

Who's who in the IHBC NW Committee Branch.



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Editorial

New year, new look! All change within the editors service at IHBC NW.

Welcome to yet another new look IHBC North West newsletter, hopefully providing a smarter look for our Branch whilst still retaining the humorous content. I have volunteered to be co-editor with Nick Grimshaw, replacing Marion Barter, which I know will be a tough act to follow.

This season's newsletter touches on the recently published Planning Policy Guidance with comments by Turley Heritage and comments by the IHBC and English Heritage regarding the continual reduction in conservation skills in local authorities.

Don't worry, the newsletter is not all doom and gloom, there are some interesting views on the refurbished Central Library in Liverpool, the recent event held at Stanley Dock in March together with information on the wide array of events planned for this year.

Also throwing in a small quiz (because why not?!) which is just to the right. First person to get all three correct answers wins a free pint at the next Pub Social. Email jack.haw@turley.co.uk to submit your answers.

Please do send me any news, views or anything which you think your North West colleagues might find useful or interesting. We would really appreciate your input. Please send any information to one or more of the following addresses:

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My grateful thanks to all the contributors who helped with this issue.

Jack Haw

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Where are these buildings?

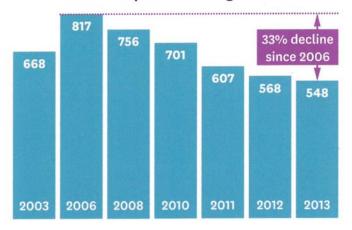
A Little Less Conservation

Recent article by Planning on how councils are coping with heritage staff cuts.

Some of you may have seen a recent article (28th March 2014) within Planning Magazine relating to the public sector cuts within the historic environment and how councils are coping with this. Below is an overview of the article, highlighting key aspects.

Since 2010, council planning teams have felt the full force of Whitehall's cuts to local government spending. As we know, and have all felt, conservation staff has felt the brunt of these spending cuts with the number of full-time posts in our field declining by 33 per cent since they peaked in 2006 (according to figures compiled by English Heritage and the IHBC). The IHBC fears this could result in the loss of significant heritage.

Built conservation specialists in English councils



Number of English LPAs with no in-house conservation specialist or with only part-time conservation advice



Sources: Institute of Historic Building Conservation, English Heritage, Association of Local Government Archeological Officers

Another consequence is that the planning process is being slowed, as without specialist advice, planners can take longer to decide applications.



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The loss of specialist staff could also hit economic development, limiting the capacity of local authorities to developheritage projects that drive regeneration. Meanwhile, many of our existing conservation officers are under greater pressures.

However the real impact of the cuts may still not yet be felt. And, as the economy improves with growing activity in the development sector, applications are likely to rise, adding to surviving conservation staff's workloads.

Also set to change conservation officers' workloads is last year's Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act, which aims to reduce the amount of regulations required for applicants carrying out heritage-related work. The main effects of the act have since come into force, albeit only recently, but the impact has yet to be felt. One of the key measures is the promotion of voluntary Heritage Partnership Agreements between planning authorities and owners of listed buildings.

The process is intended to save time and paperwork for both parties further down the line, but concerns have been expressed about the ability of depleted conservation teams to deal with the short-term increase in work.

As a result of contracting resources, some councils have had to change the way they provide conservation services. A recent report by English Heritage and the Local Government Association examined how historic environment services were responding to budget cuts. They found a variety of approaches being taken, the main one being shared services. This can involve several models including informal joint working, a merger of teams or the contracting out of services from one authority to another.

One council that has gone down this route is Bassetlaw District Council in Nottinghamshire, an authority rich in heritage that has been contracting out its conservation officers to neighbouring authorities for 18 months. It has three officers, one of whom spends half his time at Newark and Sherwood District Council and another that spends one day a week at Ashfield District Council.

But the report warns of potential drawbacks of conservation staff being based outside a local authority area, adding that

A Little Less Conservation

Recent article by Planning on how councils are coping with heritage staff cuts.

sharing services can risk spreading resources too thinly, which adds to the workloads of conservation staff involved and limits their ability to do proactive work.

Some councils are also training general planners in conservation work to take on some of those heritage responsibilities, according to English Heritage and the IHBC. English Heritage does run courses to provide an introduction into managing the historic environment through planning. However, they do states that these courses "do not replace the expertise required to undertake a conservation officer role".

