

NATIONAL HERITAGE PROTECTION PLAN

AN INTRODUCTION



Prehistoric standing stone and wind farm on St. Breock Down, Cornwall.



The Plan helps predict what may put our heritage at risk in the future.

Second World War Pill Box facing coastal erosion at Happisburgh, Norfolk.



The Plan identifies current risks to the heritage and responses to those risks.

English Heritage surveyor working on Roulston Scar, North Yorkshire Moors National Park.



The Plan promotes the discovery and recording of previously unknown historic sites.

THE NATIONAL HERITAGE PROTECTION PLAN

The National Heritage Protection Plan aims to identify those parts of England’s heritage that matter to people most and are at greatest risk – and then to concentrate efforts on saving them.

Why does our heritage require protection?

England’s historic buildings, sites and landscapes are of fundamental importance to telling our national story, to establishing community identities and to creating a sense of place. By encouraging tourism, creating jobs and providing the places where most of us live and work, our heritage is also an important contributor to growth and prosperity within the UK.

But much of this heritage is at risk of damage or destruction - sometimes sudden and catastrophic, more often gradual and incremental - threatening the distinctiveness, character and appeal of the places we care about. Damage can be caused by natural erosion, climate change, crime or poorly thought through development. Decline often starts with neglect, abandonment or the loss of the skills needed for vital advice, maintenance and repair.

How does the National Heritage Protection Plan work?

There are very many public, commercial and voluntary organisations which ensure our heritage is cared for, appreciated and enjoyed. Often it is owners, individuals or local communities who make the real difference. In the current economic climate all of these groups are short of resources, so it makes sense to work together, identify common priorities and pool efforts.

The National Heritage Protection Plan is intended to encourage this joint working by providing a common framework within which **all** heritage organisations are invited to participate to make the most of their resources and celebrate their successes.

At the heart of the Plan is a clear set of priorities about what matters and what is in danger of being lost. These priorities were identified following a widespread public consultation, which is repeated every year to ensure the Plan remains up-to-date and relevant to changing circumstances.

The Plan covers the period up to 2015; we hope it will be the first in a series. The Plan aims to ensure that, while helping to deliver positive and sustainable economic growth, England's heritage:

- is not needlessly at risk of damage, erosion or loss;
- is experienced, understood and enjoyed by visitors and local communities;
- continues to provide memorable places where people live and work.

Where can I find the Plan?

The Plan, together with six-monthly reports on progress, is hosted on the English Heritage web site and can be seen by following this link www.english-heritage.org.uk/nhpp.

What is English Heritage doing?

The National Heritage Protection Plan was initially devised by English Heritage and we are responsible for its co-ordination.

In addition, we have set out the contribution we intend to make in an Action Plan. This explains what we are doing to protect the heritage, why, where and when. It makes our programme of work transparent and more accountable to the public than ever before.

Our Action Plan will help English Heritage work more effectively with other organisations like the Heritage Alliance, National Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund and it will help the public monitor our progress.



The Plan involves decision making about what heritage matters and why.

English Heritage archaeologist recording a protected submarine © Crown Copyright.



The Plan delivers actions to protect heritage by creating records or by listing.

Staff using aerial photographs to create records of previously unknown archaeological sites.



The Plan assists communities in protecting their heritage when changes are being planned.

English Heritage staff meeting with the Habbai and congregation of Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham.

Garden Apprentices working at Wrest Park House and Gardens, Bedfordshire.



The Plan includes actions to protect major collections of historic buildings and sites.

English Heritage and Local Authority staff working with a local resident in Nelson, Lancashire.



The Plan contributes to the help and advice offered to the owners of historic places.

English Heritage Geophysicist training a community group at East Harptree, Somerset.



The Plan supports training and the development of skills.

How can I get involved?

Every heritage organisation and interested individual can get involved in the Plan in a variety of ways. You can:

- **Influence the priorities in the Plan:** We will consult the public every year to ensure the Plan is up-to-date. Ideas and suggestions are welcome from civic societies, archaeological groups, communities and those responsible for historic buildings and places. Suggestions can be sent to: NHPP@english-heritage.org.uk.
- **Develop your own Action Plan:** Effective heritage protection requires the efforts of many organisations and individuals. Devising an action plan and linking it to the main National Heritage Protection Plan website will unlock opportunities for collaboration and sharing.
- **Report your successes:** From local groups to major organisations, the effort applied to caring for our heritage should be recorded and celebrated. Whether local research, a community initiative or a major regeneration programme, English Heritage will be happy to include it in the regular reports on progress.

Why does it matter?

Our shared heritage is a precious resource that is at the heart of our identities, our local sense of place and our national story. But it is fragile and easily damaged. Once lost it cannot be replaced.

The National Heritage Protection Plan works to ensure that future generations can continue to appreciate and enjoy this vital inheritance.

If you would like this document in a different format, please contact our Customer Services department:

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