

THE HERITAGE WHITE PAPER

Membership Consultation



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION



Here it is at last! This heritage white paper for England and Wales has had a long gestation period. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to our members and partners who have spent so much time helping it to emerge.

The white paper promises to give more clarity to how we work. I have every expectation that almost all of us will warmly welcome almost all these changes.

The lobbying for resources is already under way: these changes simply will not work in the ebbing financial tide that the public sector could face. As our president David Lovie wrote in the IHBC's press release, it is time to walk the walk as well as talk the talk.

While this is a white paper – a statement of government policy and intended legislation – it is also a paper still tinged with green. It asks

a further three questions about conservation areas, pre-application discussion and certificates of immunity. The conservation area issue will be particularly vital for us. It would be tragic if 'joined-up conservation' resulted in linking buildings and archaeology, but created a greater distance between them and historic urban area work. We may have some unfinished business here.

This outline of the issues and opportunities has been produced very quickly to stimulate the debate within our institute. We do not claim that it is comprehensive. Please read the white paper itself and its linked documents, and join in the discussions within your branches, in the institute as a whole, and in the wider world. The political spotlight is about to be turned on to our work. We must be ready for it.

John Yates
IHBC Chair

BACKGROUND



The introduction of unified legislation on the management of historic places is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for conservation professionals to shape the rules to which they work. Yet this ambitious consolidation and modernisation of some 150 years of very disparate legislation presents some serious challenges. In view of the fundamental issues that conservation faces today – from its capacity

to mitigate global warming to its promotion of diversity and inclusion – this is an opportune time to re-draw its processes. The current proposals for legislative reform need to set the sector on the right track for conservation in the 21st century.

The IHBC warmly welcomes the opportunity to shape the future. The main proposals, covering strategic national issues and long timescales, refer largely to proposals for primary legislation. That legislation will not be in place until 2010 at the earliest, and the main impacts might take another decade to bed down. As conservation professionals, our members know the value of strategic planning and long-term perspectives.

Of course the fundamental thinking was done long before the drafting process began and the detailed private discussions were initiated. *Power of Place*, presented in December 2000, scouted out the initial thinking that underpins the white paper's strategy. *A Force for our Future*, which followed in December 2001, was the government's response. This was developed into the practical delivery issues attached to the Heritage Protection Review, which culminated in the July 2003 consultation document with practical suggestions, *Protecting our Historic Environment: making the system work better*. The response, the *Review of Heritage Protection: the way forward* (June 2004) included most of the terms appearing in the current white paper, alongside a few that were not carried forward (such as the unification of Grade I and II* assets).

The IHBC was closely involved in the evolution of the white paper itself. But while many people have played a role in shaping the details, it is a document of government first and foremost. This is our opportunity to contribute to the examination and development of the proposals, and judge how best to address the quiet revolution that underpins them.

AIMS

At the heart of the white paper lies a great challenge: how to integrate the management of the historic environment effectively into the planning system. If that is done properly, we will have better management and procedures. With conservation processes incorporated into the ordinary planning process, individuals and communities should be able to engage with historic places in simpler and less bureaucratic ways, and conservation specialists should be freed up to focus on more strategic support, facilitation and service provision.

The heritage white paper looks ahead to a world where people can support and benefit from their historic places more easily. It envisages a system that can respond to the historic environment as a much wider resource than just designated things or sites. It tries to recognise the continuity between different parts of our historic places. As it does this it should also make the crucial connection between historic places needing special regard, and the wider and ever-changing world in which they sit.

PROPOSALS

As with all change, there are many questions and uncertainties about the proposals. Prospective benefits include:

- *clarification, through simplification*: unifying the legislative framework and corresponding procedures to improve integration with existing planning processes
- *understanding, through information*: uniting historic information and values with planning and development, using substantial 'statements of significance' and statutory 'historic environment records'

- *inclusion, through delegation*: promoting a local sense of ownership and informed participation by enabling the delegation of primary control of the historic environment to local planning authorities and their professional staff and structures.

