

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2011

CONTENTS

HEADLINES

[Public debate hots up over the NPPF](#)
[Alliance members' forum on NPPF: 26 September](#)
[The Localism Bill returns for report stage](#)

HAVE YOUR SAY: CONSULTATION ROUND UP

NEWS

[New report expresses "extreme concern" over loss of LA conservation experts](#)
[Last chance to nominate your project for a Heritage Alliance Hero Award!](#)
[Govt announces 36 more 'neighbourhood planning front runners'](#)
[Skills in the creative industries: contribute your thoughts now](#)

ALSO THIS FORTNIGHT...

[Need professional advice from skilled volunteers? A&B could help](#)
[Visit England's top five tips for improving accessibility](#)
[Community engagement and the historic environment: new toolkit](#)
[Final report of EH Outreach Team available to download](#)
[Custodian Tenant sought for c15 Grade II* house in Oxfordshire](#)
[NMCT grants for the conservation of manuscripts: deadline 1 Oct](#)
[National Piers Society photo competition: enter before 16 Sept](#)

EVENTS

SITUATIONS VACANT

NOTES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

HEADLINES

Public debate hots up over the NPPF

The war of words over the Department for Communities and Local Government's [National Planning Policy Framework](#) proposals has intensified this fortnight. Press coverage abounds. The best way to keep up with the fast-moving debate as it happens is via [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #NPPF, and the National Trust's [planning blog](#) pulls together many of the links to press articles and radio interviews. Yesterday (Thursday) the Daily Telegraph launched a campaign against the proposals entitled [Hands off Our Land](#), whilst the Country Land and Business Association (CLA – a member of the Alliance) issued a [press release](#) claiming that "the overreaction surrounding the reform of the planning system is provoking ill-informed opposition" to the NPPF. In an open letter 23 former RTPi presidents called for "reasoned debate and clear thinking" stating that the row had descended into "open hostility on all sides". There were also signs this week of growing political opposition to the reforms, with rumblings of discontent emerging from the Conservative back-benches and vocal criticism from Councillors across the parties.

Many of our members are engaging actively in the debate including [CPRE](#), the [National Trust](#), [Civic Voice](#), the [CLA](#), the [IHBC](#), the [IfA](#), and the [Theatres Trust](#). Last night (Thursday) Chairman of the National Trust Simon Jenkins and Planning Minister Greg Clark appeared on Newsnight – watch it [here](#). A transcript of another interesting live discussion involving amongst others our members CPRE and the Trust can be found [here](#).

To have your say you can respond to [the consultation](#) by 17 October, and if you're an Alliance

member you can attend our NPPF members' forum to feed into The Heritage Alliance's formal response – see below.

Alliance members' forum on NPPF: 26 September

The Heritage Alliance's members' forum on the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) will take place on Monday 26 September from 2.00pm to 5.00pm in the Court Room at [St Andrew Holborn](#), 7 St Andrew Street, London EC4A 3AB. The afternoon will give members an opportunity to feed in directly to the Alliance's formal response to the NPPF consultation, find out more about the Government's proposals, and meet other members, Alliance Trustees and staff. Attendance is free-of-charge but prior registration is required. To register please email sarah.mccarthy@theheritagealliance.org.uk by 21 September.

The Localism Bill returns for report stage

The [Localism Bill](#) will recommence its passage through the House of Lords next week, when it begins the [report stage](#) - further line by line examination - from 5 September. The Heritage Alliance has again [briefed Peers on the issues](#) it is most concerned about – the need for a balanced definition of sustainable development, maintaining existing levels of historic environment protection, balancing private and public sector financial interests, and recognising cultural wellbeing as a social value. We're continuing to liaise closely over the Bill with parliamentarians and colleagues, and updates or further briefings will be posted on our website [here](#). You can keep up-to-date with the passage of the Bill [here](#).

HAVE YOUR SAY: CONSULTATION ROUND UP

September

[Select Committees inviting evidence on the NPPF](#). Both the [Communities and Local Government Committee](#) and the [Environmental Audit Committee](#) have launched inquiries into the NPPF, and are calling for written submissions on the way the presumption in favour of sustainable development is dealt with in the document. Deadline: 9 September.

