustee positions

The Civic Society Initiative will launch as Civic Voice on 17 April (see Headline article for full details) and is looking for eight Trustees. For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk/governingbody.html> Applications should be made before 14 March.
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The Battlefields Trust: sponsored conference place

The Battlefields Trust sponsors a student to attend each of its conferences, in return for writing up a report of the sessions and what they have learned. To be eligible the candidate must be engaged in study or research on battlefield studies (military history, battlefield archaeology, or similar) and be available to attend the residential conference in York between 16 – 18 April. For full details visit www.battlefieldstrust.com or to express interest email national.coordinator@battlefieldstrust.com [Back](#)

The Royal Armouries: Trustee position

The Department for Culture, Media & Sport is seeking to appoint a person with a successful track record at senior leadership level in Retail or the Creative Industries, as a Trustee of the Royal Armouries. The Royal Armouries cares for the national collection of arms and armour. The Board has corporate responsibility for ensuring that the RA fulfils its aims and objectives, as set out in the National Heritage Act 1983, any amending legislation, and its governing documents. For this post, applications are invited from people with a high profile in either the public, private or voluntary sectors, a commitment to the

Royal Armouries' objectives and purposes of the Museum, along with strong intellectual judgement and communication skills. The successful candidate will serve on the RA's Finance & Capital Development Committee.

Closing date 12 March. For more information about the role or to apply, email kathryn.osman@armouries.org.uk or ring 0113 220 1830. [Back](#)

SALARIED POSITIONS

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The National Trust: Inspirational Conservation Leaders (across England and Wales)

A dynamic, visionary leader, the postholder will be overseeing a complex conservation agenda across one of The Trust's regions or countries, masterminding strategies that breathe life into every last square inch of the special places the National Trust looks after. The hub through which all conservation resources and expertise flow, the postholder will make sure individual needs of these places are met, within the wider context of the National Trust's central strategy and the regional or country plan.

Using their consultancy skills, the postholder will facilitate services as diverse as repairing a roof or restoring a painting, to championing biodiversity or coordinating an archaeological dig; always with diplomacy and commerciality in mind, visitor enjoyment at heart and conservation in their soul.

£55,000 plus benefits. Closing date 7 March. To find out more about these roles, and to apply online, please visit www.timekeepers.org.uk [Back](#)

The National Trust: Directors x 2 (Wales and West Midlands)

The National Trust's priority is to connect more deeply with all the people who support it – or who might support it. They're looking for a Director, who uses their head and follows their heart. An intelligent, inspirational leader of people, who's passionate about the places they look after. Excited by the prospect of helping shape their future, this person will develop a clear, compelling vision for the area they will look after, inspiring all those who work with the National Trust to get involved and open new doors for new audiences. With significant senior-level management experience behind them (including successful operational change management), the postholder will bring a breadth of skills, including a decisive approach, careful diplomacy and gravitas which inspires trust and proactive behaviour in their teams.

A competitive salary is offered. Closing date 7 March. To find out more and apply, please visit <http://www.ntjobs.org.uk/joblisting.asp?Keywords=director> [Back](#)

Making a Difference: Project Consultant

The Heritage Alliance's Making a Difference project is looking for a consultant to carry out a piece of work following up on the original Embracing Difference projects; and also interviewing key professionals working on diversity for a new section to be added to the Making a Difference website. To find out more about the project, visit the Making a Difference website at www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/diversity. If you are interested in tendering for this work please send an email with your CV to project manager Sara Crofts at sara@spab.org.uk before 10 March. [Back](#)

The Victorian Society: Churches Conservation Officer

The Victorian Society is the national charity campaigning for the Victorian and Edwardian historic environment. Our Churches Conservation Adviser is at the forefront of our efforts to ensure that changes to places of worship respect their architectural interest. The postholder will need a degree or equivalent, knowledge of and enthusiasm for 19th century church architecture and excellent written and oral communication skills. Knowledge of the ecclesiastical planning system would be an advantage. The post is full time and based in London but involves travel throughout England. It is offered as a three year contract subject to performance and funding.

Salary band £20,000 - £22,000 + pension. Closing date 15 March at 9.30am. For further details and application form, visit www.victoriansociety.org.uk, email admin@victoriansociety.org.uk or telephone 020 8747 5890. [Back](#)

Church of England (Cathedral and Church Buildings Division): Casework Officer

This post is maternity leave cover, initially for a 9 month period commencing 19 April, subject to extension. The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division brings together the staff serving the Church Buildings Council and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, both of which are concerned with the care, conservation, development and use of church buildings. The postholder will provide advice and support to dioceses and parishes on all matters relating to church buildings.

Closing date 9 March. For the full job profile and details on how to apply visit <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/vacancies/> . Also visit <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/builtheritage/> and www.churchcare.co.uk [Back](#)

The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust: Conservators

Applications for fixed term conservator positions in Antarctica with The New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust are now open. For full details and application forms visit <http://www.heritage-antarctica.org/AHT/Vacancies/> [Back](#)

Group for Education in Museums (GEM): Deputy Director

GEM's Deputy Director has a key role in moving GEM forward as a professional and strategic organisation, by helping to build its capacity to deliver and ensuring its long-term sustainability. The Deputy Director's main responsibilities are to manage and develop GEM's continuing professional development programme, provide support to GEM's local groups, ensure that GEM's publications are produced to a high quality, on time and within budget, manage and deliver projects that are on-time, in-budget and of agreed quality and deputise for the director as required.

The post is based in Gillingham. £23,000-£26,000, full-time, twelve month contract. Closing date midday on 8 March. For full details or to apply visit http://www.gem.org.uk/jobads/job19feb10_gemd.html or email office@gem.org.uk [Back](#)

The National Trust for Scotland: LHis (Little Houses Improvement Scheme) Project Officer

The National Trust for Scotland is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to contribute to the delivery of current and potential LHis projects, as well as provide general assistance to the Head of Buildings and the LHis Project Manager. The successful candidate will have experience of working in the heritage sector and, specifically, experience of developing and delivering building conservation projects.

£24,314-£25,530 (pro rata). Part-time, 20 hours a week, fixed term maternity cover. Based in Edinburgh. Closing date 5 March. For full job details and information about how to apply, visit www.nts.org.uk. [Back](#)

Notes and subscriptions [Back](#)

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2. It is estimated that Heritage Update reaches 12,000 mailboxes in the UK and beyond.

3. Subscription policy:

By popular request from individuals, agencies and commercial companies who cannot formally join The Heritage Alliance as members but wish to support its work, the following subscription rates for Heritage Update are recommended:

Individual subscription: £25.00pa (cheques payable to Heritage Link; for address see above).

Affiliate membership:

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

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