

Why the historic environment is at the heart of sustainable development

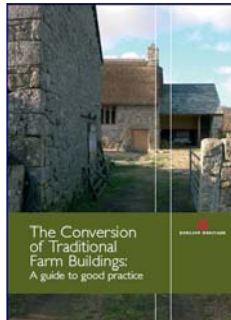
(or why sustainable development is at the heart of the historic environment)

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Outline of presentation

- Why does English Heritage have a view on sustainable development?
- What does EH mean when it refers to sustainable development?
- What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?
- Overcoming prejudices
- Where do we go from here?



Why does EH have a view on sustainable development?

The draft PPS15 sets out the Government's objectives for planning for the historic environment:

1. to apply the principles of sustainable development to proposals involving the historic environment, by ensuring that policies and decisions concerning the development and use of land take account of the positive benefits of conserving and, where appropriate, enhancing heritage assets

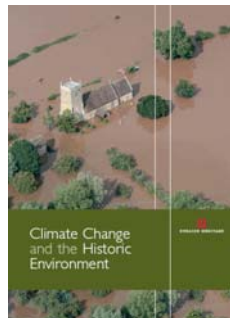


Why does EH have a view on sustainable development?

2. to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that:
- decisions are based on an understanding of the nature, extent and level of that significance.
 - wherever possible, **heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation**
 - that **the positive contribution of such assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued** and
 - that treatment of **the historic environment is integrated into general planning policies, promoting place-making.**

Why does EH have a view on sustainable development?

3. **to contribute to our knowledge and understanding** of our past by ensuring that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and make this publicly available are taken, particularly if a heritage asset is to be lost.



Why does EH have a view on sustainable development?

- Re-using existing buildings and structures makes economic, social and environmental sense
- It cuts waste
- Keeping what we have got minimises requirements for new materials
- it also helps with reinforcing people's sense of continuity, belonging and local identity



Why does EH have a view on sustainable development?

- But what if it is old, rotten, not functioning well, or in the wrong place?

- EH view is that positive management rather than simple protection, is the right approach. See *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the H.E.*



What does EH mean when it refers to sustainable development?

- EH takes a holistic view of sustainable development:

- It is not just building performance and current energy use

- William Morris, *Conservation Principles* etc remind us that our heritage is a shared resource; shared with the whole community and also with the past and future.



What does EH mean when it refers to sustainable development?

- EH therefore takes a broad, positive view of the contribution the historic environment makes to sustainable development;

- but there are limits.

- The challenge is to get the right balance. Not all claims that projects are sustainable stand up to the evidence. Some can be very damaging.



What does EH mean when it refers to sustainable development?

- **Understanding**: we need to better understand the technical aspects of how buildings perform and improve that performance as far as possible
- **Valuing**: we need to make sure everyone agrees to ways of those improvements and changes
- **Caring**: we need to ensure that we all act on this shared understanding, and that we can all continue **enjoying** the historic environment



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

1. Hearts and minds – challenging preconceptions
2. Policy – setting clear positions for EH itself and the wider heritage sector
3. Research – filling in the knowledge gaps
4. Training- getting those messages out to those who restore and/or make decisions



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Hearts and Minds:

- Climate Change and your Home website. Practical info for owners.
- Includes sections on context, impact, saving energy
- Personalised for house type and region



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Hearts and Minds:

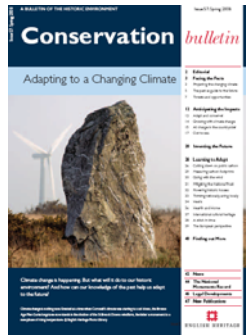
- Campaign on windows – hard evidence that demonstrates the sustainability of re-using and sensitively upgrading windows



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Hearts and Minds:

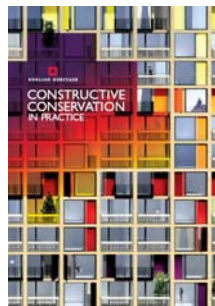
- Getting the issue on the agenda of heritage professionals
- e.g Conservation Bulletin issue 57 – circulation 18,000 in Summer 2008
- Outlined science, philosophy, research, principles and action



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Hearts and Minds:

- Constructive Conservation is the “positive and collaborative approach to conservation that focuses on actively managing change. The aim is to recognise and reinforce the historic significance of places, while accommodating the changes necessary to ensure their continued use and enjoyment”



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

• Casework: re-use of former ruined tower at Blencowe Hall, Penrith – A scheduled Monument and GI building

• Despite being a long-term ruin, EH and LA agreed to this radical re-use to ensure the long-term viability of the site.



