

A simpler system... Improvements to the designation process

>> We continue to make improvements to the designation process and there are two new exciting developments in progress, the first is the launch of an online application form for designation. This is the first time that applications to list, schedule or register a heritage asset can be submitted to English Heritage in one form and online. It is envisaged that subsequently the form will also include full mapping functionality to allow applicants to clearly indicate the areas they wish to be assessed.

Notes on how to complete each stage of the form and hyperlinks to further sources of information are also included.

Hard copy versions of the form are available on request. The form can be downloaded from the English Heritage website at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/designation/process/online-application-form/>. This new online form represents one of the first stages in the development of a unified designation system.

The second development is the launch, early next year, of a searchable, online record of all designated assets available through the English Heritage and Heritage Gateway websites. This will be a real achievement for Heritage Protection Reform and will be the first time that designation records for all assets types are available online. Linking online applications with the online database will also speed up the assessment process.

National Heritage Protection Plan

>> The National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP) will be the national framework for bringing together work by English Heritage and other partners within the sector to protect the historic environment. By using our strengths and resources to complement those of other key bodies, particularly those on the front-line of statutory systems, English Heritage hopes to encourage further development of partnership working.

The historic environment is under threat from many directions, not least budgetary constraints. This means that whatever we do to protect it will have to be firmly prioritised to ensure that our resources



Keighley Low Mills

are sharply focused to meet the most urgent needs first. We believe that the best way to do this is to identify the threats that assets face, to better understand the way they act on the historic environment, and to prioritise our activities accordingly, ensuring that we deal with the most threatened first. At the same time, we shall also ensure that we identify opportunities to improve management outcomes

Throughout June we invited comments

from people and organisations on the aims and methodology of the NHPP and the draft priorities it identifies, through a web-based consultation. We would like to thank all of those who responded. The results of the consultation will be assimilated into a document to be published in the autumn.

The June consultation will not be the only opportunity for the sector and others to comment on the NHPP. We hope that the published NHPP will elicit comments and advice, and we shall ensure that each annual revision of the Plan is influenced by further consultation.

Detailed information about the NHPP, the draft priorities and methodology are all available from www.english-heritage.org.uk/nhpp or for further information please email: nhpp@english-heritage.org.uk.

Historic Environment Records

>> In February, English Heritage launched the HER21 scheme to assist in the development of HPR compliant Historic Environment Records (HERs). We received a very positive response to both strands of the scheme (we have tendered for some projects, with the majority of funding being available as grants via applications to the National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme).

The projects being taken forward cover a number of issues facing HERs including technical issues of access, identification of sources for (and development of) protocols for inclusion of new types of data,

the development of true local government partnerships, practical engagement of local communities and testing the enhancement of HER capabilities in terms of impact assessments of planning schemes.

Project designs for the grant-funded strand have been commissioned and work began in June. All of the HER21 scheme projects have to be completed by March 2011. We believe all the projects commissioned will provide a wealth of information from which to develop a coherent HPR compliant HER strategy with our partners.

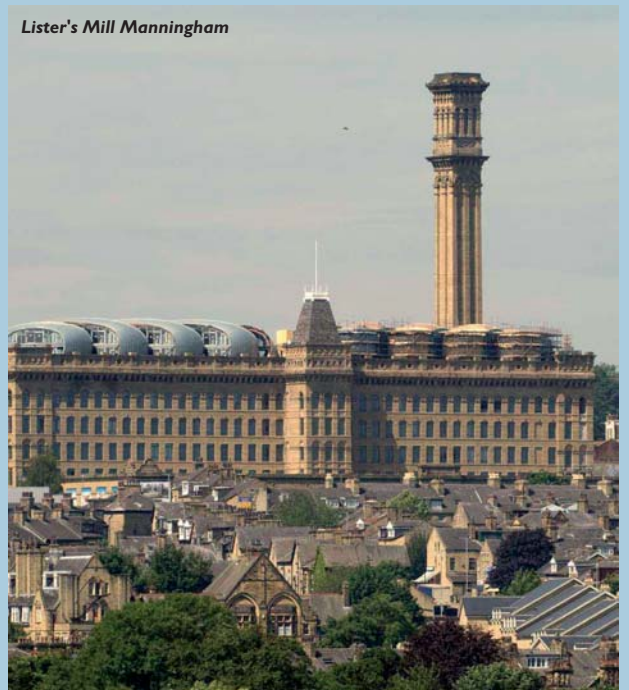
A Guide to Heritage Protection in England

>> English Heritage will soon be launching a new online guide to all aspects of heritage protection.


