Conservation Bulletin, Issue 5, June 1988

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

SHOPPING IN HISTORIC TOWNS

A POLICY STATEMENT

One of the most potent threats to the architectural quality and character of historic towns is from new shopping schemes. English Heritage finds itself opposing or pressing for major modifications to a growing number of such proposals. Commissioners conclude that they should offer guidance on this issue as an indication of the line English Heritage would take in examining schemes and in the hope that local authorities, developers, architects and others would find it of help in formulating proposals. The text which has been adopted on the advice of our Historic Areas Committee and sent to all local authorities is as follows.

Shopping has become a powerful influence on the character of urban redevelopment. The high degree of investment concentrated in the retail sector has produced a sudden increase in the size and number of new shopping centres. The historic areas of English towns and cities retain their appeal to shoppers, and the pressure to accommodate the new giant units in the centres of those towns is intense. Towns have come to compete with each other to attract the ‘major multiples’. Many have sacrificed planning and environmental controls for fear of losing out to rival centres, either out-of-town or in adjacent towns.

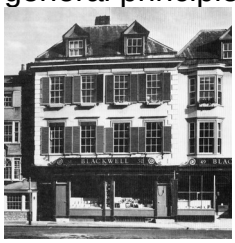
English Heritage feels that these developments are posing a threat to the visual and architectural integrity of English towns, as great as that posed by the comprehensive housing and office developments of the 1960s. The threat is particularly severe in the smaller market towns which largely escaped earlier waves of redevelopment, many of them still predominantly of a Georgian or early Victorian character.

We accept that shopping is the essence of a market town. It attracts people and prosperity and the town grows and changes in response to new demands. Many towns are now worried at the growth of out-of-town shopping, based on intensive car use and motorway access, and feel that they need to be able to offer ‘the multiples’ central sites on which to expand. They need also to offer their customers a place in which to park their cars.

Giving preference to people: shopping in Commercial Street, Leeds

Against this must be set the public's concern to maintain the economic variety of historic cities and towns, as well as their visual and architectural character, in the longer term. If, however, that character is sacrificed to large-scale development undertaken in response to what could be a short-term upswing in the retail investment cycle, it cannot be recovered. Once lost, historic character is irretrievable, and the town itself loses the ability to adapt in the future to a new cycle of demand, which might well include small-scale, tourist-based specialist shopping, or town-centre housing. Many historic town centres could be left as wastelands of disused retail warehouses. Many American towns are bitterly regretting the unplanned destruction of their historic centres, now that inner city investment is seeking character and variety in the urban landscape.

Our task is thus to accept the need for historic towns to attract investment and provide for new retail development, whilst seeking to ensure that the process does not do irreversible damage to their architectural and visual integrity. This statement is an attempt to lay down general principles to that end.



Blackwells, Oxford: a shop which occupies several buildings and a new extension at the back, but which respects the rhythm and architectural character of the street

English Heritage takes the view that very large-scale retail developments are inappropriate to the centres, at least, of smaller market towns. Not only are they vast in themselves, usually requiring the demolition of whole neighbourhoods and the elimination of variegated economic activity, but they can blight much of the rest of the town with their traffic and by drawing custom from other shops. It is virtually impossible to accommodate modern large-scale development in historic streets without losing their essential scale and character. Since evidence of overcapacity of this sort of store is starting to emerge, planning authorities have a duty to look to the longer-term in assessing applications whose apparent purpose is short-term speculative gain. They should look most carefully at the wider and longer-term social costs of such investment.

A large number of retail stores are now coming forward for planning approval. Their scale should be kept to a minimum and their siting and access be made as respectful as possible of existing buildings and streetscape. We would draw attention to the following considerations:

New shopping areas should be designed to respect existing listed buildings and conservation areas, including those in towns and cities which have suffered as the result of previous phases of urban renewal. Such respect should extend beyond individual buildings and groups. The character of English historic towns derives as much from the continuity of plot sizes, the survival of back (or burgage) plots, the pattern of lanes and alleyways, and the general historic topography, which together make up the 'grain' of the town, as from the architectural styles of the buildings, the shop fronts, and the street furniture which provide the townscape. While it may not be appropriate to preserve all such features intact in every redevelopment, respect for the scale and variety they have produced is vital.

The external form of the structures should seek to minimise the scale and bulk of their internal volumes, while being designed to be convertible to other uses, should market circumstances change. The external detailing and materials of the structures should respect the existing character of their surroundings.
We recommend planning authorities to encourage competitive designs for public consultation. As a first step, the deliberation involved in such competition helps to avoid mistakes being made and provides architects and developers with ideas and options for improving their schemes. Financial bids should not form part of this initial process.
Part of the character of a town lies not just in the facades of buildings to the streets, but in their integrity as historic structures. Buildings in conservation areas, therefore, should be preserved intact wherever possible. Whilst facade preservation is preferable to wholesale demolition (and reproduction to total oblivion), there should be a presumption against 'facadism' in conservation areas.
Vehicular access has proved even more damaging to many small towns than retail development itself. The demand on the part of retailers for access, delivery bays, and turning circles for large European lorries and the need to supply the shops with car parking can double or treble the site area required by one shop alone. Since towns are, by their nature, generally congested places, such a destruction of townscape in the interest of extra vehicular access can swiftly become self-defeating (as many 1960s shopping centres found). It is crucial that vehicular access should be kept unobtrusive and that priority be given to pedestrian circulation and the quality of the public spaces.
Schemes which allow the dual use of streets – for servicing or for pedestrians – separated by time should be considered. Conscious efforts should be made to improve the appearance, attraction, and use of historic buildings, streets, and areas with preference being given to people rather than to motor vehicles.

EDITORIAL

DWELLING IN A FALSE PAST?

