



## ENGLISH HERITAGE

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15 March 2010

Dear

### **LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENTS: Consultation on draft statutory guidance**

English Heritage welcomes the opportunity to respond to the CLG consultation on the draft draft statutory guidance on Local Economic Assessments, published December 2009.

#### **English Heritage's role**

English Heritage is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, with our funding agreement signed by CLG and DEFRA. We work in partnership with central government departments, local authorities, voluntary bodies and the private sector to conserve and enhance the historic environment, broaden public access to our cultural heritage, and increase people's understanding and appreciation of the past.

We are the UK Government's statutory adviser and a statutory consultee on all aspects of the historic environment and its heritage assets. This includes archaeology on land and under water, historic buildings sites and areas, designated landscapes and the historic elements of the wider landscape. *Conservation Principles*<sup>1</sup> sets out the guidelines for engagement with the historic environment which have informed the consultation draft of Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15).

#### **General position**

English Heritage welcomes the statutory guidance and the reference included at 7.13 on the need for local authorities to consult the statutory advisers for the natural and historic environment. We are also grateful to CLG for incorporating the comments we provided earlier in the process. However, we feel that the document needs further amendments to properly capture the role and importance of the historic environment in sustainable economic growth. These comments build on from those we provided previously. Our detailed comments are attached to this letter.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.9181>

Yours sincerely

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## ENGLISH HERITAGE

### LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT: Draft statutory guidance

#### ENGLISH HERITAGE RESPONSE

- 1 Do you agree with the Government's view with regard to what should form the key elements of local economic assessments?

English Heritage supports the inclusion of Sustainable Economic Growth as being one of the themes which LEAs should address. However, whilst the historic environment is rightly referenced as a key element, we feel that the current description does not accurately capture the role of the historic environment. Therefore, we would propose amending this section (on page 16) to read:

a

**The natural and historic environment:** In considering the sustainability of the local economy, assessments should consider and make judgments over the extent to which economic activities are supported by or impact negatively on the natural and historic environment and the positive contribution the natural and historic environment makes to sustainable economic growth. Local authorities should use their first assessments to relate economic activity levels **within the context of** environmental indicators and limits such as carbon emissions, waste production ~~and~~ use of natural resources **and designated historic assets**. This information might be collected for particular sectors. Where environmental risks and opportunities have been identified, including risks from the impacts of climate change and opportunities from enhancing the natural **and historic** environment and making best use of environmental assets, **such as conservation areas or historic parks or gardens**, authorities should consider their impact on future economic activity. In that context, local authorities should consider the resilience of infrastructure and business to withstand environmental shocks.

- 2 Do you agree with the Government with regard to the proposed scope of local economic assessments?

No comments.

- 3 Do you agree with the Government's proposal on how local economic assessments should inform local and regional policy making?

No comments.

- 4 Do you agree with the Government's view on the timing and frequency of local economic assessments?

No comments.

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