Even with these strategies in place, few would think that success as a whole is a foregone conclusion. The success of any primary legislation depends on support that goes far beyond terms that a white paper can address. Among the main issues recognised in the paper are:

- *training and education*: increasing the training opportunities, standards and skills sets in planning authorities
- *policy and guidance*: supplementing new primary legislation with appropriate supporting new legislation, policy and guidance
- *management and support systems*: providing recommendations on expectations of local planning authorities' historic environment services.

CHALLENGES

If the historic environment is to achieve its full potential we also must have, perhaps more than anything, things that the white paper (and its tightly circumscribed *Regulatory Impact Assessment*), can hardly begin to address. As the IHBC wrote in identifying its priorities in the memorandum to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee Parliamentary Inquiry in 2006, we need:

- *legislation*: introducing obligations for local planning authorities to identify and care for their historic places, and to provide specified core services for their conservation; and linking the many interests that can shape our historic places
- *investment*: providing new and dedicated investment, in the fashion of the planning delivery grant, to support services and duties.

The significance of these themes was underpinned by the Atkins study, *Historic Environment Local Delivery Project* (April 2006), released with the White Paper, alongside various submissions to the Culture, Media and Sport Inquiry. Atkins noted that: 'Conservation specialists working at district level are fully plugged in to the local scene and to the community. These services know the physical character of their area and the detail of development pressures and proposals very well, and they have usually developed a network of contacts within the community. These services tend also to be resourceful in enlisting or partnering with others in the authority and elsewhere to deliver outcomes and schemes. They use highly developed negotiation skills in their close dealings with owners and the general public. District conservation services deliver physical change on the ground, frequently by seeking and initiating multi-funded projects, often leading to management of relatively large capital projects' (Atkins, 5.2.3).

While the CMS inquiry identified many problems as well as strengths, most of them were firmly linked to inadequate resources and support at local planning authority level. In the words of the Historic Houses Association: 'The biggest obstacle to success for the review will be the lack of resources to train and employ conservation officers capable of working constructively with owners. Providing sufficient resources and enhancing the career structure of conservation officers is therefore a priority' (Historic Houses Association Memorandum, Culture, Media and Sport Committee Parliamentary Inquiry into Protecting, Preserving and Making Accessible our Nation's Heritage). The Civic Trust's submission to the Inquiry encapsulated the pervasive fear expressed by all, the deteriorating conditions and increased insecurity of the local conservation services to be charged with managing the new system. In our members' experience, it is invariably the conservation officer whose post is cut when local authority savings are considered.

In the white paper's *Regulatory Impact Assessment*, the DCMS sees its core obligations as around £400,000 a year from 2010–11, primarily relating to operating scheduled monument consent in local planning authorities. We are told that 'additional central government costs will be met from existing budgets.'

The IHBC does not think that our responsibilities to historic places in the 21st century can be addressed through such a small sum



from a cash-strapped department. Few can really think we should rely only a government department stretched by the Olympics and casinos. The IHBC will continue to press for the proper allocation of resources, both for current activities and for any operational changes, and for capacity-building cooperation and joining up across the government and the private sector. So perhaps more than anything the heritage white paper is a route to looking far beyond the sponsorship, interests and confines of the DCMS.

Things are already changing in the light of the prospective benefits from integrating the thinking on historic environment, and linking it to planning interests and resources. The DCMS and DCLG are jointly co-sponsoring research on links between historic environment records and wider government e-planning initiatives. The IHBC also warmly welcomes Baroness Andrews' strong appreciation of the potential benefits of the programme to planning, represented not least by her attendance at the launch of the heritage white paper and her forthcoming appearance at the IHBC's Annual School in Liverpool.

The IHBC, too, is playing a central role in linking built environment professionals with its current role in chairing the Urban Design Alliance (UDAL), the pan-professional body for built environment institutes, and re-drafting its business plan. Through contributing to the development of accreditation for practitioners, we have also been longstanding supporters of improved standards within the many disciplines that shape our historic places.

Seán O'Reilly
Director, IHBC National Office

REFERENCES

The heritage white paper, *Heritage Protection for the 21st Century*, is available on-line at www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/hpr_whitepaper07.htm. The white paper covers new primary legislation proposed for England and Wales, as well as UK-wide legislation on the marine historic environment. The proposals, marine or otherwise, will be viewed closely by government across the UK, so the IHBC encourages all members to familiarise themselves with the general terms considered here.

