



Planning Bulletin December 2023

This monthly note highlights some of the recent and forthcoming developments in the world of planning, from a heritage perspective. Please note that this is not necessarily a complete review of matters and is not intended to provide any legal advice on the issues raised. Unless otherwise stated, it does not comprise the formal position of Historic England on these matters.

Appointments

- On 1 December, [the Department for Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\) announced](#) that Professor Tom Crick had been appointed Chief Scientific Adviser at DCMS on 20 November.

Legislation and Matters Arising

Emerging Legislation

This section provides a summary of updates to emerging legislation in the last month. Further information on what the emerging legislation covers and its overall progress to date can now be found in [Appendix I](#).

Government Bills

High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill

- The [High Speed Rail \(Crewe to Manchester\) Bill](#) is currently awaiting a date for Committee Stage.

Holocaust Memorial Bill

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The Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

- The [Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill](#) is currently awaiting a date for its Second Reading.

The Rail Reform Bill

- The Rail Reform Bill was announced in the King's Speech on 7 November, although details of the Bill have yet to be published.



Private Members' Bills

House of Commons

- The House of Commons [Private Members Bill Ballot](#) took place on 16 November and the [successful MPs introduced their bills](#) on 6 December. None of [this Session's Private Members' Bills](#) have a historic environment or planning component.

House of Lords

- On 5 December, Baroness Young of Old Scone introduced the [Heritage Trees Bill](#) in the House of Lords. The Bill seeks to enable Natural England to create and maintain a register of 'heritage trees' and to promote and protect trees on the list. A date for the Second Reading of the Bill is awaited.

Secondary legislation

Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations

- On 29 November, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published the [draft statutory instruments for Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\)](#). BNG Regulations will apply to most new major development under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990¹ from January 2024, to small sites from April 2024 and to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects from 2025. The Regulations require a 10% (or more) biodiversity increase to be achieved through onsite biodiversity gains, registered offsite biodiversity gains, or statutory biodiversity credits.
- DEFRA have laid six statutory instruments before Parliament, which are proposed to come into force in January 2024. These comprise:
 - [The Biodiversity Gain \(Town and Country Planning\) \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2023](#)
 - These Regulations amend the TCPA 1990 to integrate the BNG framework.
 - [The Biodiversity Gain Site Register \(Financial Penalties and Fees\) Regulations 2023](#)
 - These Regulations allow for fees to be charged for applications to register land on the biodiversity gain site register and allow the register operator (Natural England) to issue financial penalties where false or misleading information is provided.

¹ Biodiversity Net Gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990



- [The Biodiversity Gain Site Register Regulations 2023](#)
 - These Regulations make provision for a (publicly accessible) Biodiversity Gain Site Register, to be managed by Natural England.
- [The Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Exemptions\) Regulations 2023](#)
 - These Regulations set out the exemptions which include:
 - Temporary exemption for small developments where an application for planning permission is made or has been granted before April 2024.
 - Development with no impact on priority habitat and where impacts fall below the specified 'de minimis' threshold.
 - Householder applications.
 - The high-speed railway network.
 - Off-site gain developments.
 - Certain self-build and custom build developments.
- [The Biodiversity Gain Requirements \(Irreplaceable Habitat\) Regulations 2023](#)
 - These Regulations set out which habitats are considered irreplaceable for BNG metric calculation purposes and a requirement that, where affected, alternative bespoke compensation will be agreed between the developer and the local planning authority.
- [The Biodiversity Gain \(Town and Country Planning\) \(Modifications and Amendments\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)
 - These regulations set out how the new BNG framework sits within the development management process for planning applications. This includes the content and form of the BNG plan, the procedure for submission and approval of the plan, as well as who should approve the plan.
- More information on the draft statutory BNG regulations is available in the [blog: The Biodiversity Net Gain Statutory Instruments – explained](#). Additionally, a suite of [BNG guidance](#) has been published by government and is detailed below under Other Items.



