

Council logo

## STATEMENT of AMBITION for the HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT in SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

**SHARED STATEMENTS OF AMBITION** for the historic environment set out a local and regional strategy for realising the benefits of heritage for people, the economy and future development.

**Part A: The context for heritage** identifies the common policy and funding context within which local ambitions can be realised throughout the East Midlands.

**Part B: Local priorities** sets out specific opportunities and challenges in each local authority area.

**Part C: Realising local ambition** provides hands-on guidance to help practitioners in the region turn ambition into reality.

### Part A

This statement has been prepared jointly between South Derbyshire District Council and the East Midlands Heritage Forum, with support and assistance from English Heritage. It provides an achievable vision for the future protection and enhancement of the historic environment in South Derbyshire in order to assist future policy initiatives and delivery mechanisms.

The vision comprises a series of objectives in the form of priorities for management and outcomes, (sites and schemes), brought together in an action plan linked to funding sources and delivery mechanisms.

Local Illustration

## National policy: Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)

At present the policy for the historic environment is set out in PPS 5 and the accompanying Practice guide which were published in 2010. Government has announced its intentions to publish a National Planning Framework together with a single PPS and this may emerge in 2011.

The Government's objectives for planning for the historic environment as set out in PPS 5 are:

To deliver sustainable development by ensuring that all policies and decisions concerning the historic environment:

Recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource;

Take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation

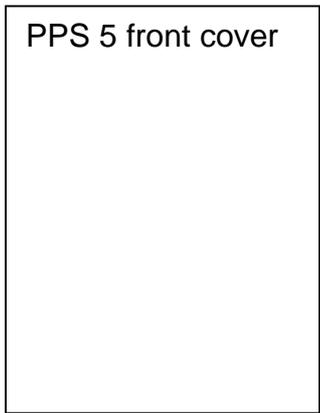
Recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be managed for the long term.

To conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance by ensuring that:

Decisions are based on the nature, extent and level of that significance, investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset  
Wherever possible, heritage assets are put to an appropriate and viable use that is consistent with their conservation

The positive contribution of such heritage assets to the local character and sense of place is recognised and valued; and  
Consideration of the historic environment is integrated into planning policies, promoting place shaping

To contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the past by ensuring that opportunities are taken to capture evidence from the historic environment and to make this publicly available, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.



This is **Part B** of the statement for South Derbyshire. It has been prepared jointly by South Derbyshire District Council and the East Midlands Heritage Forum, which brings together organisations interested in heritage, regeneration and public services across the region.

### **County-wide policy:**

**Derbyshire's current Sustainable Community Strategy** contains several references to the wealth and importance of heritage assets, identifying them as one of the characteristics of the county and a key component of the **Culture theme**. Greater awareness and appreciation of the historical environment go hand in hand with the objective to protect and enhance it for residents and visitors alike.

The Council have produced the **Landscape Character of Derbyshire** which guides local policy on conservation and landscape management issues.

**The County Council** maintains the **Historic Environment Register** and the **Buildings at Risk** register. It also provides a conservation service for some of the Districts.

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

### **District-wide policy**

The council currently relies on Saved Environmental Policies in its Local Plan, national policy and local planning guidance – including a wealth of advice on the historic environment. The council have produced a Vision and Strategy for Swadlincote Town Centre aimed at delivering heritage-led regeneration across the whole town centre. It is linked to an agreed Master Plan program of public realm improvements that are currently underway and will stretch over several years.

The Council have also produced a Design Guide that includes advice on development of or within the historic environment [www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning\\_and\\_building\\_control/](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning_and_building_control/)

## Priorities outcomes

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action by end 2011</b>	<b>Funding and policy</b>	<b><u>Lead and partners</u></b>
1.	Adopt policies for the historic environment in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy	Robust and ambitious policy framework established at local level to support the active conservation of the historic environment currently underway	Community engagement undertaken and draft Core Strategy published.	Statutory Commitment	<u>SDDC</u>
2.	Continue to implement the Masterplan proposals for public realm improvements in Swadlincote town centre	High quality public realm improvements as part of regeneration initiative of the town as a whole	Completion of Phase 2. Investigate Funding opportunities for Phase 3.	15 year Public Realm Improvement Masterplan adopted. Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 in progress  No secured funding for future phases	<u>SDDC</u>
3.	Continuation of PSiCA grant Scheme for	Repair and restoration of historic commercial buildings as part of regeneration initiative of the town as	Completion of at least three projects during	Commitment Funded by	<u>SDDC</u>

