

Conservation Bulletin, Issue 1, February 1987

| | |
|---|-----|
| Buildings at Risk | 1 |
| Editorial | 2 |
| Heslerton Parish Project | 2 |
| RTAS and Cowdray House, Midhurst | 3 |
| Mathematical tiles | 4 |
| Church grants | 4 |
| Government grant for English Heritage in 1987 | 4 |
| Grants, August to November 1986 | 5–6 |
| Civic Trust awards | 6 |
| The Ecclesiastical Exemption | 7 |
| Medieval remains, Clerkenwell | 7 |
| The Historic Buildings Resurvey | 8 |
| The Monuments Protection Programme | 8 |
| Redevelopment at the Royal Mint | 9 |
| Stanwick Roman villa | 10 |
| Farming and ancient monuments | 11 |
| Rescue archaeology! What next? | 11 |
| Organisation chart | 12 |

(NB: page numbers are those of the original publication)

BUILDINGS AT RISK: TIME FOR ACTION

Now that the re-survey of buildings in England is drawing to a close, the attention of local authorities is being drawn to the impact of the increased numbers of protected buildings in their areas. By the end of the year there are likely to be more than 500,000 historic buildings on the list. These can be considered a finite cultural resource – to be cherished, enjoyed and preserved for the future. However, they cannot all be museum pieces and if left unused, they can quickly fall into neglect and decay. About four listed buildings each week are demolished because they have no ‘reasonable beneficial use’, but many more stand idle for want of positive action. They are buildings at risk. Surveys have suggested that of the half million listed buildings, more than 46,000 will already be under threat from redundancy, dilapidation and lack of care. In 1981 Lord Montagu produced a report which set out an approach to the problems of these buildings. In it he urged that emphasis should be given to policies and projects for the reuse of the nation’s building stock.



This postcard, designed for the Empty Property Unit, and published in Leeds, sums up the argument.

GETTING THE FACTS

Since 1971, when the Civic Trust first called for action, local initiatives in areas as widely dispersed as Hampshire, Derbyshire, Essex and Kent have led to the compilation of ‘risk registers’. These are the beginnings of a welfare

census for listed buildings, which could enable local authorities with limited grant budgets and shortages of skilled manpower to select the buildings on which to concentrate their attention.

Since data collection of this type may vary according to local priorities and available resources, a small unit within English Heritage has been investigating ways of building up consistent national statistics and co-ordinating local efforts.

THE PILOT SCHEME HUDDERSFIELD

In one of the major schemes, English Heritage is co-operating with Kirklees Historic Buildings Preservation Trust and Kirklees District Council in their MSC funded project to visit and assess some 3,000 listed buildings around Huddersfield. The area has a large stock of listed buildings typical of the Pennine fringe with marginal upland farms and industrial townships in partial decline. With the collapse of the textile industry not only mills but the grand Victorian commercial centres which reflected the wealth of local production are under threat. Until the pilot survey the scope of the problems was ill-defined.

Members of the Kirklees team visit each listed building to assess it, logging its exact location, listing status, usage, market status, ownership and state of occupancy and condition on a form devised by English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Unit. Once collected, this information is logged on English Heritage's computer. An analysis is produced, which the local authority can use to determine when they need to offer advice and help with suitable new uses or sources of finance and grant, or if necessary, seek to acquire the buildings themselves.



Stank Hall Barn, near Leeds.

It has only been possible for English Heritage to intervene in a limited number of cases of buildings at risk – chosen because of the intrinsic national importance of the building. In Liverpool efforts are being made to find a solution to the redundancy of St George's Hall – one of the finest neo-classical buildings in Europe. In Leeds, the identification of a series of grants from English Heritage and elsewhere helped to persuade the Council to look at medieval Stank Hall Barn as a resource rather than as a liability, and it may now be used as the focus for a heritage trail.

In these and other cases, English Heritage has neither the staff resources nor the local knowledge to produce instant solutions, though it can co-ordinate and advise at a national level. To assist this process, directories of developers and of public sources of grant and a bibliography of new uses of historic buildings are in preparation.

Not all historic buildings can be saved. By identifying buildings at risk, however, and analysing their problems we can work towards their preservation in a positive, dynamic way.

JOHN FIDLER

EDITORIAL

When English Heritage was set up less than three years ago, we were given two main duties – one of them being mainly managerial and the other relating to policy formulation and its execution. Our management relates to nearly 400 national monuments, such as Stonehenge, Dover Castle and Whitby Abbey. We aim to maintain them to the high standard achieved by the Department of the Environment. There was a feeling, however, that more could and should be done to inform and involve the public, and English Heritage has made great strides in this direction by improving the presentation of these sites, and strengthening its marketing activities, progress which has already been confirmed by the growth of its membership which is now approaching 90,000. Hand in hand with the direct care of these historic properties, a range of conservation duties previously undertaken by the Department also came to English Heritage. These included giving grants for the repair of historic buildings or the enhancement of conservation areas, for the consolidation of ancient monuments and for the support of urgent and necessary archaeological rescue work. In April 1986, when GLC staff also transferred to English Heritage, a further block of work relating specifically to London was also taken over. Our conservation responsibilities are considerable: in 1986 alone, we considered over 24,000 planning applications, over 750 applications for scheduled monument consent and over 7,000 for listed building consent, and will have given out around £27 million in grants. We also have some considerable new initiatives under way, including the Monuments Protection Programme (see p. 8 of this bulletin), within which we expect to give statutory protection to a far greater and more representative proportion of archaeological sites than at present, following the successful example of the Accelerated Resurvey Programme for listing historic buildings, (see p. 8).

