

HISTORIC ENGLAND UPDATE PRESENTATION NOTES

JENIFER WHITE, NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ADVISER

Introduction



Our Corporate Plan <https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-corp-plan-2017-20/three-year-corp-plan-2017-20.pdf> sets out our priorities for the next three years.

Our aims are:

- Championing
- Protecting through the listing and planning systems
- Match funding and financial incentives to protect places
- Strengthening national capacity and sustaining heritage protection systems
- Supporting English Heritage
- Improving financial and organisation resilience and accountability

This update picks up the two major themes underlying our work for the next few years:

- Developing our reputation as the Government agency and broadening support for heritage across a diverse audience
- Championing heritage under threat and contested heritage

Championing



Campaigns like this year's #100 Places <https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/100-places/> are designed to get more people engaged and involved with their heritage and our work in championing the historic environment. #100 Places included several categories which were opportunities to share our parks and gardens heritage and stimulate interest.

The Capability Brown Festival showed us the benefits of social media like Twitter. The numbers of followers on the county gardens trusts' own Twitter accounts is growing and reaching far wider than memberships. The Repton bicentenary offers more opportunities to engage more people.

Protecting through the listing and planning systems

- Register of Parks & Gardens



Over the last 12 months, 14 sites have been added to the register (see appendix 1). Five more 18C/early 19C sites have been added including one more Capability Brown landscape (Wakefield Lodge) Park in Buckinghamshire). It is great to see eight more 20C gardens registered including four war memorial landscapes and Rickerby Park in Carlisle is one of Thomas Mawson's designs.

This group also includes a 1910 rock garden and my favourite is the elaborate Skegness Esplanade Gardens.

Hampshire Gardens Trust got Bramshil, an important Jacobean garden re-assessed. This exceptional, and probably unique, survival of an early C17 water garden with its associated mansion was upgraded to grade 1. Sally Miller's presentation looks at the planning issues. Yorkshire Gardens Trust's research highlighted the significance of the Parlington Estate and the interweaving of pleasure grounds, agrarian horticultural experimentation, and racehorse breeding in the landscape design.

Listing is also an important protection tool and the appendix gives examples of garden related listings.

Collaborating with the Gardens Trust and its Comiling the Record we now setting up a project to look at registering post-1945 landscape design of special historic interest (see Karen Fitsimon's presentation).

- Enriching the List

Can you help us Enrich the List by adding photos and insights to the Register of Parks & Gardens and listing entries? <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/> it's very easy. There is a 'How to' guide at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/how-to-make-contribution-to-enrich-the-list/>. It would be great to see photos added for all the Humphry Repton sites in 2018!

- Planning system



We now have a full complement of landscape architects in our local offices. There are five: Chris Mayes covers North East, North West and Yorkshire; Kim Auston works in the West Midlands and South West, Erika Diaz Petersen is in the East Midlands, Chris Laine covers East of England and London, and Kay Richardson works in the South East (see Appendix 2 for list and contact details). The landscape architects are part of our Heritage at Risk teams but they support the Development Management teams on planning casework and the other teams.

To support our planning role we publish guidance <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/planning-system/>.

Good Practice Advice notes (GPAs) - These provide supporting information to the National Planning Policy Framework on good practice, particularly looking at the principles of how national policy and guidance can be applied. The GPAs have been developed in collaboration with the Historic Environment Forum and designed to present a shared view. The three published are:

GPA1 - Local Plan Making

GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment

GPA3 - Setting and Views

The next one to be published will be enabling development.

Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs) - These include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance and are produced by Historic England. The subjects are diverse: conservation areas, tall buildings, re-use of farm buildings. We are just working on updating Streets for All and we have issued a consultation for a new version of Conservation Principles <https://historicengland.org.uk/about/what-we-do/consultations/guidance-open-for-consultation/> which aligns with the 'Heritage Interests' (Historic, Architectural, Archaeological and Artistic) in the National Planning Policy Framework. We have been able to shorten the document by cross reference to other guidance.

Match funding and financial incentives to protect places



The 2017 Heritage at Risk Register was published last month. There are 96 parks and gardens on the Risk Register, representing 5.8% of the total number of registered parks and gardens. Panshanger, which has been championed by the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, was one of the sites added to the Heritage at Risk

Register this year which means there are now 13 entries associated with Humphry Repton landscapes. David Lambert's presentation on 'Vulnerability Brown' report highlights challenges facing these landscapes.

The Heritage at Risk programme is proving very successful and we've achieved our target to reduce the number of entries by 15% a year early. This year Historic England gave grant aid of £10.5m to 260 projects. This grant aid is often the first step to securing the future of a site and helps give confidence to other funders as their support is sought. One super example is Jellicoe's Hemell Water Gardens which has been restored with HLF funding and on 23 November won the Landscape Institute Heritage & Conservation Award.

It will be interesting to see the next batch of Heritage Action Zones. This area regeneration programme could include parks, cemeteries and other historic green spaces. More information is available at <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/breathe-new-life-into-old-places-through-heritage-action-zones/>.

Strengthening national capacity and sustaining heritage protection systems



Historic England continues to support the Gardens Trust and the Historic Landscapes project through its capacity building grants. We have also been able to help kick start the Repton celebrations with funding Linden Grove's time and related costs and we contributed to the Gardens Trust's project looking the conservation challenges facing Capability Brown landscapes.

Understanding the threats and developing strategies is an important part of our work. The work is broad ranging from Brexit issues to identifying research gaps. Training and guidance, including web pages, are part of this. Our policy and research work has been concentrating on public parks and the deepening funding crisis and our Heritage Practice Training Programme run by the University of Leicester held its first course on public parks. We are also looking at climate change issues and in particular the impacts of pests and diseases for the treescapes of our historic parks and gardens and we are working with the University of Southampton.

Supporting English Heritage



Historic England continues to offer support in kind, expert advice and shared services to English Heritage except on gardens and landscapes as the charity has its own team headed by John Watkins. The charity the Historic & Botanic Garden Training Programme based at Wrest Park.

As part of their Marble Hill Revived project <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill-house/marble-hill-revived/> the trust wants to restore the lost 18th-century garden and open up and create new spaces, , and improve the public park sports facilities. The project research and garden archaeology has generated exciting finds such as the record of Pope, Bridgeman and the Countess all working together on the garden design and execution of Pope's plan. We are waiting to hear whether planning consent will be granted. The restoration project has its opponents as reported in the Times on 17 November 'English Heritage under fire over plans to fell 350 trees at Marble Hill House'. There is more to do in getting people involved to see their historic significance.