



What is the role of the administration?

In Switzerland, the responsibility for conservation of heritage building falls primarily on the building's proprietors, whether they are private or public. They assume the protection and the maintenance of these witnesses to history, in collaboration with the architects, craftsmen and other heritage professionals. The cantonal services are responsible for the legal measures applied to their domain, as well as the inventories, follow-up work, management of resources, archiving and public relations work. This is all done in collaboration with the Federal Culture Office (OFC/BAK) and local communes.

Role of the communes and the Cantonal Territorial Planning Service (SAT)

Granting construction permits is the task of the communes, based on prior notice and follow-up by the Cantonal Territorial Planning Service.

① To complete the two sections concerning a building's heritage status, use the link to the construction permission form.

Role of the Heritage Conservation Section

Permissions

For buildings and objects with heritage value, the Heritage Conservation Section conducts project feasibility studies, as well as investigating their compatibility with legislation and ethical rules concerning heritage protection. It therefore needs to be consulted and prepare a decision letter (signed by the Head of the Department) with regards to:

- Protected buildings
- Inventoried buildings
- Buildings situated outside urbanised zones (HZ), without agri-cultural function and judged worthy of protection (RACN ranks 0-4)

The Heritage Conservation Section issues prior notice on buildings situated in long-term Inhabited zones (ZAL).

Please be aware that the towns of La Chaux-de-Fonds, Le Locle and Neuchâtel dispose of town planning services. The Heritage Conservation Section will only be involved for "protected" or "inventoried" buildings, as well as on significant work impacting buildings with 1st category RACN status.

Do not hesitate to consult the following pages with regards the different measures of protection.

Role of the Federal Culture Office (OFC)

Using this office as an intermediary, the Confederation provides financial support to conservation/restoration work for protected cultural properties. A quadrennial-programme agreement between the OFC and cantons rules the repartition of these funds.