>> English Heritage welcomes the new Planning Policy Statement for the historic environment (PPS5). The Government’s Statement on the Historic Environment, launched the same day as the PPS, provides context for PPS5 and sets out how heritage contributes to a wide range of government objectives.

A major milestone in Heritage Protection Reform, PPS5 brings a new, integrated approach to the historic environment, removing the distinction between buildings, archaeological remains and landscapes. PPS5 (consulted under the title Draft PPS15) replaces the Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG15 and 16.

Baroness Andrews, Chair of English Heritage, said: “We are delighted to welcome the publication of this vital new planning guidance on heritage protection (PPS5). As the Government’s statutory adviser for the historic environment, English Heritage has made significant contributions to the drafting of PPS5 and we are pleased that the Government has taken the time to listen to the views of many different stakeholders and that their input has significantly influenced the final text.

“We fully support the principles contained in PPS5 which clearly recognise the vital social, economic and environmental benefits of all heritage assets and maintains the robust framework of heritage protection. In addition, the PPS brings heritage planning guidance into line with wider changes to planning legislation and English Heritage’s own best-practice and allows for simpler, more transparent decisions which reflect the significance of the asset and its setting.

“The publication of PPS5 is a milestone in the positive and proactive management of the historic environment. It represents a major leap forward for England’s programme of Heritage Protection Reform and will help to make better, more sustainable places.”

PPS5 is accompanied by the Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide which English Heritage took a lead in preparing and provides further detail on how the policies in the PPS can be applied.

PPS5 places particular emphasis on understanding the historic environment when deciding on whether to allow change to it. The term used throughout is ‘significance’. This means the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. You can find definitions of what these different kinds of interest entail in the terminology section of the PPS.

The major changes under PPS5 are:
• A single policy approach to all plan-making and decision-making as it affects the historic environment
• A short policy document and separate practice guide

To download copies of the PPS, the Practice Guide or for further information go to:

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/pps

English Heritage is organising workshop events across the country to help those working in heritage and planning understand the implications of the new PPS, further details can be found at www.helm.org.uk.
Historic Environment Records

>> Developing and promoting HERs has always been a key part of HPR, making them relevant to the whole range of assets within the historic environment and more accessible to a wider audience. PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment highlights the important role HERs will be expected to play within the planning system and English Heritage is developing a strategy to support and enable the development of HERs over the next five years.

We have recently produced a new publication, ‘Sites and Monuments Record to Historic Environment Record: Local Authority Case Studies’ through HELM (www.helm.org.uk/HERs) which showcases the range of uses Local Authorities have put their HER to. Case studies range across five themes including access and outreach, content and coverage, partnership working, interoperability and information management.

Alongside this, on 15 February 2010 English Heritage launched a new scheme within the Historic Environment Enabling Programme (HEEP). In 2010/11 we are making available a total of £400,000 towards research and development into Historic Environment Records (HERs), to help owners and users bring HERs into line with planned heritage protection reform. Tenders will be issued for some of this work (these will be posted on http://englishheritage.g2b.info/). However, the majority of funding will be available as grants accessed via applications to HEEP, details can be found in the HER2.1 Scheme document at www.english-heritage.org.uk/heap. The grant scheme is for one year only and all projects must be complete by 15 March 2011. If you are considering an application please read the scheme details carefully and ensure you are familiar with EH Project Management Guidance (www.english-heritage.org.uk/ MoRPHE) and HEEP Guidance for Applicants. Further information is available from the Historic Environment Commissions Team.

Memorandum of Understanding – DCMS and English Heritage

>> Another milestone in the implementation of Heritage Protection Reform has been the transfer of more designation responsibilities from DCMS to English Heritage. The Memorandum sets out the relationship and arrangements between DCMS and EH in respect of:

- Compilation and maintenance of lists of buildings
- Compilation and maintenance of the schedule of ancient monuments
- Designation of protected wrecks
- Applications for Scheduled Monument Consent
- Applications for marine licenses

English Heritage now deals with the administration of the whole process of designation – listing, scheduling and the protection of historic wrecks, though the Secretary of State still retains decision making powers, making the system more efficient and accountable. The Memorandum was signed in November 2009 and will be subject to a 6-month review soon.
Preparing the way for a unified system

To complement the transfer of responsibility to EH from DCMS a number of other projects are under way to ensure we have a ‘clean’ designation base from which to administer a unified designation system when legislation is introduced:

**Church Re-grading Project**
632 churches still retain the old grades of ‘A’, ‘B’ or ‘C’. We have been working to re-grade these churches to the current I, II*.

