

April 2005

## **Sir Neil Cossons is reappointed as Chairman of English Heritage**

Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Media and Heritage, announced today that Sir Neil Cossons has been reappointed as Chairman of English Heritage. His new term of appointment will run from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007

### **Biographical Details**

Sir Neil Cossons has been a Commissioner of English Heritage since October 1999, being appointed Chairman on 1 April 2000. He is also a Trustee of National Museums Liverpool.

He worked in the museums sector from the early 1960s and as a Director from 1971. Sir Neil was Director of the Science Museum from 1986, retiring in 2000 after the opening of the new Wellcome Wing. He has broadcast and published widely in his specialist field of industrial archaeology and on conservation and the landscape. He was an EH Commissioner from 1989-95. Early in his chairmanship he headed the working group on managing the historic environment, resulting in the publication of the report, *Power of Place*. This report, and the Government's response, *A Force for Our Future*, set the agenda for modernisation of heritage protection and management. Under Sir Neil's leadership, English Heritage has completed its radical, two year modernisation programme.

Sir Neil received an OBE in 1982 for his pioneering work at Ironbridge as its founding Director. He was knighted in 1994. Sir Neil has undertaken no significant political activity in the last five years

### **Background**

1. English Heritage is a public body with responsibility for all aspects of protecting and promoting the historic environment. It is the Secretary of State's statutory adviser on listing and heritage matters, manages over 400 historic properties and disburses some £40 million a year in conservation and archaeology grants. It is also responsible for the National Monuments Record and Survey of London.
2. The current membership of the Commission is Sir Neil Cossons OBE(Chairman), Maria Adebawale, Joyce Bridges CBE, Bill Bryson, Michael Cairns, Prof David Cannadine, Manish Chande, Marquess of Douro OBE DL, Gilly Drummond, Piers Gough CBE, Jane Grenville, Michael Jolly CBE, the Earl of Leicester, Richard Morris OBE, Leslie Sparks OBE, and Elizabeth Williamson.

3. The Chair is currently remunerated at £65,220. Commissioners are remunerated at a level commensurate with their involvement – currently within the range of £3,840 to £8,780.
4. The reappointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.