



## INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

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Dear Sirs

### **Review of Agri-Environment Schemes in England**

I refer to the agri-environment schemes Framework Document (Consultation Version) dated December 2002.

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is the professional institute, representing conservation professionals in the public and private sectors in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. It has around fourteen hundred members divided between fourteen branches. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice and to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment.

The Institute generally welcomes DEFRA's proposals, which are set out in the framework document, in particular the intention to place greater emphasis on the conservation of the historic environment.

It is essential that this is accompanied by an expansion in the capacity of advisory services relating to conservation of the built environment, both at national and local levels. There is currently a serious under-provision of advisory services and this means that the full potential of heritage resources is not being realised in many instances.

I trust that these comments are helpful.

Yours faithfully

Dave Chetwyn  
Consultations Secretary