



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

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Dear Ms Kosandiak

DRAFT BS EN 16096: CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY - CONDITION SURVEY OF IMMOVABLE HERITAGE

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and to promote heritage-led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.

Thank you for inviting us to participate in this consultation.

Generally we support the proposed Standard and feel that the methodology is soundly based when used for its primary purpose of full building surveys.

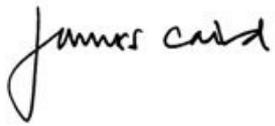
However we feel there is some ambiguity in its stated purpose and would wish to see more specific advice about how it could be adapted for surveys of specific elements of fabric or structural problems. We think the answer to this is to provide (or invite users themselves to create) an electronic form of the methodology that can be easily used on a selective basis from case to case.

We think the condition classifications are too narrow. Whilst some surveyors see this as an advantage, others would like to see the main categories subdivided to allow survey results to be better used for comparative analysis between cases.

While we appreciate the problems associated with translating a Standard into many languages, we do think that more effort should be made to use English expressions that are in current use. For example "immovable cultural heritage object" is a cumbersome expression which could be translated "heritage asset" or "historic building" to be in accordance with standard English terminology.

We have made these comments on the standard form which is attached.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Caird". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

James Caird
Consultant Consultations Co-ordinator

Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: 29/07/10

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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	(7)
MB¹	Clause No./ Subclause No./ Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/ Note (e.g. Table 1)	Type of com- ment²	Comment (justification for change) by the MB	Proposed change by the MB	Secretariat observations on each comment submitted
GB	4.5.2	Table 2	Ge	We think that the limited range of condition classes is limiting on the range of uses the standard can be put. Many cases involve interventions that require more specific categorization of outcome. Those that do would almost all fall into class CC2 and CC3, making the standard of little use in assessing priority or urgency.	The IHBC thinks it would be useful to have a more comprehensive system of assessment with the classes subdivided into more detailed classifications as used in the EH buildings at risk methodology.	
GB		Annexes A1 - A6	Ge	We think this format is useful as an aide-memoire as to the range and nature of matters that may need to be considered, but of little use as a practical survey tool unless converted to an electronic database format to allow little or no entries in some sections and extreme detail in others.	The IHBC thinks that the standard should be converted to an electronic database format to make it usable in practice.	

1 **MB** = Member body (enter the ISO 3166 two-letter country code, e.g. FR for France; comments from the CMC editing unit are identified by ***)

2 **Type of comment:** **ge** = general **te** = technical **ed** = editorial

NOTE Columns 1, 2, 4, 5 are compulsory.