



## Planning Bulletin: November 2019

*This monthly note highlights some of the recent and forthcoming developments in the world of planning from a heritage perspective. For further information about any of the items, please follow the links provided or use the contact information on the last page. Please note that this is not necessarily a complete review of matters and is not intended to provide any legal advice on the issues raised. Unless otherwise stated, it does not comprise the formal position of Historic England on these matters.*

*Current and previous editions of Planning Bulletin (back to September 2017) are now available on-line [here](#).*

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### Legislation and Matters Arising

- Parliament was dissolved on 6 November, with an election date set for 12 December.

#### Emerging Legislation

##### *Accelerated Planning Paper*

- In a speech prior to purdah, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick MP stated that the anticipated Green Paper on Accelerated Planning would, in fact, be a White Paper. Green Papers are consultation documents produced by the government, whereas White Papers are 'policy documents produced by the government which set out their proposals for future legislation'.

#### Heritage Planning Case Database

- Historic England tweets planning decisions of heritage interest, via @HeritageAdvice, and these are then collated into the Heritage Planning Case Database. This is a searchable online database of appeal and call-in decisions relating to planning permission (that affects a heritage asset) and listed building consent. Cases have been summarised using a standard list of search terms, for ease of use; searches can also be carried out by address, date or decision reference.

## Guidance

### *Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)*

- The PPG on Air Quality was revised on 1 November. It advises authorities that consideration of air quality during plan-making can 'help secure net improvements in overall air quality where possible'. Assessments of changes in air quality during the construction and operational phases of proposed development should include 'the consequences of this for public health and biodiversity'. Consideration should also be given to 'Clean Air Zones and other areas including sensitive habitats or designated sites of importance for biodiversity.'
- The PPG on Light Pollution was also updated on 1 November. It now states that authorities can consider 'whether the proposed lighting is purely for decorative purposes as opposed to being needed for functional reasons such as security'. Consideration should also be given to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, and the needs of those whose activities rely on low levels of artificial light such as astronomers.

## Advice

### *Historic England Advice*

- Good Practice Advice notes (GPAs) and Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs) are all available on the Historic England website, and are listed in Appendix I to this Bulletin for ease of reference.
- HEAN 12 entitled *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* has been published. It offers guidance on how applicants might describe heritage significance to help decision makers assess the impact of proposals for change to heritage assets. Understanding the significance of heritage assets, in advance of developing proposals for their buildings and sites, enables owners and applicants to receive effective, consistent and timely decisions. Publication of HEAN 12: *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* is being accompanied by a series of HELM Training events on the subject (see below).

### *Forthcoming Historic England Advice*

- The HEAN on Minerals Extraction and Archaeology should soon be published and will be available to download from the Historic England website.
- A HEAN on Permission in Principle is being currently being drafted and should be consulted on soon.

## Training

### *Current Training*

- Historic England provides training and guidance to help local authorities, heritage professionals, owners and voluntary organisations look after England's heritage. Training that is currently available covers a wide range of topics, many directly linked to planning matters and Historic England advice. Our training programmes are:

- Historic Environment Local Management (HELM): training on managing the historic environment for local authorities, regional agencies and national organisations. Visit the webpages for course dates and booking. New courses include *Finding New Uses for Former Military Land*, which aims to prepare local authorities for dealing with commonly encountered issues around the conservation of heritage assets during the development of former military sites focusing on large-scale, landscape assets. HELM courses include:
  - Statements of Heritage Significance (St Nicholas' Place, Kings Norton. 5 December 2019)
  - Finding New Uses for Former Military Land (Pitt Building, Cambridge. 12 December 2019)
  - Statements of Heritage Significance (St Barnabas Church, Cambridge. 16 January 2020)
  - Finding New Uses for Former Military Land (Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham. 6 February 2020)
  - Statements of Heritage Significance (venue TBC, Liverpool. 27 February 2020)
  - Statements of Heritage Significance (Somerset Cricket Club, Taunton. 12 March 2020)
- Heritage Practice: training courses for heritage specialists in technical subjects and techniques. Visit the webpages for details of courses.
- Essentials Training: training course on fundamental heritage skills for local authority planners and early entrants into historic environment services. Visit the webpages for details of current courses.
- Online training: webinars and other resources to help supplement the short course training opportunities and make them more widely available. The online training includes recordings of webinars and other, longer courses to work through.
- All courses, and further information, can be accessed on the Historic England website.
- To be added to the mailing list for training events and webinars, or if you would like to suggest topics for courses, webinars or online training please email [helmbookings@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:helmbookings@historicengland.org.uk).

## Infrastructure

### *Highways England's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*

- Highways England is due to update the entire *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB) by March 2020, and has announced that it has already updated 40% of the document. The update aims to introduce a consistent and concise format, as well as improve the usability, structure and content of the existing DMRB.

### *Shale Gas*

- The Government has published its response to the consultation on *Inclusion of Shale Gas Production Projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) Regime*. The consultation identified a lack of support for the inclusion of shale gas

production in the NSIP regime, and the Government has concluded that it would be premature to include the production phase of shale gas in the regime. The Government has also issued a Written Ministerial Statement that, on the basis of the current scientific evidence, it has taken a presumption against issuing any further hydraulic fracturing consents (see also *Other Initiatives*).