In the last issue of the *Conservation Bulletin* I wrote about arguments that had been advanced against the philosophy and practice of conservation. Related views have been expressed about the way 'the Heritage Industry' is produced and packaged for the public and its effect on society's attitude to the present and the future. The argument runs that there is something unhealthy about the extent of the preoccupation with the past; that the past is presented in a false manner; and that the extensive popular interest in the past reflects or is a precursor of a national social and economic decline – it emasculates energies which should be committed to the problems of technological growth and change.
Of course, there always has been an element of romantic nostalgia for the past, and the occasional wallow in a warm bath of sentimentality probably hurts no-one. But some commentators say that this attitude – encouraged for commercial ends – is so widespread that it should be ringing alarm-bells as to the future.
An assumption that such an interest is of itself unhealthy is open to considerable doubt. At least, one should ask about the nature of that interest. Is it the curiosity of an emerging nation in its past or a quest for some semblance of stability in a fast-changing society? Is it a renaissance of cultural interests sparked off by one or two leaders in a particular art form? Is it inspired by primarily commercial motives? Venice in decline immersed itself in its past; but at the peak of its power and expansion, Augustan Rome was quite obsessed by its own past; and the Italian Renaissance, bursting with ideas, confidence, and energy revered the classical past.
So, if an interest in the past is in itself no indication of either health or sickness, does the way that that past is being represented give any clue to the validity of the conclusions in particular instances – especially in Britain? Neal Ascherson has said that the packaged

‘total museum approach’ may weaken people’s imagination by presenting everything on a plate, and Robert Hewison speaks of ‘bogus’ history. Once again, the statements are open to doubt. A few heritage sites and presentations are meretricious and misleading, but this does not invalidate the great majority. The general trend in fact has been to conserve our monuments and buildings with an increasing respect for accuracy. We have opposed unauthentic reconstruction since the time of William Morris and the pioneering work of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. We no longer restore ‘romantic’ castles to make them even more ‘Gothic’. The impetus is surely to conserve them as sources of knowledge, and the search for authenticity and accuracy is probably as high or higher than ever before. The findings of rescue archaeology may not reach the general public as fast as many of us would wish (see *Presenting the past to the public,* p. 16), but that work is driven by the search for a fuller knowledge of the past rather than by an urge to develop further the myths of the past. Indeed, archaeology may often destroy them. Far from distorting our picture, the exploration of the past being done in universities, archaeological units, period societies, and the public bodies concerned make false presentations and uncritical public reactions more and more difficult to sustain.

The second point of vulnerability is that those who try to present the past vividly to large audiences can do so only incompletely and selectively. In many instances, that must be so. Living history presentations, and to a lesser extent museum displays, cannot enact all the cruelty, the squalor, and inhumanity of the past or its humdrum qualities. The actors get up and walk away after a battle re-enactment; people don’t catch cholera or dysentery from a museum display. But are the public really fooled into thinking that they are living in the past when they see these events? Is the picture invalid, if it stimulates a further interest in the period? Nor are historic houses and museums shirking the attempt to portray the fullness of social and economic history. There have been enormous advances in depiction of events and conditions over the past 25 years: the standard of television documentaries has risen dramatically; the quality of presentation of the past – as at Jorvik or the English Heritage exhibition at Berwick Barracks – has benefited from, and absorbed into its presentation, the scholarship and research in both the fineness of historical detail as well as the overall picture. The gap between scholarly history and popular interest in history has probably never been narrower; and one can expect the trend towards accuracy and, within limits, to authenticity will continue.

Perhaps the most interesting assertion is that the increased popular interest in history is a symptom of a national malaise, both cultural and economic. It is said to signal a wish to escape from the problems of the present day and the future into a past which is presented as a happier place: maypoles on the village green, the romantic chivalry of the Middle Ages, the game of bowls before the Armada. But if one looks just at this country, the view that the heritage business is our only growth area or that recent years have been ones of economic decline will not stand up. If one looks on a wider horizon, the argument is even less sustainable. England is not alone in the widespread interest in its history. The United States, Australia and China, for example, are searching for a past in which to immerse themselves. What does seem to be true is that both prosperous and poor nations, and those ‘climbing the ladders’ or ‘going down the snakes’, are likely to be keenly involved in and committed to a study of their past. In fact, it is difficult to find any consistent pattern or direct correlation between a popular interest in the past and economic or cultural decline or stagnation. Almost every successful culture or civilisation has had a deep interest in its past for a whole variety of reasons – curiosity, pride, a sense of tradition or history, and so on. Our present interest is neither a sign of health or decline, nor of impending decadence or cultural and economic prosperity. But an interest in the past, combined with a search for accuracy and higher academic standards, and the closing gap between academic research and popular presentation seem pointers to a healthy curiosity, vigour, and resurgence rather than the reverse.

PETER RUMBLE

Chief Executive

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND STONE DECAY

Few people would deny that acid rain is a Bad Thing. We are all familiar with the notion that acid rain can attack building materials, and we have seen photographs suggesting that buildings have decayed much faster during the last century than ever before. But if pressed, we would find it difficult to answer some quite basic questions. Is the damage caused by the rain itself, or can air pollutants damage building materials even when it is not raining? Is there just one pollutant that causes most of the damage – sulphur dioxide, perhaps? Have the Clean Air Acts reduced the rate of attack? Do power stations contribute more damage than traffic? Are old buildings more at risk than modern ones? What would the effect be of, say, a 20% reduction in pollution levels?

In 1985, the Cathedrals Advisory Commission (CAC) and the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) set up a joint working party in the hope of establishing at least some of the answers to questions such as these. The working party is chaired by Professor Jacques Heyman, Head of the Engineering Department at Cambridge University and a member of the CAC. It comprises specialists from the CEGB i and representatives of the CAC (including the Head of English Heritage's Ancient Monuments Laboratory).

The working party's terms of reference enabled it to draw up a programme of research into the decay of limestones, to be carried out both in the laboratory and at a number of sites around the country. The programme is expected to last for some five years, its timescale dictated both by the slow rate of stone decay and by the variations in weather that can occur from year to year. The work, coordinated with that of other relevant authorities, is being carried out by CEGB staff. The research work involves the comprehensive monitoring of meteorological variables and a wide range of pollutants at York Minster, linked with studies of pollution history and the history of stone decay. Field studies are being carried out to measure current rates of stone decay at eight additional locations where pollutants and meteorological variables are well-monitored, and also at a CEGB site where the effects of three different concentrations of sulphur dioxide on stonework can be accurately measured. Further work is aimed at studying rain chemistry and the composition of run-off water from dissolving stonework. These site tests and field observations are linked to work in the laboratory, in which the mechanisms of stone decay are studied.

Eroded statue on the parapet of St Paul's Cathedral: the lead plugs on the top of the coping were originally flush with the surface, which has weathered back by some 20mm in 270 years

Earlier this year, the working party issued an interim report, setting out some of its findings. Whilst the conclusions are necessarily tentative at this stage, they provide some valuable pointers:

Stonework is surprisingly insensitive to the acidity of rainfall, within the range normally encountered in the UK. The rate at which stones dissolve depends more on the volume of rainfall than on its acidity. Only rainfall which is exceptionally acidic is likely to produce a significant increase in the decay rate, and then only for the duration of the rain.
Stone decay is enhanced by sulphur dioxide absorbed not primarily during rainfall, but during the intervening dry spells. Even so, levels of sulphur dioxide have now fallen to such an extent, even in many urban areas, that the weathering rates of new stone surfaces are close to the natural weathering rates that would be observed in the absence of pollution.
Some of the on-going decay in historic buildings is attributable to their past exposure to much higher levels of pollution than those that are experienced today. During that time, limestone surfaces reacted with sulphur dioxide to give calcium sulphate, which is found at depths of several millimetres or even centimetres into the stone. The calcium sulphate itself causes further decay, but cannot readily be removed from the stone. Some of the decay that is seen today is therefore attributable to past pollution levels rather than current levels, and may well continue for several decades. Further reductions in pollution levels could not stop this decay.
Nitrogen oxides, which come principally from vehicle exhausts in towns and cities, do not appear to play a major role in stone decay, although more work is required in this area.
Further details about the programme as it develops will be published in future issues of the *Conservation Bulletin*.

