

# **INFORMATION PAPER**

**(To be read in conjunction with  
the Conservation Manual)**

## **Definitions relating to the Conservation of Historic Lighthouses**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to clarify the meaning of some of the important words as used in the IALA Lighthouse Conservation Manual in accordance with internationally accepted standards in relation to Historic Buildings with some additional words not officially recorded but included here to assist the users of the manual. Also included for information are some definitions, which the members of The Panel for the Preservation of Historic Lighthouses (now incorporated into the Engineering, Environment and Preservation of Historic Lighthouses Committee) provided to IALA members in order to allow them to identify their most important Historic Lighthouses for inclusion in the IALA publication “Lighthouses of the World”. It is considered that these are still relevant today in the relation to the original design and use of the Aid to Navigation.

### 1.2 Use

This document should be used in conjunction with the IALA Conservation Manual version 1 published in 2006 until such time as a new version is published in which it is intended to incorporate this document.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 List

The following definitions were noted at the IALA Seminar on the Practical Aspects of Lighthouse Preservation in Gothenburg 2005 (reference <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/stirlingcharter.pdf>):

**ALTERATION** - Work, the object of which is to change or improve the function of a building or artefact or to modify its appearance.

**ARCHAEOLOGY** - Scientific study and interpretation of the past, based on the uncovering, retrieval, recording and interpretation of information from physical evidence.

**CONSERVATION** - Action to secure the survival or preservation of buildings, cultural artefacts, natural resources, energy or anything of acknowledged value to the future.

**CONSERVATION AREA** - Area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

**CONVERSION** - Alteration, the object of which is a change of use of a building or artefact, from one use or type to another.

**DESIGN** - Abstract concept of a building or artefact. It can exist in the mind or on paper and if realised, it can be represented in the building or artefact itself.

**FABRIC** - Physical material of which a building or artefact is made.

**INTERVENTION** - Any action which has a physical effect on the fabric of a building or artefact.

**MAINTENANCE** - Routine work necessary to keep the fabric of a building, the moving parts of machinery, grounds, gardens or any other artefact, in good order.

**MANAGEMENT** - Activities appropriate for maintaining the feature or area in good condition.

**PRESERVATION** - State of survival of a building or artefact, whether by historical accident or through a combination of protection and active conservation.

**PROTECTION** - The provision of legal restraints or controls on the destruction or damaging of buildings or artefacts, natural features, systems, sites, areas or other things of acknowledged value, with a view to their survival or preservation for the future.

**REBUILDING** - Remaking, on the basis of a recorded or reconstructed design, a building or part of a building or artefact which has been irretrievably damaged or destroyed.

**RECONSTRUCTION** - Re-establishment of what occurred or what existed in the past, on the basis of documentary or physical evidence.

**RECORD** - The description, depiction and analysis of any feature or area using drawings, survey, photographs and any other suitable means as well as the preservation of documents, photographs and other material relating to the feature or area in any earlier condition or use. (Note: based on R. Mercer's consultation response).

**REPAIR** - Work beyond the scope of regular maintenance to remedy defects, significant decay or damage caused deliberately or by accident, neglect, normal weathering or wear and tear, the object of which is to return the building or artefact to good order, without alteration or restoration.

**REPLICATION** - Making an exact copy or copies of a building or artefact.

**RESTORATION** Alteration of a building or artefact which has decayed, been lost or damaged, or is thought to have been inappropriately repaired or altered in the past, the objective of which is to make it conform again to its design or appearance at a previous date.

**REVERSIBILITY** - Concept of work to a building, part of a building or artefact being carried out in such a way that it can be reversed at some future time, without any significant damage having been done.

**SUSTAINABLE** - Using the heritage in a way which meets the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to understand, appreciate and benefit from the historic environment.

### **3 OTHER COMMONLY USED WORDS**

**RENOVATION** – restoring to good condition; make as if new again; make good any dilapidation; to renovate an old house.

**REFURBISHMENT** – renovation or restoration; to make a building look new and bright again; to rebuild or replenish with all new material; to restore to original (or better) working order and appearance.

**DESIGNATION** – historic importance recognised at International, National or Local level by statutory authority.

## **4 PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSES ADVISORY PANEL DEFINITIONS**

### **4.1 Lighthouse**

(definition retained for the purpose of the lighthouse book)

To be considered as a LIGHTHOUSE, the station must satisfy at least 2 of the following criteria:

- The station has been designed to be manned;
- The station consists, or originally consisted, of several buildings;
- The height of the tower should be greater than 10m above the ground;
- The range of the light should be greater than 15 nautical miles;
- The light is used for general navigation.

## 4.2 Historic Lighthouse

(definition retained for the purpose of the lighthouse book)

To be considered as an HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE, the station must also satisfy at least 3 of the following criteria:

- Age;
- Engineering and technical achievements related to the location and/or the building time;
- Architectural interest (e.g. design, use of material);
- National or local interest (e.g. history, culture);
- Archaeological importance.

These definitions were as set out in 1998 and references to the range of the light should be considered as the maximum range during the history of the lighthouse.

In a heritage definition a lighthouse station includes all Aids to Navigation related to the site.

## 5 REFERENCES

- 1 Stirling Charter <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/stirlingcharter.pdf>
- 2 British Standard BS 7913: 1998 The principles of the conservation of historic buildings
- 3 IALA Lighthouse Conservation Manual Version 1, 2006
- 4 US Parks Lighthouse Preservation Handbook.
- 5 <http://www.nps.gov/history/maritime/hdbktoc.htm>

## 6 OTHER RELEVANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 1 Definitions in a better known international charter such as Burra: <http://www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html>
- 2 Organisation of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) provides details of other charters from the last forty years:  
<http://urbo.ovpm.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&tid=2&rc=1&filter=categorie:eq:62>

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