Amended Legislation

Permitted Development Rights

- On 30 November, government announced [changes to permitted development rights \(PDRs\) for solar panels and some other forms of development](#). The changes, which will take effect from 21 December, include the introduction of new PDRs to:
 - Extend open prisons buildings by up to 25% of the cumulative footprint of the existing buildings or 250 square metres, whichever is the greater.
 - Allow the installation of solar canopies on non-domestic, off-street parking, if they are located 10m or more from the curtilage of a house or flat. Prior approval is needed for the impact on appearance on article 2(3) land.
- Amongst other things the changes also ease restrictions on:
 - Allowing solar panels (no higher than 0.6m above the highest part of the roof (excluding the chimney) to be installed on domestic flat roofs. Prior approval is needed for the impact on appearance on article 2(3) land.
 - Allowing solar equipment in the curtilage of domestic buildings, where it is installed closer to the highway than the dwellinghouse. This includes conservation areas, but prior approval is needed for the impact on the appearance of the conservation area.
 - The 1MW limit for non-domestic rooftop solar.
 - For upgrading rooftop masts and deploying small cell systems.
- The changes are enabled by [The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development etc.\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2023](#) which will amend [The Town and Country Planning \(General Permitted Development\) \(England\) Order 2015](#).
- A response to the [PDR consultation](#) (closed 25 September) is still awaited.

Policy

National Planning Policy Framework

- On 19 December, government published a [revised National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#), along with [Government response to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy consultation](#).
- Other than changes to the paragraph and footnote numbers, there do not appear to be any changes to chapter 16: Historic Environment. However, a new paragraph (164) in

chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change is of particular interest:

“In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should give significant weight to the need to support energy efficiency and low carbon heating improvements to existing buildings, both domestic and non-domestic (including through installation of heat pumps and solar panels where these do not already benefit from permitted development rights). Where the proposals would affect conservation areas, listed buildings or other relevant designated heritage assets, local planning authorities should also apply the policies set out in chapter 16 of this Framework.”

- There are also amendments to chapter 11 (Making effective use of land) such as to paragraph 124 covering mansard roof extensions.
- Alongside the revised NPPF, the Government also announced a series of new initiatives to improve the planning system, including the planned introduction of new performance measures for local authorities, new incentives to ensure local planning authorities produce up-to-date local plans, and a review of the role of statutory consultees in planning decisions, the scope of their responsibilities and their performance in supporting development in a timely way.
- More details on the revisions to the NPPF and these additional planning reform measures will follow in the January Planning Bulletin.

Committees

Built Environment Committee

- On 12 December, the [Government Response to the House of Lords Built Environment Committee Report on the Impact of Environmental Regulations on Development](#) was published. Amongst other things, the recommendations/responses covered:
 - Environmental and housing targets.
 - Balancing competing policy commitments.
 - Enforcing local plans.
 - Cross-department working on a land use framework.
 - Local planning authority resourcing and expertise.
 - Placing housing delivery on par with environmental protection.



- Mitigation.
- Nutrient neutrality.
- Alignment of environment regulations and principles.

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

- The [Energy Security and Net Zero Committee](#) has seven inquiries open, including:
 - The [Flexible Grid for the Future Inquiry](#) looking at how the grid develops including in terms of planning and devolution of decision-making. To date, two oral sessions have taken place on 8 and 29 November. [Transcripts from the oral evidence sessions](#) are now available online, along with the written evidence statements.
 - The [Heating our Homes Inquiry](#) looking at the challenges to heating homes including issues of energy efficiency (including insulation), heat pumps and other technologies that might replace gas boilers, new build/renovated houses heat standards, the infrastructure and workforce problems surrounding delivery of retrofit. To date, two oral evidence sessions have taken place on 22 November and 7 December. [Transcripts from the oral sessions](#) are available online, along with the written evidence statements. The [written evidence submitted by Historic England](#) is available online and Historic England is also to give evidence at the next oral evidence session on 10 January 2024.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

- In September the [Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee](#) opened an [inquiry into Urban Green Spaces](#), exploring the ecological, environmental and other benefits of green space. Details of the [Urban Green Spaces oral evidence session](#) held on 5 December are now available online.