It is our aim also, beginning with the new Conservation Bulletin, to expand our range of publications both about our own monuments and about conservation issues in general. In the autumn, a series of technical papers on the conservation of stone and other materials will be published; a number of major archaeological studies are on the stocks; and we wish to increase the range of advisory material available in published form on conservation areas. We intend to use this bulletin primarily to report on current issues to those interested and working in the field of conservation – heritage organisations, local authorities, professionals and academics. We welcome comment and correspondence on how the service we wish to offer can best respond to peoples' needs.

PETER RUMBLE, *Chief Executive*

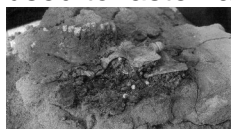
HESLERTON PARISH PROJECT: CONSERVATION

Through the North Yorkshire County Council, English Heritage is funding a considerable part of one of the largest area archaeological projects in the country – the examination of a ten square kilometre block of landscape near the Vale of Pickering. Parts of the ancient land surface have survived, protected by windblown sand, but are now being destroyed by modern subsoil ploughing. The archaeologist in charge, Dominic Powlesland, has the task of

obtaining and interpreting archaeological data to reconstruct land use back to Mesolithic times.

The large Anglian cemetery discovered at Heslerton in 1977 has been one of only three to be excavated in the North-East using modern techniques. It dates from the fifth to the seventh centuries and artifacts from 250 graves are undergoing investigative conservation. Members of English Heritage staff lift small soil blocks containing these artifacts from the ground for examination in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory.

In the picture one of these soil blocks can be seen in the process of careful excavation after X-radiography revealed the position of the metalwork. It shows the neck region of a burial including the lower jaw, two copper alloy brooches, and a number of glass and amber beads. The dark fibrous patches are areas of cloth, which are remains of the garments preserved by the corrosion products of the brooches. Careful examination of these remains indicates that the square-headed brooch (lower one) along with an identical one (not shown) was worn on the shoulders of a dress or tunic, with the small glass beads strung between the two and a string of large amber beads over these around the neck. The cruciform brooch (upper one) could have been used to fasten a cloak.



Part of the neck and lower skull area of one of the burials from West Heslerton in the process of examination.

The textile fragments will be examined by a specialist who will determine details of the weave and type of cloth. This evidence provides the main source of information on dress of the period. The fibres can be identified with the aid of the scanning electron microscope at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory along with other organic materials including wood and leather.

JOHN PRICE

RTAS AND COWDRAY HOUSE, MIDHURST

The Research and Technical Advisory Service of English Heritage (RTAS) is primarily an in-house service which provides advice on all aspects of treating deterioration, maintaining and carrying out remedial work on historic fabrics. RTAS undertakes field research projects in response to particular building problems where no satisfactory solution exists and has an increasing involvement in technical training. These elements have been combined in 'Practical Building Conservation – the English Heritage Technical Handbook', a new manual to be published by the Technical Press, will appear later this year.

In 1986 RTAS expanded its headquarters staff, and joined forces with the Stone Carvers' Studio and the Ornamental Ironsmiths' Workshop. Now known as RTAS/SSD ('Special Services Division'), the unit is also involved with in-house specialist services such as stone and wood carving, modelling and casting iron repair and maintenance, lead, zinc and bronze sculpture conservation. The Advisory Service, Studio and Workshops undertake external commissions as the work load permits.

COWDRAY HOUSE CHAPEL: PLASTER CONSERVATION

Cowdray, now in ruins, is an earlier country house which was substantially rebuilt in the eighteenth century. During 1984/5 field research work was undertaken on the early eighteenth century decorative plaster of the ruined chapel within Cowdray House. The house was gutted by fire in 1793, since when the plaster, the work of Italian craftsmen, has been open to the weather. There is enough detail to be able to reconstruct a drawing of probably 80% of the entire original scheme. The project began in response to a request to RTAS, and work was undertaken along with the Stone Carvers' Studio team. An initial decision was made that no loose plaster should be lost. Plaster surfaces were first treated with a quaternary ammonium biocide and then cleaned gently with small spatulae and stencil or tooth brushes. The friable undercoat, often a weak link between the modelled finishing coat and the masonry backing, was treated with numerous applications of limewater until a firm surface was achieved. Cement mortar fillets around the edges of the plaster which had encouraged the deterioration of the more permeable adjacent lime plaster, were first isolated by a fine chase scribed round the perimeter and then carefully cut away.

New mortar fillets based on lime putty, sand, Bath stone dust and refractory brick powder were placed around all original plaster edges to provide support and to exclude water. Voids, which were numerous, were flushed out, primed and then grouted with a mixture of finely sieved hydraulic lime, refractory brick dust, and water gauges with small amounts of acrylic emulsion and sodium gluconate. This grout had been developed initially by the Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property in Rome (ICCROM) with which RTAS has strong links. Its advantages over conventional cementitious grouts, or many proprietary synthetic types, are high mobility, excellent penetration, low strength, low shrinkage and negligible sulphate content. Flushing and grouting were carried out with large hypodermic syringes or a siphon tube fed from a large beaker.

