

Rescue

The British Archaeological Trust

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Consultation on revisions to planning law in Wales.

A response from RESCUE the British Archaeological Trust.

RESCUE is concerned about proposals within the Welsh planning law revisions to merge Listed Building Consent with Planning Permission. Whilst we understand, and have some sympathy with, the intention to produce a simpler and more holistic system, we are concerned that such an action may have unintended consequences. The purpose of Listed Building Consent is to ensure that any change to a protected historic structure is carried out with adequate consideration of the significance of the building, without any underlying requirement to encourage sustainable development. By keeping the consent process separate from planning permission, the unique and vulnerable character of historic buildings is recognised and highlighted. RESCUE believes that any merging of the two risks the special nature of listed buildings being subsumed by the bulk of the general planning process.

We are also concerned that whilst Listed Building Consent is treated differently it is currently clear that decisions need to be made by a suitably qualified historic environment professional. We see the inevitable, if unintended, result of this if introduced, will be to reduce the perceived importance of Conservation Officers and the requirement for Listed Building decisions to be made with specialist advice.

We would like to see this element removed from the proposals unless specific wording can be introduced to protect the role of suitably qualified individuals within in the planning system.

Yours sincerely



Jude Plouviez, Chair

RESCUE, The British Archaeological Trust. Rescue is a non-party political charitable trust dedicated to supporting archaeology and the historic environment in Britain and abroad. As a charitable trust, RESCUE does not receive any state support, being entirely reliant on the contributions of subscribing members to support the organisation's work.

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