

Decision Maker: **Development Control Committee**

Date: **14<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

**TITLE: THE SETTING OF HERITAGE ASSETS: ENGLISH HERITAGE GUIDANCE**

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## 1. Reason for report

English Heritage have released a draft guidance document entitled 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' for consultation. The consultation questions asked by English Heritage in response to this document are set out in Appendix 1 of this report along with the proposed response from the Council (in italics). The response has to be submitted to English Heritage by the closing date of 26 November 2010. Copies of the document are available in the Members room or online at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

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## 2. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to note the details of the consultation document and agree the responses to the consultation questions which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.



### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The English Heritage guidance for *Setting of Heritage Assets* has been written as a companion document to the new Planning Policy Statement 5 – *Planning for the Historic Environment* and the associated English Heritage *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*.

3.2 The aim of the guidance is to ensure that judgments made about the contribution of setting to the significance of heritage assets and about the implications of change are as objective and consistent as possible, reducing conflict and delay in decision making. The draft guidance is intended to be read in conjunction with English Heritage’s ‘*Conservation Principles, Policy and Guidance*’ (2008) and with other English Heritage guidance on the related topics of historic characterisation and building in context. It should also be read in conjunction with English Heritage’s forthcoming guidance on historic views entitled ‘*Seeing the History in the View*’

3.3 The guidance sets out the English Heritage position on:

- the definition of setting;
- the contribution that setting makes to the heritage significance of places; and
- assessing the implications of changes to setting.

3.4 The guidance also provides detailed advice in the interpretation of setting in relation to other policy, regulation and guidance, all of which have an impact on the historic environment.

3.5 The heritage significance of places derives not only from their physical presence, but also from other attributes including their relationship with their surroundings, particularly their setting. Setting is an issue that can be difficult to define. The document explains the concept of setting and how it can affect Heritage Assets. As such, once this document is adopted, the concepts of setting and protecting settings of heritage assets should be incorporated into new Conservation Area Statements. In this way, more detailed local guidance on potential cumulative impacts on Conservation Areas can be given.

### 4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy BE8 (Statutory Listed Buildings) in the UDP are used in reference to applications for development involving a listed building or its setting. The guidance published by English Heritage will assist in the interpretation of setting embodied in that policy.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial Implications, Legal Implications, Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	The setting of heritage assets: English Heritage Guidance, Consultation draft 2010