Although no restoration of missing areas was carried out, new undercoat plaster was sometimes applied for structural support, or to eliminate water traps. Where this was applied, it was finished 2–3 mm back from the surviving original plaster face.



Detail of plaster modelling showing typical problems of broken edges, soft undercoat and splitting from iron nails.

To protect the plaster face from the weather, a surface treatment consisting of finely screened non-hydraulic lime putty, limestone or marble dust and skimmed milk was applied to the weathered plaster face. This was a thin translucent coating which is likely to need renewal in 5–10 years. A growth inhibiting flood coat of biocide was applied on completion of the work.

Supplementary conservation activity included the introduction of stainless steel or brass mesh reinforcements where further structural support was required, treating surviving oak lath with wood-hardening resins, securing

flakes of gold size with acrylic resin and experimenting with carbon-dioxide 'carbonation tents' to speed and enhance the strength development of lime mortar and limewatered plaster. Similar approaches have been, or are currently being, used on such diverse subjects as terracotta cleaning, wrought iron conservation, masonry treatment and frost-resistant mortars.

JOHN AND NICOLA ASHURST

MATHEMATICAL TILES

The use of mathematical tiles, dating from the mid-18th century, may not be universally familiar. They are clay tiles of double-lap section, which when used to clad a timber framed building closely resemble good quality face-brickwork. Moulded in 'header' and 'stretcher' configuration, they vary widely in tone, reds, pinks and oranges predominating, though in East Sussex around Brighton and Lewes in particular, a glazed deep blue-grey finish is common. Properly pointed, their resemblance to brickwork is very close, but in practice their use can generally be detected. Distortion in the frame or supporting battens leads to settlement patterns uncharacteristic of bricks, and they are frequently used where brick would be inappropriate, for example applied to jettied upper storeys. Moreover, historically, 'return' tiles for corners were not manufactured, so mathematical tile elevations commonly terminate with timber corner stops, or simulated quoins of timber in grander examples. Geographically they are to be found in areas where late framed buildings are common, parts of Sussex, South and East Kent and Essex having the widest distribution.

Difficulty is often experienced in replacing mathematical tiles during repairs, as they are no longer manufactured as a stock item. This is chiefly because limited and uncertain demand is coupled with wide local variations especially in colour, which have to be carefully observed if a good match is to be attained.

However, a number of manufacturers are prepared to supply mathematical tiles, but as is usual with such items long delivery periods must be anticipated and the manufacturer should be consulted as early as possible when work is being planned. The following is a list, not necessarily exhaustive, of manufacturers who are worth contacting:

Ockley Brick Co Ltd

Smokeyjacks Brickworks

Wallis Wood

Near Ockley

Surrey

0306-79-481 (Mr Woodnett)

Made to order in red and similar colours. They also produce peg tiles.

Aldershaw Tiles

Kent Street

Sedlescombe

Battle

Sussex

TN33 0SD

0424-754192

Established recently to respond to demand from the Building Conservation Industry. They can match most colours given an adequate sample, and make some other specialised types of tile also.

Butterley Building Materials Ltd
1 Bow Street
London
WC2

A consortium with a number of brickworks around the country, to which specific local matching problems can be referred.

Keymer Handmade Clay Tiles
Nye Road
Burgess Hill
West Sussex
RH15 0LZ
0446-2931

Probably the last company to give up making mathematical tiles as a standard item; will undertake special orders.

R Y Ames
70 Bennerley Road
Battersea
London
SW11 6DS
01 223-1231

Buff-coloured tiles and possibly other colours.

Further information and assistance with locating suitable sources of mathematical tiles may be obtained by contacting the Commission's Research and Technical Advice Service headed by John Ashurst (01-734-6010 Ext 501). The following are suitable for further reading;

Alec Clifton-Taylor, *The Pattern of English Building*.

Terence Paul Smith, *Mathematical Tiles in the Faversham Area*, which contains a good bibliography and was published by the Faversham Society.

ROBERT CHITHAM

CHURCH GRANTS

Repair grants for churches in use, introduced provisionally in 1977, are to continue. English Heritage announced this last October at the same time as the government announced its agreement with the churches on the future of ecclesiastical exemption (see p. 7).

The provision for grant offers for churches in the current year is £4.6 million and English Heritage has recently been able to increase this by £650,000. The resulting total compares with £1 million at the inception of the scheme and is the biggest annual allocation ever.

GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE IN 1987

The Department of the Environment has fixed the grant-in-aid which it will pay to English Heritage in the coming financial year at £64.7 million. This is an increase of £2.2 million (3.5%) on this year's grant-in-aid. In agreeing to this level of increase Ministers have said that they would like it to be devoted to

repair grants, including churches. In addition the Department of Transport has agreed to provide £100,000 next year as a contribution towards the cost of rescue archaeology necessitated by its expanding road programme. Grant-in-aid will also be augmented by money which English Heritage earns from its own activities. Income earned from admission charges and by marketing activities in excess of an agreed target figure is available for its own use and in 1987–88 income available from this source is expected to be £3 million. It is also hoped to increase income from sponsorship. The total income available should enable English Heritage to undertake a high level of activity in respect of all our duties in the coming year.