Environmental Audit Committee

- The [Environmental Audit Committee](#) is currently running ten inquiries, including:
 - [The Role of Natural Capital in the Green Economy](#). The [written evidence to this inquiry](#) has been published and includes a [submission by Historic England](#).
 - [Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling](#). The [written evidence to this inquiry](#) has been published and includes a [submission by Historic England](#). The [transcripts of two oral evidence sessions](#), in September and October respectively, have also been published.



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

- The [Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee](#) (LUHCC) opened an [inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment](#). The inquiry is looking at how better planning, building and urban design in England could enhance the health and well-being of children and young people, while also benefitting the wider population. The inquiry is accepting evidence until 2 January 2024.
- On 29 November government published their response to the [seventh report of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee \(LUHCC\) on reforms to national planning policy](#), which was published in July. The [government response to the LUHCC report](#) provides a response to each recommendation made, largely reiterating ongoing work. The recommendations/responses covered:
 - Proposed reforms and their impact.
 - National housing target.
 - Calculating local housing need.
 - Local planning authority resourcing.
 - Infrastructure Levy.
 - National Development Management Polices (NDMPs).

Public Accounts Committee

- The [Public Accounts Committee](#) (PAC) is currently running 40 inquiries, including:
 - The [Flood Defences Inquiry](#), which is looking into current risk management arrangements; flood protection achievements between 2015 and 2021; and the Government's preparedness to manage and reduce flood risk in the future. Details of the [flood defences oral evidence session](#) held on 27 November are available online.
 - The [HS2 Euston: Recall Inquiry](#), which is looking into progress on the project since April 2023. Details of the [HS2 Euston evidence](#) submitted, including correspondence and oral evidence, is now available online.
 - The [Restoration and Renewal Recall Inquiry](#), which is looking into progress on the restoration of the Palace of Westminster, a World Heritage Site. Details of the [evidence submitted to the Restoration and Renewal Inquiry](#) is available online.
 - The [Levelling Up Funding to Local Government Inquiry](#), which is looking at the progress of levelling up projects to date, DLUHC's plans for evaluating levelling up funds, and what action DLUHC is taking to tackle delays and support local delivery. A



[call for evidence for the Levelling Up Funding to Local Government Inquiry](#) is open and closes on 23 December.

Government Planning Letters

Letters to Chief Planning Officers

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) regularly writes [letters to Chief Planning Officers](#) of local planning authorities in England (LPAs), providing guidance on planning.

- On 30 November a [Planning Newsletter](#) was published which included:
 - An update on Biodiversity Net Gain (see the sections above and below on Secondary Legislation and Other Items for more information on this).
 - The publication of a [government policy paper – Getting Great Britain Building Again: Speeding Up Infrastructure Delivery](#) and the [Government’s response to the recommendations contained in the National Infrastructure Commission’s report](#) on improving nationally significant infrastructure planning published in April 2023.
 - A reminder of the new time-limited PDR for temporary buildings on school land where the school has a building affected by reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) and the [publication of guidance for the RAAC PDR](#) by the Department of Education.
 - Notification of the public consultation on the new draft [Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation Historic England Advice Note](#) (more information on this in the Advice section below).
 - Publication of a new Impact Risk Zones spatial dataset for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These Impact Risk Zones reflect the sensitivities of the features for which the SSSI is notified and indicate the types of development which could potentially have adverse impacts and need further consideration. The dataset is available to download on the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](#), [data.gov.uk](#) and [Defra Data Services Platform](#).
 - A notification that DLUHC’s Digital Planning Team have published a [programme overview document](#) and launched their [newsletter on LinkedIn](#).



Advice

Historic England Advice

- All [Historic England planning advice](#) is available on our website and [Appendix II](#), below, includes a list of all Good Practice Advice notes (GPAs) and Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs).

