

The East Midlands Heritage Forum's occasional bulletin highlights recent national and local developments, including this time:

- News from the national Historic Environment Forum, and from British Waterways, Heritage Open Days, Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage
- The route of the Olympic Torch and other heritage projects in the Cultural Olympiad
- A one-page briefing on the Localism Act and local listing.

Olympic Torch relay: The Olympic torch will pass within an hour's travel of every town and village in the UK this summer. Places which lie on the route will have a unique opportunity to present their local heritage to the wider world. Now that the calling points have been announced, planning is beginning in earnest on the details of the route and ways to make the most of the occasion. Here are the dates and calling points for the torch in the East Midlands. A map can be downloaded from the [London2012 website](#).

Wednesday 27 June: The torch leaves Grimsby in the morning and visits Louth, Legbourne, Withern, Maltby-le-Marsh, Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Sutton-on-Sea, Mumby, Hogsthorpe, Ingoldmells, Skegness, Wainfleet All Saints, Wrangle, Boston, Sleaford, Bracebridge Heath and Lincoln, where there is an evening celebration.

Thursday 28 June: The torch leaves Lincoln and calls at Saxilby, Darlton, East Markham, Tuxford, Kirton, Boughton, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Kelham, Newark, Balderton, Grantham, Radcliffe-on-Trent and Nottingham for the evening.

Friday 29 June: It leaves Nottingham for Glapwell, Bolsover, Calow, Chesterfield, Matlock, Darley Dale, Bakewell, Buxton, Ashbourne and Derby where it rests for the night.

Saturday 30 June: From Derby the torch leaves for two days in the West Midlands via Burton on

Trent, reaching Northampton on the evening of 1 July.

Monday 2 July: The torch leaves Northampton for Wellingborough, Isham, Kettering, Geddington, Corby, Dingley, Market Harborough, Lubenham, Foxton, Kibworth Harcourt, Oadby arriving in Leicester for the evening.

Tuesday 3 July: From Leicester it visits Quorn, Loughborough, Hoton, Wymeswold, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Langham, Oakham, Uppingham, Stamford reaching Peterborough for the evening.

Wednesday 4 July: From Peterborough, the torch tours Market Deeping, Thurlby, Bourne, Spalding, Moulton, Whaplode, Holbeach, Long Sutton, and then leaves via King's Lynn for Norwich.

Each local authority has an officer co-ordinating the local response to the torch's visit. To plan your part in the occasion, find out who yours is, and also visit the [London 2012](#) to find out more about the support and advice available through the 'Local Leaders' campaign.

The outlook for heritage: One of the Forum's top priorities is to monitor staffing levels for the conservation and archaeological functions of local authorities in the East Midlands. The region has lost 15% of its specialist heritage capacity since 2009. There are indications that further losses in 2012 will be less serious, but the budget for 2013/14 could be difficult once again.

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation, which undertakes regular surveys of staffing levels, is also concerned that a large number of retirements are expected over the next few years. This potentially increases the vulnerability of historic environment services in authorities seeking savings.

Local authorities are increasingly exploring options for charging (for instance, for information and advice from their Historic Environment Record) and for outsourcing services to private

and charitable bodies. The Forum will gather information on these developments, and their potential impact on heritage itself, and seek to equip the heritage sector to respond.

British Waterways: BWV will become a charitable body independent of government – the Canal and River Trust – on or soon after 1st April 2012. In doing so it will also merge with the Waterways Trust.

Heritage Lottery Fund: The grant budget available to HLF will increase considerably in 2012/13. The upper limit of two grant schemes will be doubled: new ‘Your Heritage’ grants can be up to £100,000, and ‘Young Roots’ up to £50,000. There will be an additional round of applications for Townscape Heritage Initiatives. In May HLF will launch a new strategic plan for the period 2013-19.

The Localism Act: Now that the Localism Bill has passed into law, communities and local authorities have radical new powers which will change the way decisions are made about historic places. On page 3 you will find an outline of the implications of Neighbourhood Plans, a list of the ‘Front Runners’ in the East Midlands, and other details such as new rights to build and bid for assets.

Focus on South Kesteven: This first meeting of the Forum in 2012 was hosted by South Kesteven District Council at Grantham. South Kesteven is an outstandingly rich district for heritage, with more listed buildings than any other in the East Midlands. The meeting drew together representatives of national and local organisations to share views and plans for conservation.

The Local Development Framework for South Kesteven includes an Action Plan and urban design framework for Grantham. The town faces the prospect of expansion, but the historic centre is currently a ‘conservation area at risk’, which is currently the subject of application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Townscape Heritage Initiative.

Local listing of heritage assets: The new Grantham Area Action Plan provides a mechanism for addressing the risks, and also forms the basis of a local list of heritage assets for the town. From this foundation there is an aspiration in due course to develop a local list for the wider district.

English Heritage has [drafted guidance](#) on the preparation of local lists. For some headlines from that guidance, and an insight into the local listing ‘scene’ in the East Midlands, see ‘Local listing in a nutshell’ on page 4.

Heritage at Risk: The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire’s Heritage at Risk project is well advanced in South Kesteven. Now that volunteers have surveyed all its listed places of worship, two have been found at high risk and nine at medium risk. Of the two thirds of its other listed buildings so far surveyed, 10 are at high risk and 46 at medium risk. Information like this being gathered by the project across the whole of Lincolnshire will be invaluable in targeting support and advice.

