

ABSTRACTS SELECTED

HERITAGE, ETHICS AND CRIME

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Policing the past, protecting the future. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in the historic environment of England.

The Heritage Crime Programme seeks to raise awareness of the existence and significance of heritage assets at a national, regional and local level. For over 100 years the UK Parliament has provided specific offences in law to protect the historic environment against damage and unlicensed alteration. The task given to the authorities is clear. The aspiration is to hand over our historic sites to the next generation in as good or better condition than we find them - the definition of sustainability. But in reality the split of responsibility between local authorities, the police and English Heritage, the relative rarity of incidents and the lack of expertise and understanding of the nature of the harm has meant that task has not been fulfilled as well it might. In response to the perceived need for a more coordinated approach, English Heritage, National Policing and the Crown Prosecution Service agreed to develop the Heritage Crime Programme.

The Heritage Crime Programme seeks to raise awareness of the existence and significance of heritage assets at a national, regional and local level and to provide agencies, stakeholders and local communities, with the tools and expertise required to protect the fabric and setting from the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour. The key objective of the crime programme has been to develop a coordinated, cost-effective and sustainable approach to crime prevention and case investigation in collaboration with statutory agencies, non-governmental organizations and community stakeholder groups. This paper provides an overview of progress and will discuss the potential responses that will be required to counter the emerging threats of crime and anti-social behaviour in England's rich and diverse historic environment.

Mike HARLOW, English Heritage

Mike first qualified as an engineer before converting to the law and working in the City for 15 years as a solicitor advising on built environment matters. In 2007 Mike left his partnership in Winward Fearon to join English Heritage in the role of Legal Director. Since then he has been very heavily involved in the implementation of the reforms to the system of protection of the historic environment, particularly in the drafting of the Heritage Protection Bill, PPS5 and recently the historic environment policies within the National Planning Policy Framework.

He has been involved in key casework for English Heritage, like the Elizabeth House tall buildings inquiry and the proposed new shopping centre in the City of Lancaster. Mike also instigated the heritage crime programme which aims to reduce the threat of crime to historic buildings and sites across England.

Mark HARRISON, English Heritage

Mark joined the Metropolitan Police in 1980 where he gained experience in patrol, traffic and public order policing. In 1988, Mark transferred to his home county of Kent where he specialised in the investigation of environmental, wildlife and heritage crime. In 2008, Mark became the District Commander for Canterbury District and included the policing of the World Heritage Sites of St Martin's Church, St Augustine's Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral. In 2010, Mark was seconded as the policing advisor to English Heritage in order to develop and deliver and implement the Heritage Crime Initiative and the Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage. In June 2011 Mark was appointed by the University of Kent as an Honorary Research Fellow, attached to Classical and Archaeological Studies within the School of European Culture and Languages. In November 2011 Mark was elected as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. In June 2012, Mark was appointed as the National Policing and Crime Advisor for English Heritage and is responsible for the operational management of the Heritage Crime Programme.