GRANTS OFFERED IN THE PERIOD AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 1986

HISTORIC BUILDINGS – SECTION 3A GRANTS

One hundred and eighty new applications were received for grants for repairs to secular buildings, and 108 for churches of outstanding architectural and historic interest. The table alongside gives a breakdown of grant offers made in the period. The right-hand column shows grant payments made during the four months; because it takes time to carry out work and claim grant this expenditure relates to offers made in earlier periods.

Sixty-four applications for grant for secular buildings, and 55 applications for church repairs were rejected during the period, of which 85 in total (71%) were turned down on the grounds that the buildings were not outstanding.

GRANTS IN GREATER LONDON

A total of 26 grants under Section 10 were offered in London between August and November 1986 at a total cost of £119,018. Ninety-one new applications for London grants, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, were received, and 35 offers totalling £124,368, and two rejections were made in response to earlier applications. The largest offer was £19,387 to restore the original tiled floor of the former Hop Exchange in Southwark. The level of grant activity in London has been temporarily depressed following the absorption of the GLC's Historic Buildings Division into English Heritage and associated organisational changes. It is expected to recover from now on.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS GRANTS – SECTION 24

Few grants have been offered for repair and consolidation of scheduled monuments in this period as a consequence of a temporary moratorium on new offers necessitated by the size of existing commitments. This restriction has now been lifted, and the rate at which new offers are made is expected to increase during 1987. The main grant offers made are detailed alongside.

Secular buildings

| Owner type | No of grant offers | Value of grants offered £000 | Payments made on previous offers £000 |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Private owner | 53 | 1,385 | 1,068 |
| Local authority | 9 | 155 | 155 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| National Trust | 9 | 292 | 299 |
| Other bodies | 4 | 85 | 352 |
| TOTALS | 75 | 1,917 | 1,874 |

Churches

| | | | |
|--|----|-----|-------|
| | 93 | 887 | 1,337 |
|--|----|-----|-------|

Section 3A Grants – Secular buildings

| Owner type | No of grant offers | Value of grants offered £000 | Payments made on previous offers £000 |
|-----------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Private owner | 1 | 12 | 104 |
| Local authority | – | – | 1 |
| National Trust | | | |
| Other bodies | 1 | 27 | 26 |
| TOTALS | 2 | 39 | 131 |

Churches

| | | | |
|--|---|----|-----|
| | 4 | 70 | 110 |
|--|---|----|-----|

| | £ | Rate of grant |
|---|--------|---------------|
| Berwick Upon Tweed Old Bridge, (Northumberland) | 8,750 | 25% LA |
| York City Walls, (N. Yorks) | 11,634 | 25% LA |
| Workington Hall, (Cumbria) | 14,407 | 40% LA |
| Great Yarmouth, Medieval Vaulting, (Norfolk) | 8,360 | 50% LA |
| Canterbury City Walls, (Kent) | 25,000 | 50% |
| Siddington Tithe Barn, (Glos) | 11,500 | 100% |

Those marked LA are grants to local authorities. The remainder are grants to private owners.

SECTION 10 GRANTS

In the period, 144 grant offers were made, worth a total of £1,091,556, for repairs to buildings and for environmental schemes in Conservation areas. Figures are not yet available for 'Town Scheme' grants, paid where English Heritage and a local authority agree to make joint contributions towards the repair of specific buildings in a conservation area, as these are administered by local authorities.

GRANTS FOR RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY

As a result of reallocation of reserve funding during this four month period, £294,427 has been made available for rescue archaeological projects during this period. This is in addition to the £5.2 million made available at the beginning of the financial year. This funding has been spread between 71 projects for excavation, post-excavation work and survey throughout the

country, and has enabled a number of new excavation projects to be started. Just over half of the projects thus sponsored are in the Midlands where £115,400 is split between 36 recipients; 12 projects in the North of England are to share £89,539, and 23 in the South are to receive total support of £89,488.

CIVIC TRUST AWARDS



Restored gazebo at the rear of 49A High Street, Ware. Photograph by Rock Townsend Associates.

On 1st December, the Civic Trust announced its awards and commendations, sponsored this year by Macdonalds. Entries were invited from the 'Shire' counties, and the awards and commendations cover a wide spectrum of new construction, rehabilitation building conservation and repair.

A number of the schemes entered involved the repair of listed buildings, several of which, judged by English Heritage and its predecessor, the Historic Buildings Council, as outstanding, have been repaired with the aid of grant under the provisions of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 (S3A). Among those commended by the Trust, the following grant-aided schemes are of note:

Chateau Gate Burton, near Gainsborough, Lincs. A miniature replica of an eighteenth century French Chateau, restored by Phillip Jebb for the Landmark Trust (£20,500).

Grange Farm Barn, Coggeshall, Essex. The rescue and repair of this celebrated but badly neglected and ruinous twelfth century barn by the Coggeshall Grange Barn Trust, employing the Essex County Architects Department (£104,000).

The Ancient House, Buttermarket, Ipswich. Restoration of an important fifteenth century timber-framed house with seventeenth century pargetting to the main elevations by Ronald Geary Associates for Ipswich City Council (£131,200).