Its not just the public sector that has felt the brunt of the cuts, traditionally, councils have sought specialist advice not available in-house from private consultants. However, figures show a decline in the use of conservation consultants in recent years, which is now doubt down to tighter council budgets. The English Heritage and LGA study found that, some authorities were actually investing in their local heritage sites to boost economic growth. Despite the optimism of the study, it is believed in many cases that authorities "are doing nothing" to combat the decline in specialist staff.



One expensive piece of paper? The removal of advertisements for listed building consent could release funds for up to three conservation officers!

At the end of the article, there is a novel suggestion that resources could be freed up if the expensive requirement to advertise listed building consent applications were removed.. Wiltshire Council apparently spends £150,000 per annum on press notices which could pay up to three conservation staff!



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How councils are dealing with conservation despite a decline in specialist staff:

- I. Sharing conservation services According to English Heritage, this is the most common method. This can range from informal joint working to a formal merger of teams to contracting out services from one authority to another. The report says sharing services can create benefits through economies of scale and allowing authorities access to a wider array of expertise. But it also warns of that there are drawbacks to services not being located in the authority area using them. Experts add that this approach can spread resources too thinly, limiting the effectiveness of the service.
- 2. Training general planners in conservation English Heritage runs courses to provide an introduction into managing the historic environment through the planning system. There is also guidance and advice available from bodies like English Heritage, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and the Historic Towns Forum. But experts warn that such courses do not bring mainstream planners to the level of a trained conservation officer.
- **3. Obtain funding to invest in heritage** Despite the cuts, an English Heritage and Local Government Association study found that some authorities were actually investing in their local heritage sites to boost economic growth, mostly through tourism. Barnsley Council, for example, has secured funding for a new museum, the redevelopment of an existing museum and the conservation of a heritage centre. It hopes this will improve the town's attractiveness to visitors.
- **4. Using private consultants** The IHBC and English Heritage figures show a recent decline in councils' use of conservation consultants, which experts say is down to budgets. As well as extra support, commentators say consultants can offer broader experience and an independent perspective. But they can also be expensive and are usually only a short-term option.

For the full article, please see Planning Magazine from the 28th March 2014. Further information can be found here: www.local.gov.uk www.planningresource.co.uk

Planning Practice Guidance

Comments on the recently published PPG by Turley Heritage.

The following comments have been provided by Roger Mascall of Turley Heritage. For further information and more updates, please visit www.turley.co.uk/service/heritage.

The PPG has 31 pages devoted to guidance on preserving and enhancing the historic environment. Whilst much remains as it was in the draft version, there have been some changes that are worth exploring.

Non-designated heritage assets

The guidance has been expanded to make it clear that there is no requirement on LPA's to include information on their 'identified' non-designated heritage assets in their Local Plan. However, if they chose to do so, it should include the criteria used to identify the assets and information about their location and even whether they are accessible to the public. This back ways from the previous insistence that Local Plans include non-designated heritage assets (eg. Locally listed buildings) but, nevertheless, provides useful guidance on what information should be provided if they are included; most notably the criteria for identification.

Heritage setting

The final guidance requires that a "thorough" assessment of impact on setting needs to be undertaken, taking into account the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance. Whilst best practice, the guidance further emphasiose the important of properlu addressing setting of heritage assets in promoting change, not least in light of recent case law.

Substantial Harm

The guidance has been revised on the key issues of how to assess if there is substantial harm to a heritage asset. Gauging the level of harm is critical to engaging the correct NPPF policy which differentiates between 'substantial' and 'less than substantial' harm. The guidance backs away from the previous stance in that substantial harm would normally only occur when the designation of the asset concerned would be put into question, again reflecting recent case law. However, the guidance still notes that substantial harm is a "high test, so it may not arise in many cases".



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Harm in relation to conservation areas

With respect to demolition in conservation areas the revised guidance considers how to assess the resultant level of harm that is likely to arise. This is now phrased on the basis that if the building is important or integral to the character or appearance of the conservation area, substantial harm is more likely to arise. Nevertheless, the guidance also notes that such a building would be individually of lesser importance than a listed building and that justification for demolition will still need to be proportionate to its relative significance and its contribution to the area as a whole when applying NPPF policy.