[Reform of the taxation of non-domiciled individuals](#). An HMT consultation. Deadline: 9 September.

[Statutory definition of tax residence](#). An HMT consultation. Deadline: 9 September.

[Gifts of pre-eminent objects and works of art to the nation](#). An HMT consultation. Deadline: 21 September.

October

[Local Planning Regulations: consultation](#). In response to reforms in the Localism Bill, the Government is revising the regulations which govern the process by which local councils prepare their development plans. This consultation seeks views on whether the revised regulations are fit for purpose. Deadline: 7 October.

[The registration of new town or village greens](#). A DEFRA consultation seeking views on proposals to reform the system for registering new town or village greens under section 15 of the Commons Act 2006. Deadline: 17 October.

[Draft National Planning Policy Framework](#). A DCLG consultation – see Headlines for more information. See Events for details of 'planning reform events'. Deadline: 17 October.

NEWS

New report expresses “extreme concern” over loss of LA conservation experts

The [third annual report on Local Authority Staff Resources](#) from English Heritage and Alliance members the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), warns of extreme concern over the “dramatic loss” of specialist officers at a crucial time for the planning system. Published on 25 August, the report highlights an accelerating drop in local authority specialists in England at a time that has seen an increase in planning applications for them to manage. The past year saw an overall

reduction in historic environment officers of 11.9 per cent; a reduction of 13.5 per cent in conservation officers, and 8.9 per cent for archaeological officers. During the same time period there was an uplift in planning application decisions of 5.2 per cent, and a 7.1 per cent increase in listed building consent decisions. If these trends continue it is likely that demand will outstrip the capacity of local authorities to be able to deal with applications with the required level of expertise.

Chair of English Heritage Baroness Kay Andrews commented: "The imbalance between the numbers of staff and the volume of planning applications shown in this report are of extreme concern at a time of change in the planning system. The historic environment is not a soft target; loss of expertise could lead to loss of elements of England's heritage, which once gone, cannot be recovered." Last week the [Historic Environment Forum](#) wrote to local authority chief executives and heritage champions (copied by email to local authority officers) alerting them to the alarming findings of the report, and warning of the harm that could be caused to highly-valued local heritage as a result of the loss of specialist expertise.

The [Historic Environment Local Authority Capacity](#) (HELAC) project - a partnership between English Heritage, the Local Government Group, ALGAO, the IHBC and the Planning Officers Society - is currently exploring responses to the threat to heritage incurred by local government budget cuts. HELAC aims to provide examples of how it is possible to make efficiencies and cost savings whilst retaining a sufficient level of specialist expertise to protect the historic environment.

Last chance to nominate your project for a Heritage Alliance Hero Award!

2011 is the second year of The Heritage Alliance's new award scheme intended to highlight the outstanding energy and achievements of heritage volunteers: [Heritage Alliance Heroes](#). The Award scheme is open to all Alliance member organisations and their members. Entries should demonstrate a distinctive achievement completed in the past 12 months by a voluntary individual or team (professional work is not excluded if funded and managed by volunteer effort); and the achievement should demonstrate a long-term impact, command the respect of the heritage sector, be likely to appeal to a wider non-heritage audience and offer a powerful human story.

The strong response to the first year of the Awards scheme (2010) exemplified the breadth and diversity of the many thousands of inspiring volunteer-led heritage initiatives out there. To ensure the Awards go from strength to strength in this second year, we would urge all members of the Alliance to spread the word to their members on the frontline and to encourage them to submit entries. The winner and two runners up will receive their prizes from Alliance Chairman Loyd Grossman at our annual [Heritage Day](#) event in London in December. To enter email a completed copy of the simple [entry form](#) to Alliance Trustee Denis Dunstone by 15 September: denis.dunstone@talktalk.net. Good luck!

