



**Historic  
Environment  
Good Practice  
Advice in  
Planning**

**DLP BRIEFING NOTE 173**

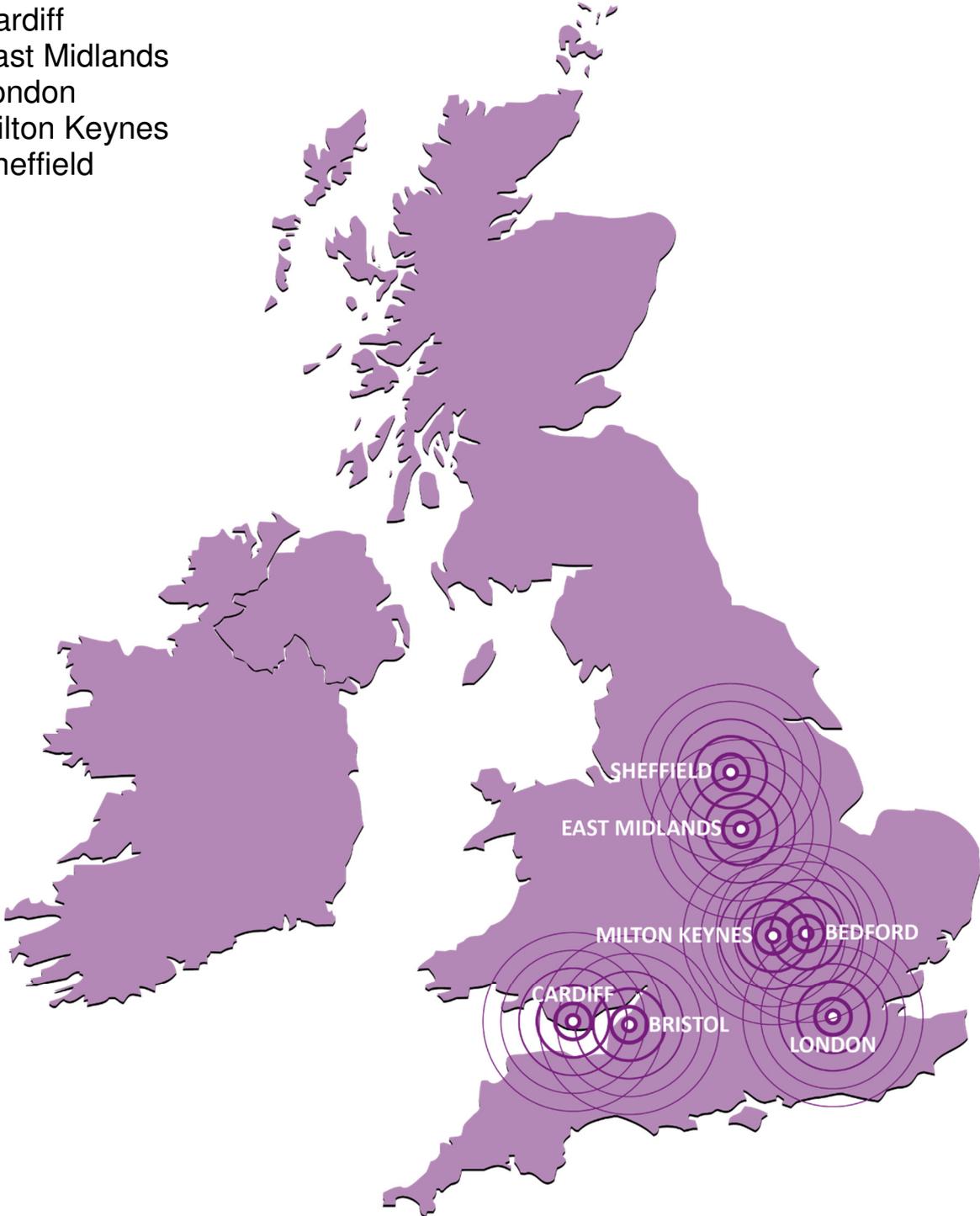
Prepared by  
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August 2014

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## **Heritage and its Role within the Planning System**

Following the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)'s publication in March 2012, all previous planning policy statements were replaced alongside planning guidance. The new framework aimed at setting out principles for plan-making and decision-taking in the context of 'sustainable development'.

The heritage aspect of planning is complex yet highly relevant to sustainable development and the implications of planning for and with heritage aspects of our built and natural environment goes beyond 'development without compromising our needs against future needs'. By trying to preserve England's historical and natural value there is the chance we may hinder development, however without preserving it we're losing valuable assets that improve quality of life.

## **The Assimilation of Heritage Assets into the Planning System**

Ministers have published a new streamlined planning practice guidance for the NPPF and general planning system, following an external review. English Heritage provided three practice advice notes to be followed up with a post-consultation version in early autumn 2014 to replacing various previous guidance and most notably the PPS5 (Planning and the Historic Environment).

English Heritage, the Government's lead advisory body for the historic environment, has a statutory role in the planning system and are usually the main point of call for heritage related policy and development matters.

## **English Heritage's Good Practice Notes and their implications within planning**

The good practice notes support national planning policy, though do not stand as a Governmental policy in status, nor aim to implement one single strategy to deal with the heritage elements of planning.

Heritage and its role within planning will be consistently scrutinised so as to balance the need to preserve the built and natural environment without holding back necessary development.

### ***Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans (Identification)***

The first guidance note stresses on the importance of identifying heritage policies within Local Plans. The most importance issue to address is the importance of up-to-date and relevant evidence in databases which would guide decision-making.

Local Authorities are responsible for tackling the issues of development in historic/environmental sensitive areas by making sure that their policies and plans go beyond just identifying places, but extend to identifying the value of these places in context to their relationship with other aspects of planning (transport, economy, social capital etc.)

### ***Note 2: Decision-taking in the Historic Environment (Response)***

The second guidance note lists the many ways decision-taking and enforcement could be undertaken but emphasises again that early engagement in these matters would be better than dealing with issues later stage. Expert assessment of the value of conservation is encouraged to help the planning system run smoother.

Assessment of significance and understanding the extent of impact can assist the planning process in informed decision-taking, placing more value in policy formation at local, regional and national level. Policy aimed at protecting heritage aspects at the start of the planning process is much more beneficial and time-saving than policy based on enforcement after the pre-application stages.

### ***Note 3: The setting of Heritage Assets (Evaluation)***

The third note deals with defining heritage assets and the legal terminology and boundaries of allocations. The most important of all these is the understanding of setting being without fixed boundary and that it is where the heritage asset is 'experienced'. The extent of setting is not fixed and may change over time. Some assets need to always be seen (such as beacons and military sites) while some will change use over time and become less important in the heritage context. By continuously evaluation and scrutinizing the need of heritage elements it becomes easier to make decisions within planning.

Heritage planning is not a one-off planning consideration, it is an on-going evaluation that needs to be constantly monitored and safeguarded against compromising development.

### **DLP's role in Heritage Planning**

Our work is based on understanding and awareness of the political, economic and social dimensions of any project undertaken.

DLP Planning Consultants has considerable knowledge of the national planning system and have experience and a proven track record in the heritage planning sphere, as well as providing expert guidance to community groups and stakeholders.

If you wish to utilise DLP's considerable planning expertise to maximise your opportunity, please contact us. Senior staff within the practice would be very happy explain its potential implications for you.

If you require more information or would like to discuss the issues mentioned in further detail please contact:

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