Forthcoming Historic England Advice

Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation

- A new [Historic England Advice Note on Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation](#) has been prepared and published, in draft form, for public consultation. The Advice Note focuses primarily on proposals to improve the energy efficiency of domestic listed buildings and homes in conservation areas. It aims to provide advice to local planning authorities, and others involved in the planning process, on:
 - The need for planning permissions and/or other consents for some of the common changes required to decarbonise and improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings.
 - Determining proposals to decarbonise and improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings to enable positive climate action.
 - How local plans and other planning mechanisms can deliver a positive strategy for historic buildings that proactively supports climate action.
- The final version will be supported by a series of online case studies and training for local authorities.
- The draft Advice Note is available for [public consultation](#) until midnight on 24 December.

Managing Change Affecting World Heritage Sites

- A new HEAN on Managing Change Affecting World Heritage Sites in England is being drafted. Public consultation on the Advice Note will be announced in the coming months.



Training

E-Learning

- This month Historic England's Learning Platform has been upgraded and new e-learning courses added, as part of our Historic Environment Management (formerly HELM) training programme. The new courses include:
 - [Stopping the Rot](#)
 - This course is based on the Historic England guidance of the same name and provides a short introduction to four key enforcement powers available to local authorities to take action against loss or disrepair of historic buildings.
 - [Statements of Heritage Significance: A process for good decision making](#)
 - This course is aimed at planners within local authorities (and others managing decision-making in the planning system). Building on the content in [Historic England Advice Note 12](#), it covers the role Statements of Heritage Significance play in ensuring planning applications meet the requirements of the NPPF.
 - Retrofit: Modern v Traditional Construction
 - This is the first in a series of retrofit e-learning modules that will follow throughout winter and spring.

Webinars

- Historic England's webinar programme commences in the new year with a [webinar on the use of ground source heat pumps in non-domestic historic buildings](#) at 13:00 on 23 January 2024.

Training Needs Survey

- Every year Historic England runs a [survey to help identify sector training needs](#). This year's survey is now open and closes on 8 January 2024.

Marine Planning

Marine Net Gain

- On 9 December, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA) published their response to the [Consultation on the Principles of Marine Net Gain \(MNG\)](#) (closed 13 September 2022). The [government consultation response on MNG](#) makes

several references to the interface and parallels with BNG, including a clear statement that BNG covers the marine area down to mean low water. This means that the two systems abut rather than overlap and that BNG will include a significant marine/coastal element.

Marine Nature Recovery

- On 11 December, Natural England published a [blog on marine nature recovery](#). The blog covers the MNG consultation and the government's response to it and sets out the actions that Natural England is doing to build evidence to support delivery of MNG. This includes:
 - Investigating which habitats and species have the most potential for restoration, recovery and enhancement, through the Marine Restoration Potential and enhancement project.
 - Mapping where Marine Irreplaceable Habitats occur.
 - Exploring ways to measure and compare marine development impacts and offsets, as well as ensure that marine environmental gains can be delivered.

Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5

- On 7 December, The Crown Estate published their Information Memorandum (the "Memorandum") that outlines details of [Round 5 of the Celtic Sea Floating Offshore Wind Leasing](#). Offshore Wind Leasing Round 5 is seeking to establish a new floating wind sector in the Celtic Sea off the coasts of South Wales and South West England. It is expected to be the first phase of commercial development in the Celtic Sea, creating up to 4.5GW of new renewable energy. Round 5 (bidding) commences in February 2024 with the Agreement for Lease anticipated to be completed by Autumn 2025. A [Crown Estate Press Release](#) provides more information.

Other Items

30 by 30

- On 9 December, DEFRA published a [policy paper: Delivering 30 by 30 on land in England](#). 30 by 30 is shorthand for the UK's commitment to protect a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030. This commitment was made at the UN Biodiversity Conference in 2022. The paper sets out:
 - The 30 by 30 criteria - which sets out how land can contribute towards 30 by 30 in England.



- A map indicating the areas which can already or may potentially contribute towards 30 by 30.
- A plan to engage with stakeholders and develop additional guidance on how land can contribute towards 30 by 30.
- More information can be found in the [Natural England 30 by 30 Blog](#) published on 11 December.

