



'One Stop Shop' consultation
Planning: Infrastructure & Environment Team
Department of Communities and Local Government
1/J6 Eland House
Bressenden Place
London, SW1E 5DU

07 January 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

Consultation on nationally significant infrastructure planning: expanding and improving the 'one stop shop' approach for consents

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document.

The Institute for Archaeologists

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,200 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors. Furthermore, the IfA is a constituent member of the Archaeology Forum (TAF), a grouping of independent bodies concerned with archaeology, and works closely with other bodies in the sector such as the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) and the Council for British Archaeology (CBA).

Nationally significant infrastructure planning: expanding and improving the 'one stop shop' approach for consents

IfA supports Government in its desire to *'provide a more efficient, effective and streamlined consents regime for nationally significant infrastructure'* and welcomes the continuing effort to build on the work done through the Penfold Review.

Question 1:

Do you support the proposal to establish new bespoke consent management arrangements within the Planning Inspectorate?

1.1 Yes. We would wish to see English Heritage fully involved in any arrangements relating to development likely to affect the historic environment.

Do you have any comments about the structure and governance of the arrangements?

1.2 No.

Do you think these arrangements will make the overall consents process more efficient?

1.3 Yes. The identification and addressing of issues (in particular, in relation to the historic environment) through consultation and discussion early in the development process is key to facilitating and expediting sustainable development.

If not, what further reforms would you suggest, including a greater role for the Planning Inspectorate?

1.4 Not applicable.

Question 2:

Do you agree with the proposal to streamline the list of consents that are administered by consenting bodies outside of the Development Consent Order process (Part 3, Annex B)?

2.1 Yes.

Have we identified the right consents to be removed?

2.2 So far as we are aware.

Question 3:

Do you consider that the list of prescribed consultees should be reviewed?

3.1 Yes. IfA welcomes and supports the continuing role of English Heritage in the consultation process with a view to safeguarding the historic environment. Annex E to Part 1 of the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 11 provides a sound basis for English Heritage's engagement with applicants.

3.2 Notwithstanding our support for the role of English Heritage as a consultee, IfA considers that it is also important for PINS to have appropriate in-house, archaeological expertise available to it when considering any issues raised.

Do you agree with the suggested amendments as outlined in Annex C?

3.2 No further comment.

If not, what are your alternative proposals?

3.3 No further comment.

Question 4:

Do you agree with the proposition to amend the current definition of the word 'relevant' to exclude the mandatory consultation of bodies that are more distant from the development site?

4.1 Yes, provided that the effect of large-scale development on the setting of heritage assets at some distance from the development site remains adequately considered through the consultation process.

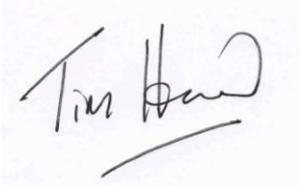
Question 5:

We would also welcome views on or practical examples of how the consenting regime is currently working for nationally significant infrastructure projects and other suggestions on where the regime could be improved. We are also interested to understand more about the costs involved in applying for consents and would welcome responses on this issue.

5.1 No comment.

IfA would be happy to work further with Government and others with a view to developing a consents regime which expedites sustainable development whilst safeguarding and promoting the historic environment. In the meantime, if there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Howard', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor