

Memorandum of Understanding on Maintaining Standards and Best Practice in the Built Heritage Sector in England

This Memorandum of Understanding, dated 31st March 2009, was developed by ConstructionSkills, English Heritage and the National Heritage Training Group in consultation with the All-Party Parliamentary Arts & Heritage Group. The principles of this apply to all clients, property managers, planners, contractors, craftspeople and professionals in the built heritage sector of the construction industry.

For all work to the 5 million pre-1919 buildings and structures in England, including those listed and protected by legislation, we agree to:

1. Foster an awareness of local culture and connect this with economic regeneration and development to meet and maintain social and physical needs.
2. Promote improved understanding between owners, planners and property managers for the sustainable use of traditional building materials and appropriate repair and maintenance techniques.
3. Promote the highest possible standards of design, management, supervision and workmanship in all built heritage conservation, repair and maintenance contracts.
4. Promote the need to appoint knowledgeable, qualified and experienced sector professionals and contractors/craftspeople for all aspects of pre-1919 building projects.
5. Devise and maintain best practice models for this sector from design, specification and procurement to on-site project delivery and after care, and using a sustainable approach throughout that protects against or mitigates the effects of climate change.
6. Work towards a CSCS carded workforce by 2010, including the CSCS Heritage Skills and Professional Qualified Persons cards for those working on all built heritage projects and sites, to demonstrate competency and health and safety awareness.
7. Encourage all heritage funding agencies from 2010, to insist on appropriately carded contractors and craftspeople to carry out all work on grant-aided heritage projects.
8. Promote awareness of the need to identify, safeguard and enable access to sources of traditional building materials on a sustainable basis, at regional and local level.
9. Promote and maintain a balanced approach between natural and built heritage legislation and its implementation.
10. Support the development of integrated education and training programmes and CPD, to share knowledge and understanding between contractors, craftspeople and sector professionals.

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