



## ENGLISH HERITAGE

### National Heritage Protection Plan

Welcome to the first of our annual consultation surveys, which will start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and will close on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

We need your help to ensure that the NHPP remains focussed on the priorities for protecting the historic environment. We recently published the [NHPP Progress Report](#) for May-September 2011 and would like to get your views on the direction and progress of the Plan.

For more information on the NHPP, please access the following link: <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/>

Your input to the consultation is invaluable and will help us modify and shape the Plan for 2012 and beyond.

Please complete the questionnaire and return to: [nhpp@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nhpp@english-heritage.org.uk) by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

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Please note that the text boxes will expand as you type.

<b>Name Noël James, Director</b>	<b>Organisation Historic Towns Forum</b>
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(Please give the name of the organisation if you are formally responding on behalf of that organisation)

#### How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

**Q1.** The NHPP is moving positively towards meeting its aim for identifying threat to, increasing understanding of the significance of, and protection of the historic environment.

Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree
1	2	3X	4	5	Don't know

**Q2.** If the answer to Q1 is less than 4 or Don't know: Why do you say that?

While the Historic Towns Forum welcomes the more inclusive forward looking planning framework for the Historic Environment, allowing greater partnership contribution within and throughout the sector, lessened capacity, resources, and overhanging corporate structures and priorities may limit success or cause barriers.

The plan could make clearer links to outcomes that deliver grass roots conservation and protection - it is not currently clear how these link with government priorities in the current economic climate. A stronger outcomes based approach integrated more fully with the wider planning process and needs of users would be more efficient, more cost effective, and more user friendly.

Very different priorities exist in the historic environment outside of English Heritage and these need to be registered.

**Q3.** Are the purposes and structure of the NHPP well explained and easy to understand?

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
IX	2	3	4	5	Don't know	

**Q4.** If the answer to Q3 is less than 4 or Don't know: Have you any suggestions as to how this might be improved in the future?

The NHPP needs a more accessible structure - the public interface is difficult to engage with and may exclude members of the wider sector - this could prevent them from contributing and implementing as fully as possible.

**Q5.** Within the context of the existing NHPP measures EH has balanced its resources correctly.

Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
1	2X	3	4	5	Don't know

**Q6.** Do you think there are particular issues that have arisen or are emerging since the development of the Plan which might impact on the balance of resources and that need to be addressed? (e.g. major infrastructure developments, Government disposals, or issues arising from recent planning and localism reforms)

YesX	No	Don't know
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**Q7.** And if yes what are the issues and what could be done to address them?

The approach of the plan to its content needs to be more radical or it will risk failing in its advocacy role throughout the sector.

The consultation questions should ask what these issues might be as well as what can be done to address them.

The progress of the Penfold Review must be one of the highest priorities for the sector, alongside the promotion of some sensible and informed responses to the closely related matter of the devastation of the local authority infrastructure. Both may pre-date the plan - depending on what start dates are taken - but they continue to sit outside the NHPP's priorities to such an extent that the NHPP could even damage the cause.

The sector plan needs to be centred on what needs to be done to address the problems in the protection of the historic environment.

In addition, the NHPP Advisory Board needs a more representative selection of historic environment user interest if it is to provide the necessary shorter term direction, especially until more appropriate platforms for directions on the NHPP are in place.

**Q8.** Are you and/or your organisation already involved in contributing towards the NHPP?

YesX	No	Don't know
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**Q9.** If yes what role has your organisation had? (Please tick as many as apply)

- a. Put forward a project proposal/design for NHPP and this project has started
- b. Put forward a project proposal/design for NHPP which has been agreed but not yet started
- c. Delivering a NHPP project as a lead partner
- d. Delivering a NHPP project as a contributing partner
- e. Member of a NHPP project steering group Y
- f. Commented on a specific NHPP project proposal/design Y
- g. Taken part in a NHPP project as a consultee
- h. Contributed financially to a NHPP project
- i. Commented on overall NHPP direction Y
- j. Delivering a project which meets a NHPP measure but is not directly funded by it

k. Other (please specify)

l. None of these

**Q10.** Would you be interested in increasing your involvement or becoming involved in the first place?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Don't know
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**Q11.** If yes, in what capacity? (Please tick as many as apply)

- a. Put forward a project proposal for NHPP
- b. Delivering a NHPP project as a lead partner
- c. Delivering a NHPP project as a contributing partner
- d. Member of a NHPP project steering group
- e. Taking part in a NHPP project as a consultee
- f. Contributing financially to a NHPP project
- g. Commenting on overall NHPP direction
- h. Delivering a project which meets a NHPP measure but is not directly funded by it
- i. Other (please specify)

**Q12.** What would make it easier for your organisation to contribute towards the NHPP?

A more accessible interface with the NHPP, a wider representation on the Steering Group and more inclusively incorporated historic environment priorities.

**Q13.** Can you suggest better ways for linking up organisations around NHPP objectives?

A more inclusive web-based platform.

**Q14.** Does the frequency of the communication you receive about the NHPP meet your needs?

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
IX	2	3	4	5	Don't know	

**Q15.** Does the content of communication you receive about the NHPP meet your needs?

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	
IX	2	3	4	5	Don't know	

**Q16.** If the answer to Q13 is less than 4 or Don't know, what other content would you wish to receive?

It is not easy to say until there is a better understanding in place concerning what the actual operations will be, and what will be the available capacity. However, the HTF is aware that staff will do whatever is necessary to deliver a successful NHPP, and the efforts are recognised and appreciated.

**Q17.** Would you be willing for projects you are working on which meet NHPP measures but aren't funded by it to be included in our bi-annual NHPP reports?

Yes X if beneficial to the featured projects  
Don't know

No

**Q18.** Do you have any further comments on the NHPP?

While the NHPP as it stands is somewhat cumbersome and difficult to engage with, the thinking underpinning the NHPP represents a radical and welcome shift in English Heritage's corporate approach to the wider sector, and this is greatly welcomed, and to be commended, especially given the huge challenge to EH to deliver considering the recent substantial cutbacks.

It is understood that the plan will take some time to develop, and for change to be instigated. The HTF greatly appreciates the changes being made and feels this is a positive tool for the progress of the wider sector, as well as for the security of the conservation of the historic environment as a whole.

The idea of annual consultation surveys is welcomed.

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**Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire.**