There is also useful guidance with respect to what the term 'public benefits' means and what is a 'viable use for a heritage asset' and how this should be taken into account. Overall, the PPG remains a document that is likely to be carefully scrutinised as we seek to interpret and implement national policy for the historic environment.



Digital Heritage

IHBC North West conference on new technology for the historic environment.

Last years IHBC NW Conference was held at the Cooperative Groups Headquarters at Angel Square in Manchester. The conference highlighted the opportunities and threats that digital application presented in surveying, recording and interpretation.

The conference was yet another success thanks to the commitment and co-ordination of the Events team. Please visit the branch webpage for a more comprehensive report on the conference.



Venue for the day, One Angel Square, Manchester

The first session was on surveying and recording. Paul Bryam, English Heritage geospatial imaging manager, spoke about digital recording. He explained that Structure from Motion (SfM) captures a wide range of multiple images. It is applicable to 2D and 3D work, like laser scanning.

Laser scanning is fast and produces high resolution records, but generates large data files and requires sophisticated software. English Heritage specifies digital recording across its estate, aware that todays data collection is tomorrows archive. Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archaeology North spoke about modelling and landscapes and also favoured SfM.

Andrew Loweree, a spatial analysis archaeologist with English Heritage, discussed practical applications of GIS: capturing information, and checking and manipulating data.



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Peter Insole, a senior archaeological officer from Bristol, spoke about Know Your Place (KYP), part of the process of maintaining the historic environment record (HER). KYP facilitated participation of the HER through a dedicated website. Historical and modern maps were overlaid, and browsers could switch back and forth using a plug-in. People could also survey the condition of listed buildings through an app called 'Heritage Eye', and submit completed surveys and photographs to the HER.

The second session was on interpretation. Lou Cordwell and Ray Mosley of magneticNorth introduced digital heritage interpretation: telling stories or helping people experience something. Gareth Langley, cofounder of Stardostar, advocated a human-centred design, asking what is the point? How will people use it? How will they feel using it/? The Cotswolds area of outstanding natural beauty project featured a kiosk created to teach 8-10 year olds about 6.000 years of landscape change. Hearmanchester.com interpreted the Rochdale Canal through audio portraits.

Louise Hamspon of the Centre for the study of Christianity and Culture at the University of York spoke about church interpretation. The centre has produced interactive resources and a book series telling the storey of the church in England. This included a discussion on the advantage sand disadvantages of using phone apps.

In the discussion session, the point was made that we should be looking at new ways of working and engaging the public. Interpretation was less top-down now. Some rhetorical questions were raised. Should 'locals' take decisions, since there were always tensions between specialists and locals? Do visitors really vox pops of other visitors or do they prefer to hear from experts? There were questions about the life-span of digital data and its implications for archives.

Digital Heritage

IHBC North West conference on new technology for the historic environment.



The reading room within Manchester Central Library

One walking tour was led by Alan Garbutt of the Town Hall Complex Transformation Construction Programme. He was joined by Graham Cavanagh of Ryder Architects. The tour visited two Grade II* listed buildings designed by E Vincent Harris; the Town Hall Extension and the Central Library.

The other tour was led by Chris Wild of Oxford Archaeology North which looked at the use of technology in archaeology. It began with a presentation on the Cooperative headquarters excavations. The area known as Angel Meadows had been developed in the Georgian period as terraces and later Arkwright's Mill erected nearby.

Back inside, Paul Hartley, chair of the IHBC North West Branch, presented the IHBC North West 2013 Conservation Award to Chester City Walls Portico Project. The aim had been to create the best urban heritage trail in the UK. Enhancements had been made without compromising the walls' archaeology.

The final session was devoted to future opportunities. Stephen Anderson of Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams Architects spoke about the physical impact of digital technology. This had two strands: technologies being used to help manage change and technologies driving change.



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The issues of digital technology driving change were addressed. Digital technology makes enhanced control of building environments possible. This has the potential for significant physical impacts with unanticipated consequences.

Digital technologies provide a range of tools. They can help to limit physical impact on the historic environment through good design. Digital technology is also driving change, but using technology can have physical impacts. Managing impacts must start at project inception to provide detailed information to prevent unanticipated impacts.