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Research: Highlighting the research of others

• The Ministry of Justice carried out research on the energy usage in its 770 court buildings.

• It found that its pre 1900 buildings were actually its most energy efficient ones

• This led to changed priorities



Ludlow Court

What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Policy

• A wide range of policy documents. Micro-generation policy starts with a positive presumption and sets out simple tests for acceptability eg:

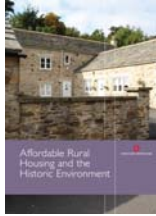
- visual impact is minor + reversible
- net positive environmental effect should be demonstrated
- cabling, pipework limited impact



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Policy

- A wide range of policy and guidance documents setting out basic principles and good practice



What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Working on policy with others eg Building Regs
'reasonable provision shall be made for the conservation of fuel & power by limiting heat loss through the fabric of the building'

'all alterations affecting energy efficiency should seek to comply with new standards'



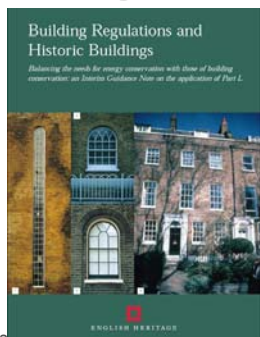
What is EH doing to make the case for 'Green Heritage'?

Practical steps in the EH publication on the regs

Work on *historic buildings* should aim "to improve energy efficiency where and to the extent that it is practically possible, [but] not prejudice the character of the historic building, or increase the risk of long term deterioration to the building fabric or fittings".

Work specifically allowed to *historic buildings*:

- replacing lost elements
- rebuilding lost buildings
- making provisions to allow buildings to "breathe"

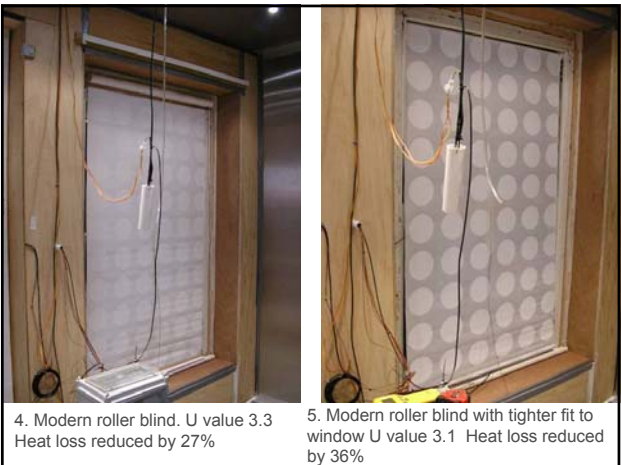




Sash Window: U value 5.1



1. Heavy curtains fitted to rail on inside of insulated panel above window
U value 3.2 Heat loss reduced by 19%



4. Modern roller blind. U value 3.3
Heat loss reduced by 27%

5. Modern roller blind with tighter fit to window U value 3.1 Heat loss reduced by 36%



6. As Option 5, with low emissivity plastic film fixed to the window facing side of the blind
U value 1.8 Heat loss reduced by 61%



7. As Option 5, with low emissivity plastic film fixed to the room facing side of the blind
U value 2.6 Heat loss reduced by 46%

The effect of the various options on reduction in heat loss through single glazing, estimated U-values and measured average surface temperatures

Option	Reduction in heat loss	U-value of glazing with option W/m ² K
Historic Scotland window		
Victorian Blind & Shutters	58%	1.8
Victorian Blind, Shutters & Curtains	62%	1.6
Secondary Glazing System	63%	1.6
Secondary Glazing & Curtains	66%	1.3

Hearth and Home research

Assessing actual thermal performance with in-situ monitoring. Taking place in Nelson, Lancs (with NW Heritage Trust), Walsall, W Mids (with Housing Assoc) and Railway village Swindon (with Swindon BC)



Overcoming prejudices

Germany has almost finished making its entire housing stock more energy efficient: English Heritage has a tantrum if anyone suggests double glazing a window' (*Guardian: December 07*)

'English Heritage says saving fabric is more important than dealing with climate change' (*Guardian: December 07*)

Where do we go from here?

- Take wider view of what sustainability is
- Better evidence base
- Greater co-operation with wider range of interested partners
- Act with greater flexibility (within limits)
- Embed appropriate policy in practice
- Celebrate best practice