Conservation Bulletin, Issue 3, October 1987

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

AREA CONSERVATION STRATEGY

We asked Peter Robshaw of the Civic Trust to comment on our Area Conservation Strategy discussion paper. He writes:

The Discussion Paper 'Area Conservation Strategy' contains much to commend it. In particular, it envisages some redistribution of grant-aid to needier areas and indicates a greater readiness on the part of English Heritage to be more interventionist in local planning and conservation issues. The former may not be too welcome to those local authorities in whose areas Town Schemes and Section 10 grants have been available for some considerable time, while the latter may not please those local authorities where the level of conservation activity is fairly low. But for those who care about safeguarding the historic fabric of our cities, towns, and villages, these proposals are very welcome. It seems reasonable to expect that in those cases where grants have been available and taken up over a long period, a rolling programme of conservation schemes should become self-sustaining without the continued help of English Heritage as local confidence is built up. This would serve to free scarce resources for the hard-pressed areas, such as industrial towns in the north of England where there is often a rich architectural inheritance with inadequate funding to maintain it. As the paper also points out, conservation needs positive encouragement in such areas as seaside resorts and rural areas.

One suggestion especially welcomed by the Civic Trust is that in future English Heritage will be prepared to devote more grant-aid to environmental improvements in the spaces between buildings. Too often in the past, public and private investment in the restoration of a building has seemed an unattractive proposition because of the poor appearance of its surroundings. Within conservation areas, spaces between buildings – if properly cared for – can of themselves contribute much to the character and appearance of the area and serve to set them off and give the place its special identity.

The Old Arcade, Halifax: a conservation grant scheme has been in operation here for the last three years

Conservation is essentially part of the wider planning process. The suggestion that English Heritage is to adopt a higher profile in some planning issues will be welcomed by local

amenity societies, which often feel that they are fighting against heavy odds when development, which may have a seriously damaging effect on the character of a local conservation area is proposed. Welcome too is the planned expansion of English Heritage's role in relation to public enquiries, planning studies, and the impact of road proposals.

Two suggestions, however: would English Heritage consider finding 50% of the salary for the first three years for the appointment of a Conservation Officer in, say, five Districts a year where in its view there is a proven need to be met? Secondly, as part of its more interventionist role, could English Heritage – perhaps in association with the Regional Offices of the Department of the Environment – arrange a series of conservation seminars for elected Members and Officers of local authorities, so as to provide interfaces between English Heritage, the Department, and the local authorities?

The Discussion Paper is a forward-looking and imaginative document which deserves full support.

PETER ROBSHAW

MAIN PROPOSALS IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Information on need to be improved

The distribution of grants to be progressively adjusted to concentrate on areas of greatest need and on schemes which demonstrate that they are cost-effective. Conservation schemes should have clear objectives related to wider planning policies and be regularly monitored and reviewed

Further efforts to streamline grant administration

More delegation of grant administration to local authorities where legally possible

The new purchase rule should be abolished for SIO grants and town schemes with safeguards on applications for grants in respect of property purchased within two years and over £10,000

Means-testing of commercial applicants for grants should continue, but more weight should be placed on the viability of the projects in question than on the financial position of the applicant

Higher priority for environmental works (paragraph 14)

Greater readiness to give grants in eligible rural conservation areas (paragraph 5)

English Heritage to place more emphasis on planning work and to develop a strategy for its advisory and publicity work

NEXT STEPS

We are now considering the many comments received on the discussion paper and decisions will be taken and announced in the near future.

Among the suggestions we are considering are Peter Robshaw's ideas that English Heritage should post-fund some local conservation officers and organise local seminars for members and officers of local authorities. Our thoughts on the former are running in the direction of helping to finance project officers for fixed periods to carry out specified regeneration or conservation tasks in particular localities. We are in touch with the Civic Trust and others with recent experience of such approaches.

Another concern which we want to pick up at this final stage in our deliberations on future conservation area policy is the growing evidence of a flattening off of demand for Section 10 grants. We are not sure of the cause.

Straitened local authority manpower, finances, and other local preoccupations are probably important causes. Are there other factors and what should be done to counteract them? We should welcome comments and advice from readers on this issue. We would

also welcome your help in encouraging individuals and owners with conservation problems to discuss with us the possibility of grant-aid and/or technical assistance.

EDITORIAL

CORPORATE PLAN 1987–91

Each year English Heritage submits a Corporate Plan to the Secretary of State for the Environment. This reviews progress in recent years and sets out policies and plans for the three succeeding years. The Chairman of English Heritage then meets the Minister of the Environment to discuss main issues, and in November we are notified of our grant-in-aid for the following year. The Plan is based on a financial planning figure given in advance by the Department, but we also set out that money which we consider is needed to carry out the full range of our proposals.

In our latest Plan our main achievements in 1986–87 were outlined as:

increased protection of monuments, buildings, and conservation areas through grant offers totalling £30m

the launch of a comprehensive Monuments Protection Programme – to give protection through scheduling to nationally important monuments

the opening of seven new properties to the public

an increase of 35% in income from visitors

membership of English Heritage increased by over 50% (membership now stands at over 120,000)

sales revenue grew by over 20%

our total income is now over £5m; an increase of 50% on 1985–86

a successful start on our programme of planned maintenance inspections with over 50% now completed

a start on improving financial systems

Our policies relating to conservation and care of the monuments which we run are based very much on those inherited from DoE. We are, however, aiming to extend them in the following ways.

1. Establishing better measures of need for grants and other help. One of the great limitations in assessing what needs to be done, and in pressing our case for more funds, is that we have so little solid data on the urgency and scale of need for repairs to churches, to historic buildings, and within conservation areas.
2. Introducing greater flexibility and selectivity in our use of grants, switching some effort to advisory, representational, and public inquiry work and introducing a loan scheme.
3. Introducing flexibility in acquiring or disposing of properties in our care, particularly through joint management arrangements where appropriate.
4. Providing new approaches to the display and furnishing of monuments.
5. Reducing long-term maintenance costs through planned maintenance programmes.
6. Increasing numbers of visitors and developing our membership scheme.
7. Increasing income still further from our trading activities. We place considerable importance on this so as to increase our ability to finance activities across the board.