Karen Ziesler, development manager of the Heritage Lottery Fund NW, spoke about unlocking funding through digital technology. The HLF takes a broad view of heritage, including cultures and memories, and histories of places. Previously, the HLF had funded digital technology only as part of a wider programme. Under its current policy, digital technology could be the main focus of a project.

The conference chair summarised the main points of the day concluding that content may be king but that digital archives need to be future-proofed with ever changing technology.

Keith Parsons, principal lecturer, University of Central Lancashire.

Central to the City

Personal view of the newly refurbished Central Library in Liverpool.

Unlike many libraries, the entrance to Liverpool Central Library is not via a grand entrance, it is tucked away to the side within the collection of buildings along William Brown Street. However no-one can argue that these buildings themselves aren't grand!



Entrance to Liverpool Central Library.

Prior to its redevelopment, I visited the library whilst doing my Dissertation at University, as I walked into the building, I was incredibly underwhelmed by the bland sixties architecture which had resulted in a haphazard arrangement of stairs and awkwardly positioned bookshelves. The building had been hit by a bomb in World War II and subsequently rebuilt.

Whilst I tried my best to the appreciate the sixties vibe and style, it was obvious that the interior of the building was tired and underused. The only elements of 'aesthetic pleasure' were there Picton Reading Room, Hornby Library and Oak Room; areas which became the principal area for studying my dissertation.

Not long after, the PFI scheme was announced and construction work commenced on transforming the building into a new hub for the people of Liverpool. The new five-storey library has been built behind the grade II* historic façade of the building. The main features are a new central atrium with domed roof and a new five-storey archive and a specialist climate controlled repository to store the city's archives and rare treasures. There is also the addition of a rooftop terrace to the building offering views over the City.



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The plans looked incredible and incredibly intrusive to the building and my heart sank worrying about the Picton Reading Room. However, I should have not have worried for the conservation team at Liverpool City Council had it all in hand!

When I returned to the library on the day it opened in May 2013, I was overwhelmed by the complete transformation that had taken place. The once drab entrance was no more and now replaced with a 'show stopper' (Great British Bake Off appears to be rubbing off on me here) of an entrance, an area worth seeing even if you had no interest in books.





Liverpool Central Library before and after.

Central to the City

Personal view of the newly refurbished Central Library in Liverpool.

After gazing up into the atrium, I headed to the first floor and turned right towards the Picton Reading Room in anticipation, there it was in all its glory, just as it had been when I was studying there whilst at University four years earlier (albeit the paint is a bit crisper now).



Picton Reading Room within Liverpool Central Library



Hornby Library within Liverpool Central Library

The new library boasts an overwhelming amount of new facilities such as the archives and climate controlled repository. The facilities have made researching the history of Liverpool and the surrounding area much easier (particularly with regards to consultancy work).



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The building has been completely transformed whilst still retaining the key elements of what made it special. The building now has another 'aesthetic pleasure' to delight its visitors with, the atrium.

The principal purpose of the scheme was to provide 21st century facilities and attract further visitors and residents to the library, in order to make it a central resource to the City of Liverpool (pardon my pun). The building is now rated as one of the top tourist attractions within the City, now not many libraries can boast that!

Liverpool is not the only one leading the way in the refurbishment of its central library, Manchester has just recently opened their library after a £50million transformation. I have not yet had the chance to explore the building in depth (so its only fair not to comment on it) but keep a watchful eye on the next newsletter.

Jack Haw, Assistant Heritage Planner, Turley



Manchester Central Library

The Importance of Being Stanley

Tour of the Stanley Dock Complex in North Liverpool.

This years event calendar of the IHBC NW's Branch was kicked off on the 22nd March with a visit to Stanley Dock in North Liverpool. The event booked up very fast with around 30 people turning up to battle the cold winds of the Mersey. John Hinchliffe, the former Liverpool World Heritage Site Officer was our guide for the day.

Stanley Dock opened in 1848 to the design of Jesse Hartley and its use as a warehouse complex ceased in the early 1980s. Although similar in many ways to Hartley's better known Albert Dock, Stanley Dock has lain forlorn and neglected, a sleeping giant in North Liverpool awaiting restoration and an injection of new uses.