CLIFFORD PRICE

DIRECTORY OF SOURCES FOR GRANT AID

Previous articles have described the work English Heritage is doing to launch a nationwide survey of buildings at risk to help save individual buildings *(Conserv Bull* Nos 1 and 4). A third strand of our work is concerned to improve the information available to owners, conservation officers, and others to help them tackle problem buildings. We have therefore prepared and just published a *Directory of public sources of grants for the repair and conversion of historic buildings.* Intended for anyone involved in the restoration of historic buildings, it includes details of grants, including those not specifically intended for historic repairs, which are available from public sources. It is published in ring-binder form so that it can be updated from time to time.
Copies have been sent to every local authority and to the major national amenity societies and similar bodies. Further copies can be ordered for £4.00 (please make cheques payable to ‘English Heritage’) from Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE.

‘NONCONFORMIST’ CHAPEL ARCHITECTURE

At the most recent meeting of the Council for British Archaeology’s Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship, it was suggested that there may be a need for a new national society which could provide a forum for those with an interest in the architecture of religious buildings outside the established church. The aims might be to share information, discuss matters of common interest, and to visit buildings.
An open meeting will be held at 13:30 on Saturday 24 September at the lecture theatre of the Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1 to discuss the desirability of forming a new society, its aims and structure. The meeting will be rounded off by tea and an illustrated lecture. If you would like to attend, please contact Richard Morris, Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS2 9JT, for further details.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AWARDS

The British Archaeological Awards are now twelve years old and are awarded annually for work in progress or completed within the United Kingdom within the last two years. There are now 11 categories, which include awards for the best voluntary or professional project, for presentation of archaeology to the public, for imaginative sponsorship, and for the best book and film or video on an archaeological subject. In addition, there are awards for the best contribution by a non-archaeologist, the Young Archaeologist of the Year, and for the greatest initiative and originality in archaeology. Two further awards are for the best project involving the adaptive re-use of an historic building, and one sponsored by English Heritage, Historic Buildings and Monuments of Scotland, and CADW, for a project which best secures the long-term preservation of a site or monument.
For details of all these awards, please apply to Victor Marchant, British Archaeological Awards, 317 Norbury Avenue, London SW16 3RW, telephone 01-764-2943. Applications for this year have to be in by 30 June 1988.

CONSERVATION IN CHESTER

The story of 20 years of action to preserve and enhance the character of the City of Chester has just been published in a new report entitled *Conservation in Chester.* In 1966, Chester was one of four historic towns (the others were Bath, Oxford, and York) which were invited by the government to commission studies of the problems facing urban conservation. On the basis of this report by Donald Insall and Associates, Chester City Council launched a programme whose effects are analysed in the recently published study. It describes the problems which the city faced, the policies it adopted, and how confidence in the benefits of conservation was instilled. Successes as well as failures are analysed, and there are numerous case-studies.
Conservation in Chester is available by post from the Department of Technical Services at the Town Hall, Chester, CHI 2HN, for £6.00 including postage and packing.

CONSERVATION AWARDS FOR ENGLISH HERITAGE CRAFTSMEN

Two of the four William Morris Craft Fellowships for 1988 have been awarded to English Heritage craftsmen: Martyn Clarke, a joiner who works at our London workshops, and Andrew Bradley, a stonemason employed at Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire. As part of the award they have already started a six-month release scheme, during which they will travel the country studying a wide range of building problems, repair methods, and conservation techniques. The William Morris Craft Fellowship was launched in 1987 by a committee representing the main conservation bodies, and the courses are administered and run by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY.

HERITAGE PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION 1988: PREPARING FOR THE 90S

The second world Heritage Presentation and Interpretation Congress, bringing together managers and decision makers from over 30 countries who are concerned with the conservation of the man-made heritage and how it can be interpreted to the public, will, be held at the University of Warwick from 30 August to 4 September 1988. Further details of the congress can be obtained from Second World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, Conference Services Ltd, Aldine House, 9–15 Aldine Street, London W12 8AW, telephone 01-740-8121.

COUNTRYSIDE COMMISSION POSTERS

The Countryside Commission has just published a series of eleven colour posters depicting popular scenes from each of the national parks in England and Wales. They are

priced at £1 for each AZ sized poster: a free leaflet/order form showing them all is available by telephoning Countryside Commission Publications on 061-224-6287.

RESTORATION OF A ROBERT ADAM SUITE AT KENWOOD

Kenwood, the eighteenth century villa on the crest above Hampstead Heath, was remodelled in the neo-classical taste by Robert Adam from 1767 onwards. His designs extended from plans and elevations down to the skirting and door knobs. Sadly, most of the furniture Adam designed for Kenwood was dispersed at auction in 1922, before the villa was acquired by the first Earl of Iveagh in 1925 as a suitable setting for his major collection of paintings. Our aim at this historic house museum is therefore to purchase the original, or equivalent, pieces of furniture in order to recreate the remaining Adam interiors as nearly as possible. The Moor Park Suite, designed by Adam for Sir Lawrence Dundas of Moor Park in Hertfordshire around 1763–4, is one such equivalent.

The suite remained at Moor Park until 1919, when dispersal began following the purchase of the house by Lord Leverhulme. Two sofas and two armchairs were sold in New York in 1926, while the remainder of the suite entered the art trade through Christie's in 1942. From as far afield as New York, Ireland, and Yorkshire the suite is gradually being assembled at Kenwood; two armchairs were purchased only this year. Through a programme of conservation the suite will return to its appearance in 1764, when the furniture maker James Lawson submitted an invoice to Sir Lawrence Dundas for '2 carved and gilt sophas…covered with blue turkey leather…2 large carved and gilt scroll headed stools…6 carved and gilt large armchairs'. The suite standing at Kenwood today comprises three armchairs, two seven-feet wide sofas, one scroll stool, and two copies of the armchairs; the latter were added to the suite around 1845.

