



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH EAST

**To Chief Planning Officer, Heads of Planning and
Directors of Planning**

Our ref: NP AUG 2012

Telephone: 01483 252000

All South East Local Planning Authorities

7th August 2012

Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment

I am writing to you to set out the support English Heritage is able to offer in relation to Neighbourhood Plans.

Research has clearly demonstrated that local people value their heritage¹ and Neighbourhood Plans are a positive way to help them manage it. English Heritage wants to support you in helping communities protect what they care about.

English Heritage expects that as communities come to your Authority to seek advice on preparing Neighbourhood Plans they will value advice on how best to understand the heritage they have, and assistance in the preparation of appropriate policies.

Information held by your Local Authority and used in the preparation of your Local Plan is often the starting point for Neighbourhood Plans. Other useful information may be available from the Historic Environment Record Centres or local environmental and amenity groups. English Heritage also publishes a wide range of relevant guidance. Links to these can be found in the appendix to this letter.

Plan preparation also offers the opportunity to harness a community's interest in the historic environment by getting them to help add to the evidence base, perhaps by creating and/or reviewing a local heritage list, inputting to the preparation of conservation area appraisals and undertaking historic characterisation surveys.

English Heritage has a statutory role in the development plan process and there is a duty to consult English Heritage on any Neighbourhood Plan where our interests are considered to be affected as well as a duty to consult us on all Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders.

¹ English Heritage, *Heritage Counts*, 2008

English Heritage will target its limited resources efficiently. We will directly advise on proposals with the potential for major change to significant, nationally important heritage assets and their settings. We may also advise communities where they wish to engage directly with us, subject to our local priorities and capacity.

Should you wish to discuss any points within this letter, or if there are issues about a particular Neighbourhood Plan where the historic environment is paramount, please do not hesitate to contact me, or one of our two South East Planners, Martin Small and Alan Byrne.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Andy Brown
Director of Planning, South East
English Heritage

cc: Martin Small, Alan Byrne, Lyndsay Hughes

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/get-involved/improving-your-neighbourhood/>

Appendix

The National Heritage List for England: a full list with descriptions of England's listed buildings: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>

Heritage Gateway: includes local records of historic buildings and features www.heritagegateway.org.uk

English Heritage's Advice by topic: you can search for advice on a range of issues relating to the historic environment in the Advice section of our website

Heritage Counts: facts and figures on the historic environment <http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk>

HELM (Historic Environment Local Management) provides accessible information, training and guidance to decision makers whose actions affect the historic environment. www.helm.org.uk or www.helm.org.uk/communityplanning

Heritage at Risk programme provides a picture of the health of England's built heritage alongside advice on how best to save those sites most at risk of being lost forever. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk>

Placecheck provides a method of taking the first steps in deciding how to improve an area. <http://www.placecheck.info/>

The Building in Context Toolkit grew out of the publication 'Building in Context' published by EH and CABE in 2001. The purpose of the publication is to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts. The founding principle is that all successful design solutions depend on allowing time for a thorough site analysis and character appraisal of context. <http://building-in-context.org/toolkit.html>

Knowing Your Place deals with the incorporation of local heritage within plans that rural communities are producing, <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/knowning-your-place/>

Planning for the Environment at the Neighbourhood Level produced jointly by English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission gives ideas on how to improve the local environment and sources of information. <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>

Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing produced by English Heritage uses good practice to support the creation and management of local heritage lists. <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/local/local-designations/local-list/>

Understanding Place series describes current approaches to and applications of historic characterisation in planning together with a series of case studies <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19604>