

HERITAGE LINK PRESS RELEASE

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No Bill: Heritage Link slates Government's lack of commitment over quality of place

The absence of the Heritage Protection Bill in the latest legislative programme published on 30 June drives a coach and horses through the Government's commitment to improving quality of place, set out in the cross Government strategy *World Class Places* (May 2009) .

Anthea Case, Chairman of Heritage Link, said '*World Class Places* showed an excellent understanding of the importance of quality of place in these difficult times. It also emphasised the important part played in the economy by the rich and extensive historic environment we have here in the UK.

'The Heritage Protection Bill will streamline the heritage protection system, making it easier to administer and understand. A more effective regime will make sure our heritage is the mainstay of local character, providing identity and sense of place for new and old communities, just the very thing, as *World Class Places* points out, that attracts investment.

'In December 2008 we accepted that Government needed to focus on global economic challenges. But we know the Bill has cross party support and could go swiftly on to Royal Assent. So for the Bill to be omitted for a second time from the Government's legislative programme is extremely disheartening.'

Anthea Case commented 'Heritage Link and its members have a significant part to play in making sure our heritage is seen as a positive force in the 21st century. It is a national asset in economic, social, education and environmental terms. We will continue to press through all available means for the Heritage Protection Bill to be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.'

Heritage Link will also encourage the heritage sector to express its views on the omission through the Government consultation on the Draft Legislative Programme.

Notes to Editors

1. Contact: Kate Pugh, The Secretary, Heritage Link, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP
kate.pugh@heritagelink.org.uk 020 7820 7796 mobile 07811 819677.

2. **Heritage Link** www.heritagelink.org.uk was set up in 2002 by national heritage groups in England to promote the central role of the voluntary (ngo) movement in the sector and to make their voice heard collectively and coherently. It brings together 75 voluntary organisations concerned with heritage in England representing interests from specialist advisers, practitioners and managers, volunteers and owners, to national funding bodies and local building preservation trusts. The highly specialised knowledge and expertise built up by member organisations across a huge range of issues is a national resource and much of this knowledge is contributed on a voluntary basis though the heritage protection regime and other advisory roles for public benefit.

3. World Class Places: The Government's Strategy for improving quality of place.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1229344.pdf>

4. Government draft legislative programme and consultation
<http://www.commonleader.gov.uk/output/Page2826.asp>
