

The Heritage Trust

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The Heritage Benchmark

What is it?

The Heritage Benchmark is a national award scheme for responsible developers who are able to demonstrate, through high standards of management and commitment; the mitigation, recording and dissemination of heritage assets or features identified by development sites within the planning framework.

The Heritage Benchmark is the first award to recognise the successful management, mitigation and dissemination of historic environment issues associated with development projects. The Heritage Benchmark raises standards and rewards excellence for those developers that attain the Award standard.

It's a management process which enables developers to assess a proposed development's impact on the historic environment, improve its contribution to the understanding and interpretation of heritage assets and demonstrate its commitment to heritage. The Awards are based on core national standards with site by site flexibility to ensure they address local needs. Similar to other standards for management systems, the Heritage Benchmark is composed of a set of detailed requirements which an organisation must be able to meet.

The award scheme focuses on the management of heritage factors during development for the benefit of the historic environment, people and the participating organisations themselves.

The Heritage Benchmark can be applied to any organisation with land or is responsible for land management that is subject to development.

The Heritage Benchmark compliments existing natural environment benchmark schemes and management systems and it helps integrate heritage management within your organisation.

The assessment of development sites will be carried out by trained, impartial assessors, who will ensure consistency of approach. The assessment criteria will be clear and straight forward, with constructive feedback provided to all entrants.

The Heritage Benchmark are issued for two catagories:

Single site - where a single certificate is issued for a development site.

Multiple sites - where all development sites selected by the client organisation are visited and evaluated with individual certificates issued for each site that achieves the Heritage Benchmark standard. This could apply to a multiple retailer/housing developer, proposing a number of sites for development.