In order to meet our commitments (eg on grants) and to maintain the level of our services and activities, we consider that we need a grant-in-aid of £73m for 1988–89, some £8m above the planning figure. That money would be spent on:

£m 1988–89	
Conservation Group (incl grants)	42.4
Expenditure on properties in care	29.4
Marketing	4.2

Central services	4.0
Irrecoverable VAT	0.6
	80.6
Admissions, sales, and membership	7.6
Net expenditure	73.0

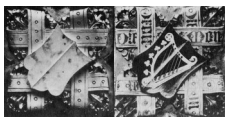
One has to recognise that pressures on, public expenditure are immense and that no Government has ever been able to meet the full wishes to all of its own departments and related bodies. The Government also has a firm policy to control public expenditure in order to keep inflation down.
We plan to play our part in generating more income, but, however much we succeed in that aim, the extent to which we are able to give grants and maintain the monuments in our care does depend mainly on the level of grant-in-aid that we receive.

PETER RUMBLE

Chief Executive

THE ENGLISH HERITAGE CONSERVATION STUDIO

The studio, situated within the idyllic confines of Regents Park, employs ten painting conservators and supporting staff. The section was formed in the 1920's, when its primary function was to clean and restore the large number of mural and ceiling paintings situated within Royal palaces and government buildings that were in the care of the then Office of Works. Since those early days, the range of work undertaken has developed and increased, in particular since 1951, when the section moved into its present premises, enabling it to set up the necessary equipment for the conservation of all types of easel paintings on panel or on canvas.
The Conservation Section's activities now fall into the following three main categories:
conservation of easel paintings in the studio
conservation of mural and ceiling paintings *in situ*
advisory work
All these kinds of work are undertaken for collections of easel paintings and wallpaintings in buildings in the care of English Heritage, and there is an increasing demand for our services from PSA and DoE, from museums, and from private architects and contractors to advise, estimate for, and carry out conservation projects on a cost-recoverable basis. During the current year, we have carried out conservation work on paintings from Chiswick House, Osterley Park, and the Palace of Westminster; on ceiling panels from the Mary Moser room at Frogmore House; and we are currently engaged in an important commission from the Guildhall Art Gallery, City of London, to line and conserve the large 25ft x 18ft painting by J S Copley entitled *The Defeat of the Floating Batteries at Gibraltar, 1782.* On-site work has included conservation of medieval wallpaintings at Belsay Castle (Northumberland), Longthorpe Tower (Cambs), and Berry Pomeroy Castle (Devon), as well as post-medieval wallpainting at Hill Hall (Essex) and Bolsover Castle (Derbys). We have also treated eighteenth century wall-paintings in Frogmore House, Windsor, and Victorian paintings in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore and in the Upper Waiting Hall at the Palace of Westminster.
Perhaps the most difficult task during the year has been the revealing of the original Pugin design for the ceiling of the Member's Dining Room at the Palace of Westminster. This involved the mechanical removal with a scalpel of several layers of graining and over-paint from carved enrichment, followed by the removal with solvent of a darkened and oxidised layer of a copal varnish.



A ceiling panel from the Lords' Dining Room at the Palace of Westminster, showing (left) its state before treatment, when white-painted and gilded and (right) in full colour after restoration of its original decoration

Another fascinating task has been our involvement in the conservation of the painted ceiling by Antonio Verrio in the King William III bedroom at Hampton Court Palace. This was soaked with many gallons of water during the recent disastrous fire, and we have carried out regular inspections to check that it did not sustain any further damage by mould growth, plaster failure, or paint flaking. We will now apply a paper facing to protect it during the extensive rebuilding work. Towards the end of this building programme, the facing will be removed and consolidation, cleaning, and retouching of the painting will be carried out to be completed in time for the reopening of this section of the state apartments.

An eighteenth-century ceiling panel from the Mary Moser room at Frogmore House: cracks on the painted face are held in place by tissue paper

Advice on the treatment of paintings has been given throughout the year in connection with applications to English Heritage for grants, and in many instances work carried out by private conservators is monitored to ensure correct conservation techniques and cost-effectiveness.

When our internal and governmental commitments permit, we can undertake work on a cost-recoverable basis for private clients. We offer not only the specialist expertise of the Conservation Section for work on all types of ceiling, wall, and easel painting, but, where required, the services of a multi-disciplinary team which can combine the skills of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the Research and Technical Advisory Service, our ornamental iron-smiths, stone and woodcarvers studios, and the paint research group. A recent example of this is the conservation of the polychrome lead sculpture and gilded copper plaques at the Fishermans' Hotel at Great Yarmouth for the town's municipal charities. It is clear from such projects that there is a great need for the kind of comprehensive conservation service which we are able to offer.

JAN KEEVIL

GRANTS OFFERED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE APRIL – JULY 1987

English Heritage offered the following grants during the four month period 1 April to 31 July 1987.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Cost		
Section 3A	(£000)	Number
New offers (secular)	2228.1	57
Increased offers (secular)	302.6	19
New offers (churches)	1575.9	111
Increased offers (churches)	262.5	65
TOTAL	4369.1	252

Cases of interest

The Church of St Nicholas at Gayton, Norfolk, was built in the early fourteenth century. It has several unusual features including a domical vault with ribs of late medieval brickwork, and, instead of the usual corner pinnacles, the signs of the four Evangelists. After discovering that the church tower was in imminent danger of collapse earlier this year, immediate arrangements were made for repairs to be put in hand and a grant of £10,110 was made.

A grant of £57,000 was offered to save the Roman Catholic Church of **St Vincent de Paul, St James Street, Liverpool** from threat of closure. The Church, built 1856–57, is a particularly fine example of the mature work of E W Pugin and was in need of roof repairs and dry-rot treatment.