Forthcoming events: The Forum’s next meeting will be the third Northamptonshire Heritage Summit on Wednesday 28 March 2012.

In June 2012 the meeting will be hosted by the Peak District National Park Authority at Bakewell. It will explore recent developments at the interface of the natural and historic environment. Among these are the formation of Local Nature Partnerships and the ‘statements of environmental opportunity’ being developed by Natural England.

Further meetings will take place on 3 October 2012 (Leicestershire) and 4 February 2013 (Nottinghamshire)

For further information, in the first instance contact Paul Bodenham, Policy Adviser (East Midlands) for English Heritage by emailing paul.bodenham@english-heritage.org.uk

The Localism Act in a nutshell

It's all about decentralisation ...

- Community rights
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Housing
- Power of general competence for local authorities
- Empowering cities and other local areas

Power of general competence

- Rules on 'predetermination' changed so that councillors have more freedom to campaign without challenge
- Restrictions on charging – may affect Historic Environment Records.
- New options for combined authorities and 'economic prosperity boards'

Community empowerment

- **Community right to challenge:** Voluntary groups, Parish/Town Councils and local authority employees may bid to run an LA service
- **Community right to bid:** Councils must maintain list of 'assets of community value' (under open nomination). Opportunity to develop a bid and raise funds for purchase on the open market

Planning reform

- Abolition of Regional Strategies – including cultural heritage policies of the East Midlands Regional Plan
- Ensure similar protections are transferred to local plans
- Duty to co-operate: neighbouring LAs required to work together

Neighbourhood Plans

- Neighbourhood Forum (where no Town/Parish Council) and plan boundaries agreed by Local Planning Authority
- Expectation of additional development
- Neighbourhood Development Orders granting full or outline planning permission
- Conformity with national policy and local plan Core Strategy (where it exists!)
- Independent examination and referendum (or Supplementary Planning Document?)
- Parish/Town Councils

- Access to evidence and advice

Other provisions

- Community right to build
- Requirement for developers to consult prior to large planning applications
- Stronger enforcement powers against concealed structures
- Community Infrastructure Levy proposed to include environmental enhancement

Neighbourhood Planning front runners in the East Midlands

- Blaby: Stoney Stanton, Sapcote etc
- Hinckley & Bosworth: Market Bosworth
- Melton: Waltham; Asfordby

- Lincoln: Park Ward
- East Lindsey: Holton le Clay & Tetney; Mablethorpe
- North Kesteven: Billinghay
- South Holland: Holbeach
- West Lindsey: Caistor
- Gedling: Newstead Village (Vanguard)
- Newark & Sherwood: Newark Bridge Ward

- Northampton: Wootton & East Hunsbury
- East Northamptonshire: Oundle; Raunds
- South Northamptonshire: Yardley Gobion

- Rutland: Uppingham

Changes since the Bill

- Neighbourhood Development Orders did not have to pay regard to the effect on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Schedule 12, 24-26)
- Now 'special regard' must be had to them at Examination (Schedule 10, 8)

Remaining concerns

- Undesignated archaeology of equivalent importance to scheduled monuments in areas subject to NDO
 - No requirement to refer to Historic Environment Record or take advice on interpretation
 - No reference to 'cultural interests' – except perhaps in 'sustainable development'?
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Local listing in a nutshell

Planning Policy Statement 5

PPS 5 'covers heritage assets that are not designated, but which are of heritage interest and are thus a material planning consideration'

POLICY HE2 (GUIDANCE): EVIDENCE BASE FOR PLAN-MAKING

In collecting and collating the evidence base for plan-making local planning authorities are advised to consider...compiling a 'local list' of heritage assets in partnership with the local community and on the basis of objective criteria of heritage interest that have been tested through public consultation. The type of assets included in such a list may be as varied as those designated at the national level.

What are local heritage lists?

- a register of non-designated heritage assets considered by the community to be of local importance
- reinforce a sense of local identity and distinctiveness
- primarily buildings based – many evolved from former Grade III lists phased out in 1970s
- are non-statutory – a voluntary agreement between local authorities and their communities

Current state of local heritage listing

- 30-50% of local planning authorities in England have some form of local list
- vary in size, quality, scope and availability
- growing community involvement in many local heritage lists
- supported by policies and guidance of PPS 5
- local list can feed into existing LPA activities, such as conservation area appraisals
- may fit well with Government's 'localism' agenda

Local heritage lists and protection

- a good way of achieving greater recognition for local heritage assets – but do not necessarily confer greater planning protection
- can be a material consideration in planning decisions
- greater weight given to locally listed assets if they are identified within the plan-making process
- requires that assets are subject to public

consultation and that the local list is based upon objective selection criteria

Good practice guide for local listing

- move to encompass the full scope of heritage assets
- a more consistent approach to the identification management of local lists – eg selection criteria
- the proper validation and recording of local heritage assets
- the submitting of local lists to public consultation
- more regular review and updating of local lists
- greater public access to information on local heritage lists – Historic Environment Records (HERs)
- greater partnership working between local authorities and the community (role for heritage champions)

Some local lists in the East Midlands

- Derby City
- Charnwood
- North Kesteven
- South Holland
- Northampton Borough
- Northamptonshire
- Rockingham Forest Trust
- Bassetlaw DC: selection criteria

A role for heritage champions and local amenity societies

- facilitate the sharing of information between local authorities and community groups when developing a local list
- assist with the development of selection criteria and the identification of heritage assets.
- ensure that the local community is properly consulted throughout the entire local listing process