As the white paper is a formal statement by the government of proposed legislation, it is not a consultation in the ordinary sense. But a white paper does provide an opportunity for wide and informed discussion. In addition, this white paper includes limited formal consultation on key questions concerning:

- merging conservation area consent and planning permission
- guidance on pre-application discussion for major applications
- expanding the operation of certificates of immunity.

The publication of the white paper lets us examine the proposed legislation. We can look at how details might be framed and the priorities that need to be addressed for the legislation to succeed. Most important, it is an opportunity for IHBC members to feed back to us on the proposals, so that we can consolidate and communicate those to government.

The white paper is accompanied by a suite of documents that provide important context to the paper itself. These include:

- the *Regulatory Impact Assessment*
- the *Historic Environment Local Delivery Project* consolidated report by Atkins (April 2006), which is intended to inform the implementation of the proposals
- the *Assessment of Eight Pilot Projects for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport* (Historic Environment Conservation, April 2006), assessing the pilot studies undertaken to test the proposals
- the joint DCLG and DCMS planning circular, *Revisions to Principles of Selection for Listing Buildings*, framing the designation processes that will underpin the new proposals in England.

Details of how to respond appear at the end of this booklet.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

The following text is developed from the published white paper. It is intended to direct attention to the most important areas for the conservation sector, and to help members develop their own thinking around the impact of the proposed legislative structure. This is neither to supersede or to supplant the text, nor even necessarily to create a response to it. The intention is to encourage debate by providing a convenient framework for critical thinking. We have followed the white paper's structure, but direct reference to the original material is the only way to test interpretation and speculation (as with any conservation exercise). Of course, any legislation that comes out of these processes will not necessarily reflect the original intention in any way.

IHBC members' proper scrutiny of the white paper and its implications would almost certainly qualify as appropriate CPD for IHBC members. This year, our 10th anniversary, sees the start of our call-in of CPD forms. As the ideas underpinning the white paper will have reverberations across the UK's heritage agencies, this is an excellent opportunity for all our members to build up CPD hours.

KEY ISSUE 1

DESIGNATION: THE PRINCIPLE

AIM TO CREATE A UNIFIED DESIGNATION SYSTEM FOR A UNIFIED HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Introduce a simplified, single form of designation for all historic environment assets (buildings, monuments, sites and gardens and etc)
- Common overarching criteria and new guidance for designations
- National designation by English Heritage, balanced by new appeals processes.

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Use a single system of national designation for buildings, structures, sites, scheduled monuments and archaeological sites, registered parks, gardens, battlefields and world heritage sites, incorporating existing designations and including 'sites of early human activity without structures'.
- Use a single set of statutory selection criteria in national designations, with selection 'on the basis of special architectural, historic or archaeological interest', supported by detailed non-statutory selection criteria based on the new *Principles of Selection* (included in the current suite of publications).
- Retain grading systems as they are, with scheduled assets receiving an interim status as Grade I, but with that grading to be reviewed.
- Provide enabling 'support in principle' for local listing, including new criteria and good practice, recognising local listing 'as a means for local communities to identify and to protect the buildings sites and spaces that matter to them'.
- Transfer statutory responsibility for designation to English Heritage and introduce new appeals processes.

CHALLENGES

- Does the new system appear sufficiently simple, open and accountable for public use, without undermining the control and regulatory processes that are fundamental to the conservation process?
- Will this secure local support for, and ownership of, heritage assets, balancing local empowerment effectively, while maintaining national standards?
- How can this system build on existing designations effectively?
- What are the impacts of English Heritage taking on a statutory duty to designate?
- What are the implications of including all scheduled assets as Grade I prior to review?

KEY ISSUE 2

DESIGNATION: THE PRACTICE

AIM TO PROVIDE AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE SYSTEM FOR MANAGING THE DESIGNATION PROCESS, BALANCING RESPONSIVENESS, TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONTROLS.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Create a single register of assets corresponding to the new single designation system.
- Adopt a new format for describing significance, the historic asset record.
- Create a single user-friendly route for authoritative information on the historic environment.
- Include the public in the designation process and programme.
- Create new consultation and appeals procedures, balanced by interim protection and faster decision-making.

