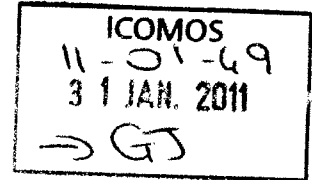


ENGLISH HERITAGE

from the Chief Executive
Dr Simon Thurley



Gustavo Araoz
President
International Council on Monuments and Sites
49-51 rue de la federation
75015 Paris
France

27 January 2011
Your ref: GA/GJ/05
Our ref: BS 5012

Dear Mr Araoz

Thank you for your letter expressing the concerns of ICOMOS over the future funding of English Heritage. Thank you also for your warm appreciation of the world-wide significance of our work in policy development and research on cultural heritage and its significance, although of course our primary responsibility has to be the protection and sustainable use of England's heritage.

Clearly, the economic situation and the consequent cuts in UK government expenditure, including our funding, means that English Heritage is having to examine its priorities and the ways in which we work very carefully. Cuts of the magnitude that are being imposed will mean changes to the way we work and will require a very clear focus on key priorities.

These priorities are to identify and protect our most important heritage, to champion England's heritage, support others in their efforts to look after our heritage, and to use our heritage to help people appreciate and enjoy England's national story. In order to achieve these priorities, it will be essential to maintain our ability to advise the UK Government on the development of policy and to carry out the research which provides the evidence base for our work. Over 90% of our 2,500 staff will be unaffected by the cuts and most areas of our expertise will be protected.

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However, inevitably, we will become more focused on fewer areas. We are developing a new National Heritage Protection Plan to help us prioritise the way we use our resources and to be more transparent about how we do this.

If you are interested you can find out more through our website at www.englishheritage.org.uk/professional/protection/national-heritage-protection-plan/.

We are confident that English Heritage will continue to be a centre of excellence for the management and sustainable use of England's heritage. We hope that our work will continue also to be significant world-wide in the way that it is now.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Thurley.

Dr Simon Thurley