Designed to be accessible to all, the guide will provide a short introduction to a wide number of topics, along with links to original sources, definitions of widely used terms and pointers to further advice and guidance provided by ourselves and others. Areas covered will include the extent and nature of heritage protection, identification and designation of heritage assets, planning for the historic environment, the consent regimes, heritage at risk and advice for owners of heritage assets.

The flexible online format will allow for regular updates and for the addition of new links and suggested further reading as they arise. We will be keen to gather feedback on the guide when it is published later in 2010.

Lister's Mill Manningham



Asset Descriptions



>> Work is underway on a number of Asset Descriptions which incorporate the work done on the old Monument Class Descriptions. The new, illustrated, Asset Descriptions cover archaeological topics such as barrows, forts, rock art, shrines and much more. They will offer an introduction to the current thinking and understanding of different aspects of the significance of archaeology, both for designation and in the planning system. We hope to have these guides published on our website by late 2010.

West Kennet Avenue Avebury

Selection Guides

>> Whilst retaining existing approaches to designation under current legislation, we hope to introduce greater clarity and efficiency where we can. One way is through providing information on how we make decisions to designate.

In light of the revised Principles of Selection issued by DCMS in April 2010, English Heritage is revising each of the 20 selection guides for listed buildings. These were first issued in March 2007 and, while these have proved their utility and fitness for purpose, the intention was always to update them regularly. The new guides will be illustrated throughout and will help more than ever to establish what constitutes special interest and significance in buildings of all types, from domestic dwellings to hospitals, prisons and schools.

Selection Guides for archaeological assets are also being created. These will concentrate on designation approaches, since the creation of the Asset Descriptions takes away the need to give outline surveys of a category's historical development.

HPR Training & Capacity Building on PPS5

>> Since April we have undertaken a roll-out of 14 PPS5 workshop events. The events aimed to bring together a broad audience including local authority heritage professionals and planners, civic societies and private sector developers and consultants.

The events took a detailed walk through the PPS5 exploring its terminology and content. Hypothetical cases were considered to aid discussion on how the PPS5 policies apply to different situations.

Feedback from the events has been very positive. We are currently reviewing the training that has happened and ways in which we can share knowledge and best practice amongst the historic environment sector in future. One possibility is the provision of materials online and further details will be made available later in the year. We are keen to continue to work with partners to help with support and learning initiatives to assist with HPR implementation and can be contacted at: hprt@english-heritage.org.uk if you have any questions or suggestions.



Marine Policy Statement

>> As part of Defra's Marine Programme to improve the state of the UK's marine environment and fisheries and achieve the vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas, English Heritage has responded to the Defra-led pre-consultation on the draft UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS).

The MPS will be the first stage in new systems of marine planning being introduced

around the United Kingdom and will set out the policies that will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK marine area. It will also provide the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions that affect the marine environment. The MPS will, for the first time, bring together existing policies of all UK Administrations relating to the UK marine area. The MPS and Marine Plans will help the strategic management of the seas and help achieve the sustainable development of marine resources. It will also guide and direct

decisions in the marine environment, ensuring a strong link between national policy and individual developments. Consistency between marine and terrestrial planning regimes will also be addressed to ensure that coastal areas, in particular, are managed in an integrated way.

Following the pre-consultation, Defra aims to formally consult on the draft Marine Policy Statement during summer 2010 and to have it finalised by spring 2011.

Defra is also aiming to consult on the marine planning system during summer 2010.

Changes to the Heritage Protection Department

>> Heritage Protection Reform is intended to simplify how we identify, protect and manage the historic environment both on land and under the sea in our coastal waters.

As part of English Heritage's commitment to this approach we have now transferred the Maritime Designation posts from our central Maritime Archaeology Team into the Heritage Protection

Department. This brings together all of those specialists dealing with national designations into one department to ensure that the most appropriate regime available can be applied when considering any site for protection. Although the application process for considering wreck sites will

not change, we will now be able to consider all the designation options available, including designation of wrecks scheduling and, where appropriate, even listing. This will ensure more consistent and appropriate protection and management of our historic assets.