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Develop a new register of historic assets (Register of Historic Buildings and Sites of England).
- The register will feature each designated item as a historic asset record (HAR), supplemented by maps and, where assets relate, all integrated as a single register entry.
- Make the key information for each asset accessible through the historic asset record 'to record what is known at the time of designation', in particular with 'statements of significance' guiding planning authorities in determining consents.
- Supplement information relating to designations with new information systems, the single internet portal (the Heritage Gateway) and statutory information services, and creating 'historic environment records' out of the sites and monuments records.
- Operate an open, faster and more accountable system of nomination and determination, represented by:
 - re-focusing future designation strategies on thematic programmes
 - a standard online application for nomination
 - a consultation process for designation applications starting as soon as application is received
 - interim protection, commencing at the point of public consultation on designation (and replacing building preservation notices)
 - statutory appeal to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport against English Heritage decisions on designation, with open criteria and the secretary of state advised by 'a new independent panel'.
- Introduce the modernised system for new designations, while transferring existing designations directly into it.

CHALLENGES

- Will the historic asset record provide an appropriate balance of detail and value to guide both conservation professionals and more general planning professionals?
- Is the new process simple enough, or too ambitious, in its inclusion of private interests? Are the expectations of the process feasible and reasonable?
- How will the system work in the absence of the new historic asset records for the existing half a million-odd registered buildings and structures? What workable transitional arrangements should there be to maintain standards of protection in the absence of up-to-date Historic Asset Record for them?
- Will the appeals systems be rigorous enough?

KEY ISSUE 3

MANAGEMENT AND CONSENTS

AIM TO PUT THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AT THE HEART OF AN EFFECTIVE PLANNING SYSTEM.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Create a single consent process, 'heritage asset consent' (HAC), corresponding to the single register and single designation.
- Consolidate responsibility and control for determining the new consent process inside the local planning authority.
- Streamline management processes to fit with either heritage asset consent or planning permission (for example, consulting on merging conservation consent with planning permission, and mapping ecclesiastical exemption systems on to those in heritage asset consent).
- Reduce uncertainty in the planning system for heritage-related planning applications (around 30% of all applications) by creating or refining management strategies, including management agreements (heritage partner agreements) and certificates of immunity.
- Introduce a strategic increase in protection (world heritage sites, ploughing and controlling selected demolition as development).

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Merge consent processes for listed buildings and scheduled monuments to create a single historic asset consent covering nationally designated assets.
- Local planning authorities should be responsible for determining historic asset consent, linked to the DCLG and English Heritage where appropriate, with appeals managed through the Planning Inspectorate.
- Consult on merging conservation area consent with planning permission, introducing requirements that 'conservation professionals' should be involved in the consent process in conservation areas.
- Full or partial demolition of an unlisted building in a conservation area to require planning permission.
- Ecclesiastical exemption should continue, but with management systems matching historic asset consent in consultation and engagement, and remaining subject to planning permission.
- Statutory management agreements, or 'heritage partnership agreements' (HPAs), formalising more informal processes would allow local planning authorities to provide advance consent for works, with consultation standards matching historic asset consent.
- Consult on enhancing the role of pre-application discussions.
- Expand the scope of certificates of immunity (COI), so that application is possible at any time, and capable of encompassing sites, not just individual assets.
- Introduce new restrictions on ploughing.
- Clarify how world heritage sites will be protected by including them as Article 1(5) land, giving them the same standing as national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs). Introduce specific processes for them, updating planning policy, and promoting management plans and buffer zones.
- Enhance protection against the demolition of locally listed buildings by making their demolition 'development', granting permitted development rights for demolition, so that local planning authorities can control demolition by applying Article 4(1) directions where inclined.

