



Response to consultation on English Heritage New Model

The National Heritage Science Forum (NHSF) has been set up to address the recommendations of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Inquiry on Science and Heritage and to implement the National Heritage Science Strategy (NHSS) objectives.

The Forum provides a platform to support the policy, research and professional needs of institutions engaged in heritage science. The NHSF brings together many disciplines under the wide-ranging, interdisciplinary heritage science umbrella. Through working together, Forum members address the research and practice needs of institutions interested in or engaged with heritage science.

We have fifteen members:

- English Heritage
- National Museums Wales
- National Trust
- British Library
- Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery
- Institute for Conservation
- The National Archives
- University College London
- The British Museum
- Historic Royal Palaces
- National Galleries Scotland
- Natural History Museum
- Oxford University
- Historic Scotland
- Tate

Our response is limited to issues that specifically affect heritage science. Many of our member organisations have submitted responses that cover the breadth of the consultation. We feel that question 17 is the most appropriate question for the NHSF to answer.

Question 17 - Are there any further points you would like to add in relation to the consultation?

Answer - English Heritage is the national leader in providing advice and services relating to the use of science in support of the understanding, conservation and communication of the material cultural heritage. From 2007-2008 English Heritage provided the Secretariat for the development of the National Heritage Science Strategy (NHSS) following the recommendations contained within the 2006 House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology Inquiry into Science and Heritage. English Heritage is a founder member of the National Heritage Science Forum (NHSF) which was established in 2013 as one of the recommendations of the NHSS.

There is no mention of the importance of science and research to support the delivery of the National Heritage Protection Plan in the consultation document. Whilst we understand that it is not possible to specifically mention all activities in which English Heritage is involved, we very much hope that there will be an increase in the resources required by the new bodies to deliver the expected level of national leadership, advice and services in heritage science compared with the present. English Heritage and Historic England will need their own NHPPs within which there is an action plan to drive research to support the understanding, conservation and communication of material cultural heritage.

In regard to heritage science, English Heritage has a wider 'national' role than just England. Cadw does not have any capacity or resources for heritage science and the bodies in Wales that are practitioners for heritage science such as Arts Council and National Museums Wales regard English Heritage as the 'strategic lead'. In Scotland Historic Scotland delivers this service.