Air Source Heat Pump Noise Emissions, Planning Guidance and Regulations

- On 30 November, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) published an independent [review of air source heat pump \(ASHP\) noise emissions, permitted development guidance and regulations](#). The study is intended to help inform future government policy on heat pump planning guidance and heat pump standards and looked at whether current guidance and planning regulation were fit for the extension of ASHP use. It found that:
 - ASHP noise emissions were a concern for a minority of study participants.
 - A low incidence of ASHP noise complaints, primarily arising from poor quality installations, including location and proximity factors.
 - The study also suggested possible revisions to permitted development guidance and regulations, including potentially removing the requirement that all parts of the ASHP must be at least one metre from the property boundary.

Biodiversity Net Gain

- On 29 November DEFRA published their [Biodiversity Net Gain \(BNG\) Collection](#). This Collection includes guidance on:
 - [What biodiversity net gain is](#).
 - [Land manager guidance](#) – on meeting BNG requirements, selling biodiversity units and combining BNG and nutrient mitigation payments.
 - [Developer guidance](#) – on meeting BNG requirements, making on-site gains, making off-site gains, what can count towards BNG, statutory BNG credits, statutory BNG credit prices, submitting and BNG plan, and exemptions.
 - [Local planning authority guidance](#) – for what local planning authorities should do.
 - [Calculating a biodiversity value](#) – as well as tools and guides to the metric.



- [Legal agreements](#) – how to secure BNG.
- [Habitat management and monitoring plans.](#)
- [Planning practice guidance](#) – which will come into force on the date the regulations come into force and BNG commences.
- A [DEFRA blog on BNG](#), also published on 29 November, announced that there will be public consultation on BNG irreplaceable habitats in 2024. DEFRA recently published a [blog on irreplaceable habitats and BNG](#) which provides more information on this.

Brownfield Release Fund

- On 12 December, Government announced that bidding for the final round of [Brownfield Land Release Fund 2](#) had opened. A total of £80 million funding is available in this final round and the deadline for applications is 14 February 2024. To support the application process a [workshop is being held on 11 January 2024](#), and another [workshop on 25 January 2024](#) will cover the technical Annex for applications. Recordings of these events will be available after they have taken place.

Forest Research Funding

- On 27 November, government announced £16 million [funding for research into climate and pest resilient woodlands](#). The Forest Research programme will back 30 projects, working with 27 partner organisations. Projects with funding include:
 - Studying the complex networks of soil nutrients and plant roots to see how they help boost woodlands.
 - Work to better understand how tree seeds can fall naturally and plant themselves.
 - Developing our understanding of how drought is impacting tree growth.
 - Examining the barriers to agroforestry, where trees and agricultural crops grow on the same piece of land.

Heritage Counts 2023

- Historic England's [Heritage Counts 2023](#) has been published. It includes research on the wider public benefits and value of heritage that can be used as evidence to support advocacy for heritage and inform new initiatives.

High Street Accelerators Pilot

- On 6 December, DLUHC announced the [piloting of the new High Street Accelerators Programme](#) designed to create partnerships between communities and local authorities to help regeneration. As part of the High Street Accelerators Programme, ten areas are each receiving £237,000 funding and can apply for a share of £5 million to improve their high streets' green areas. The ten pilot areas comprise:
 - Abingdon Street and Queen Street in Blackpool
 - Stoke Town Centre in Stoke-on-Trent
 - Queen Street with Blackburn Road and Church Street in Great Harwood Town Centre in Hyndburn
 - Scunthorpe High Street in North Lincolnshire
 - Union Street and Yorkshire Street in Oldham Town Centre
 - The Stepney area of Beverley Road in Hull
 - King William Street in Blackburn Town Centre in Blackburn with Darwen
 - Grimsby Town Centre in North East Lincolnshire
 - Dovercourt Town Centre in Tendring
 - Hyde Town Centre in Tameside

Local Net Zero Accelerator Pilots

- On 30 November, DESNZ announced a new £19 million [Local Net Zero Accelerator pilot](#) scheme that will help combined authorities deliver green initiatives such as retrofitting homes and installing solar panels. The three authorities with pilot schemes are the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the West Midlands Combined Authority, and York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. Additionally, the Greater South East Local Net Zero Hub will receive an extra £2 million to ensure independent oversight and the successful delivery of three pilot schemes. Lessons learnt from these pilots will be used to support other combined authorities across England deliver on net zero targets.