CHALLENGES

- What are the issues attached to merging conservation area consent and planning permission?
- Is a commitment to 'streamline the system by bringing together consent regimes where we can' an appropriate response to the implications of climate change? How does it sit with the consideration that 'for the time being, we think there continues to be a case for some distinct heritage controls'?
- In the long term, can heritage partnership agreements relieve local planning authorities of any burdens to allow for new duties?
- How much further can pre-application discussions in planning be developed? Are there lessons to be learned from the archaeological approach? Can the promotion of pre-application discussions properly reflect the white paper's firm support for the inclusion of third party interests?
- Is the strategic increase in protection sufficient, and sufficiently simple? And is the operation of Article 4(1) directions for local listing relevant? In view of the bureaucracy involved will local authorities seek article 4(1) directions to protect buildings on their local lists?
- Can the Heritage Gateway and the introduction of statutory historic environment records together address the absence of more accessible information, in the form of the historic asset record, for the 32,000-odd listed building consent applications each year?
- How are the new proposals for the protection from demolition of locally listed buildings a practical improvement on the current situation? Would an Article 4(1) direction under these provisions attract a risk of compensation? Would it not be simpler and less bureaucratic to recognise local lists as legitimate designations in planning law, and to give the entries automatic protection from demolition (rather as for that other category of local heritage buildings, those in conservation areas)?



KEY ISSUE 4

LOCAL SERVICES

AIM TO FACILITATE LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Enhance local access to and inclusion in the management of the historic environment.
- Develop guidance.
- Enhance locally available skills through capacity-building.
- Embed historic environment information, and information systems, within wider e-government programmes.
- Develop statutory historic environment records.

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Reform the management system (as with the above strategies).
- Provide a clear statement on local authority historic environment services and guidance on performance, standards, etc.
- Implement a 'step-change' in advice and support for local authorities through Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) and training.
- Introduce a statutory duty on local authorities to maintain or have access to a historic environment record, to include comprehensive databases, linked GIS, and skilled staff.
- Develop the Heritage Gateway, the single internet portal to historic environment information.

CHALLENGES

- Does this recognise the core contribution of local planning authority conservation services to conserving the historic environment? Does it adequately reflect the conclusion by Atkins: 'It is clearly within the context of consulting the community and external scrutiny bodies on planning, design, and protection of the historic environment that conservation specialists come to the fore' (Consolidated Report, 4.3.59).
- Can new guidance prove sufficient to integrate conservation and archaeology services in the planning operations and corporate structures of the local planning authorities, not least given the proposed new comprehensive area assessment regime? Again, as Atkins notes, 'arrangements for delivering services in support of the historic environment at the local level vary widely. This is a result of several decades of ad hoc changes in historic environment legislation, perceptions of the value and contribution of the historic environment, the development of professional groups and institutes and the responsibilities of the local authorities' (Consolidated Report, 5.1.1).
- What should be the priorities for developing policy and guidance?
- What needs to be done to make sure that the statutory historic environment record sits properly with its role in the planning process and system?

KEY ISSUE 5

HERITAGE PROTECTION IN WALES

AIM TO DEVELOP A SIMPLIFIED, INTEGRATED AND MORE RESPONSIVE HERITAGE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR WALES THAT IS FIT FOR PURPOSE.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Streamline and modernise the designation process to make it clear, open and accountable.
- Integrate management more closely with planning, through controlling development in sensitive areas more effectively, enhancing tools such as characterisation, and supporting world heritage sites.
- Require local authorities to adopt and support information resources.

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Recognise enhanced legislative competence in devolved matters relating to the historic environment.
- Introduce a new unified statutory system, uniting listing, scheduling and registration procedures.
- Introduce a designation based on criteria of 'special architectural, historic or archaeological interest'.
- Create a unified Register of Historic Sites and Buildings of Wales, including nationally designated buildings, monuments, world heritage sites, parks and gardens, and possibly battlefields, with older descriptions updated.
- Introduce a statutory right of appeal against designation decisions.
- Introduce planning control over the demolition of locally designated buildings.
- Introduce voluntary heritage partnership agreements.
- Introduce a statutory duty on local authorities to adopt historic environment records.
- Review ecclesiastical exemption.

CHALLENGES

- Does the unified register provide a suitable 'means for maintaining current levels of protection'?
- Do the proposals properly reflect the distinctive needs of the historic environment in Wales?
- Will the appeals process meet the current need for openness and accountability?
- Is there an opportunity to represent the historic environment in Wales more effectively? For example, should a programme of training, support and capacity building be introduced to familiarise owners, members and the sector with the changes?
- Have the financial and resource implications of the proposals been clearly identified and allocated?
- Should a right of appeal be made available where inclusion on the register has been rejected?