	Swadlincote	a whole	Year 2 of a 3 year agreed grant scheme.	English Heritage, Derbyshire County Council and SDDC	
4.	Increase awareness of the value of the historic environment	<p>Adopt character statements for all conservation areas.</p> <p>Support Heritage Open days</p> <p>Publish Heritage News</p> <p>Contribute information to the Historic Environment Record held by Derbyshire County Council</p>	<p>Character Statements Adopted</p> <p>Opening of at least three sites in September 2011 facilitated and promoted</p> <p>2 editions published</p> <p>Ongoing additions to the Council's Heritage data base</p>	<p>Commitment</p> <p>Commitment</p> <p>Commitment</p> <p>Commitment</p>	<p><u>SDDC</u></p> <p><u>English Heritage and SDDC</u></p> <p><u>SDDC</u></p> <p><u>DCC and SDDC</u></p>
5.	Protection of Conservation area Character	Consider tightening planning controls through Article 4 Directions for conservation areas at risk	Identify areas at risk	Aspiration: as resources allow	<u>SDDC</u>
6.	Identify priorities for schemes from the Buildings at Risk	Securing the retention of threatened buildings	Initial buildings / schemes identified	Aspiration: as resources allow	<u>SDDC</u>

	list				
7.	Promote high quality residential development district wide including in designated historic areas	Improve the quality of planning submissions through the operation of the guide including Building for Life assessments.	On-going operation of the guide	Commitment	<u>SDDC</u>
8.	Facilitate a scheme that will protect the heritage assets and secure a viable long term use for Elvaston Castle and Historic Park	Resolution of the long-running concern to restore the buildings and parkland on a long term basis.	Garden Buildings at risk repaired. Options Appraisal commenced	Aspiration	<u>DCC</u> , EH and <u>SDDC</u>
9.	Facilitate a scheme that will protect the heritage assets and secure a viable long term use for the former TG Green pottery site	Encourage investment in the site and its surroundings to safeguard the heritage asset in the medium term.	Secure essential repairs and partial demolition	English Heritage BAR grant offered	<u>EH</u> and <u>SDDC</u>

## **Part C**

### **IMPLEMENTATION and FUNDING MECHANISMS and RESOURCES**

The development of local delivery approaches, through the LSP and set out in the LDF, are now the place where projects that need funding should be set out. If projects have a 'reasonable prospect' of funding then they should be included in the LDF (Core Strategy or AAPs as appropriate). If projects don't yet have funding they should be included in the delivery programme of the SCS which is where unfunded projects should be listed and used for funding bids from HCA and other bodies. This is also the list from which CIL or developers' contributions projects should be taken.

#### **Local**

The Council has a historic environment champion, Cllr. John Bladen.

There are two full time officers, a Conservation Officer and a Heritage Officer.

Current grant level is £ 30k

There are programs for the designation / review of conservation areas and for character appraisals and enhancement proposals.

The town centre works are part of a £6m scheme over fifteen years to bring about a transformation of the town centre and set it on a path to economic success.

## Approvals

The local authority and member organisations of East Midlands Heritage Forum will make all reasonable efforts and seek to utilise available opportunities to secure delivery and implementation of the objectives set out in this Statement of Shared Ambition for the Historic Environment, and aim to review progress annually.

This statement was approved as indicated below:

Level	Name (and position where relevant)	Date
Service Manager		
Director		
Cabinet / Committee		
Full Council		
Endorsed by County Council (in two-tier areas)		
East Midlands Heritage Forum		

### Member organisations of the East Midlands Heritage Forum:

British Waterways	English Heritage
Country Land and Business Association	Government Office East Midlands
East Midlands Association of Civic Societies	Heritage Lottery Fund
East Midlands Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers	Historic Houses Association
East Midlands Churches Forum	Historic Towns Forum
East Midlands Councils	Institute of Historic Building Conservation
East Midlands Development Agency	Museums, Libraries and Archives
Education representative (Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln)	National Trust
	Natural England
	UK Association of Preservation Trusts

This Shared Statement of Ambition was commissioned by English Heritage and written and produced by RMJM Ltd and The Planning Cooperative Ltd in association with South Derbyshire District Council and members of the East Midlands Heritage Forum, whose assistance and support is gratefully acknowledged.