The property has changed hands a few times but the scale and inherent form of the buildings formed a challenge that was too tough a nut to crack. The complex was acquired in 2010 by Stanley Dock Properties Ltd, a sister company to Harcourt Construction, the company behind the *Titanic Experience* in Belfast. They immediately began the process of getting permissions and finance in place. They began work on site in January 2013 with the conversion of the North Warehouse and Rum Warehouse into an hotel and conference centre.

Darmody Architects, a Dublin-based practice, have designed the scheme which is being implemented by Abercorn Construction. John is currently advising them on the refurbishment of the warehouses.

Despite the horrendously cold weather, John kept us all entertained and started the tour with a poem about Stanley Dock before providing us with an interesting and concise summary of the history and ownership of the Stanley Dock complex.

We started off with the infamous Pneumonia Alley (a name for which I can clearly see why now), which consists of the alleyway between the south warehouse and the monolithic tobacco warehouse to shield from the weather and also view some historic ledgers which were found in the basement and date back to the early 20th century.



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Pneumonia Alley at Stanley Dock, Liverpool

The ledgers provide a fascinating insight into the workings of the dock, however, despite Johns best efforts in offering them the Liverpool Record Office and the Liverpool Maritime Museum, they have no home. Thankfully John has managhed to retain some of them on site and will form part of the completed interior of the new hotel within the refurbished north warehouse.

We moved across to the Tobacco Warehouse (via a very tenuous bridge), widely regarded as the largest brick building at the time of its construction and potentially still! John provided us with some amusing information on the building, particularly the fact that Eleanor Roosevelt made a trip to Stanley Dock and was driven around the inside of the Tobacco Warehouse in a Jeep!

We left the south part of the Stanley Dock complex and ventured onwards to the North Warehouse via the restored Bastille Bridge. It was here that the battle

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The Importance of Being Stanley

Tour of the Stanley Dock Complex in North Liverpool.



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North Warehouse at Stanley Dock

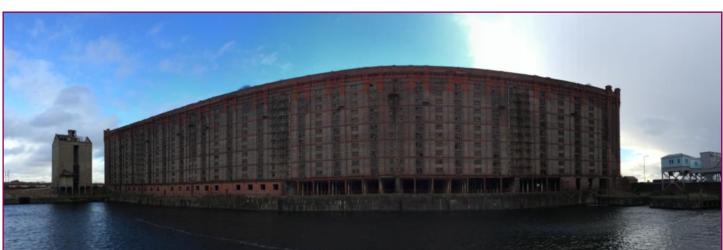
commenced with the horrendously cold wind with one of the members losing their hard hats and the other finding a £20 note, so all in all, we broke even. Once we got to the North Warehouse, the contrast was remarkable, the building was very reminiscent of the Albert Dock with cleaned brickwork and refurbished windows. John provided us with a tour of the North Warehouse which is to become a new hotel and the sensitive issues involved when incorporating new uses, particularly the introduction of M&E requirements.

The outside of the North Warehouse provided a fantastic photograph opportunity, particularly with the lack of Health & Safety preventing us from falling into the dock water!

We ended the visit in the Rum Warehouse as John concluded his tour with positive news of the future of the Stanley Dock complex, particularly with hosting part of the International Festival of Business in June.

Our thanks to John and Abercorn Construction for providing us with such a fantastic and rare opportunity to explore Stanley Dock.

Jack Haw, Assistant Heritage Planner, Turley



Tobacco Warehouse at Stanley Dock

Upcoming Events

An exciting array of events have been compiled by the Events Committee, see below.

Pub Social, The Lion, Liverpool: Ist May

Relaxing, informal evening with heritage professionals in your area.

Bank Hall: 22nd June

Visit to the grade II* listed country house in Bretherton, Lancashire.

Isle of Man Social and Regeneration Talk: 19th June

Joint event with the RTPI NW with a talk by David Rudlin. Event aimed at Isle of Man residents.

Pub Social, Bear & Billet, Chester: 26th June

Relaxing, informal evening with heritage professionals in your area.

Hopwood Hall: 2nd July

Visit to the grade II* listed country house in Rochdale.

Tonge Hall: 2nd August

Visit to the grade II* listed country house in Rochdale.

Pub Social, Buffet Bar, Stalybridge: 4th September

Relaxing, informal evening with heritage professionals in your area.

Summer Social: Early September (TBC)

Visit to Gaskell House & Victoria Baths in Manchester.

Victoria Station, Manchester: Late September (TBC)

Visit to Victoria Station to view the new redevelopment of the building.