Among the many grants to non-ecclesiastical buildings was an offer of £102,000 to the owner of **Ledston Hall**, West Yorkshire for major repairs to the roofs and elevations. The Hall is a large and impressive mansion fronted by a seventeenth century facade which conceals a complex historical development from the thirteenth century onwards.

HISTORIC AREAS

Cost		
Section 10	(£000)	Number
New offers	773.6	108
Increased offers	94.2	29
TOTAL	867.8	137

Cases of interest

A grant has been offered to the Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust towards a restoration scheme at **7, 9, and 11, Church Street, Calne**, Wiltshire. Although formerly one of the most important shopping streets in Calne, Church Street had been declining for several years as a result of the closure of the town's main industry. The Trust ultimately intend to restore numbers 7–15 and 21–25 for resale as specialist shops on the ground floor and residential accommodation on the upper floors. This project forms part of the Calne Restoration Project.

A contrasting project also supported by English Heritage is the **Dry Stone-walling Scheme** near **Peterborough**, in Cambridgeshire. This scheme has been started to encourage the repair and retention of the stone walls of villages in the District. The walls are constructed using methods characteristic in the area and best suited to the properties of the local oolitic limestone. English Heritage is working closely on this with the local authorities and the Manpower Services Commission. New town schemes were approved for Alton, Hastings, Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Higham Ferrers, Buntingford, Middleton, Mistley, Leigh-on-Sea, Lutterworth, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and Castle Donington.

LONDON

Cost		
Section 3A	(£000)	Number
New offers	473.5	7
Increased offers	100.5	8
TOTAL	574.0	15
Cost		
London Grants	(£000)	Number
New offers	348.6	57

Increased offers	10.9	4
TOTAL	359.5	61
Cost		
Section 10	(£000)	Number
New offers	60.7	13
Increased offers	15.1	7
TOTAL	75.8	20
Cost		
Town Schemes	(£000)	Number
New offers	57.6	1
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	57.6	1

Cases of interest

The largest grant offered was £324,000 under Section 3A towards the repair of **Danson Mansion, Bexleyheath**, one of the finest surviving eighteenth century villas designed by Sir Robert Taylor.

Grants to churches in London include £43,079 towards the first phase of repair of **St Columba's, Kingsland Road**, Hackney. An impressive exercise in the Gothic revival by James Brooks, redundant and threatened for several years, it has now been taken over by an African-based Church.

The London Grant scheme has also assisted the restoration of **Fellowship House East Ham** (which is to be a centre for Asian women) with a grant of £25,000, the proposed **Fan Museum**, 10–12 Croom's Hill, Greenwich with a grant of £28,509, and the repair of an early tenement block at **Bourdon Street**, Westminster with a grant of £20,884.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Rescue Archaeology (including London)	*Cost* (£000)	Number
New offers	522.7	69
Increased offers	152.2	15
TOTAL	674.9	84
Cost		
Section 24	(£000)	Number
New offers	299.4	36
Increased offers	0.7	2
TOTAL	300.1	38
Cost		
Section 17	(£000)	Number
New offers	26.7	48
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL 26.7	48	

Cases of interest

English Heritage has continued to support a long-running programme of consolidation and repair on the **Steelrigg to Housesteads section of Hadrian's Wall**, and a grant of £54,000 has been paid to the National Trust for the most recent phase of the work. The section in question is one of the most frequently visited parts of the Wall and contains some of the most substantial remains. Other long-running projects which have received support are **York City Walls, Knaresborough Castle**, and **Bolton Priory**, all in North Yorkshire.

We have also recently contributed £28,925 towards the cost of purchase of **Royston Grange Farm**, Derbyshire by the Peak District National Park. The Estate (of approximately 350 acres) contains a multi-period landscape with, amongst other features, Neolithic to Bronze Age scatters, a Roman farmstead with walled fields, and the enclosures of a late medieval monastic grange.
Among the many rescue archaeology projects supported is an excavation at **Heslerton Anglian settlement and cemetery** which is currently under threat from ploughing and erosion.

WHAT PRICE FLEET STREET?

Fleet Street in the traditional understanding of the term is soon going to be a thing of the past. It has taken time to sink in, but with *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph* firmly established in Docklands, the *Daily Mail* and *The Guardian* on the point of moving, and the *Express* and the *Mirror* not far behind, Londoners now know it. Farewell, then, to the last major manufacturing industry left in the centre of the capital. But what is going to happen now to the fabric of this fascinating section of the City of London, with its blend of venerable alleys and noisy streets, its Victorian pubs and printing buildings, and its few interwar palazzi of aspiring newspaper moguls?
The London Division of English Heritage began seriously to raise this question at about the time of its transfer from the GLC in April 1986. By then Rupert Murdoch had made his dash for Wapping, leaving the big *News of the World* building in Bouverie Street empty, and other newspapers were preparing to move. Reconstruction of the fine Victorian grid of streets between Fleet Street and the Thames was advancing, with plans for a vast development by Morgan Guaranty for the sites of the City of London Boys' and Girls' Schools waiting in the wings. The 'Big Bang' was impending, and it was obvious that Fleet Street and its vicinity would soon be swarming with finance houses from the east seeking *Lebensraum,* not to mention lawyers trickling out from the overcrowded Inns of Court to the west.
In these circumstances, it seemed important for English Heritage to do more than grapple with redevelopment in piecemeal fashion. It had to take stock of the situation as a whole, assess the Fleet Street area in detail, ensure that all buildings which merited it had been listed, and check the adequacy of local conservation areas. We also felt that it was urgent to understand and record the area by means of historical research and a full photographic survey while the newspapers were still in operation and contributed so much to the local sense of identity. Two of our historians began work on this process from October 1986, fitting in this urgent task around their existing statutory duties and research. As a result, several buildings have been proposed for listing, and a fine photographic record of architecture in and around Fleet Street has been built up. We have also acquired a detailed knowledge of how the newspaper industry has grown up and been housed over the past two hundred years – something which, remarkably enough, has never been studied properly before.

