

**LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS**

About one third of the church buildings in the Wessex Province are either listed or are unlisted but in a conservation area. For many years, all church buildings were broadly exempt from Listed Building and Conservation Area Control. This was referred to as Ecclesiastical Exemption. As a result of legislation in 1994, Ecclesiastical Exemption was granted only to those ecclesiastical bodies which set up an internal system of control acceptable to the Department of National Heritage (now the Department for Culture, Media and Sport). Each URC Synod was treated as a separate ecclesiastical body for this purpose and, in common with the other synods, the Wessex Synod resolved at its October 1994 meeting to operate its own internal system of control in conformance with the agreed Procedure.

The details of the procedure are set out in section 661. In the Wessex Synod, it has been decided that the Secretary of the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee should be advised as soon as the possibility arises of works being required to a listed church building. The Secretary of the LBAC will then provide the local church with full guidance and application forms to enable it to follow the required procedures. His contact details are:

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