The Gothick Temple, Painshill Park, Surrey. One of the ensemble of garden buildings executed by the Honourable Charles Hamilton in the mid eighteenth century as part of his grand landscape park. Rescued from ruin for the Painshill Park Trust set up by Elmbridge Borough Council, by Gilbert Williams in association with Broadway and Malyan. (£75,000).

The Summerhouse, Eyton-on-Severn, Wroxeter, Shropshire. Repair and conversion of the major surviving element of a house of the very early seventeenth century, for the Vivat Trust, by architects Arroi and Snell. (£15,495).

The Gazebos at High Street, Ware, Hertfordshire. A unique group of eight eighteenth century timber-framed gazebos set along the river margin to the rear of houses in the High Street. This programme of restoration by Rock

Townsend for a number of owners is continuing (£23,451 of grant offered, some of which is yet to be spent on later phases of the project).
New Mills, Wootton-under-Edge. Conversion of a substantial industrial building for further communal use, for Renishaw Meteorology Ltd by Niall Phillips Associates (£62,000).

ROBERT CHITHAM

THE ECCLESIASTICAL EXEMPTION

In October, Lord Skelmersdale, Parliamentary Secretary, Department of the Environment, announced the broad scope of an agreement between the government and representatives of the Church of England and other Churches on the Churches Main Committee for changes to the exemption from listed building controls at present enjoyed by buildings in ecclesiastical use. The precise details of some of these changes are to be contained in an Order under the provisions of the new Housing and Planning Act yet to be published, and others will be the subject of further negotiations, but the main alterations are as follows:

A. DEMOLITION

Listed building consent will in future be required for:

- i) The total demolition of a place of worship, except in the case of a Church of England church where demolition is in pursuance of a pastoral or redundancy scheme made under the Pastoral Measure 1983.
- ii) Partial demolition that would *materially affect* the architectural or historic interest of a place of worship not belonging to the Church of England.

B. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Where the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches, a National Amenity Society or a Local Planning Authority raises reasoned objection to a proposal to demolish, wholly or partially, in pursuance of a scheme under the Pastoral Measure 1983, a listed church or an unlisted church in a Conservation Area, the Church Commissioners will ask the Secretary of State for the Environment if he wishes to hold a non-statutory public inquiry into the proposals. If he so decides, the Church Commissioners undertake to accept a consequential recommendation that either the church should be vested in the Redundant Churches Fund or that they should seek further alternative uses for the building and only use the Pastoral Measure powers to demolish if no alternative use can be found.

C. MEMBERSHIP OF DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEES

English Heritage, National Amenity Societies and Local Planning Authorities will be given the opportunity of representation on Diocesan Advisory Committees.

D. EXTERNAL WORKS

Church authorities will consult English Heritage and local planning authorities concerning any proposals for significant external works which remain exempt from listed building control.

E. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES WITHIN THE CURTILAGE OF A LISTED CHURCH

The Government would take powers in the Housing and Planning Act to bring classes of buildings and structures within the curtilage of listed churches within listed building control. The possible use of this power would be the subject of further discussion.

COMMENTARY

English Heritage sought radical amendment to the ecclesiastical exemption even if not its outright abolition. Nevertheless the chairman of English Heritage, Lord Montagu, was able to welcome a number of the elements in the Minister's announcement during the debate in the House of Lords, in particular the proposals to limit ecclesiastical exemption to works which would not materially affect the architectural or historic character of non-Anglican churches, to have further discussion about how work to buildings within the curtilage of a church should be subject to listed building control, to improve consultation procedures and to widen the membership of diocesan advisory committees. However, Lord Montagu pointed out that the proposed non-statutory inquiries into proposals to demolish Anglican churches appeared not to be on all-fours with statutory listed building consent inquiries since an inspector's recommendation against demolition would not ultimately prevent demolition unless the Secretary of State agreed that the church in question should be vested in the Redundant Churches Fund.

In discussion about the detailed implementation of these proposals English Heritage will be reiterating the case for applying the restrictions on ecclesiastical exemption to major alterations to church interiors.

Lord Montagu concluded his comments by saying that the proposals placed a heavy responsibility on the ecclesiastical authorities to demonstrate the validity of the Minister's claim that the new proposals 'render unnecessary any further listed building controls over external alterations or extensions.' It is to be hoped that those denominations and faiths which do not have their own internal arrangements equivalent to listed building consent procedures will now move to adopt them.

MEDIEVAL REMAINS PRESERVED IN CLERKENWELL

Some remarkable medieval remains in the basements of two buildings in St John's Square, Clerkenwell, are being preserved, thanks to the co-operation of a developer, his architect, the local planning authority and English Heritage. The buildings above ground date from the late eighteenth century but have been substantially altered internally and are to be reconstructed behind retained facades (in accordance with a decision of the Secretary of State after an earlier public inquiry). An archaeological investigation, however, confirmed earlier antiquarian assumptions that in the basements behind later rendering and panelling were the remains of an older building which lay within the precincts of the Priory of St John of Jerusalem. The principal discoveries were a line of substantial walling, part of which is of interesting chequerboard construction with alternating blocks of greensand and chalk, a doorway with chamfered jambs, a partially blocked window, and evidence of a water supply system. The remains, which are thought to date mainly from the late

fourteenth century were to have been demolished, but as a result of negotiations plans have been altered and they are to be preserved *in situ*.

THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS RESURVEY

The Historic Buildings Resurvey will be completed during 1987 after almost 20 years' fieldwork, giving England a more comprehensive inventory of buildings protected by statute than any other country. The final phase, the Accelerated Resurvey which commenced in 1982, has been a daunting exercise in logistics. At its height, over 100 fieldworkers, supervised by a dozen English Heritage Inspectors, selected, described and mapped over 25,000 buildings each year for the statutory lists. These now identify about 400,000 buildings and run to nearly 2,000 volumes.

During the early 1970s, at its outset, the resurvey concentrated on those areas within the local authorities of the time which were of particular historical sensitivity or lay where pressure for development was greatest. The published list volumes generally coincided with planning authority boundaries, but those compiled after local government reorganisation in 1974 covered rather more arbitrary areas. The recent resurvey has been filling the resulting gaps. Over the past twenty or so years, however, criteria for selection and standards of presentation of the lists have changed. Many vernacular and industrial buildings are now considered worth inclusion, as are new classes of building – for example churchyard memorials – and the best inter-war buildings. Presentation of the lists is also much altered; not only do they now give concise descriptions, but also each separate structure has its own entry to minimise problems with the definition of curtilage and multiple ownerships. Virtually every planning authority now has a series of volumes comprising its list which has been compiled over many years. This poses problems of standardisation. Over the past few months a computer programme has been set up to identify the resources required to bring the selection and the descriptions of buildings in the lists up to the high quality and accuracy achieved most recently. This has been integrated with a study aimed at computerising the lists to make information held in them more readily available than at present. For the past year, the listing consultants, Clews Architects Partnership, have been commissioned by English Heritage to investigate how to computerise the lists in a way which will best serve the requirements of those who need to use them.

Alongside these future developments, it may be possible in due course to take advantage of English Heritage's decision to go ahead with the purchase of a computerised mapping system for the Monuments Protection Programme and to use it also for listed buildings. This system, together with computerised indices to certain building types and a newly established unique numbering system for all listed buildings based on the 'greenback' volumes, would give a limited ability to make more use of the 400,000 or so hard-copy list entries which have resulted from the resurvey.

PETER WHITE

THE MONUMENTS PROTECTION PROGRAMME

In 1984 a report, 'England's Archaeological Resource', was produced which confirmed that the existing schedule of monuments protected under the

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act did not reflect the extent to which nationally important monuments survive in England. In recognition of this, English Heritage identified the need for a new Monuments Protection Programme to ensure that those monuments which are of national importance receive statutory protection.

The main sources of information on archaeological sites and monuments are the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England (RCHME) and county sites and monuments records (SMRs). The SMRs are normally based within local authorities and English Heritage supports the setting-up of such records and, where necessary, grant-aids their recasting onto computer to improve retrieval of data. In Kent, where no publicly accessible record exists, English Heritage has commissioned the Royal Commission to compile one. There are at present some 13,000 scheduled monuments in England. By the end of the programme it has been estimated that there could be as many as four times that number. Such an increase will pose problems of information storage and retrieval. The introduction of a computer-based map record for scheduled monuments is therefore under way, and will become operative in 1987/8. Proposals are also being formulated to develop and standardise the proposed computer-based text record. Liaison is continuing with RCHME to ensure that easy interchange of information will be possible between the new record of scheduled monuments and the National Archaeological Record. It is also clear that a large increase in the number of scheduled monuments will result in an increase of associated casework and demand for resources. Accordingly, proposals are being developed for the collection of statistics which will enable the demand to be quantified and priorities for action assessed.

The main programme can be split into three parts: (a) the retrieval of data from the SMRs and RCHME, its ordering and evaluation, (b) the selection of monuments to be considered for scheduling and (c) the scheduling process, including site visits and the making of recommendations to the Secretary of State. The retrieval, ordering, and evaluation of data on archaeological monuments on such a complete and countrywide scale has not previously been attempted, and procedures for undertaking the work have yet to be finalised. As a first step, monument-type descriptions are being drafted for use during evaluation, and further planned work for 1987/8 includes pilot evaluation and scheduling projects.

The success of the programme will depend partly on winning local authority support during the initial information retrieval and evaluation stage and on persuading owners and occupiers of monuments of the need for this reassessment. A great deal of effort is being and will be put into preparation and programme development before the professional evaluation of England's scheduled monuments can begin.

BILL STARTIN

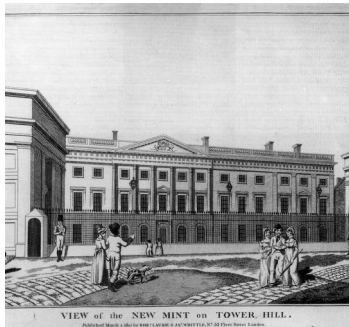
REDEVELOPMENT AT THE ROYAL MINT

The multi-million pound redevelopment of the site of the former Royal Mint near the Tower of London provides the opportunity for a major excavation of the site of St Mary Grace's Abbey, in its day the third richest and most powerful Cistercian house in England. The principal building of the Royal Mint was erected in 1809/11 to the designs of James Johnson and Sir Robert

Smirke. It originally consisted of a group of five houses behind a single palace-like facade, which itself forms a handsome stone-faced classical composition. The interior has, however, been much mutilated and the intention is to preserve and refurbish the best surviving features and spaces while rebuilding other parts behind the facade. English Heritage took the view that the development proposals were broadly acceptable, having regard to the need to find a modern use for the buildings, but considered that a public inquiry would have been justified in view of the importance of the building and the degree of public interest in the proposals. However, the Secretary of State decided not to call in the planning application.