Bracken House, offices of the Financial Times, *built in 1956–9, the late masterpiece of Sir Albert Richardson: though not itself in Fleet Street, Bracken House raises all the problems connected with it, for, like other newspapers, the* FT *is moving away from the City to a new location*

In February 1988, the Museum of London will host a three-month exhibition mounted by the London Division, displaying the fruits of our research. In part this exhibition will be nostalgic, a final tribute to a London industry of tremendous vigour and idiosyncrasy. It will

show how the printing industry developed in Fleet Street following Wynkyn de Worde's arrival in 1500, in what way their buildings were laid out, how the newspapers were composed and printed, and so on. It will draw attention to the many worthwhile buildings of the area, some listed and some unlisted, from the black-glass grandeur of the *Daily Express* headquarters to humbler and grubbier buildings of archaeological significance. But it will also offer a glimpse of the future, with the newspapers dispersed in Docklands and elsewhere and the hinterland behind Fleet Street awash with new development.

The process of recording Fleet Street's demise has unquestionably been a sad one. To see discarded linotypes and massive presses lying idle awaiting the scrap lorry in cavernous sub-basements in the heart of the City of London, is an eerie experience. Few of the replacement buildings for the area currently on drawing boards give much promise of architectural merit. Most, frankly, will be too big. The essence of the problem is to encourage building at a human scale, conforming with the grain of the area. But there is still room for discussion on many of the projects and English Heritage will do what it can to secure preservation of what is best and most characteristic in the area – for example, our support for the listing of the *Financial Times'* Bracken House, reported elsewhere in this issue – whilst taking a constructive approach to the reuse or redevelopment of other buildings. Fleet Street itself is fairly safe from major change and the massive splendour of the *Daily Tele-graph* and *Daily Express* will stay, albeit with almost everything changed behind the fronts and entrance halls. As for the industry itself, by the end of 1988 there will be hardly a trace of it to be found in Fleet Street. But much will have been done to record its significance for London's history and architecture.

SUSIE BARSON and ANDREW SAINT

WHAT IS A BUILDING?

What is a building? To the average man in the street the answer could not be more straightforward. He would point to the rows of shops, offices, and houses lining the street and there, so far as he was concerned, would be an end to the matter.

To the average Conservation Officer, on the other hand, accustomed to dealing with listed buildings and to weaving his way through the legislative web in which they are entangled, few questions could be more difficult.

In the first place, he would be aware that the statutory lists of protected buildings frequently include such things as bollards, boundary stones, and may poles, and, in the second place, he would be aware, albeit perhaps dimly, that *they* also include in certain circumstances movable objects such as urns, busts, and statuary.

The Coffered Hall, Stowe, built by Lord Temple c 1775, though now sadly denuded of the large figures which originally occupied the niches

He would perhaps quote the example of the two urns which came before the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration in 1974–75 (C/278/v/430/J) following a complaint against the Department of the Environment. They were a pair of ornamental, free-standing urns resting on pedestals in the garden of a house, and it was claimed that the Department had acted arbitrarily and without proper consideration of the facts in listing them under Section 54 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 as buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Since the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 came into force on 1 July 1948, planning legislation has required the Minister (now the Secretary of State for the Environment) to compile, for the guidance of local planning authorities, lists of buildings of special

architectural or historic importance in their areas. The Town and Country Planning Act 1971 (Section 54) is the Act which currently imposes this requirement.
Section 54 (sub-section 2) of the 1971 Act provides that in considering whether to list a building the Secretary of State may take into account ‘not only the building itself but the desirability of preserving any feature of the building consisting of a man-made object or structure fixed to the building or forming part of the land and comprised within the curtilage of the building’.
Section 54 (sub-section 9) further provides that ‘any object or structure fixed to a building or forming part of the land and comprised within the curtilage of a building shall be treated as part of the building’. Section 290 defines ‘building’ as ‘including any structure or erection and any part of a building as so defined’.
So there, the Conservation Officer would argue, we have it. There appear to be two quite separate grounds on which objects such as urns and statues may be listed: as buildings in their own right or as part of a listed building.

The Temple of British Worthies, Stowe, Northants, designed by William Kent around 1735: due entirely to the intervention of Mr Harry West, these 16 sculptured figures are among the few at Stowe to have survived the great sales of 1921 and 1922
Where they are listed under Section 54(9) as part of a listed building, the central question appears to be whether they are ‘objects or structures forming part of the land and are lying within the curtilage of the building listed’. Evidently for this purpose they are not required to be objects or structures of particular merit and they do not really have to be buildings at all. They merely have to form part of the land and within the curtilage of a building.
Where they are listed in their own right under Section 54(2) on the other hand, each urn or statue must itself be a building, ie a ‘structure or erection’ within the meaning of Section 290, and of special interest.
Now to return to the case of the two urns. They first figured in a list which was issued in 1952. The survey on which that list was based simply noted the two stone urns on pedestals flanking the approach to the house as features which contributed to its character and to the architectural appearance of the road as a whole. The area was resurveyed in 1972, and as a result the two urns in the front garden were specifically included as listed buildings in a revised edition of the list.
The tenant of the house, through his solicitor, claimed that the urns were his personal property, that they were chattels or tenants’ fixtures, that they had been incorrectly scheduled as listed buildings because they were chattels, and that it was wrong to schedule a tenants’ fixtures since that had the effect of expropriating his property without compensation. After lengthy deliberation, in the course of which it sought legal advice, the Department answered with the view that the urns, which clearly were of merit, fell within the definition of a ‘building’ in section 290 and that they had been correctly listed.

Honington Hall, War: the niches along the main front of the late seventeenth century house contain busts of Roman emperors; they remain in situ *as an integral element in the design of the building*
The Department said that in deciding whether the urns were buildings, it had to consider whether they could be said to form part of the land, ie, to paraphrase the judge in Bovis Ltd v Secretary of State, whether by their positioning the urns indicated some degree of

permanence suggesting an intention that they should remain *in situ* and could only be removed by a process amounting to pulling down.