Govt announces 36 more 'neighbourhood planning front runners'

On Wednesday (31 August) the Government unveiled [36 more areas](#) that will pilot its new neighbourhood development proposals, to be introduced in the Localism Bill. The local authorities in the areas selected as part of this fourth wave of the 'neighbourhood planning front-runners' scheme will given £20,000 to work with community groups and parish councils to prepare Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders. Planning advice will be available for the local community from Alliance member the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), the RTPI, Locality and The Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. The total number of front runner pilots now stands at 126. For more information on the pilot scheme click [here](#).

Skills in the creative industries: contribute your thoughts now

The Creative Industries Council's [Skillset Skills Group](#) is calling on the creative industries for ideas on how best to develop the talent and skills vital for the future of the UK economy. The CIC Skillset Skills Group was convened by Skillset and tasked by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department for Business and Innovation (BIS) and the Creative Industries Council to examine the skills issues facing the UK's creative industries. It is one of three sub-groups of the Creative Industries Council. The ['Big Questions'](#) set by the group ask for "input and

examples of good practice from all parts of the UK” by 23 September to cicskills@skillset.org. The group will report its findings to the Creative industries Council, as part of the Government’s growth strategy.

ALSO THIS FORTNIGHT...

Need professional advice from skilled volunteers? A&B could help

Arts & Business (A&B) has been selected by the Office for Civil Society as an official partner for the national work programme supporting the [European year of Volunteering](#). A&B will be leading the project for the arts, heritage and culture in England. As part of [the programme](#), A&B can put heritage organisations in touch with skilled professional volunteers with a wide range of experience in business areas such as IT, marketing, business plans, mentoring or front of house. This is a free service for any arts or cultural organisation based in England – simply email volunteering@artsandbusiness.org.uk to let A&B know what kind of help you need, details of your organisations and your tentative project plans for volunteering opportunities in the coming year. Alternatively, tweet A&B at @Arts_Business using the hashtag #AandB.

Visit England’s top five tips for improving accessibility

29 August marked one year to go before the start of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Visit England took the opportunity to issue ‘top five tips’ for how the tourism industry can improve accessibility. 1. Understand the [business case](#) for improving accessibility 2. Create your own [access statement](#) using VisitEngland’s free online tool 3. Understand how you can [profit through Accessible Tourism](#) 4. Find [no-cost business improvements](#) you can action quickly 5. Gain confidence through customer service training.

Community engagement and the historic environment: new toolkit

Based on the English Heritage outreach team’s [Brierley Hillness project case study](#), a new community engagement [toolkit](#) has been launched aimed at professionals working in regeneration, town planning and the historic environment. The site features film documentaries, written evaluations and downloadable resources. It also includes the project archive of live performance, oral history, and the community’s creative responses and thoughts about what is distinctive and unique about their town. Brierley Hillness was led and funded by the English Heritage Outreach Team (West Midlands) in partnership with five local partners. For more information contact Suzanne Carter: suzannecarter@mail.com

Final report of EH Outreach Team available to download

The final report from the English Heritage Outreach team - [Outreach: Engaging New Audiences with the Historic Environment](#) - is now available to download. The report aims to provide useful background information and models for organisations planning audience development and engagement projects.

Custodian Tenant sought for c15 Grade II* house in Oxfordshire

Alliance member the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) is looking for a new Custodian Tenant for its 15th century Grade II* listed Medieval Merchants House in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. The house was included in Simon Jenkins’ *1000 Best Houses* and is situated in East St. Helen Street, described by Pevsner “as one of the most enticing in any English town”. The three bedroom house has a pretty south facing walled garden and off-road parking for one car. It’s available at a reduced rent of £920 pcm to reflect the special nature of the letting. The tenant would need to give reasonable public access, and to assist with occasional open days and Heritage Open Days. No prior experience or knowledge is necessary, though an interest in history would be a help. OPT says sorry no pets, and not suitable for young children. For more information contact e.hallas@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

NMCT grants for the conservation of manuscripts: deadline 1 Oct

Thanks to the generosity of a number of funders - including the Pilgrim Trust, the J Paul Getty Jr Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation - the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT) has more funds available for grant making than ever before. The next deadline for grant applications is 1 October. Application forms and guidance can be found on the NMCT website.