The excavation, which is being carried out by the Museum of London's Department of Greater London Archaeology with the aid of a grant of £700,000 from the owners of the site, the Crown Estate Commissioners, began in June 1986 and will continue until 1988. Already much of the southern range of abbey buildings, including the south cloister walk, parts of the refectory, the warming house and infirmary has been uncovered. There were traces of a tiled floor in the refectory. Basically these buildings belonged to the second half of the fourteenth century, the abbey having been founded by Edward III in 1350. Discussions are being held on the extent to which the remains can be preserved and displayed within the new development.

VICTOR BELCHER



View of the new Mint on Tower Hill

Published March 2. 1812 by Rob Laurie & JA Whittle. no 53 Fleet Street London.

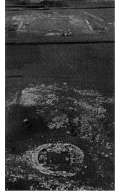
STANWICK ROMAN VILLA: EXCAVATIONS IN 1986

English Heritage are co-operating with Northamptonshire County Council in a project of detailed exploration of the historic landscape in the valley of the River Nene around the village of Raunds, near Wellingborough. In this area lies the Roman villa of Stanwick, whose site is due to be quarried for gravel within the next few years. The Central Excavation Unit of English Heritage has now completed two major seasons' work at the site with financial support from Amey Roadstone Corporation, the quarry operators.

The villa, the house at the hub of the Roman farm, was examined briefly in 1985, but the direction of quarrying necessitated the rapid examination in 1986 of three groups of buildings which lay some distance to its north.

Excavation, preceded by geophysical survey, showed that these lay in at least three irregular enclosures approached by a series of trackways radiating from the villa itself.

All these enclosures contained buildings of several periods. In the earliest phases, these were round huts with stone footings, many of which were later replaced by rectangular stone structures. One of the enclosures, bounded by a complex series of ditches, contained a substantial large house with several rooms, perhaps the farm bailiff's office, which was approached across a walled courtyard at whose corners stood a pair of small turret-like rooms. Another of the enclosures contained a small circular building, apparently contemporary with the building identified as the office, and on the same building axis, which was associated with levels containing a miniature bronze axe and part of a votive figurine of Venus. This may therefore have been a shrine.



The circular building, possibly a shrine, aligned on the 'farm bailiff's office', about 50 metres to its west.



The building identified as a bailiff's office. In the foreground is a courtyard flanked by small corner rooms. At its rear lies a more complex series of rooms which may have been the office accommodation.

These excavations have gone a long way towards establishing the richness of the site, and revealing the extent of spread of the Roman farmstead and all its associated buildings away from the nucleus formed by the villa itself. A high water table in the area affords the chance of recovering waterlogged organic remains such as timber and leather, and phosphate analysis of the soils in and around individual buildings and detailed analysis of the animal bones recovered from them may help to indicate what they were used for in Roman times. This opportunity to examine a substantial area of the villa and its surroundings affords the chance of understanding the Roman land-use and should give a glimpse of the economic basis of a large-scale Roman farm.

DAVID NEAL

FARMING AND THE PRESERVATION OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

PROTECTED MONUMENTS

Ever since 1892 a selection of the physical remains of Britain's historic past has been protected by law. A schedule is kept of important sites which are designated ancient monuments. They may be as old as half a million years (the settlements of Britain's earliest inhabitants) or as recent as 40 years ago (such as the military defences of World War II). Scheduled monuments may be easily recognisable and impressive such as stone ruins of medieval castles and abbeys, but many are identifiable only as low earthworks ('humps and

bumps') in a pasture field or even as cropmarks in a ploughed field, not visible at ground level.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments form only about 2% of known archaeological and historic sites. Most of them lie today within agricultural land and form part of working farms. They include examples of settlements, burial places, religious sites and industrial workings which have characterised social and economic development in Britain over many thousands of years. The information they contain about our origins and development is vulnerable to disturbance and, once damaged, can be irretrievable. In preserving the most important archaeological sites that are left today, we are safeguarding a legacy to hand down to future generations that they in turn may have the opportunity to enquire into and enjoy their archaeological heritage.

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

All ancient remains may be easily damaged by modern agriculture, even when they are buried beneath a ploughed field or covered by deep-rooted vegetation. Protecting them in a positive way may involve loss of potential crop or alterations to standard farming practice. The preservation of ancient sites sometimes places a sizeable burden on those who occupy and work the land.

English Heritage is able to offer management agreements to help owners and occupiers look after the ancient monuments on their land. In return for a payment calculated on the area of the monument, the occupier agrees to a number of positive management actions designed to enhance its condition and long term preservation. This can mean such things as controlling scrub and deep rooting vegetation, or maintaining sites as well-managed islands of pasture in arable areas. Alternatively layers are buried in a stable condition beneath ploughsoil, minimum cultivation techniques like direct drilling can be adopted to ensure that these are not disturbed. In such ways as these it is generally possible to satisfy requirements both of modern farming and archaeological preservation and thereby reconcile apparently conflicting land-uses.