The Moor Park arm chair during stripping (above), aud the same chair fully restored (below)

The sofas were acquired in 1970, sometime after they had been relegated from The White House to a New York warehouse by Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy. This purchase triggered the long-term ambition to reassemble the suite at Kenwood. Research at that time suggested that the original covering may have been either gold, green, or blue silk, as tiny remnants were found. The sofas were upholstered in pure blue silk damask to a mid eighteenth century French pattern, specially woven by Warner & Sons to match the blue of the fragments found on the settee. Unfortunately, the new feather-and-down-filled bolsters, covered in the same silk, provided a welcome nesting place for a family of mice, and the bolsters were replaced with a synthetic filling.

Kenwood acquired a scroll stool from the same suite in 1975, and stripping revealed fragments of green floral silks. In 1980, however, a matching armchair was discovered. Beneath the modern upholstery lay the original scrim, horsehair stuffing, two blue stuffing ties, and two tiny fragments of blue leather, thus confirming the proposed identification

between the suite and James Lawson's bill. The decision was taken to restore the armchair to its original appearance, as indicated by the greater material evidence. Research revealed 'turkey leather' to be an alternative name for 'morocco' or goatskin. Unfortunately the modern goat seems to be smaller than its eighteenth century forebears, and morocco is now only used in limited quantities for bookbinding. The alternative choice was made of using cowhide worn to give the suppler effect of goatskin. It was dyed to match the colour of the unfaded fragments and printed with a morocco grain. The chief disadvantage was the larger size of material available, and thus the difficulty of calculating where the seams ought to occur.

The blue twining ties used to hold the horsehair in place were mostly missing, but tiny regularly-spaced pairs of holes in the hessian scrim indicated their original location, while the colour confirmed that they were intended to pass through the leather to tie on the surface as tufts (the less sturdy forerunner of buttoning). Evidence for such tufts was mostly taken from chairs in paintings of the period, as very few actually survive. Every care was taken to preserve the original stuffing and scrim which form the eighteenth century silhouette of the chair.

The frame of the armchair was in better condition than that of the scroll sofa: there were no strengthening mahogany blocks screwed on behind the legs, nor had any of the carved wood ornament been patched up with plaster casts. However, the water gilding had similarly been overpainted with gold paint, and the gesso (plaster) beneath had been badly attacked by woodbeetle.

The old gesso on the armchair was removed by spatula after soaking in a papier mâché and sawdust compress. The variety of hands responsible for the carving was immediately apparent, from masterly work down to the poorer carving of the rear legs. Lime, pine, and beech had all been employed in the construction. The wood was consolidated, and minor sections of missing carving were replaced. After priming, a fresh coat of gesso was applied to the wood and this was then recut when dry to recreate the crisp detail. The exposed areas of the frame were then gilded with 23¼ carat English goldleaf and burnished. The only controversial aspect of the restoration has proved to be the lack of distressing. A light toning lacquer was applied, but abrasion was out of the question, as the intention is to restore the suite to its original appearance, dazzling though that may be. Paterae were removed, as they were clearly early twentieth century in date, and the evidence for them as part of the original design, linking the arms to the legs, is not conclusive. Reginald Dudman of Antique Restorations Limited, carried out the gilding with Peter Cross, Museum Assistant; Carole Thomerson undertook the upholstery using leather supplied by Connolly Bros.

The acquisition of two more armchairs from this suite in 1988 provides a further opportunity to analyse the original appearance of this furniture. Eventually the whole suite will be covered in tufted blue 'turkey' leather, once the present silk begins to perish and research reveals an appropriate arrangement of tufting.

JULIUS BRYANT

FORUM FOR CO-ORDINATION IN THE FUNDING OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Review of Science-Based Archaeology (1986), undertaken by a panel of the Science and Engineering Research Council under the chairmanship of Professor Hart FRS, made recommendations primarily concerned with archaeological science. It also identified a lack of liaison in archaeology generally and proposed that an initiative should be taken to try and overcome 'the barrier inherent in the current structure of archaeology'. Subsequently, a number of archaeologists expressed the view that it would indeed be helpful if a body that was representative of the main archaeological funding organisations were to act as a

forum for discussion and exchange of views. Accordingly the British Academy and English Heritage agreed to act as sponsors and the Forum for Co-ordination of Funding in Archaeology has been established.

Its chairman is Professor Colin Renfrew FBA, and the funding agencies represented, in addition to the British Academy and English Heritage, are the University Grants Committee, the Science and Engineering Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Scottish Development Department, CADW, the Local Authority Associations, the Manpower Services Commission, the Museums and Galleries Commission, and the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Its terms of reference are to serve as a co-ordinating body, composed of representatives of the major funding agencies for British archaeology – that is, for archaeological research conducted in Britain and for British work abroad – with the aim of making the most productive use of the available resources; to improve the flow of communication between the various funding agencies; to help the funding agencies see their role in conjunction with one another with the aim of encouraging the closer co-ordination of policy; to offer advice on funding needs; and to assist with the formulation of common approaches to particular issues.

In addition to holding regular meetings, the Forum intends to proceed by appointing working parties to examine particular issues. The membership of these working parties will be drawn primarily from members of the archaeological community. It will also circulate information on its proceedings as widely as possible to relevant archaeological bodies. Among the initial issues which will concern the Forum are the responsibility of funding bodies for ensuring that sponsored work is brought to completion and the data published. A second issue is funding for routine scientific analysis of excavated material.

ANDREW SAUNDERS

THE ELEANOR CROSS, GEDDINGTON

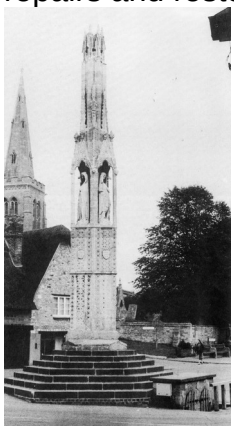
The Eleanor Cross in Geddington, Northamptonshire, which has recently been conserved on behalf of English Heritage, is the most complete survivor of the twelve crosses erected by Edward I in memory of his queen, Eleanor of Castile. She died at Harby near Lincoln on 28 November 1290: on 4 December the funeral procession, accompanied by the king, set out for London where she was to be buried in Westminster Abbey. Following a precedent set after the death of Louis IX of France in 1271, when monumental crosses were erected along the funeral route from Paris to St Denis, Edward determined to erect an elaborate architectural monument surmounted by a cross at each place where his wife's cortège rested overnight. The best artists and craftsmen of the Court school were employed on the work and no expense was spared. The remaining Eleanor Crosses are therefore amongst the finest examples of the English Decorated Style, ingeniously designed using interlocking geometric forms to create a part-solid, part-open, ever-changing profile encrusted with lively ornament and enclosing elegant and delicately-detailed figures of the queen.