New National Forest

- On 27 November, Environment Secretary Steve Barclay announced that government would be launching a competition for £10 million in funding for a [new national forest](#) to improve access to nature. Applications will be assessed based on how the new forest would transform the local area, create habitats for wildlife, improve access to the

countryside, and help the country meet net zero targets. The announcement also set out that plans for two new community forests in Derbyshire and the Tees Valley.

Planning Fees

- On 6 December, planning fees increased by 35% for major applications and 25% for all others. DLUHC's [Planning Practice Guidance \(PPG\) section on 'Fees for specific planning applications'](#) has been updated to reflect the change.

Restoring our Natural Environment

- On 29 November, government published a [policy paper: Restoring our Natural Environment](#) which sets out that the government is:
 - Starting the process of designating a new National Park.
 - Providing £5 million in funding for Protected Landscapes to improve their water environment.
 - Providing £10 million in funding to support National Parks and National Landscapes (aka Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) next year.
 - Publishing their [response to the 2019 Landscapes Review](#).
 - Taking forward [34 new Landscape Recovery projects](#) which will share £25 million in funding. With a further round of Landscape Recovery to be announced in 2024.
 - Announcing a [Temperate Rainforest Strategy](#) which will help recover England's temperate rainforests.
 - Publishing the [Woodland Access Implementation Plan](#).

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023

- On 30 November, the House of Commons published an insight piece on the [Retained EU Law \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023](#), which was enacted in July. The article looks at [which retained EU laws will be revoked at the end of 2023](#) and highlights that the saving power (which ended in October) saved seven pieces of legislation. None of the seven saved relate to planning or the historic environment. Further information on the legislation that will be revoked by the end of the year can be found in the [Schedule of retained EU law](#) and in [Schedule 1 of the Act](#). Of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and various Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, only the Water Resource Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations are being revoked. The stated reason for this is that they were never used.



Current Government Consultations

Planning Data

- DLUHC is currently running a [consultation on planning data](#), looking at how their data platform – planning.data.gov.uk – is used and how it may be developed. No closing date is provided.

The Future Homes and Buildings Standards

- On 13 December, DLUHC opened a [consultation on Future Homes and Buildings Standards](#). The consultation is looking at energy efficiency requirements for new homes and non-domestic buildings and sets out technical proposals for changes to the Building Regulations (Part L and Part 6), the associated Approved Document guidance and calculation methods. Although primarily relating to new homes/non-domestic buildings, some proposals of the consultation are also relevant to existing buildings (i.e. material change of use, updated guidance and minimum standards, real world performance and call for evidence relating to Part O Building Regulations). The consultation closes on 6 March 2024.

Calendar

December

December 21 - [Amendments to Permitted Development Rights](#) on open prisons, solar panels/arrays, and electronic communications take effect.

December 23 – The call for evidence for the [Levelling Up Fund to Local Government Inquiry](#) closes.

December 24 – [Public consultation on Historic England’s draft Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation](#) closes.

December 26 – Enactment of certain LUR Act provisions, including: 1. to extend the Blue Plaque scheme; 2. to clarify the ability of parish councils to provide financial assistance to church or other religious bodies’ buildings, and; 3. introduce EORs (albeit with further consultation and secondary legislation needed for full implementation).



January 2024

January 2 – The call for evidence for the [inquiry into Children, Young People and the Built Environment](#) closes.

January 8 – [Historic England’s survey on training needs](#) closes.

January 10 – Next oral evidence session for the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee’s [Heating Homes Inquiry](#).

January 11 - [Brownfield Land Release Funding \(BLRF2\) workshop for councils](#).

January 23 – Historic England’s [webinar on the use of ground source heat pumps in non-domestic historic buildings](#).