KEY ISSUE 6

MARINE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

AIM TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE, CLEAR, FAST AND INTEGRATED UK-WIDE SYSTEM OF MARINE HERITAGE PROTECTION.

THE WHITE PAPER'S STRATEGIES

- Increase the range of assets that can be designated.
- Clarify and open up processes of designation and protection.
- Explore flexible consents systems.

THE WHITE PAPER'S PROPOSALS

- Introduce legislation appropriate to the protection of the marine historic environment.
- Revise statutory criteria for designation, introducing new criteria of 'special archaeological or historic interest', with no age limits and no grading system.
- The open nomination of wrecks should continue, addressed to the appropriate national heritage body and determined by the relevant national minister.
- Introduce interim protection for marine assets under consideration for designation.
- Consider revising current licensing of works so that it can better reflect the management needs of a site.
- Introduce voluntary management agreements.
- Introduce a new statutory duty on the Receiver of Wreck (the 'finds gateway for marine wrecks') to inform heritage bodies about marine historic assets.

CHALLENGES

- Do the statutory criteria (archaeological and historic interest) fully reflect the needs of the marine historic environment, or should architectural significance be included?
- Will varied licensing of activities on sites address the concerns both for users and guardians over works in designated sites?
- Will the proposed system be able to operate effectively and consistently across the UK, despite differing devolved interests?



IHBC RESPONSE TO THE HERITAGE PROTECTION WHITE PAPER

The 12-week consultation period for the three questions raised in the heritage protection white paper closes on Friday, 1 June 2007. This may sound like a long time, but there is much to do if the IHBC is to produce an authoritative response, and to engage with both its own membership and that of other organisations. The IHBC will, of course, be working with government and the national heritage agencies throughout the 12 weeks and thereafter to identify and promote appropriate strategies and priorities. The white paper and a large number of related documents can be read on the DCMS website or by following the link in the IHBC's website at <http://consultations.ihbc.org.uk>.

The IHBC's proposed stages for dealing with the white paper are as follows:

- This explanatory booklet informs members of the white paper's content.
- An e-mail address – hpr@ihbc.org.uk – has been set up to allow members to send in their comments.
- IHBC branches are being asked to discuss the white paper at their meetings where timing allows and to provide feedback to the IHBC on members' views.
- Joint meetings are being arranged between IHBC officers and those of other organisations to debate the white paper.
- A special combined meeting of the IHBC policy committee and council will discuss the white paper.
- The institute will meet English Heritage, the DCMS and Cadw to discuss particular areas of concern.
- The institute will produce a written response and a press release.
- The institute will continue to lobby at ministerial and departmental level to promote its views and the interests of its members.

The process is designed to give all members the opportunity to participate in and influence the IHBC's response. Members, the institute's most important resource, are strongly encouraged to get involved, either through their branches or by using the e-mail address above. They can also contact the institute's officers to discuss any issues.

This booklet is being mailed out with the March 2007 issue of the IHBC journal *Context*, the readership of which extends far beyond the institute's membership. Of course the institute is able to represent only the views of its members. Non-members wishing to have their voices heard on the questions raised in the white paper should write direct to the relevant authority. For England, write to: Attention of Leila Brosnan, Architecture and Historic Environment Division, DCMS, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH. For Wales, write to: Attention of Matthew Coward, Designations Branch, Cadw, Welsh Assembly Government, Plas Carew, Units 5/7 Cefn Coed, Nantgarw, Cardiff CF15 7QQ.

Individual members may also like to write to the two authorities. They must be clear in their submissions that they are writing as private individuals, not on behalf of the institute.

This may be the appropriate time for those non-member readers of *Context* to consider joining the institute. Contact the membership secretary at membership@ihbc.org.uk or download an application pack from www.ihbc.org.uk.

Please forward any comments you wish to have considered for the IHBC's formal response by Tuesday, 1 May 2007. This will allow the institute time to collate a response that reflects members' views, gives a clear lead on how to take the review forward and reinforces the institute's status as the authoritative voice to government on heritage matters.