Eleanor Crosses were erected at Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Northampton, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St Albans, Waltham, West Cheap, and Charing, but only those at Geddington, Northampton, and Waltham survive. In the seventeenth century, Protestant zeal hastened the removal of several of them. Charing Cross, for example, was demolished in 1647 by order of Parliament.

The Committee said, that verily
To popery it was bent;
For ought I know, it might be so,
For to church it never went

commented a wry contemporary ballad lamenting its loss.

In the early eighteenth century, however, when a number of antiquaries began to take an interest in preserving gothic monuments, steps were taken to repair and protect the remaining Eleanor Crosses. The first recorded repair of the Northampton cross took place in 1713, and in 1720 the newly-founded Society of Antiquaries of London arranged for posts to be put up to protect Waltham Cross from damage by carts. Minor patchwork repairs and restoration were carried out on both crosses later in the eighteenth century.



The Eleanor Cross, Geddington, Northamptonshire

As the nineteenth century advanced and interest in all things medieval became a general fashion, the Eleanor Crosses became the subject of sentimental attachment and the model for many Victorian monuments. Of these, the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford, based on Waltham Cross, is probably the most archaeologically correct, but there are many others more loosely based on the same examples. Even the Albert Memorial was intended to echo them, as its architect, George Gilbert Scott explained: 'I have not hesitated to adopt in my design the style at once most congenial with my own feelings, and that of the most touching monuments ever erected in this country to a Royal Consort – the exquisite "Eleanor Crosses"'. The present Charing Cross, an advertising ploy on the part of the Charing Cross Hotel Company, dates from 1864.

It might be said that the crosses at Waltham and Northampton suffered from an excess of attention from this time, since the former has twice been rebuilt and although the latter has not undergone such wholesale remodelling, it has been worked on many times and now incorporates a good deal of replaced stonework.

Geddington Cross, on the other hand, survived virtually unscathed under the watchful eyes of successive Dukes of Buccleuch from nearby Boughton House, who took responsibility for its upkeep until 1915 when it passed into the care of the state. Only the steps around it had been replaced and the sound and secure condition of the original fabric was remarked upon. The honey-coloured, open-structured, and fossiliferous local limestone had proved remarkably durable.

In the winter of 1927–8 Geddington Cross was repointed, all the exposed iron cramps and dowels were replaced with Delta metal, and a missing finial was replaced in new stone. Thereafter no major work was considered necessary until recently, when the limestone, especially at the higher levels, had begun to laminate and decay, and the cross had become masked by lichen growth and sulphation. A programme of conservation was planned by experts from English Heritage and the work was carried out by Harrison Hill Limited between June and August 1987.

The overriding aim was to extend the life of the original fabric and no stone was replaced. Repointing where necessary was carried out using a mortar mix consisting of one part HTI powder, three parts lime, and six parts crushed stone to replace bedding material and a stronger mix of one part HTI, one part lime, and three parts crushed stone for the final surface pointing. Cleaning of the architectural framework, carried out inch by inch with scalpels and brushes, revealed the banding of the stonework where a darker, harder

limestone had been used in the construction of the most exposed areas at the top of the base shaft and above the canopies.

The head of the statue

Detail of the gable over the canopy during repair

The gables of the canopies had suffered considerable decay. Eltoline tissue and polyvinyl alcohol were used to support the delicate exfoliating areas here before any work could be attempted. Loose debris was removed from behind the supported detail, and then mortar was carefully built up to fill the voids. Lichen and other deposits could then be removed to allow further fine surface pointing around the supported detail. Especially vulnerable areas, such as the finials, were capped with mortar, and a mortar weathering was built up behind the pinnacles. The Delta metal ties were left in place, but an iron dowel which had fractured the south-west finial was replaced with stainless steel; this and the damaged stonework around it were fixed with a polyester adhesive.

The figures which are of a finely grained, possibly French, limestone were found to be in a sound condition despite the inevitable overall loss of surface. The heavy sulphation to the faces was not removed because most of the fine carved detail was found to be preserved only in the sulphate skin. The sulphate deposits to the underside of the canopies were also left in case any traces of original paint might survive in these sheltered areas, for it is likely that the monument was originally painted. Traces of paint have recently been discovered on the original statues from the Waltham Cross which are now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The treatment which the cross at Geddington has recently received has been as delicate and as painstaking as if it were an object in a museum. Monuments in the care of English Heritage are almost by definition both of exceptional importance and incapable of beneficial use. In building terms they are the equivalent of objects taken into the national museum collections and as such they deserve equivalent treatment. At Geddington in 1987 we had an opportunity to put the best ideals of current conservation theory into practice.

NICOLA SMITH

WHAT IS CURTILAGE?

The 1971 Town and Country Planning Act provides traps and pitfalls in plenty for the unwary, and perhaps nowhere more so than in those sections of the Act dealing with listed buildings. Here, within these sections, seemingly ordinary words such as ‘building’, ‘fixed’, ‘land’, and ‘curtilage’, which in the everyday world have generally agreed meanings, have gathered about them interpretations which lawyers and conservation officers alike find to be virtually impenetrable. Despite successive appeals to the courts or to the best legal opinion, many of these words appear to the layman to have eluded all efforts to pin them down to an exact and precise definition. None of them has proved quite so elusive, nor so slippery, as the term ‘curtilage’.

The term ‘curtilage’ first appears in section 54 as amended by the Housing and Planning Act 1986. Sub-section 54(9) begins innocently and straightforwardly enough, but very quickly it runs into difficulties of interpretation. It explains that ‘in this Act “listed building” means a building which is for the time being included in a list compiled or approved by the Secretary of State under this section and for the purposes of the provisions of this Act relating to listed buildings and building preservation notices, the following shall be treated as part of the building:–

a) any object or structure fixed to the building;

b) any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st July 1948’.

I am not here concerned to grapple with the term ‘building’ (but see my article in *Consery Bull* No 3), nor with the terms ‘fixed’ and ‘land’. My aim in this article is simply to grope my way towards a definition or explanation of the term ‘curtilage’. Two recent and directly relevant cases, both of which were ultimately determined in the House of Lords, turned on the meaning of ‘curtilage’, although in the event they were to point in different directions.

Nutclough Mill, Hebden Bridge: the mill buildings are to the right-hand edge of the picture linked by a bridge to the row of cottages on the left (Pennine Heritage)

The first is the case which in conservation circles has become known as the Nutclough Mill case, but amongst lawyers as Sutcliffe and others versus Calderdale Borough Council. In 1973 the West Riding County Council of Yorkshire, which owned a terrace of some 15 cottages in Hebden Bridge, a former textile mill, and a bridge linking the two, conveyed the freehold of most of the cottages to the district council – whose intention was to redevelop the site – but retained ownership of the mill and the bridge. The mill as such was expressly listed shortly after, in September 1974.

