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BUILDING·CONSERVATION

Making Heritage Work

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30 April 2012

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Dear Richard

ENGLISH HERITAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR PLANNING SERVICES

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. We generally applaud the Plan, which we see as appropriate in these times of significant change.

One area which we think you may wish to look at is the specific demands of Neighbourhood Planning arising from the Localism Act. The only reference to the Act in the document is in relation to the work of the IPC. We suspect that as some communities begin work on Neighbourhood Plans there will be workload for EH arising from consultations on HE matters in the relevant areas. This ties in with the potential demand for additional resources which may be required by some LPAs as identified in EH's recent consultation on development pressures.

We think it would be helpful for the Improvement Plan to refer specifically to Neighbourhood Plans in the document in relation to the promotion of sustainable development, timeliness, usefulness of advice, pre-application discussions and strengthening relationship management.

We hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely

James Caird