

The climate emergency and the historic environment

Historic buildings that have survived for many generations have great historical value, and may already be designed in a sustainable way. However, we recognise the need to be more energy efficient in all of our buildings, whether they are historic or modern. This document aims to balance the need to save energy with the potential danger of damaging the structure or heritage value of the historic building.

We will assess each proposal on a case-by-case basis, meaning that we may approve different levels of change on different buildings.

We would advise a sensitive approach, maximising the use of strategies which don't harm the building's heritage value. These are often simple, inexpensive, and you can achieve them with lifestyle changes, for example, using shutters and draft exclusion. Government regulations, research by Historic England and Building Regulations all suggest that you can achieve substantial energy savings without harming the heritage value of your building.

To learn more about the most appropriate strategies, please visit the links below, and get advice on this issue from building control specialists. You can also view detailed guidance in our SPD on [Energy efficiency and renewable energy guidance for historic buildings](#).

Alternative Energy Production: Potential Impact on the Setting of Heritage Assets

We will consider all proposals for renewable energy developments, such as wind or solar farms, in terms of the potential impact on heritage assets, such as listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, conservation areas, undesignated historic buildings and settlements, historic landscapes, parks and gardens and archaeological sites. Archaeological sites in particular can be very sensitive to underground development or excavation, in proposals such as ground source heat pumps. We advise you consult the [Historic Environment Record \(HER\)](#) at an early stage, and use our [Pre-application Advice service](#) to discuss your proposal with our archaeologist and Planning and Conservation Team.

Historic England guidance

Historic Buildings

[Energy efficiency in historic buildings: Open fires Chimneys and Flues.pdf](#)
[Energy efficiency in historic buildings: Draught-proofing windows and doors.pdf](#)
[Energy efficiency in historic buildings: Insulating dormer windows.pdf](#)
[Energy Conservation and Traditional Buildings.pdf](#)
[Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings - Application of Part L.pdf](#)
[Early Cavity Walls.pdf](#)
[Insulating Pitched Roofs at Ceiling Level-Cold Roofs.pdf](#)
[Insulating Pitched Roofs at Rafter Level-Warm Roofswarm-roofs.pdf](#)

[Insulating Flat Roofs.pdf](#)
[Insulating Solid Ground Floors.pdf](#)
[Insulating Solid Walls.pdf](#)
[Insulation Suspended Floors.pdf](#)
[Secondary Glazing for Windows.pdf](#)
[Research into the Thermal Performance of Traditional Windows - Timber Sash Windows.pdf](#)

Alternative Energy Generation Guidance

[Biomass Energy and the Historic Environment.pdf](#)
[Micro-generation in the Historic Environment.pdf](#)
[Micro Wind Generation and traditional buildings.pdf](#)
[Small-scale Solar Electric \(photovoltaics\) Energy and Traditional Buildings.pdf](#)
[Small-scale Solar Thermal Energy and Traditional Buildings.pdf](#)
[Wind Energy and the Historic Environment.pdf](#)

General Guidance

[Climate Change and the Historic Environment.pdf](#)
[Conservation Principles.pdf](#)
[Building Regulations Part L.pdf](#)
[Cutting Down on Carbon.pdf](#)
[The Setting of Heritage Assets.pdf](#)
[Seeing the History in the View guidance.pdf](#)