In 1982 the plaintiffs, a group of local people concerned to secure the preservation of the cottages, claimed in the High Court, and subsequently in the Court of Appeal, that the terrace though not specifically listed could not be demolished by the council without their first securing listed building consent. The plaintiffs’ argument turned around an interpretation of the section 54(9) definition of a listed building (given above) and on an interpretation of the term ‘curtilage’. They claimed that, although the cottages were not expressly listed (all parties had agreed that the 1974 list made no reference whatsoever to the terrace of cottages), they were firstly ‘fixed’, and secondly that they were ‘within the curtilage’ of the listed mill and, by virtue of both or either of these considerations, that they should be considered as listed.

In the Court of Appeal (Attorney General *(ex rel* Sutcliffe) v Calderdale BC) Lord Justice Stephenson concluded that, whatever might be the strict conveyancing interpretation of the ancient and somewhat obscure word ‘curtilage’, three factors had to be taken into account in deciding whether a structure or object lies within the curtilage of a listed building within the meaning of sub-section 54(9). These were: the physical layout of the listed building and the structure in question; their ownership, past and present; and their use or function, past and present.

When the terraced cottages were built, so ran the argument, and when the mill was worked by those who occupied the cottages, and when all were owned by a single mill owner, it would have been hard if not impossible to argue that the cottages were outside the curtilage of the mill. History and the subsequent fragmentation of ownership could not, apparently, alter the facts of the case before the court. Applying these three tests, it was clear that the cottages had a close, indeed contiguous relationship, that they had been owned by the same person in the past, and that their functions at some time had been

inter-dependent. It was therefore held that the one was within the curtilage of the other for the purpose of section 54(9), and that the terrace of cottages was listed. The appeal was dismissed.

The second case came before the Court of Appeal in 1986 (Debenhams plc v Westminster City Council), but their lordships' conclusions in this case were, in certain respects, strangely at variance with those reached in the Nutclough Mill case four years earlier. The reason for this case being brought in the first place was a dispute concerning rates and rate-payment exemption but its final resolution turned upon an interpretation of sub-section 54(9) and of the term 'curtilage' within it. Messrs Hamleys, the well-known toyshop proprietors, were the owners of two buildings in central London. The larger of the two was the popular toyshop with a frontage onto Regent Street, while the second was an annexe at the rear, at sometime used for the selling of sporting gear, separated by a narrow highway known as Kingly Street. The two buildings, as those in Hedben Bridge had been, were physically connected, in this case not only by a footbridge crossing the street but also by a tunnel passing beneath it. The major building, Hamleys on Regent Street, was expressly listed, whereas the Kingly Street building was not.

In October 1981 the respondents vacated the sports shop in the Kingly Street annexe to the rear, and the building remained vacant and unoccupied throughout the 1982–83 rating year. Unoccupied listed buildings, at the time, were exempt from rate-payment in Westminster, and on this account the respondents claimed exemption by virtue of section 54(9). Applying the Nutclough/Stephenson tests the Court of Appeal found that the Kingly Street building lay within the curtilage of a listed building and hence that it was exempt from rates so long as it remained unoccupied.

The rating authority, Westminster City Council, appealed to the House of Lords against the judgement of the Court of Appeal. The House of Lords reversed the original decision. They held that a structure which is not listed in its own right must contemporaneously be both ancillary and subordinate to the listed building, if it also is to be regarded as listed – as might be a stable block housing the horses beside a mansion, or a steading housing the cows alongside a farmhouse. In the Hamleys case physical connection and common ownership alone was judged to be insufficient. It was therefore additionally necessary to show that both buildings served a common purpose and that the one enjoyed a concurrent ancillary and subordinate relationship, before a common curtilage for the purposes of section 54(9) could be established. As this could not be demonstrated, their Lordships took the view that the Kingly Street annexe was not deemed to be listed as part of the curtilage of the Regent Street store.

What therefore is curtilage? This phrase, hallowed by conveyancers from time immemorial, *(OED* 'a small courtyard or piece of ground attached to a dwelling-house and forming one enclosure with it') has, so far as it can be seen, never been precisely interpreted in the English courts. The term appears to have eluded exact definition. In a decision which is not directly applicable to English law, the Scottish Court of Session in 1950 ruled that 'the ground which is used for the comfortable enjoyment of a house or other building may be regarded in law as being within the curtilage of that house or building and thereby as an integral part of the same although it has not been marked off or enclosed in any way. It is enough that it serves the purpose of the house or building in some necessary or useful way'.

The problem about this third, Scottish concept of curtilage is that it depends on an absolute congruity of ownership: what of the case where an ice-house, for example, or a coach-house or gate-house is sold off into separate ownership and perhaps converted into a separate dwelling fenced around with a new boundary wall? In the light of the conflicting and contradictory interpretations which have emerged from English and Scottish courts in recent years on curtilage cases, it must appear as somewhat odd that the Department of

the Environment, when presented with the legislative opportunity, decided not to seek to define ‘curtilage’ during the course of debates on the 1986 Housing and Planning Act.
In the Nutclough case Lord Justice Stephenson defined the curtilage of a listed building as ‘an area of land which included any related objects or structures which naturally form, or formed, with the listed buildings a natural whole’. It is exactly the kind of loose and broad (non-) definition which might appeal to anyone, such as myself, from within English Heritage, amongst whose tasks is that of compiling section 54 lists for the Secretary of State. It would allow a duly appointed inspector to list, for example, an eighteenth-century farmhouse in the secure knowledge that as a result any detached byre or barn or stable building to its rear, or any other structure or object, will also be listed and protected and thereby subjected to listed building controls.
But, as Lord Justice Stephenson added, after further thought, when he came to the discussion on costs, ‘the facts of this Nutclough case were very special; this was a very unusual sort of single unit’ and from the subsequent Hamleys case it must be evident that the Nutclough/Stephenson tests have nowadays to be applied with extreme caution. Listing, as Lord Keith observed during the Hamleys case, cannot turn (simply) on the business purposes or manner of use of adjoining properties of a particular user.
When our Chairman, Lord Montagu, in the House of Lords during the debates on the Housing and Planning Bill, resisted the idea of a closer, legalistic definition of curtilage, he was not being obstructive but simply pragmatic. Juridical efforts over the years towards the definition of curtilage had served only to throw complexities and obscurity onto an already murky area. What was wanted was light and clarity. Nowadays, he said, in the light of the Calderdale/Nutclough case ‘the practice of my officers is to consider individually *all* the buildings on a site (including barns, byres, and stable buildings) which can be construed as separate buildings and to list those, and only those, which qualify. The new lists therefore will leave little room for doubt as to whether a building is listed or not…’
The Nutclough judgement, though weakened, has not been completely overturned by the Hamleys case; the thorny question of the meaning and significance of curtilage largely remains. Two inadequate conclusions may be drawn from the present state of our understanding of these matters: that, in a terraced row of adjoining houses, those which are omitted from the list and which are in separate ownership and occupation would probably not be considered to be within the curtilage of the listed houses; and that a byre, barn, or stable building, although sold off into different ownership and probably converted into a dwelling but lying adjacent to a listed house, would probably be listed by virtue of section 54(9).
I have failed to arrive at a definition of curtilage. I have simply given a number of different explanations of the term, and have highlighted the difficulties which surround the subject. The matter is clearly in need of resolution, and the only way forward would appear to be to press ahead as rapidly as possible with list revisions in accordance with Lord Montagu’s prescription, in those parts of the country which have old style lists, which were compiled when the instructions to fieldworkers were quite different. They were not under instructions to consider individually and systematically *all* buildings on a parish-by-parish basis. If they were now instructed to do so, we could turn our backs on the complexities of the uncertain and ancient law of curtilage and arrive at a state of affairs in which only those buildings which were specifically listed were actually listed.

