

Heads of Planning  
Planning Authorities in Wales

21 August 2024

## **Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 – Information for Planning Authorities on implementation and commencement**

Dear colleague,

Steady progress is being made on the implementation of the [Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2023](#) (the 2023 Act) and we now expect to bring it into force on 4 November 2024.

The 2023 Act will repeal the current legislative framework for the protection of the Welsh historic environment — primarily the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990 in Wales — replacing it with accessible and fully bilingual law for the historic environment of Wales.

Eight sets of subordinate legislation will support the 2023 Act, with some replacing well-used regulations like the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Wales) Regulations 2012. The plan is to bring this subordinate legislation into force alongside the Act on 4 November.

The plan is to make these regulations before the end of September, at which time they will be available to consult on [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk). The regulations should come into force alongside the Act on 4 November 2024. The bilingual titles of the regulations are provided for reference in Annex 1.

While the Acts and regulations that provide the framework for the management and protection of the historic environment will change in November, it is important to stress that the policy and the effect of the law will not alter.

Further information on the 2023 Act can be found on the [Cadw website](#) and the content will be updated and further developed in the months ahead.

Please use the information on the Cadw website or [legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk) to review and update information on your website and in guidance, forms or other material you share to bring it up to date in time for the expected commencement in November. Work is already underway to update the 1App applications on the Planning Portal to reflect the commencement of the 2023 Act.

We will be happy to answer any questions or queries you may have by contacting [historicenvironmentlegislation@gov.wales](mailto:historicenvironmentlegislation@gov.wales)

Best wishes  
Cadw's Legislation and Policy Team