In this connection the Department had to hand a report that the type and weathering of the stone of which the urns were constructed indicated that they were contemporary with the stone face of the house and that the urns were supported by panelled pedestals sunk into the ground. Furthermore, the Department had in its possession a photograph taken at the turn of the century showing the urns in their present position. Finally, for good measure, the Department's Investigator advised that the urns formed an integral part of the architectural design of the entrance of the house.

On this evidence the Department concluded that the urns were capable of being listed, and the Parliamentary Commissioner duly reported that the Department had properly taken and maintained such a view.

What is the Conservation Officer to make of all this? Doubtless he will conclude that it is all very difficult and that in the end he will remain far from certain of the circumstances under which urns and statues are protected by the 1971 Act. He will be aware, of course, that from the 1720's, and to a limited extent from a much earlier date, architects often incorporated busts, urns, and sculpture into their designs. He will know that many mid eighteenth century interiors were often constructed around themes such as Learning, Art, or Science, and he will know of important buildings where such themes are illustrated by sculptured busts or figures reclining on pediments or overmantels, or simply resting on pedestals or within niches. Where these busts, urns, and figures were conceived as part of the architectural ensemble, commonsense argues that, whether or not they are movable, they should be regarded as part of the building. The law, it appears, readily supports this. Not without good cause does the Conservation Officer hesitate when attempting to define a building, but where urns and the like are concerned, the 1971 Act, as we have demonstrated, indicates that in the appropriate circumstances such objects are to be classed as buildings. Moreover, whenever it is proposed to move them, listed building consent is required.

BRIAN ANTHONY

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS

Hepworth Iron Company are sponsoring a 'Heritage Communication Award' open to all organisations or individuals managing an active archaeological excavation. The award will be for the best short presentation of an excavation which has stimulated public enjoyment, awareness, and curiosity about our national heritage. Further details from Victor Marchant, Hon. Secretary, The British Archaeological Awards, 317 Norbury Avenue, London SW16 3RW (closing date 31 October 1987)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WOOD SURVEY

English Heritage is carrying out a survey over the next nine months to identify the information potential of waterlogged wood recovered from excavations in the UK and problems encountered in its excavation, conservation, and display. An assessment of the amount of material content will be made. Those concerned with any aspect of this wide-ranging topic are requested to contact Nigel Nayling at the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, Fortress House (01-734-6010 ext 526).

PRACTICAL HANDBOOKS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Council for British Archaeology has launched a new series of small handbooks intended to assist amateur as well as professional archaeologists by giving up-to-date background information and outlining various practical techniques or working methods.

The first three titles in the series, *Recording Worked Stones* (£3.95), *Survey by Prismatic Compass* (£2.50), and *British Archaeology, an introductory booklist* (£2.50) are now available separately, or, if ordered together before 31 December 1987, can be purchased by readers of this Bulletin for £6.70 from CBA, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE.

YORK CONSERVATION COURSE

The MA course in conservation offered by York University's Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies is being altered. As well as the normal full-time one year course, it will now be possible to take the course in three blocks of one term each over an agreed number of years. In addition, a new option, dealing with the conservation of historic gardens, parklands, landscaped rural estates, urban spaces, and the setting of historic monuments, will be offered either as a full-time course or split into three parts as above. These courses are being run by the Institute's new Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens. In addition to their new MA, they are this year offering four short courses on: Conserving and Managing Historic Parks and Gardens (4–6 Nov); History of Gardens and Landscape Design in Britain (16–19 Nov); Planting and Upkeep of Old Gardens (5–8 Jan); and Trees, Woodlands and Forests in the Landscape (18–20 Jan). For further details contact the Secretary, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, Kings Manor, York, YO1 2EP.

ANCIENT MONUMENT'S IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW

November 1987 will mark a revolution in British Archaeology with the publication by English Heritage of 'Ancient Monuments in the Countryside: An archaeological management review'. This is an unlikely sounding title for a 'manifesto', but it is a document which for the first time takes account of major shifts in perception and attitudes towards archaeology in rural areas. These shifts are in our understanding of the nature and extent of the archaeological resource and in our realisation that preservation requires active management.

Whether seen in the form of medieval ridge-and-furrow on Surbiton golf course or as major tracts of prehistoric field systems in the Pennines, the major and direct influence of man on the English countryside over thousands of years is inescapable. The deliberately created landscapes and parklands of Repton and Capability Brown are relatively easy to appreciate, but what is not so generally realised is that *any* piece of the English countryside has reached its present form as a result of human activity in the past. Tree-clearance, cultivation, the marking and maintaining of boundaries, as well as those more obvious works like the construction of settlement, religious, and burial sites have all left their mark.

In many parts of the countryside, these activities have happened not once but several times. Recognisable prehistoric landscapes such as West Penwith in Cornwall are still in use today, but in other parts of the country they have been utilised and overlain by Roman landscapes, which in their turn have had the same treatment in medieval times. In some places, these are now fossilised in the form of nineteenth-century enclosure landscapes and are being actively farmed today. Such an area can be found around Maiden Castle in Dorset. In a sense, the whole of the English countryside can be seen as one extensive man-made artefact, and there is very little left that is truly wild or natural even in areas like Dartmoor.

Work in progress at Barbury Castle, an Iron Age hillfort in Wiltshire, aimed at halting the processes of erosion and re-establishing the profile of the earthworks; measures such as these are sometimes essential for maintaining earthworks under pasture (R Canham, Wilts C C)

English Heritage's concern is therefore not only with some 13,000 ancient monuments on the Schedule of the Secretary of State for the Environment, nor only with the 600,000 or so archaeological sites recognised on the Sites and Monuments Records compiled and held by individual English counties. The developing concern of English Heritage has to be with the whole of the historic element in the countryside, with the historic farm, field, wall, or woodland in the man-made landscape. The implications of this are great, and are still under active consideration, but the role that archaeology has to play in our understanding of the countryside is now firmly entrenched.

