

Climate Change :

What it means for the historic environment

heritage policy response



Responsibilities

English Heritage seeks to ensure that:

- the historic environment is recognised as a finite and non-renewable resource
- the value of environmental capital embodied in the historic environment is not wasted
- its activities, actions and advice are fully sustainable

Climate change is “a defining issue of our time”



Relevant Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance

[Sustainable management of the historic environment]

Tests of acceptability:

- no loss of specialist interest
- minimise visual impact
- no loss or damage to historic fabric

Justification required, including consideration of alternatives



Key Challenges

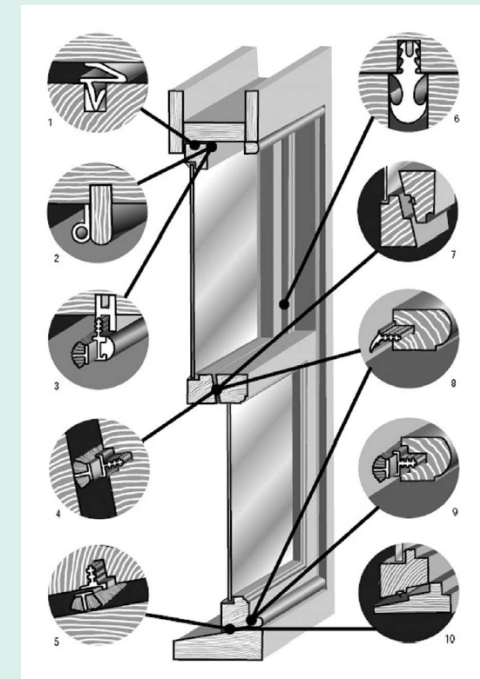
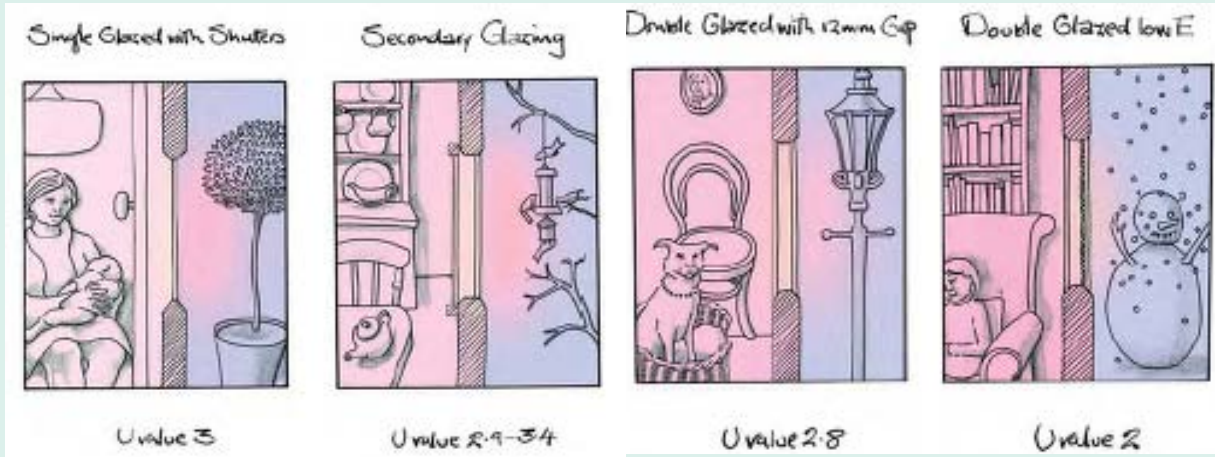
- How to adapt to predicted changes
- How to mitigate against climate change

“Adaptation is the only response available for the [climate change] impacts that will occur over the next several decades before mitigation measures can have an effect” The Stern Review

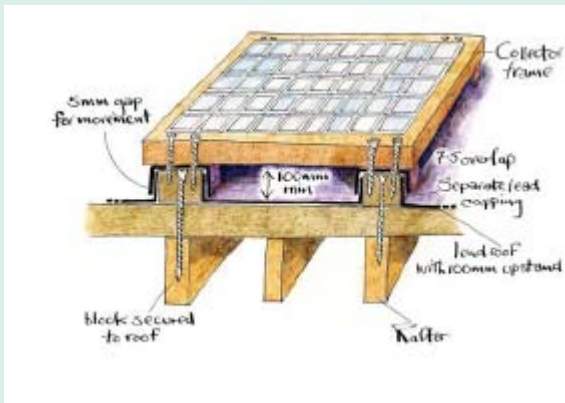


Physical Responses

- Reduce Carbon Footprint/conserves energy

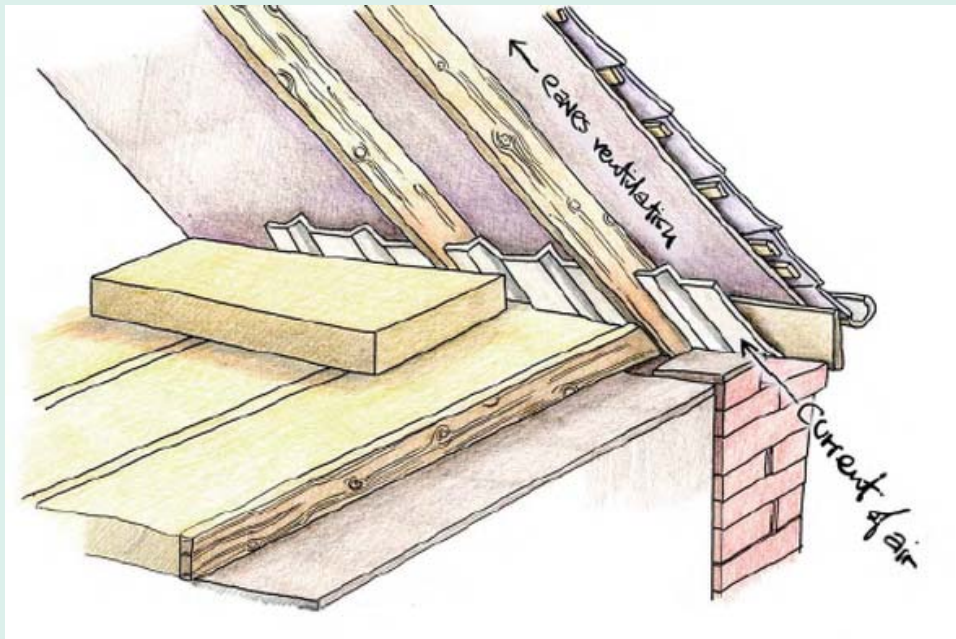


- Green energy generation



Energy conservation in traditional buildings

- more efficient lighting/heating
- roof insulation
- wall insulation
- doors/windows



Microgeneration in the historic environment

- Small-scale solar thermal collectors
- Small-scale solar electric (photovoltaics) energy
- Micro wind turbines



Conclusions

Key stages in determining impact/acceptability of energy conservation proposals:

- Identify the building's special interest
- Survey and understand its construction
- Identify impact of proposed works on the character of the building, on its setting and on both its structural and architectural integrity
- Will the impact be significant, and if so have other non-intrusive options been considered
- Will the proposal have a net environmental benefit
- Will the impact be proportionate to the wider benefits gained by the installation.

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