**Modernising the Schedule of Ancient Monuments**
In the 1990s the Monument Protection Programme (MPP) aimed to comprehensively review the schedule of ancient monuments. The onset of HPR necessitated a reassessment of resources so that we could concentrate on HPR. We are now able to return to the review as a vital part of HPR and are examining the Old County Number system. We are seeking to ensure the scheduled monuments descriptions are suitable for transfer to the new Unified Designation System database.

**List Audit Project**
We have been aware for a number of years that there are various inconsistencies within the current Statutory Lists around the country. We are embarking on a project to review the quality and coverage of the Lists to ensure information on listing is as up to date and complete as possible. The results of the project will be fed into the National Heritage Protection Plan.

**National Heritage Protection Plan**

The current HPR projects will ensure that we have a standard and consistent designation baseline and help inform future decisions on the designation and management of the historic environment.

Meanwhile, we have come to the view that we will become more effective in protecting heritage if we deploy all the means we have of doing so – designation included – within a single framework. This will allow us to systematise the processes by which we identify significant heritage assets and those which need, protection, and how to achieve it. We will do this through:

- Understanding the significance of the historic environment and where the gaps are in our knowledge
- Understanding the threats to the historic environment
- Putting into place our protection responses – from designation to management
- Designing the process to how we deal with all of these – understanding, threats and protection

Our intention is to set out our priorities for the period 2010-2015, and the reasoning behind them, in what we are calling the National Heritage Protection Plan (NHPP). In developing the first iteration of the NHPP we shall be consulting closely with sector colleagues to ensure we have established agreed priorities. We hope to publish the plan in September and future HPR newsletters will hold more information about the NHPP.

---

**HPR training events**

All HPR training related events will be advertised through HELM (www.helm.org.uk) and this year we are planning events on the PPS, HERs and local listing.

The PPSS Workshops aim to share understanding and to support anyone involved in the planning system including local authority planning and heritage officers, civic and amenity societies and private sector developers. Dates and further information will be advertised on HELM when available.
The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 therefore provides for the development of a Marine Planning System for all UK Marine Regions. Marine Planning in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be taken forward by each respective administration: The Marine (Scotland) Act has just received Royal Assent. In England, the intention is that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) takes forward the development of Marine Plans on behalf of the Secretary of State but before the MMO can begin planning, the UK Government needs to decide the boundaries for each plan area.

Defra recently consulted on a series of proposed plan areas within the English Inshore and English Offshore areas, and for the considerations that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) take into account when deciding the order in which they develop marine plans for each area.

The Act will also enable the creation of a network of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) that will protect rare and threatened species and habitats. Four regional projects have started working with local groups and businesses to identify which areas will be designated as MCZs and English Heritage has recently commissioned research to identify how the historic environment can be accommodated within the network.

Defra also recently consulted on the guidance that they intend to issue to the Marine Management Organisation to inform their role in appointing to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) in 2010/11 and in the future for sea-fisheries management. English Heritage is mindful of the requirement of IFCAs to enable wide consideration of the marine environment to be realised, inclusive of historic and archaeological interests, as directed by Part 6 (Management of inshore fisheries) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

A discussion paper on the Marine Policy Statement (MPS) was launched on 12 March 2010 and can be accessed at: www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/legislation/planning.htm.

The MPS will be the first step in the new marine planning system to be introduced around the UK. It will provide the high level policy context within which Marine Plans will be developed, and set the direction for marine licensing and other authorisation systems.
If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:
Telephone: 0870 333 1181
Fax: 01793 414926
Textphone: 01793 414878
E-mail: customers@english-heritage.org.uk