IHBC BRANCH CONTACTS

DETAILS REMOVED FOLLOWING A REQUEST UNDER GDPR: See the IHBC's Data Protection policy at: <https://www.ihbc.org.uk/gdpr/index.html>

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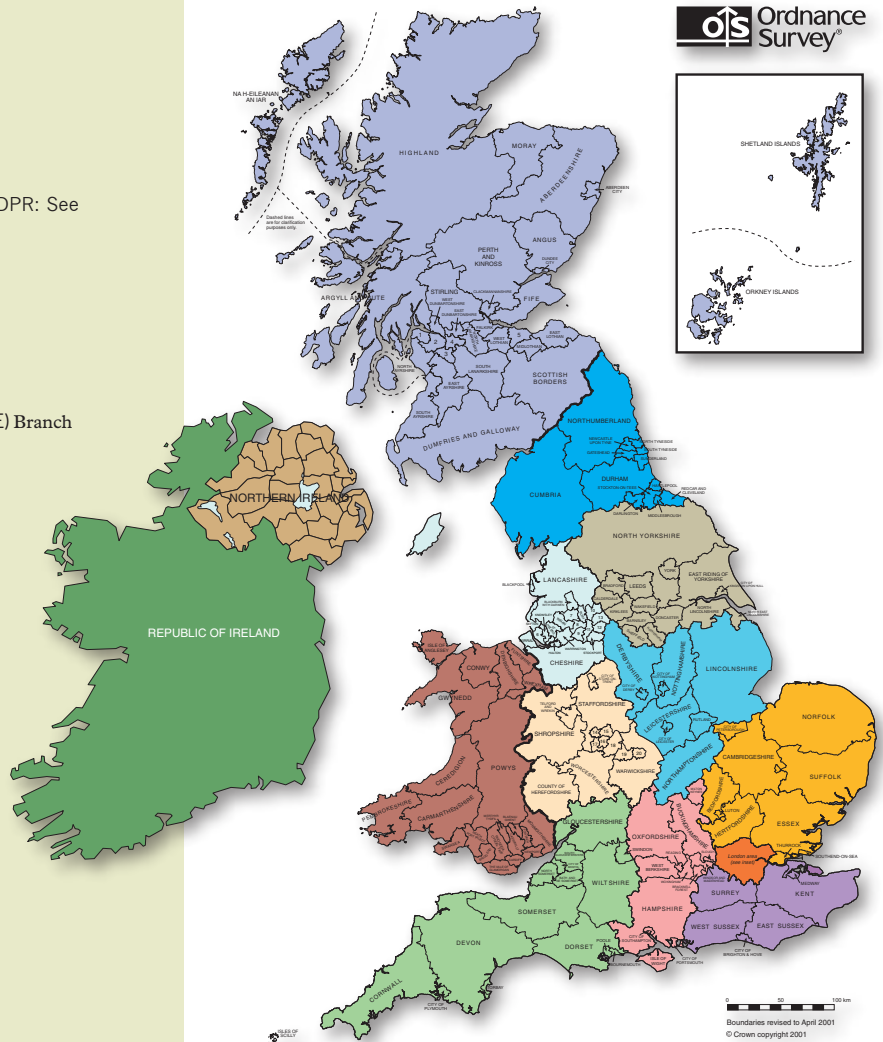
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The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is the principal body in the United Kingdom representing professionals and specialists involved in the conservation and preservation of the historic environment. Our members include conservation officers in central and local government, architects, architectural historians and researchers, planners, surveyors, structural engineers and other specialist consultants, including conservators, craftsmen and other practitioners.

The institute's objectives are to promote for the benefit of the public:

- the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment in the United Kingdom
- the highest standard of professional skills in this field
- the education and training of professionals and specialists responsible for such work.

To enable the institute to achieve these objectives it has powers which include:

- promoting the education and training of IHBC members, assisting in the provision of opportunities for practical conservation and working for improvements in relevant legislation, national policy guidance and other matters affecting the conservation and protection of the historic environment
- giving advice on conservation to interested bodies and individuals, acting as a forum for the dissemination of ideas, information and experience, and supporting and encouraging co-operation between IHBC members and others
- providing speakers, lecturers and other appropriate educational contributions and publishing a regular journal for all members, together with professional practice notes and guidelines and other reports and literature
- raising funds, accepting gifts and investing monies to finance the institute.

Contact the membership secretary at membership@ihbc.org.uk for membership information or download an application pack from www.ihbc.org.uk.