Forty-eight management agreements, at a cost of £30,802, were concluded between August and November 1986, of which eleven (at a cost of £6,292) were renewals of existing agreements. Monuments on which agreements have been entered into span all periods and types of sites. Most of them are for prehistoric sites (25 agreements, of which 18 are in the south) and medieval remains (19 agreements, of which 12 are in the Midlands). The site-types covered range from prehistoric burial mounds and settlements to medieval villages, fortified sites and moated enclosures.

MIKE PARKER-PEARSON

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY! WHAT NEXT?

At a conference sponsored by The British Archaeological Trust in York in December 1986 Dr Geoffrey Wainwright delivered a paper which summarised his views on the future of rescue archaeology funding in England. He confirmed English Heritage's commitment to the principle of continuing support for rescue archaeology through projects of national importance, but emphasised that no guarantee could be given that funding would rise in line

with inflation or that the Commission's priorities between different grant programmes would not change over time. He also emphasised that the Commission sees that support as part of a funding package for individual projects to which others should contribute. In particular, it seemed equitable that developers whether public or private, should meet the costs of archaeological constraints as they do for other environmental purposes. The rescue budget was allocated for recording those sites of national importance which could not be preserved and where destruction was taking place beyond the control of other agencies with the powers and resources to deal with the problem. In particular, local planning authorities had a clear role to play in ensuring that the archaeological implications of their planning decisions were properly assessed and afforded parity of treatment with other environmental factors in the decision-making process. The primary objectives of archaeological resource management were seen as the preservation of that resource and the promotion of the public's knowledge and enjoyment of it. The first provided for academic needs which lie largely in the future and both objectives catered for the present needs of modern society on whose sympathy and interest the survival of the historic environment depends. The British Archaeological Trust was urged to lift its eyes to these objectives and meet the challenge which they presented.

ORGANISATION CHART

CHAIRMAN

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
and

COMMISSIONERS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

P W Rumble

CENTRAL SERVICES

Legal Services

D Trafford-Owen Ext 676

Administrative Services

D Begley Ext 492

Secretariat

Miss V Croft Ext 884

CONSERVATION GROUP

R Butt Ext 400

Room 243, Fortress House

Assistant Chief Inspector Historic Buildings

B J Anthony Ext 336

PROPERTIES IN CARE GROUP

Functions of this group closely related to conservation work include architectural, engineering and surveying services, the research and technical advisory service, the conservation studios and education.

HISTORIC AREAS DIVISION

A A Wood Ext 857

Room 10,14 Clifford Street

Buildings at Risk

J Paduano Ext 853
Planning Issues
T M Forde Ext 856
Research and Development
B A Hennessy Ext 854
Case work on Grants and Planning
Issues in Conservation Areas
South and West Region
I A Taylor Ext 858
Midlands and East Region
N P de Lange Ext 851
North Region
J J Read Ext 852
CHIEF INSPECTOR'S DIVISION
A D Saunders Ext 407
Room 240, Fortress House
Historic Buildings Listing Resurvey
P R White Ext 365
M B Robertson Ext 347
Ancient Monuments Scheduling/Monuments Protection Programme
D W Startin Ext 405
Gardens Register
Dr C Thacker Ext 441
Ancient Monuments Laboratory
Dr C J Price Ext 523
Central Excavation Unit
J Hinchliffe Ext 390
Records Office
N Clubb Ext 555
Publications
Dr S Johnson Ext 369
HISTORIC BUILDINGS DIVISION
R W J Chitham Ext 383
Room 324, Fortress House
Listed Building Consent Casework
Redundant Churches and Ecclesiastical Exemption Issues
Repair Grants for Outstanding Historic Buildings (Section 3A)
Local Authority Purchase Grants (Section 5B)
Historic Buildings Taxation Issues
Historic Gardens Issues
Historic Buildings Advisory Committee
Western Region
O H J Pearcey Ext 468
Northern & East Midlands Region
I K Jardin Ext 882
Eastern Region
R Halsey Ext 490
ANCIENT MONUMENTS DIVISION
Mrs E J Sharman Ext 429
Room 304, Fortress House

Scheduled Monument Consent Casework
Ancient Monument Grants
Rescue Archaeology Grants
Countryside liaison issues
Ancient Monuments Advisory Committee
Secretariat
South and West Region
Dr G J Wainwright Ext 413
Midlands and East Region
G J Fairclough Ext 420
North Region
P B A Hoppen Ext 474
LONDON DIVISION 01-734-8144
A Barker Ext 1
Room 202, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, London W1R 6AB
London Advisory Committee Secretariat
D Simpson Ext 3
Listed Building Consent Casework
Area Conservation
Redundant Churches Casework
Planning Issues
City, Camden, North East & North West
H Duckett Ext 132
Mrs V Brand Ext 134
Westminster, Kensington and South
Dr P Whitbourn Ext 75
J Lee Ext 128
Repair Grants for all Listed Buildings in London
J H J Yates Ext 181
Scheduled Monument Casework
Ancient Monument Grants
Rescue Archaeology Grants
Miss G Chitty Ext 10
Works Branch
T Bidwell Ext 18
Research, recording, blue plaques
V Belcher Ext 10
Telephone extension numbers relate to 01-734-6010 unless otherwise stated