A major objective of 'Ancient Monuments in the Countryside' is to make information about the new approach to the archaeological resource easily available to everybody. It does this not only by looking at archaeological evidence, but also by examining the characteristic archaeology of different landscape types from upland moor to arable prairie. This should help those interested in a particular part of the countryside to understand and take full account of the demands of archaeological conservation in their work, planning, or recreation.

One of the other major changes in recent years has been in our attitude to the preservation needs of archaeological sites and landscapes. It has long been recognised that historic buildings require repairs and sometimes sympathetic adaptation to make them viable for today's needs, or that masonry ruins need stabilising if they are not to become even more ruinous. However, until relatively recently there seemed to be an implicit acceptance that 'humps and bumps' did not really need much in the way of positive action to preserve them, other than to stop dramatic acts of damage like levelling and ploughing. The fencing-off of sites to 'protect' them, while doing nothing else to ensure their positive well-being, has meant in some cases that formerly grassed areas are now covered in scrub or trees and providing undisturbed cover for rabbits. This neglect could be causing severe damage to the archaeology from the action of roots and burrows, and the very measures which seemed best to protect the site may be leading to their degradation or damage. Even in remote moorland areas, where the vegetation cover seems never to change, experience has taught that if heather is not managed properly then it can catch fire, burn into the peat cover, and open up features of archaeological importance to destruction from rain and wind erosion.

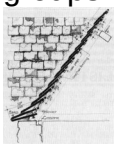
Proper management of archaeological sites and landscapes is therefore essential if they are to be conserved for the present and the future. Given that the English countryside is one historical artefact and in view of the limited resources which can be put into its conservation, archaeological resource management must be more widely understood and practised. This will involve the identification and assessment of the importance of the surviving archaeological elements within the countryside followed by a suitable level of conservation management.

The aims and methods of managing this resource have to be understood not only by archaeologists, but also by those who use and work the land. The actual decision as to where to plough the first furrow is taken by the man on the tractor, not by the archaeologist in County Hall or the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in London. This explains the emphasis on the secondary title ‘An archaeological management review’. While it is not claimed that this book will be suitable for reading in the tractor cab, it is meant to give broad guidance to everyone with an interest in the management of the countryside, as well as being a reference and resource book. It can do this because it acknowledges that these managers, farmers, foresters, land agents, and planners must be the first priority, for if they do not understand and appreciate what it is that they own and manage, then any future schemes for resource management will be on shaky foundations.
English Heritage is taking its place with the Countryside Commission and the Nature Conservancy Council as a body concerned with the whole of the countryside and with a countryside that is seen as complex, living, and changing. The publication of ‘Ancient Monuments in the Countryside: An archaeological management review’ should help these bodies, and others, in the essential aim of working closer together.

DAI MORGAN EVANS

TILESTONES

Thin-bedded stone tiles, whether of limestone or sandstone, should be described as ‘tilestones’ rather than the more familiar but less traditional ‘stone slates.’ Slate and tilestones are as important a part of our national built environment as clay tiles, and the continuity of their use in traditional locations is a matter of real concern. Limestone tiles may be generally thought of in three characteristic zones:
1 Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, and Cambridgeshire – the ‘Collyweston’ zone
Light buff, reasonably uniform in colour, weathering to dark buff and brown. Thinnest and most regular of the limestone tiles, with a weight of 0.5 – 0.75 tonnes per square (100 square feet, the traditional roofing square). Minimum roof pitch 45 degrees, better at 50 degrees.
2 Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire and Somerset – the ‘Cotswold’ zone
Rich browns and yellow variations in colour, thicker and more heavily textured than (1). Average size smaller than (1). Weight 1.0 tonne per square. Minimum roof pitch 50 degrees, but better at 60 degrees to 65 degrees.
3 Dorset – the ‘Purbeck’ zone
Silver greys, grey blue, and brown in colour, thickest and largest unit size of the three groups. Weight 1.25 tonnes per square. Minimum pitch 40 degrees.



Common to all is the practice of grading the tilestones from the largest at the eaves, to the smallest at the ridge. Ridges and hips may be covered by limestone V-shaped ridge tiles, clay tiles, or lead. A particularly attractive characteristic is the practice of forming swept or laced valleys.
The traditional method of securing tilestones is by hanging them over battens with sheep bones or wood pegs, tightly driven into holes drilled through the head. The number of pegs can be as many as three, but is usually one, depending on the size of the stone. Iron nails, brass screws, copper and composition nails have also been used to secure the stones.
The tilestones lap 50mm to 100mm according to pitch and were traditionally torched in haired lime mortar, or even bedded in moss to exclude the weather. ‘Mossing’, the practice of ramming moss into gaps under the tiles, was once regular maintenance in some parts of

the country and was probably rather more successful than the disfiguring trowelling-over with cement mortar.
Maintenance of all stone roofs is important. Limestone tiles are generally extremely durable, but may suffer through deterioration of the supporting frame or pegs, and may be lifted during high winds. Regular inspection is important.