BRIAN ANTHONY

I am grateful to John Ayers, Listed Building Consultant at Bradford University, and to Robert Walker of Cambridge City Council for their assistance and advice in writing this article. Published authorities which have proved useful are:
Roger Suddards *Listed buildings – the law and the practice* (Sweet and Maxwell, *1982)*
Journal of Planning Law, 1983, 310, 314

Journal of Planning Law, 1986, 671
Cambridge guide to historic buildings law (Cambridge City Council, 1988)

PRACTICAL BUILDING CONSERVATION

The first three volumes of what will eventually become a five-volume work entitled *Practical building conservation,* by John and Nicola Ashurst of the English Heritage Research, Technical, and Advisory Service, were published by Gower Technical Press early in June. Over many years the staff of the Service have built up considerable expertise in the theory and practice of conserving buildings and their component materials. This set of technical handbooks is intended to form a comprehensive source of reference and springs from practical experience of various repair methods and the study of the performance of different materials in individual cases in many parts of the country.

Volume 1 covers the treatment of stone masonry, diagnosing its problems, repairs, and replacement of all types of stone structures, including grouting and the control of organic growth, with detailed sections on various types of repair and treatment. Treatments discussed include the methods of diagnosing problems caused by weathering or other forms of decay in roofed and unroofed, and therefore ruinous, buildings. Further sections deal with the control of the growth of algae, mosses, and creepers, the techniques of grouting masonry walls, and plastic repairs for stone. A longer section deals with the problems of cleaning masonry and details a number of different treatments and their effects. The volume finishes with shorter chapters on the removal of salts from masonry, the cleaning of marble, 'lime method' repairs to limestone, masonry consolidants for friable or decayed stone, and on colourless water-repellant treatments. A short case-study deals with the consolidation of clunch in the south stable block at Woburn Abbey.

Volume 2 deals with brick, terracotta, and earth, and focusses on the control of damp, as well as on pointing methods and repairs to stone and brick. As a case study for the analysis of damp, the authors concentrate on the problems encountered at the Norman manor house at Burton Agnes, Humberside. Sections follow on the analysis of mortars, on methods and mixes recommended for the pointing of stone and brickwork, and on ways of repairing brickwork structures. The volume concludes with longer studies on the repair and maintenance of terracotta and faience, cob and clays, earth floors, daub and gypsum.

The third volume covers mortars, plasters, and renders in more detail, and begins with sections on the use of hydraulic and non-hydraulic lime, mortar additives, external renders, gypsum plasters, ceiling repairs, and limewashes. It then recounts the problems encountered by staff of RTAS in the task of cleaning and consolidation of the chapel plaster at Cowdray House ruins (a subject covered in *Conserv Bull* No 1). A final chapter outlines as a shorter case-study the remedial work on the early twentieth century cell-block within the grounds of Richmond Castle (North Yorks), where the plastered and painted walls retained examples of pencil graffitti left by conscientious objectors during the 1914–18 war.

These three volumes are now obtainable through booksellers, by post from the publishers through the leaflet enclosed with this issue of *Conservation Bulletin,* or for £17.45 each (to include postage and packing) from English Heritage, Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London WIX 2HE.

POST-WAR LISTING

On 29 March the government announced the listing of 18 post-war buildings. An article in *Conservation Bulletin* No 4 described the part we had played in formulating some 70 recommendations and the criteria used. That the government chose to list so few on this occasion was disappointing, particularly to the expert members of our advisory committee who had devoted so much time and energy to the exercise. The omission of any housing

or industrial schemes means that at this stage the sample is unrepresentative of the architectural achievement and history of the immediate post-war period. On the other hand, the rolling thirty year rule has been established, and some of the most important post-war buildings have been given official recognition and statutory protection. In announcing the initial decisions, Lord Caithness said 'I have no doubt that others will be listed', and we look forward to a progressive increase in the number of listed post-war buildings.

BOOK REVIEWS

MONEY MATTERS

Conservation: a credit account, by Michael Pearce. Published by SAVE Britain's Heritage, 1988.

The staple diet of decision-makers is based on raw statistics, hard facts, and a large portion of commonsense analysis. Why else would parliamentary lobby groups as diverse as Shelter, Greenpeace, the NFU, and the confectionery industry rattle off papers on market trends, gearing ratios, and profitability, if not to place themselves and their issues in the forefront of debate to encourage action? All information is good information, yet the heritage world has been remarkably slow in providing 'meat' for discussion. That was, of course, until Mike Pearce's work for SAVE, *Conservation: a credit account,* funded with the help of English Heritage, materialised this Spring.

Of course we must not forget the laudable efforts of Matthew Saunders at the Ancient Monuments Society in logging applications for demolition, nor Max Hanna's work in the ETB's annual English Heritage Monitor (surely now due for a change of title?), but Mr Pearce and SAVE have ably demonstrated in this new publication that, in conservation, money matters.

The soft-backed, A4 format of this report conceals a hard-hitting argument for a redistribution of resources for conservation. Mr Pearce's financial model of grants and taxes (expenditure and income from the Treasury) may be rather simplistic, as he admits, but his argument is compelling: that government receives ample direct and indirect tax returns on its grant 'investments' to heritage to be able to increase those subsidies without loss. He also suggests changes on VAT and recommends the adoption of the tax incentive programmes found in Europe and America that have encouraged better national housekeeping and an improved environment.