Thanks to its partnership with CyMAL, the NMCT also has a special fund for grants for the conservation of manuscripts in Wales; those interested in applying to this fund should [contact CyMAL](#) in the first instance.

National Piers Society photo competition: enter before 16 Sept

In celebration of our historic piers and following on from Visit Britain's *Party on the Pier* initiative (part of 2011's British Tourism Week), the National Piers Society (NPS – a member of the Alliance) launched a photographic competition. The deadline for entries is 16 September. The NPS says: "The seaside pier provides identity for the town. If you live near the pier, perhaps you will have an idea how to make your pier more of a draw. Perhaps you visit towns that have seaside piers because you enjoy what they offer. Either way, the Judges will be looking for excellence in the 'seen' image that best illustrates the theme of the competition. Prizes of £1000 for first place, £600 for second place and £400 for third place are on offer. Entry criteria, terms & conditions and release forms are available on the NPS's website.

EVENTS

Support Heritage Open Days: 8-12 September!

With over 4,300 events across England, Heritage Open Days provides four days of free access to places of every age, style and function; alongside guided tours, exhibitions, re-enactments, recitals, skills demonstrations and heritage fairs bringing to life local architecture, history and culture. To find out what's on in your neighbourhood, click [here](#).

BEFS Congress: Valuing Places - old and new: why, what, how? 8 Sept

How do we go about understanding, measuring and demonstrating what it is that people value about places? And how do we build these factors into developing new places and managing our existing historic environments? The Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) congress 'Valuing Places - old and new: why, what, how?' will explore these questions through a mix of presentations, panel debate and market place comprising exhibition stands and soapbox pitches. The event will take place on 8 September at the Roxburghe Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. The event will run from 11.15 – 17.00, followed by a drinks reception. Click [here](#) for more information and to book.

Ride + Stride for Churches: 10 September

Every year over 13,000 people of all ages and backgrounds take part in *Ride + Stride*, the country's most significant church preservation charity event with over 10,000 church buildings unlocking their doors to visitors. The fundraiser – in its 30th year – will take place across the country on 10 September. Anyone of any fitness level can take part in *Ride + Stride*; each person chooses whether to walk or to cycle, and plans their own route, to raise money for their favourite church or chapel. The money raised helps to preserve Britain's 45,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses. As *Ride + Stride* patron and Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow, said: "Cycling and sightseeing to stop Churches crumbling is something we can all do." Click [here](#) for more information on how you can get involved.

Heritage Trust for the North West: THIs in Conservation Areas, Sept 2011 – May 2012

Heritage Trust for the North West has developed a programme of lectures and training initiatives in three Conservation Areas, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) programme. The programme will run lectures, seminars and tours across the region until May 2012. Click [here](#) to download the full brochure, which includes all event listings, registration details and background information.

IHBC London: Annual Conference, 5 Oct

On 5 October IHBC London will hold its Annual Conference, this year entitled 'Challenging conservation, heritage at the crossroads'. The event will take place at the Grade I listed Royal College of Physicians, London. Key speaker Eric Parry and others will be examining the changing aspects of conservation, including how PPS5 is being used, the notions of significance and proportionality, localism in practice and changing practices in listing including Local Lists. For more information and to book click [here](#).

Chartered Institute of Building: Building Conservation Conference, 5 – 6 October

The CIOB's International Building Conservation Conference, Exhibition and Dinner will take place on 5 and 6 October in York. Entitled Philosophies and Practicalities the event will discuss a wide range of topics including the latest on climate change, new standards and qualifications in Europe, innovation in structural repair, and practices in understanding and conserving sites across the globe. The conference has been developed in partnership with English Heritage, the National Trust and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. For more information and to book your place click [here](#).

Challenging History: understanding aims, audiences & outcomes, Feb 2012

The Challenging History project steering group invites delegates to register for the International Challenging History conference to be held at City University London (and the Tower of London), Feb 23-25th 2012. Since 2009, the Challenging History group has been working with heritage professionals, practitioners and academics in order to explore and interrogate issues raised in work with difficult, contested and sensitive heritages in a range of contexts within and beyond the UK. The project acknowledges that all history is – to a greater or lesser degree – challenging, and encourages practitioners to consider how heritage interpretation can better acknowledge this complexity at its core. The conference programme will foster collaboration and shared understanding between academia and the heritage sector, and offer opportunities for networking, demonstrating approaches and practice, and presenting empirical research. Registration is now open until 6 January, with a special early-bird rate available. For more information, fee details, and to register, click [here](#).

