



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH EAST

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Your ref:
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17th September 2014

Dear Mr Giles,

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Thank you for your e-mail of 1st August requesting English Heritage's advice on future infrastructure needs for the South Downs National Park. English Heritage is not an infrastructure provider and we are not, as far as I am aware, engaged in any infrastructure delivery projects in the South Downs. Our comments are therefore general.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) covers a wide definition of infrastructure in terms of what can be funded by the levy and is needed for supporting the development of an area. In relation to the historic environment this can include:

- Open space: as well as parks and green spaces, this might also include wider public realm improvements, possibly linked to a Heritage Lottery Fund scheme, conservation area appraisals and management plans, and green infrastructure;
- 'In kind' payments, including land transfers: this could include the transfer of an 'at risk' building;
- Repairs and improvements to and the maintenance of heritage assets where they are an infrastructure item as defined by the Planning Act 2008, such as cultural or recreational facilities.

The Localism Act 2011 also allows CIL to be used for maintenance and ongoing costs, which may be relevant for a range of heritage assets, for example, transport infrastructure such as historic bridges or green and social infrastructure such as parks and gardens.

Cont'd

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CIL can therefore be used to help achieve the National Park purpose to conserve and enhance the cultural heritage of the Park, and the vision, objectives and policies of the National Park Management Plan and Local Plan aimed at achieving the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.

English Heritage advises that CIL charging authorities identify the ways in which CIL, planning obligations and other funding streams can be used in this way and we therefore suggest that the Authority should consider whether any heritage-related projects within the Park would be appropriate for CIL funding, for example North Park Furnace at Fernhurst or perhaps some of the structures at risk at the Amberley Working Museum.

The State of the South Downs Report and other elements of the Management Plan's and Local Plan's evidence base may demonstrate other specific opportunities for CIL to help meet the Plans' objectives for the historic environment. Also, the Authority's conservation staff may be able to suggest potential projects as they are best placed to advise on local historic environment issues.

I attach an Appendix to this letter that sets out some background information on the relationship of Infrastructure with the historic environment which I hope will be helpful in explaining English Heritage's position on infrastructure and CIL.

If you have any queries on the points raised in this letter, or if there any infrastructure projects that you consider English Heritage may be in a position to help deliver, please contact me.

Thank you again for consulting English Heritage.

Yours sincerely,



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INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Infrastructure

The National Planning Policy Framework endorses the role of the historic environment in sustainable development. It notes that pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the historic environment. There can often be a range of ways in which the historic environment can contribute to and benefit from the range of infrastructure and investment needs that are required for sustainable development and communities.

Physical Infrastructure

Heritage assets can help to deliver a range of infrastructure needs associated with housing, economic development and sustainable transport networks.

Historic buildings within or in the vicinity of a settlement may offer opportunities for residential reuse, including for affordable housing [see *Affordable Rural Housing and the Historic Environment*, <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.00h015005004>].

Heritage assets can be economic assets in their own right and support the regeneration of areas as well as the tourism economy. For example, the adaptive reuse and repair of historic buildings may offer opportunities for business or employment use. More generally the investment in heritage assets (e.g. buildings at risk), and the wider historic character of a place (e.g. conservation areas at risk) may also serve to strengthen and reinforce the attractiveness of a place to retain and attract economic development and to stimulate and support the area's tourism offer. Investment could be directed to establishing or extending area-based schemes aimed at regenerating valued historic townscapes, as exemplified by Townscape Heritage Initiatives funded through the HLF. Specific opportunities may also exist to further develop the tourism offer of established heritage assets open to the public and their links to nearby settlements.

The following publications illustrate practical examples of where the protection and adaptation of historic places through active management (constructive conservation) has delivered social and economic benefits:

- Valuing Places: Good Practice in Conservation Areas <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/constructive-conservation/valuing-places/>
- Constructive Conservation In Practice: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/constructive-conservation/constructive-conservation-in-practice/>

Improvements to the public realm in town and village centres can help encourage walking and cycling and support the delivery of sustainable transport objectives. They can also support the delivery of the objectives for the historic environment through helping to deliver conservation area management plans and tackling issues related to conservation areas being identified as at risk. Improvements could include promoting community based de-cluttering audits and the better coordination of signage and street furniture as promoted through English Heritage's Streets for All programme. Improvements in the overall quality, character and indeed functioning of areas can also contribute to wider policy aims linked to

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tourism, the economy and the built environment. Practical guidance on community audits and managing, designing and maintaining the public realm is available at: <http://www.helm.org.uk/server/show/nav.19637> .

In certain cases the direct investment in a heritage asset might be required for supporting the development of an area. For example, this could include investment in the improvement and or maintenance of a historic bridge where it is part of the transport infrastructure for the planned development.

Social and Community Infrastructure

Historic buildings, including places of worship, can accommodate many social and community services and activities as well as represent a focus for the community in their own right. Investment in their continued or improved maintenance could be warranted in supporting and extending the capacity of existing infrastructure. Promoting the adaptive reuse of a vacant or underused building or facilitating the multiple-use of existing buildings for a wider range of community services might also offer the opportunity to support the repair and maintenance of historic buildings, particularly where identified nationally or locally as a building at risk.

Practical examples of how heritage assets can be adapted to realise their potential as social and economic assets are available via the English Heritage website: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/conservation-principles/constructive-conservation/> . Specific guidance on caring for Places of Worship and new uses for former places of worship is available at: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/caring-for-places-of-worship/> ; and <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/new-uses-former-places-of-worship/>.

The community transfer of assets may also be an option for delivering infrastructure and the sustainable management of a heritage asset. Guidance for local authorities, public sector bodies and community groups on the transfer the ownership and management of historic buildings, monuments or landscapes is available on the English Heritage website [*Pillars of the Community: The Transfer of Local Authority Heritage Assets, 2011*): <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pillars-of-the-community-the-transfer-of-local-authority-heritage-assets/>

In supporting access to green space and encouraging walking and cycling, extensions to the public rights of way network can include improving access to heritage assets and their improved interpretation and enjoyment. The provision of open space might also be linked to improving public access to historic landscapes in the vicinity of a settlement.

Social and community infrastructure may also include cultural facilities such as a local museum. Investment may offer opportunities to widen and improve its use by existing and new communities as well as support the tourism economy.

Green Infrastructure

The historic environment and heritage assets can make a valuable contribution to green infrastructure networks and its wider functions, as for example in providing leisure and recreation opportunities, encouraging walking and cycling and strengthening local character. Historic places such as historic parks and gardens, archaeological sites, the grounds of historic buildings and green spaces within conservation areas can form part of a green infrastructure network as well as underpin the character and distinctiveness of an area and its sense of place. Other heritage assets can also offer a range of opportunities such as canal networks and churchyards and the wider countryside including networks of 'green-lanes', common land and historic parkland.

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