## Other Initiatives

### *National Trust: Heritage in Neighbourhood Plans*

- The National Trust has published a new *Guide to Heritage in Neighbourhood Plans*. The guide describes how heritage can be incorporated into neighbourhood plans, including guidance on collecting an evidence base, engaging with wider stakeholders, the statutory process and planning for heritage. The guide aims to help communities take a role in the planning of historic areas, by identifying and safeguarding local heritage.

### *Net Zero Review*

- The Government launched a Review to determine how the UK can achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Review will assess how the UK can maximise economic growth opportunities from a green economy, whilst ensuring a fair balance of contributions from all.

### *Pocket Parks*

- The Government invited applications from community-led organisations working in partnership with local authorities to apply for grants, from a £1.35 million fund, to establish new pocket parks and for helping to restore existing parks (closing date 31 December).

### *Shale Gas*

- Following an earlier Press Release, the Government issued a Written Ministerial Statement that, on the basis of the current scientific evidence, and in the absence of compelling new evidence, it has taken a presumption against issuing any further hydraulic fracturing consents.
- The Government published its response to the consultation on *Inclusion of Shale Gas Production Projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) Regime*. The consultation identified a lack of support for the inclusion of shale gas production in the NSIP regime, and the Government concluded that it would be premature to include the production phase of shale gas with the regime.
- The Government also published its response to the consultation on *Permitted Development for Shale Gas Exploration*. It has decided not to take forward the proposals for any changes to permitted development rights for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploratory development at this time.
- The Government published its response to the consultation on *Compulsory Community Pre-Application Consultation for Shale Gas Development*. In the light of existing statutory mechanisms, and the decision not to take forward other legislative changes, the Government does not intend to take forward this proposal, at this time.

## Towns Fund

- In September the Government invited 100 places to develop proposals for a Town Deal, as part of the £3.6 billion Towns Fund. It issued a Prospectus to explain how towns can prepare for a Town Deal, as part of a 2 stage process.

## Current Consultations

- The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy is seeking views on Amendments to the Treatment of Electricity Storage within the Planning System. This follow up consultation also provides the Government's response to the original consultation (closing date 10 December).
- MHCLG is seeking views on the effectiveness of the legislation governing development corporations (closing date 21 December).
- MHCLG is consulting on The Future Homes Standard: Changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for New Dwellings, including proposed options to increase the energy efficiency requirements for new homes in 2020. The Future Homes Standard will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency (closing date 10 January 2020).
- The Environment Agency is consulting on River Basin Planning: Challenges and Choices (closing date 24 April 2020). It is seeking views on:
  - the challenges that limit the benefits society obtains from the water environment in the river basin districts in England (the challenges)
  - the best way to address these issues (the choices)

## Calendar

### December

- 5 HELM training course: Statements of Heritage Significance (St Nicholas' Place, Kings Norton)
- 10 Follow up consultation on The Planning System for Electricity Storage closes
- 12 HELM training course: Finding New Uses for Former Military Land (Pitt Building, Cambridge)
- 21 Consultation on Development Corporation Reform closes

### January 2020

- 10 Consultation on The Future Homes Standard: Changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for New Dwellings closes
- 16 HELM training course: Statements of Heritage Significance (St Barnabas Church, Cambridge)

### February 2020

- 6 HELM training course: Finding New Uses for Former Military Land (Chatham Historic Dockyard, Chatham)

- 27 HELM training course: Statements of Heritage Significance (venue TBC, Liverpool)  
*March 2020*
- 12 HELM training course: Statements of Heritage Significance (Somerset Cricket Club, Taunton)  
*April 2020*
- 24 Consultation on *River Basin Planning: Challenges and Choices* closes

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*29 November 2019*

*If you did not receive this edition of Planning Bulletin direct from Historic England, you may find the current edition online [here](#). If you would like to sign up for notifications when a new edition is issued, please contact [governmentadvice@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:governmentadvice@HistoricEngland.org.uk).*

# APPENDIX I: HISTORIC ENGLAND PLANNING ADVICE

## *Good Practice Advice notes (GPAs)*

- The GPAs provide information on good practice, particularly looking at the principles of how national policy and guidance can be applied. They are the result of collaborative working with the heritage and property sectors in the Historic Environment Forum, and have been prepared following public consultation:
  - *GPA1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans* (March 2015)
  - *GPA2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (March 2015)
  - *GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (December 2017)
  - *GPA4: Enabling Development (forthcoming)*

## *Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs)*

- The HEANs include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance. They have been prepared by Historic England following public consultation:
  - *HEAN 1: Conservation Areas: Designation, Appraisal and Review (Second Edition)* (February 2019)
  - *HEAN 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets* (February 2016)
  - *HEAN 3: Site Allocations* (October 2015)
  - *HEAN 4: Tall Buildings* (December 2015)
  - *HEAN 5: Setting up a Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreement* (November 2015)
  - *HEAN 6: Drawing up a Local Listed Building Consent Order* (November 2015)
  - *HEAN 7: Local Heritage Listing* (May 2016)
  - *HEAN 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment* (December 2016)
  - *HEAN 9: The Adaptive Reuse of Traditional Farm Buildings* (October 2017)
  - *HEAN 10: Listed Buildings and Curtilage* (February 2018)
  - *HEAN 11: Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment* (October 2018)
  - *HEAN 12: Statements of Heritage Significance* (October 2019)