SOURCES AND EXTRACTION

The major supply points which survive are around the village of Collyweston in Northamptonshire, between Burford and Lechlade in Oxfordshire, and near Naunton in Gloucestershire.
Collyweston tilestones are formed from the non-oolitic, sandy, fissile limestone occurring at the bottom of the inferior oolite. The thinly-bedded stone is extracted by removing the sand from below it, an exercise which necessitates the provision of temporary underpinning. When the desired area has been undercut, the props are knocked away and the limestone falls in large blocks known as 'logs'. These, brought out and laid in the open on their natural bed, are kept soaked to prevent them drying out. In a process virtually unchanged since the seventeenth century, these are saturated when frost is expected, and initial splitting is achieved when the water which has entered the bedding planes freezes. After this, the stone can be further split or 'dived' by hand, and dressed to size to form slates. Considerable discussion and intermittent research has gone into ways of making productivity less weather dependent by 'artificial' freezing.
At the base of the Great Oolite Series another thin-bedded, fissile, and somewhat sandy limestone was formerly mined near Stonesfield, Oxfordshire and prepared for use in a similar way. Stonesfield, however, although perhaps the best known, was only one of a number of Cotswold localities producing thin-bedded stones suitable for tiles. Most of these other Cotswold stones can be split without frosting, as is the case with the current supply from Filkins.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Whilst there is no shortage of raw material, reconciling supply and demand and financing exploratory work remain a problem. There is a reasonable amount of activity in the second-hand tilestone market, and there is a busy 'substitute' industry. Good cast-stone substitutes can make excellent roofs but they are not tilestones, any more than asbestos slates are slate. Comparisons between the price of new and second-hand tilestones often overlook the costs of sorting and redressing the latter. English Heritage is in the process of commissioning a consultant with many years of experience of the tilestone industry to produce a survey of the actual and potential sources of supply, the state of the tiling craft, and the real nature of the market. The survey will make recommendations on policy and investment to assist the efforts already being made by individuals or organisations, such as the Collyweston Slaters Trust, to establish continuity of supply.

JOHN ASHURST

SUPPLIERS OF LIMESTONE TILES

Collyweston Quarries (Collyweston)
Bullimores Sand and Gravel Ltd
South Witham
Grantham
Lincolnshire
Telephone: 057-283-393
(Mr David Holmes)
Bullimores are currently supplying dressed tilestones and stone in the log.

Ashton Keynes (Cotswold)
1 Rixton Gate
Ashton Keynes SN6 6HP
Telephone: 0285-861548 or 861857
(Mr Berry)

Brockhill Quarry (Cotswold)
Brockle Street
Near Naunton
Gloucestershire (near Bourton-on-the-Water)
Telephone: 04515-715 or 038-673-519
(Mr Palmer or Mr Basford)

Filkins Quarry (Cotswold)
Filkins Quarries Ltd
Brook House
Cricklade, Wilts SN6 6DD (between Burford and Lechlade, off the A361)
Telephone: 0793-750150 and 750251
(Mr Seymour Aitken)

H F Bonfield and Sons (Purbeck type)
Springdale
Gully Combe
Langton Matravers
Dorset BH19 3DN
0929-423697
(intermittent – repairs only)

Information about the Collyweston situation can also be obtained from the Collyweston Stone Slaters Trust (Mr David Ellis), The Rosery, Ryhall, Stamford, Lincs PE9 4HE. Telephone 0780-63377.

CIVIC TRUST REGENERATION UNIT

The Civic Trust has launched a new Regeneration Unit. This aims to bring practical help and advice to towns, cities, and areas seeking environmental improvements and economic revitalisation. It will build on the innovative approach tried and tested in Wirksworth, Halifax, Calderdale, and other prototypes. This approach is based on partnerships, community involvement, the careful management of limited funds including grants from English Heritage, Civic Trust experience and insight, and dedicated project leader-ship. During the current year, the Unit will be concentrating on four coastal towns – Bridlington, Ramsgate, Ilfracombe, and Brixham. Next year a partnership is planned with the Development Commission. Bids are being invited from the Rural Development Areas, which cover 28 of the most needy rural areas in the country, and plans are also being drawn up for a number of inner city demonstration projects.

LISTING DECISIONS

The Secretary of State has listed Bracken House, the *Financial Times'* offices in the City of London, Grade II*. Built in the mid 1950s, Bracken House is regarded as one of Sir Alfred Richardson's finest works. It is the first post-war building to be listed under the new policy announced by the Government in April. The Department of the Environment, with English

Heritage's help, is currently selecting some 50 or so post-war buildings for listing in the next few months. Unfortunately, the Secretary of State has not accepted advice to list Shreiber House in Hampstead, designed by James Gowan and built in 1963–4.

THE ONLY WAY? APPROACHES TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

For my wife, there are only two ways of doing anything – her way and the wrong way. This simplistic attitude to life, the universe, and everything is one that she shares with the majority of the official guardians of the world's cultural heritage. Let me attempt to justify that assertion, which bids fair to ensure my ostracism by my wife and most of my professional colleagues!

In 1979, I was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship, and I chose to visit seven European countries in order to study their approaches to what I had learned in the USA to call 'cultural resource management'. The countries that I visited – the two Germanies, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Denmark – possess a common 'Middle European' cultural background stretching back into the Stone Age. Despite fluctuations in political boundaries over the past two millennia, they share a broadly coherent relict monument stock. Several of them, moreover, share – at the present time at any rate – a common ideological, legislative, and political structure in the Eastern Bloc, whilst others for centuries had formed part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. I had assumed, therefore, that I would find a considerable measure of homogeneity in their approaches to the conservation of the archaeological heritage. Nearly two months later, I returned to England sadly disabused on this score.

Not only are there immense differences between the legislative protection in neighbouring countries and in the administrative structures to implement these, but in every country that I visited (with the significant exception of Denmark) there also seemed to me to be a total lack of interest in how monuments identical with their own were managed beyond the national borders. In the Eastern Bloc countries, for example, where meetings of officials of every conceivable kind are held regularly under the aegis of the Warsaw Pact or Comecon and where academic seminars for archaeologists flourish from Wroclaw to Vladivostok, there is no forum for those in the antiquities services. In West Germany, where such matters are the responsibility of the Länder and not the Federal Government, no official liaison exists, though the Land archaeologists have formed their own unofficial association.

