

Chris Griffiths

Senior Associate Director – Heritage

LLB(Hons), MA, IHBC

Chris is an architectural historian with an established planning and legal background. He brings a wealth of experience to heritage consultancy following 14 years working in the public sector as a conservation officer. Chris specialises in the adaptive re-use of historic buildings, urban regeneration and development within sensitive rural sites. He has worked on many successful heritage at risk initiatives and has considerable knowledge of traditional materials, construction and repair techniques. Chris is ideally placed to give strategic advice on master-planning, design, viability and the long term management of heritage assets.

Experience

Chris completed an undergraduate Law degree before studying a Masters in History of Architecture at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He worked on Pevsner's guide to Shropshire (published 2006) and then for local government in Shrewsbury and Liverpool. As Principal Conservation Officer Chris managed the heritage at risk programme in Liverpool from 2006 to 2016 in which time the percentage of buildings at risk was reduced from 12% to 3%, involving the successful refurbishment of more than 500 listed buildings.

Since joining RPS CgMs in 2016, Chris has worked on a diverse range of projects including urban regeneration, world heritage sites and development in sensitive rural areas. This has involved providing strategic advice and supporting documentation in close collaboration with planners, architects and visualisation specialists.

Chris is experienced at assessing the significance of heritage assets to produce comprehensive Built Heritage Assessments and Statements, as well as managing and actively participating with design and planning teams throughout the development process; providing advice as part of initial appraisals through to submission stage and undertaking discussions with LPAs, Historic England and other relevant stakeholders. Chris has worked on a broad range of schemes including the alteration and extension of listed buildings and modern development within conservation areas and their settings. Such work has included complex assessment of numerous heritage assets and a number of sensitive and high profile schemes; including the proposed redevelopment of Anglia Square in Norwich, works affecting the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, the refurbishment of the Grade I listed Carlton House Terrace and a Grade II* listed house designed by Sir John Soane in Hampshire.

Alongside this work, Chris also has considerable experience in producing Statements of Significance, Historic Buildings Appraisals, Conservation Area Appraisals, written representations in support of planning appeals, Rebuttal Statements and in providing pre-purchase advice.

Chris is a frequent contributor to Historic England and IHBC sponsored training and CPD events.

Key Projects

Anglia Square, Norwich Weston Homes

Detailed heritage assessment and input on Master planning and design for a major regeneration scheme in historic city centre.

Hotel Russell, London Principal Hotel Company

Built heritage consultancy from pre-application stage to implementation in support of refurbishment works to Grade II* listed hotel.

Sydney Lodge, Hamble, Hants GE Aviation

Heritage assessment of large industrial campus in grounds of Grade II* listed villa and setting of registered park in support of site Master-plan.

Ironbridge Power Station, Salop Uniper

Baseline heritage assessment of 2km study area, including Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, to support proposals

Whitechapel Bell Foundry V-fund

Built heritage assessment to inform emerging proposals and pre-application advice on design and viability.