



NEWS FROM THE IHBC

To: Newsdesks

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IHBC Welcomes Draft Heritage Bill

IHBC welcomes the draft Heritage Bill published today (2 April), which should bring heritage protection more fully into the planning system. The Draft Bill sets out the primary legislation necessary to implement the changes to the Protection of our Heritage which were proposed in the Heritage White Paper of March 2007.

Heritage is a powerful tool for helping our towns, cities and rural areas to adapt to today's needs, and creating places in which people want to live, work and spend leisure time.

Chairman of IHBC Dave Chetwyn said that "We hope that the Bill will be appropriately funded at all levels. Without substantial additional investment in English Heritage and local government the Bill cannot become the tool for protecting out heritage which it should be.

"We will be looking closely at the Bill to make sure it will deliver real benefits to local communities and stakeholders. In particular we want to see a more open system, much needed reform of conservation area protection, and proper resources to deliver local services."

Editors' Notes

1. The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body for the United Kingdom representing building conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic built environment, and to promote heritage led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.
2. To view the Draft Heritage Bill see the Department of Culture Media and Sport website www.culture.gov.uk
3. The Heritage White Paper in March 2007 proposed three main aspects of change to create a new system of Heritage Protection:
 - developing a unified approach to the historic environment
 - maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement
 - supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.