



· INSTITUTE · OF · HISTORIC ·
BUILDING · CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

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Dear Jonathan

ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY WHERE SUPPORT IS REQUIRED

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.

We were forwarded this consultation by Andrew Matheson of RTPi. Given that our members will be largely those who will deliver any reinforced support in LPAs, we were slightly miffed not to have appeared on the official consultation list. But, nevertheless, we hope that this letter, largely of support, is helpful.

Broadly we think the proposed methodology is sound. While we are not clear that a comprehensively applicable formula can be arrived at given the vast range of factors that will pertain across the country, your proposed two-tier sifting methodology is a sensible approach. A quick trawl of our membership has not given rise to any caches of information that could be helpfully thrown in to supplement your data.

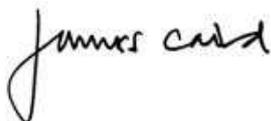
We think that the main issues will arise in the later stages of the project. We think it is inevitable that your results will indicate:

- Some authorities identified as needing support which either do not need it or do not agree that they need it.
- Some authorities identified as not needing support that are, in fact, struggling to manage all the relevant workload.
- Some authorities which will not be identified as needing support because the full effects of locally delivered planning have yet to be realized.

Thus we think the Validation Stage will be a very important one and would be happy to assist with this if you think this would be helpful. One method that might be considered at this stage is a survey of LPAs as to the extent that conservation advice to planning officers is influential on planning decisions and assessment of the reasons lying behind the statistical information.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

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