

7th February 2014

Response by the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee to the DCMS Consultation on the English Heritage New Model

Consultation Questions

Chapter 3: The Charity

Q1. The consultation outlines the benefits of the new model for the National Heritage Collection.

Do you (please tick the appropriate box):

Strongly agree with the proposed benefits

Somewhat agree with the proposed benefits

Somewhat disagree with the proposed benefits

Strongly disagree with the proposed benefits

Neither agree or disagree

The activities of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (JNAPC) relate to Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) and Maritime Heritage and so we will not be responding to questions on the Charity and the National Heritage Collection.

However on the basis of the information shown in the Consultation it would appear that the division of the existing organisation into the Charity (the new English Heritage) and Historic England could be beneficial because this should strengthen the role of Historic England in making the heritage protection system work better and increase its ability to secure the preservation of England's maritime heritage.

Don't know

Q2. If you either strongly or somewhat disagree with the proposed benefits why is this?

Q3. Are there any further benefits that could be delivered by this model?

Q4. Are there any other key opportunities for the charity to increase earned income in addition to those outlined in the consultation? (please tick the appropriate box)

Yes

No

Don't know

Q5. If yes what are they?

Q6. What aspects of the current service provided to the public by English Heritage in relation to the National Heritage Collection is it important that the charity maintains?

Q7. What are the opportunities to further enhance the services that will be offered by the charity?

Q8. Do you agree that the suggested charitable objectives are broadly the right ones? (please tick the appropriate box)

Yes

No

Don't know

Q9. If no, what changes to them do you think should be made?

Q10. Are the proposed success criteria to measure the performance of the charity and to ensure that the benefits are realised the right ones? (please tick the relevant box)

Yes

No

Don't know

Q11. If not what else should be included in the success criteria?

Chapter 4: Historic England

Q12. We are interested in the views of respondents to the proposed future opportunities and priorities for Historic England. Are these the right priorities and opportunities? Is there anything missing?

(4.1) The JNAPC strongly welcomes the opportunity that the proposed split provides to reassess priorities and look at ways of improving how heritage protection services are managed and delivered – particularly with regard to the maritime historic environment (CF 2.2) – and would be happy to be involved in, and contribute to this process. The JNAPC also welcomes the intention to strengthen Historic England's expert advice, and notes that this is particularly necessary with regard to maritime historic environment expertise.

(4.2) It is disappointing to see that the focus on local sustainable development and economic growth appears to be entirely related to the repair and maintenance of historic buildings. The JNAPC believes that a much wider range of heritage related activities can be deployed in landscape, coastal, and maritime contexts to support sustainable development and economic growth and hopes the present wide scope of historic environment activities in English Heritage will be retained and continue to be deployed (and perhaps extended) in the future in Historic England. This is explicitly referenced in (4.6) and this admirably broad vision should read across and articulate with all the activities of Historic England.

(4.12) The JNAPC agrees that Saving Heritage at Risk should be an important priority for Historic England, and notes that under the 1979 Act the provisions for the Commission to take into ownership the most important vulnerable sites for which there is no other solution also apply to underwater monuments and that if necessary Historic England may also need to exercise these powers in a maritime context.

Q13. Are the proposed success criteria to measure the performance of Historic England the right ones?

(please tick the appropriate box)

Yes

However the fifth success criterion includes “an increase in resources and expertise”. Whilst this is an admirable aspiration, it’s inclusion is probably unrealistic without a guarantee of an appropriate increase in Grant-in-Aid funding. We suggest the basis of this criterion should be reviewed.

No

Don’t know

Q14. If not what else should be included in the success criteria?

Q15. Should the National Heritage Protection Plan form the basis of the business plan for Historic England? (please tick the appropriate box)

Yes

The JNAPC welcomes the opportunity to participate in the forthcoming consultation on the NHPP during 2014.

No

Don’t know

Q16. If no – why not?

Q17. Are there any further points you would like to add in relation to the consultation?

(4.11) The JNAPC welcomes the proposal to establish Historic England, and in particular it welcomes the commitment to continue to fund Historic England from taxation via government Grant-in-Aid although clarification on what is meant by ‘largely’ would be welcome. The JNAPC subscribes to the general vision outlined for Historic England, in terms of the whole range of its roles and functions.

In this context the JNAPC considers it absolutely essential that Grant-in-Aid funding continues at least at current levels for the whole of Historic England and particularly for the existing non-statutory functions that are incorporated in the NHPP and which

underpin the regulatory and statutory roles. This current level of funding for Historic England should continue for the same eight year period that is foreseen in the New Model for the Charity.

The JNAPC welcomes the commitment to work in partnership with others to develop recommendations for the future and would welcome the opportunity to contribute the expertise of its varied membership to the particular development of the underwater cultural heritage and the maritime heritage.

About you section

Q18. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

(please tick the appropriate box)

Individual

Part of an organisation

Q19. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation what best describes the type of organisation?

(please tick the appropriate box)

Organisation representing visitor attractions/tourism

Organisation representing owners of historic assets

Organisation representing heritage professionals or other heritage groups

Organisation involved in regulatory and statutory work related to the historic environment

Organisation which provides grants to the historic environment sector

Organisation which represents volunteers/communities

Owner of heritage assets

Visitor attraction – heritage

Visitor attraction – other

University or other research organisation

Local Authority

Developer

Civic society

Other (please specify)

Q20. If you are responding as an individual are you an existing English Heritage member and/or volunteer?

Yes

No

Don't know

Q21. Are you an owner of a listed building?

Yes

No

Don't know

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Please tick this box if you DO NOT want your responses to be made publicly available.

I would like to be kept in contact on the English Heritage new model programme.

Communication will be through either DCMS or English Heritage. Your data will not be used for any further purposes.

(please tick the appropriate box)

Yes

No