

<p>The historic environment is a shared resource</p>	<p>Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment</p>	<p>Understanding the significance of places is vital</p>	<p>Significant places should be managed to sustain their values</p>	<p>Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent</p>	<p>Documenting and learning from decisions is essential</p>
<p>Our environment contains a unique and dynamic record of human activity. It has been shaped by people responding to the surroundings they inherit, and embodies the aspirations, skills and investment of successive generations.</p>	<p>Everyone should have the opportunity to contribute his or her knowledge of the value of places, and to participate in decisions about their future, by means that are accessible, inclusive and informed.</p>	<p>Any fixed part of the historic environment with a distinctive identity perceived by people can be considered a place</p>	<p>Change in the historic environment is inevitable, caused by natural processes, the wear and tear of use, and people's responses to social, economic and technological change.</p>	<p>Decisions about change in the historic environment demand the application of expertise, experience and judgement, in a consistent, transparent process guided by public policy.</p>	<p>Accessible records of the justification for decisions and the actions that follow them are crucial to maintaining a cumulative account of what has happened to a significant place, and understanding how and why its significance may have been altered.</p>
<p>People value this historic environment as part of their cultural and natural heritage. It reflects the knowledge, beliefs and traditions of diverse communities. It gives distinctiveness, meaning and quality to the places in which we live, providing a sense of continuity and a source of identity. It is a social and economic asset and a resource for learning and enjoyment.</p>	<p>Learning is central to sustaining the historic environment. It raises people's awareness and understanding of their heritage, including the varied ways in which its values are perceived by different generations and communities. It encourages informed and active participation in caring for the historic environment.</p>	<p>The significance of a place embraces all the diverse cultural and natural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it. These values tend to grow in strength and complexity over time, as understanding deepens and people's perceptions of a place evolve.</p>	<p>Conservation is the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.</p>	<p>The range and depth of understanding, assessment and public engagement should be sufficient to inform and justify the decision to be made, but efficient in the use of resources. Proportionality should govern the exercise of statutory controls.</p>	<p>Managers of significant places should monitor and regularly evaluate the effects of change and responses to it, and use the results to inform future decisions. Public bodies similarly should monitor and respond to the effects on the historic environment of their policies and programmes.</p>
<p>Each generation should therefore shape and sustain the historic environment in ways that allow people to use, enjoy and benefit from it, without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same.</p>	<p>Experts should use their knowledge and skills to encourage and enable others to learn about, value and care for the historic environment. They play a crucial role in discerning, communicating and sustaining the established values of places, and in helping people to refine and articulate the values they attach to places.</p>	<p>In order to identify the significance of a place, it is necessary first to understand its fabric, and how and why it has changed over time; and then to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• who values the place, and why they do so</li> <li>• how those values relate to its fabric</li> <li>• their relative importance</li> <li>• whether associated objects contribute to them</li> <li>• the contribution made by the setting and context of the place</li> <li>• how the place compares with others sharing similar values.</li> </ul>	<p>Conservation is achieved by all concerned with a significant place sharing an understanding of its significance, and using that understanding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• judge how its heritage values are vulnerable to change</li> <li>• take the actions and impose the constraints necessary to sustain, reveal and reinforce those values</li> <li>• mediate between conservation options, if action to sustain one heritage value could conflict with action to sustain another</li> <li>• ensure that the place retains its authenticity – those attributes and elements which most truthfully reflect and embody the heritage values attached to it.</li> </ul>	<p>Potential conflict between sustaining heritage values of a place and other important public interests should be minimised by seeking the least harmful means of accommodating those interests.</p>	<p>If all or part of a significant place will be lost, whether as a result of decision or inevitable natural process, its potential to yield information about the past should be realised. This requires investigation and analysis, followed by archiving and dissemination of the results, all at a level that reflects its significance.</p>
<p>Heritage values represent a public interest in places, regardless of ownership. The use of law, public policy and public investment is justified to protect that public interest.</p>	<p>It is essential to develop, maintain and pass on the specialist knowledge and skills necessary to sustain the historic environment.</p>	<p>Understanding and articulating the values and significance of a place is necessary to inform decisions about its future. The degree of significance determines what, if any, protection, including statutory designation, is appropriate under law and policy.</p>	<p>Action taken to counter harmful effects of natural change, or to minimise the risk of disaster, should be timely, proportionate to the severity and likelihood of identified consequences, and sustainable.</p>	<p>If conflict cannot be avoided, the weight given to heritage values in making the decision should be proportionate to the significance of the place and the impact of the proposed change on that significance.</p>	<p>Where such loss is the direct result of human intervention, the costs of this work should be borne by those who benefit from the change, or whose role it is to initiate such change in the public interest.</p>
<p>Advice and assistance should be available from public sources to help owners sustain the heritage in their stewardship.</p>			<p>Intervention may be justified if it increases understanding of the past, reveals or reinforces particular heritage values of a place, or is necessary to sustain those values for present and future generations, so long as any resulting harm is decisively outweighed by the benefits.</p>		
			<p>New work should aspire to a quality of design and execution which may be valued both now and in the future. This neither implies nor precludes working in traditional or new ways, but should respect the significance of a place in its setting.</p>		