January 25 - [Brownfield Land Release Funding Technical Annex workshop for councils](#).

February 2024

February 14 – Applications for the final round of [Brownfield Land Release Fund 2](#) closes.

March 2024

March 6 – DLUHC’s consultation on [the Future Homes and Buildings Standards](#) closes.

Planning Bulletin Notifications

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Appendix I: Progress of Emerging Legislation

Government Bills

High Speed Rail (Crewe to Manchester) Bill

- The [High Speed Rail \(Crewe to Manchester\) Bill](#) is a hybrid bill authorising the building of HS2 between Crewe and Manchester. Whilst the [government has announced it will not to deliver the Birmingham to Manchester section of HS2](#) covered by the Bill, it has apparently been retained as a vehicle for some [Network North](#) projects.

Holocaust Memorial Bill

- The [Holocaust Memorial Bill](#) aims to facilitate the building of the Holocaust Memorial next to the Houses of Parliament by enabling the Secretary of State to remove restrictions that prevent the construction of new buildings in Victoria Tower Gardens, Westminster. Since the 'carry-over motion' was agreed by Commons and Lords, the Bill has had its first and second reading in the Commons, and Committee stage is yet to be announced.

The Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

- The [Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill](#) will require the North Sea Transition Authority to invite applications for licences annually rather than the current discretionary basis. The Bill was introduced in the Commons on 8 November and no date has been set for its second reading.

The Rail Reform Bill

- The draft Rail Reform Bill was announced in the King's Speech on 7 November, however details have yet to be published. The [briefing notes for the Speech](#) indicate that this Bill will enable the creation of a new arm's length body – Great British Railways – and help deliver the [2021 Plan for Rail](#). The Bill is to undergo pre-legislative scrutiny, which is intended to facilitate a swifter passage through Parliament when the legislation is brought forward.



Appendix II: Historic England Planning Advice

Good Practice Advice Notes (GPAs)

The GPAs provide information on good practice, particularly looking at the principles of how national planning policy and guidance can be applied. They are the result of collaborative working with the heritage and property sectors in the [Historic Environment Forum](#), and have been prepared following public consultation:

- [GPA1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans \(March 2015\)](#)
- [GPA2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment \(March 2015\)](#)
- [GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets \(December 2017\)](#)
- [GPA4: Enabling Development and Heritage Assets \(June 2020\)](#)

Historic England Advice Notes (HEANs)

The HEANs include detailed, practical advice on how to implement national planning policy and guidance. They have been prepared by Historic England following public consultation:

- [HEAN 1: Conservation Areas: Designation, Appraisal and Review \(Second Edition\) \(February 2019\)](#)
- [HEAN 2: Making Changes to Heritage Assets \(February 2016\)](#)
- [HEAN 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans \(October 2015\)](#)
- [HEAN 4: Tall Buildings \(Second Edition\) \(March 2022\)](#)
- [HEAN 5: Setting up a Listed Building Heritage Partnership Agreement \(November 2015\)](#)
- [HEAN 6: Drawing up a Local Listed Building Consent Order \(November 2015\)](#)
- [HEAN 7: Local Heritage Listing \(Second edition\) \(January 2021\)](#)
- [HEAN 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment \(December 2016\)](#)



- [HEAN 9: The Adaptive Reuse of Traditional Farm Buildings \(October 2017\)](#)
- [HEAN 10: Listed Buildings and Curtilage \(February 2018\)](#)
- [HEAN 11: Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment \(Second Edition\) \(April 2022\)](#)
- [HEAN 12: Statements of Heritage Significance \(October 2019\)](#)
- [HEAN 13: Minerals Extraction and Archaeology \(January 2020\)](#)
- [HEAN 14: Energy Efficiency and Traditional Homes \(June 2020\)](#)
- [HEAN 15: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment \(February 2021\)](#)
- [HEAN 16: Listed Building Consent \(June 2021\)](#)
- [HEAN 17: Planning and Archaeology \(November 2022\)](#)