

Collaborative Doctoral Award

Beyond the List: A critical examination of impact of statutory and non-statutory heritage lists on the national management of heritage in England

Research area: Heritage Management

University Partner

University of York, Department of Archaeology

Project Summary

The scope and relevance of statutory designation for heritage assets, listing and scheduling, has been rationalised and transformed over the last 10 years to respond to policy change (localism, decentralisation, NPPF, unified National List, new 'Local List' designations, online availability of data, increasing public access in the designation process) and steady reduction in national and local government resources to support a designation system. Historic England seeks a review of past and emerging policy and practice in this field across a range of contexts to inform understanding of the current national picture and feed into future policy formation.

Aims and Objectives

Research for English Heritage in 2010 foregrounded four principal drivers in changing designation practice:

- the role of the public in designation and in consultation
- selection criteria and changing perceptions of significance
- emerging local and community values as increasingly of weight
- listing as only one of an expanding toolkit for managing the historic environment

The aim of this current 'follow-up' research is to understand recent development and impacts of heritage 'listing' policy on the national management of the historic environment in order to inform future policy and practice at national and local scales.

Three key areas will be reviewed:

1. Interaction of national planning policy and current legislative provisions (1990 Planning (LB and CA) and 1979 AMAA Acts; NPPF and Localism Act) and current guidance and best practice at national and local scales
2. Variations in the use and effectiveness of statutory and non-statutory heritage lists in managing heritage through the planning system across and within English regions
3. Innovative approaches to user-generated content and participative engagement in planning and asset management (looking across the UK as well as England).

Within that context, the specific objectives of the research are to:

- (1) gather and critically examine new understandings of how the balance and distinctions between 'national' and 'local', 'expert' and 'grass-roots' views of significance, and designated and non-designated heritage assets are changing;
- (2) reassess innovation in policy and practice since 2010 (including the legacy of the MPP), and
- (3) seek a fresh perspective on the direction of travel for heritage asset management, within and beyond statutory listing.

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