Annual Conference, Liverpool Medical Institute: 15th October

'I Can See Clearly Now..' The Setting of Heritage Assets' is this year's conference topic.

Quarry Bank Mill, Cheshire: 18th October

Visit to the grade II* Quarry Bank Mill with a tour of the Upper Garden.

Pub Social, Crown & Kettle, Manchester: 6th November

Relaxing, informal evening with heritage professionals in your area.

Annual General Meeting, Racquet Club, Liverpool: 3rd December

AGM to discuss IHBC NW business with a social get-together in the evening.

For further information or ideas for future events, please contact the Events Lead Katie Wray at ihbcnwevents@gmail.com



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'I Can See Clearly Now....'

This years IHBC NW conference topic is on the Setting of Heritage Assets, see below.

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ENGLISH HERITAGE

'I Can See Clearly Now....'

THE SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS

IHBC NW Branch Day Conference Liverpool Medical Institution, Hope Street, Liverpool

The importance of spaces around historic buildings and areas is well established within conservation policy and practice. The immediate context around historic buildings can provide their lifeblood, identity and contribute to their significance, whether it consists of a designed landscape around a country house or a long established medieval street pattern set around a historic church. Equally the loss of historic context to a heritage asset can cut the asset off from the local community it serves and threaten its long term viability.

The terms 'setting', 'curtilage', 'context' and 'character' are commonly used but not always clearly understood by those preparing or assessing schemes which might impact upon the historic environment. This conference will explore these inter-related concepts and consider the different ways in which new development can be sensitively designed as well as how its impact can be measured and assessed.

The conference will be of interest to planners, architects, developers, property owners, amenity societies, and all those who manage and care for the historic environment.

Confirmed speakers include:

Richard Morrice, English Heritage on the English Heritage approach to setting Rosemary Macqueen, Westminster City Council on historic urban views David Tomback, English Heritage on enabling development

Booking to open in July at http://heritagesetting.ihbc.org.uk Contact ihbcnwevents@gmail.com for more information. Follow us on Twitter for regular updates **@lhbcnwevents**

The event is kindly supported by English Heritage.

Branch Committee Contacts

Who's who in the IHBC NW Committee Branch.



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IHBC Professionals

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the key professional body for built and historic environment conservation specialists.

The IHBC represents, regulates and supports professionals contributing to the conservation of valued buildings and places.

What does the IHBC do?

The IHBC encourages its members to develop their specialist skills in conservation. Joining the IHBC will help you recognise and expand your skills and understanding.

The IHBC:

- Provides advice to members, stakeholders and govern-
- Promotes standards and skills in historic environment & building conservation and heritage regeneration;
- Encourages the special care of the historic environment as a sustainable and unique resource that benefits everyone; and
- Supports professional recognition of all the skills needed to secure sustainable conservation.

Membership Categories

Affiliates:

Specialise or train in disciplines relating to built and historic environment conservation, and intend to seek full membership.

Associates:

Have a special interest in historic places and seek to support and benefit from the IHBC, but are unlikely to seek full membership.

Full Members:

- Have demonstrated professional skills in line with the IHBC'S membership standards (see www.ihbc.org.uk_
- Must undertake continuing professional development (CPD); and may use 'IIHBC' after their name

Concessionary rates (renewable each year) are available if you are on a low income (currently under £13,500).



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Membership Benefits

- Professional status and career recognition
- News, updates, guidance and resources
- Context, IHBC's Journal, 5 issues annually (retail £50.00)
- IHBC Yearbook, the Institute and the sector's annual review (retail £14.95)
- Building Conservation Directory (retail £16.95)
- Events: reduced rates & priority access (as applicable)
- Job notices & training opportunities
- Technical support, guidance and specifications
- National, regional & web-based advice and panels
- Tax relief on subscriptions (see IHBC website)
- Access to business support & listings including IHBC's Historic Environment Service Provides Recognition (HESPR)
- Guidance on project development
- Career advice, guidance & support
- Training and CPD events, eg. IHBC Annual School
- Networking opportunities, local, national & international
- Participation & XCPD opportunities in electronic pan-
- Access to advocacy & lobbying
- Support IHBC's wider public services (see IHBC website)

For further benefits and more Information, please see www.ihbc.org.uk

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