It is often argued that monument protection is necessarily a national concern, dictated by different legislative codes and political traditions. There are, of course, fundamental differences between legal codes based on Roman law and the Code Napoleon and those stemming from Germanic law, whilst the absence of a written constitution in the UK makes this country somewhat aberrant. Emphases can vary from one country to another. Monuments can be used for ideological purposes and can play a highly significant role in the establishment of the cultural identity of an emergent nation: one only has to think of Zimbabwe, named after that country's most celebrated monument. Nevertheless, there are certain aspects of conservation philosophy and practice which must surely be common to the archaeological heritage of every country of the world. It is arrogant and foolhardy for heritage conservation professionals, however long-established their individual national services may be, to suppose that they have nothing to learn from their colleagues elsewhere. It is necessary to think only of the training of archaeologists for conservation management, the criteria for and techniques of reconstruction (is there any agreement on the limits of *anastylosis*?), the response to external economic pressures such as the Common Agricultural Policy, or the complex relationship between inventory and protection, and of how these fundamental problems have been tackled in various parts of the world to realize the scope that exists for closer liaison and consultation between heritage

conservation archaeologists from which both they and the monuments in their care might benefit.

My initial interest in the comparative approach was sparked off in 1978 at a meeting organised by a ginger group of younger French archaeologists working for the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique who were appalled by the nineteenth century attitudes that still prevailed in the Ministry of Culture, which is responsible for monument protection in France. The need for some kind of international forum became apparent at that time and, rather than supporting the creation of a new international body, I persuaded my colleagues to bring pressure to bear on ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) to extend its work beyond historic buildings into the archaeological field. Despite initial opposition from the French President of that organisation, the ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM) came into being last year following a series of preparatory meetings in Paris, Stockholm, and Rostock, and met for the first time officially at last year's World Archaeological Congress in Southampton. The three-day symposium organised by ICAHM on 'Public archaeology and cultural resource management' as its contribution to the Congress heard papers from some twenty countries, and representatives of double that number of countries took part in the absorbing discussions.

ICAHM has set itself a number of objectives, including the identification of the relevant organisation in every country in the world (a task that has hitherto defeated the resources of UNESCO), the preparation of an international charter on heritage management to stand alongside the Venice Charter, and the organisation of regional symposia, the first of which will take place in Stockholm next year. Gradually, therefore, the profession is beginning to recognise that there is no single 'right way' but rather a series of 'right ways' based on agreed fundamental principles and adapted to national differences. If only my wife were as amenable to argument…

HENRY CLEERE

Henry Cleere is Director of the Council for British Archaeology, and Vice-Chairman of the ICOMOS International Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management.

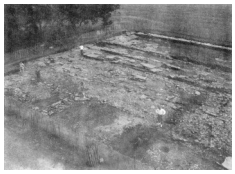
EXCAVATIONS AT BIRDOSWALD 1987

A four-year project of excavation and consolidation at the fort of Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall began this year. The excavation is being conducted by the Central Excavation Unit of English Heritage on behalf of Cumbria County Council with funds provided by British Nuclear Fuels PLC.

This first season took place between June and September and concentrated on the known site of the granaries within the fort. An area of 900sq m was opened in the front lawn of the former Birdoswald Farmhouse with an additional area in the north-western corner of the fort.

The results of this first season have been spectacular both in terms of the new information which has come to light and the impressive nature of the Roman buildings uncovered. The most interesting evidence has related to the later periods of the fort's occupation: the late or sub-Roman period. The archaeology on the main site relates to the use and disuse of two large granaries, each measuring 28.8m x 10m. Indications are that these were the structures rebuilt during AD 205–208, according to an inscription found in 1929. The granaries retain details of construction rarely paralleled on other sites. The better preserved south granary has a southern wall standing 2m in height. The raised flagstone floor and sub-floor vents survive intact and for the first time in Britain long, narrow ventilation slots have been recorded above the level of the floor. These slots, together with the fact that the two buildings had buttresses on their southern sides only, will necessitate a fundamental rethink on the reconstruction and functioning of this class of building in

Roman Britain. The threshold to this building comprised a reused decorated stone slab, probably originally from a water tank. Excavation within the south granary suggested that the original suspended flagstone floor had been raised in antiquity in order to backfill the gaps between the sub-floor sleeper walls, the floor being subsequently relaid and roughly patched together. Black 'occupation' debris overlay the flagstone floor and appears to have been associated with a hearth. Finds such as a jet ring, brooches, and a gold earring from this material seem to indicate that the granary was converted to domestic use. Pottery from the backfilling of the sub-floor spaces suggests that this operation took place in or after the middle of the fourth century.



Birdoswald excavations 1987: all four walls of the south granary are visible at the far edge of the picture, while the site of the northern granary and part of the cobbled street next to it are overlain by the traces of a sub-Roman building; its post-pads and shallow foundation trench are marked by the site staff

The northern granary appears to have seen a similar sequence to the southern, though there was no dating evidence for the reflooring, and no sign of similar occupation material. The similarity of the operation, however, down to the workmanlike blocking of the ventilation slots suggests that both buildings were refloored at around the same time. The northern granary was extensively robbed in antiquity, and its walls were used as sill walls for a timber structure which was constructed around a series of postholes cut into the tops of the robbed walls, usually coinciding with a former vent position. This structure was floored with a crazy paving of carefully laid reused facing stones. It was later replaced by an entirely timber-framed building which lay half on the north granary and half on the *via principalis.* Where posts were placed on the road, they were provided with large flagstone pads which became crushed by the weight of the building. These pads and the cobbled floor surfaces of the structure were all that survived.

Dating for the site is limited at present. If the mid fourth century date for the reflooring of the granaries is correct, we know that the timber buildings must be somewhat later in date. The pottery and other objects so far recovered have been uniformly of the fourth century, with a remarkably low incidence of earlier material. It is noticeable that in the late occupation material within the south granary there was a high proportion of small objects, much animal bone, but not much pottery. The occupation levels of the later timber buildings largely remain unexcavated, but again pottery is not present in large quantities. The period between the reflooring of the south granary (associated with fourth century pottery) and the latest timber building over the site of the north granary was clearly a long one, as is attested by the number of alterations. On these grounds, it is reasonable to suggest that occupation extended into a sub-Roman date.

For the future, Birdoswald retains its potential for telling much about the earliest phases of Hadrian's Wall. The two seasons of excavation yet to come must address that question, as well as providing another site of considerable interest to visitors in what is arguably the most beautiful location on the Roman frontier.

TONY WILMOTT