SITUATIONS VACANT

HONORARY / VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

Civic Voice: Trustees x 2

Civic Voice has two vacancies on its Board of Trustees. Those who are interested in helping to shape the future of Civic Voice and the wider movement are invited to put themselves forward. Further details about the role of Trustee and the skills and experience sought can be found [here](#). The deadline for applications is 21 August.

SALARIED POSITIONS

SPAB launches search for new Secretary (Director)

Next year Philip Venning, who will have been the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' (SPAB) Secretary for 28 years, is to retire. Philip was one of the founder members of The Heritage Alliance, formerly known as Heritage Link. The Society (an Alliance member) will launch its search for Philip's successor – to be known as Director - on 5 September, when advertisements inviting applications will appear in the press (notably www.sundaytimesappointments.co.uk and www.guardianjobs.co.uk). The closing date for applications will be 10 October, with final interviews scheduled for w/c 31 October. Philip's successor will be expected to continue to take the message of the importance of conservative repair to new generations of architectural and building professionals, crafts workers and homeowners, and to form valuable, supportive connections across the sector. For more information about the post contact Philip Nelson 0207 691 1920 / email philip.nelson@prospect-us.co.uk

Wakefield Cathedral: Capital Programme / Project Manager

During 2012, Wakefield Cathedral will undergo major internal refurbishment costing £2-3.5 million. The Cathedral is seeking to appoint ASAP a project manager who will manage the finances and cash flow; liaise between the Cathedral, the Design Team and the contractors in order to ensure timely delivery of the project on budget; **and** report to and engage with its funders. The post is 20 hours per week over three-four days. Expressions of interest from freelancers / self employed persons with regards to performing this role on a consultancy or contract for services basis is also welcome. Salary is £35,000 – £42,000 pro-rata. Closing date is 12 September (11am). For more information click [here](#) or ring Susan on 01924 371802.

The C20 Society: Senior Caseworker

The C20 Society seeks a new Senior Caseworker to lead its high-profile casework team in Clerkenwell, London. Knowledge and enthusiasm for post-1914 buildings is required, along with excellent communication skills that will enable to posholder to take on a campaigning role with media contact. This is a full-time role, but expressions of interest from those wanting to work in a part-time capacity are also welcome. Salary is £24,000. For further details please contact george@c20society.org.uk or click [here](#).

Cathedral and Church Buildings Division (Church of England): Consultant

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division (Archbishops' Council) works across a range of areas, including advising and maintaining oversight of conservation and development works to churches and cathedrals; funding conservation projects; promoting community uses of church buildings; and environmental initiatives under the Shrinking the Footprint campaign. The Division is inviting expressions of interest from fundraising professionals to carry out a scoping project to ascertain funding opportunities for its various areas of activity. This is a bespoke strategic-planning project to help the Division develop its leadership role. An understanding of its profile is crucial as future fundraising should not divert existing funding from its mission-related partners. The Archbishops' Council has set a budget for this exercise (details can be obtained on application). To apply please contact Dr Pedro Gaspar on pedro.gaspar@churchofengland.org / 020 7898 1889. Closing date is 16 September.

Arcadia Fund: Cultural Grants Manager

The Arcadia Fund seeks a Cultural Grants Manager. The main responsibilities of the role will be the end to end management of Arcadia's cultural grants portfolio, and the research, evaluation and development of new cultural funding areas. The post holder will report to the Principal Adviser and together with the Environmental Grants Manager contribute to strategic policy development in collaboration with the Principal Advisor and the Arcadia Advisory Board. This is a full-time role. Salary in excess of £45,000 depending on experience, plus benefits. For more information click [here](#). To apply please send a CV and a covering letter, including your current salary details and the names of two referees, to anna.morgan@nyland.org.uk Closing date is 30 September.