Personally, I would have liked sorne comment on government policy in reducing public housing investment which has drastically affected local authority repair grants and thereby increased demand for heritage grants. Remember DoE Circular 23/77 para 123, and then take a look at SAVE's fascinating appendices on county and district council conservation expenditure. Sobering tables if any were needed!

This report provides weaponry for the lobbyists. It should hopefully prompt strategic realignments in DoE thinking and may embarrass one or two local authorities along the way. A useful prompt for further research by specialists, Mike Pearce's work convinces me for one that conservation does indeed pay.

Conservation: a credit account is available from SAVE at 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX at £7.50 including postage and packing.

JOHN FIDLER

CONVERTING OLD BUILDINGS TO NEW USES

Change of use: the conversion of old buildings, by Pamela Cunnington. Published by A and C Black, 1988, price £14.95.

One of the most serious problems facing those attempting to conserve the built environment are the large number of historic buildings at risk. Pressures to develop may even account for wilful neglect in some areas. Adverse economics may create neglect in others. But the problem is most closely associated with buildings which no longer serve their original purpose and require investment coupled with a new use. So central is this problem that any book which addresses it sensibly is to be welcomed.

Pamela Cunnington divides her book into two parts. Part I comprises a general discussion of the subject under the headings 'Historical Background', 'Conversion or New-Build?', 'Statutory Requirements', and 'Financial Aid'. These chapters are short and do no more than skim the surface. The first theme looks back through the centuries and sets an academic tone which seems at odds with the purpose of the book. Better, perhaps, to have looked back twenty years as an introduction. It should, perhaps be mentioned that historic building grants are now made by English Heritage and not, as the book states, by the DoE; and it is of course English Heritage, not the DoE, which presently occupies 25 Savile Row.

This book gets more into its stride in part II, to which five-sixths of the text is devoted, with chapters on farm buildings, windmills and watermills, industrial buildings, large houses, schools, and churches and chapels. Each chapter includes case-studies – five on farm buildings, in particular on barns; four on industrial building conversions; two country house projects; two schools; and seven churches. A convent, an orphanage, and a windmill conversion are also featured. The case studies include plans (unfortunately drawn by different hands) and also some outline details of cost and grants. There is finally a brief note on hotels and inns. This section is usefully complemented by the Department of the Environment's *Re-using redundant buildings,* prepared by URBED (HMSO, 1987), which provides cost analyses of projects.

The book is full of sound, if rather basic, advice and Pamela Cunnington puts this across in terms that all can understand. Up to a hundred projects are illustrated in addition to the case-studies. It will be interesting to see how this volume compares with *Converting old buildings* which has been written by another architect, Alan Johnson, and has just been published at the same price by David and Charles.

Practitioners may feel a need for more definitive guidance, so that finding new uses becomes less a matter of chance, and economic studies less a matter of informed guesswork. But in the meantime, books are needed which will inspire the layman who may own, or be interested in buying, a redundant building. If the book helps to inform the professional, so much the better. My impression is that Pamela Cunnington's contribution will do both.

BRIAN HENNESSY

GRANTS OFFERED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE APRIL 1987–MARCH 1988

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Cost

Section 3A	Number	(£000)
New offers (secular)	191	7832
Increased offers (secular)	–	1259
New offers (churches)	335	4834
Increased offers (churches)	–	1394
TOTAL	526	15319

Cost		
Acquisition (Section 5B)	Number	(£000)
New offers	8	150
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	8	150

The total number of new offers for repair grants was about 20% lower than last year, but the value of the grants offered was only about 5% less. This drop reflects a sharp increase in offers late in 1987–88 to take advantage of extra funds provided by the government rather than any underlying fall in the volume of activity. The pattern of offers this year has reflected our policy of tailoring the size of the offer to fit the financial needs of the applicant. This has meant giving grant at higher than the standard rate in some cases. Among these has been a grant to Hastings Borough Council for the acquisition and repair of St Mary in Castro (East Sussex).

HISTORIC AREAS

Cost		
Section 10	Number	(£000)
New offers	388	3681
Increased offers	107	387
TOTAL	495	4068

The first few months of the year saw a comparatively low level of demand with the result that both offers and expenditure were below expectations. Demand picked up later on, and we were able to offer more than the original budget. The time-lag on payments, however, meant that we did not achieve our original expenditure target.
In the last issue, we reported on a grant towards the first phase of repairs to the **Cross Bath** and **Old Royal Baths, Bath** (Avon). We have since offered another grant of £75,000 to Bath City Council towards the second phase of the programme.
Two large section 10 grants were offered at the end of the year: the first (£250,000) was to North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council for the repair of **Tynemouth Station** (Tyne and Wear), one of the finest Victorian seaside stations with vast glazed canopies carried on intricate ironwork. The second, a grant of just over £178,000, was offered to Sheffield City Council for the first stage of repairs to the **Globe Works** (South Yorkshire). When these are restored, they will be the new home of the ‘Little Mesters’, the independent skilled craftsmen of the cutlery trade.

LONDON

Cost		
Section 3A	Number	(£000)
New offers (secular)	17	1171
Increased offers (secular)	4	62
New offers (churches)	18	398
Increased offers (churches)	15	352
TOTAL	54	1983

Cost		
London Grants	Number	(£000)
New offers	107	624
Increased offers	8	26
TOTAL	115	650

Cost		
Section 10	Number	(£000)
New offers	81	812
Increased offers	21	78
TOTAL	102	890

Cost		
Town Schemes	Number	(£000)
New offers	5	103
Increased offers	2	22
TOTAL	7	125

Demand for grants in London is strong for all types of scheme, but the pattern in 1987–88 clearly reflects two kinds of problem: building survival and building quality. Building survival in London is a problem usually restricted to institutional buildings, such as churches, in a few very run-down parts of the inner city as Hackney, Lambeth, and Tower Hamlets. The threat to building quality is much more widespread and is met by a large number of smaller grants under the section 10 and London Grants schemes.
Recent major grants in London include £173,443 towards the final phase of restoration of the **Great Conservatory at Syon Park**, which is now finished; £66,557 towards roof repairs at the **Church of the Ascension, Lavender Hill**; and £36,250 towards the restoration of architectural features on the **Railway Bridge** over the Thames at **Kew**.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Cost		
Rescue Archaeology	Number	(£000)
New offers	156	1125
Increased offers	231	3373
TOTAL	387	4498

Cost		
Section 24	Number	(£000)
New offers	150	1882
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	150	1882

Cost		
Section 17	Number	(£000)
New offers	101	77
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	101	77

Section 24 grant offers were made for a wide range of new projects throughout the year. However, work has also continued on long-standing projects already in receipt of grant, many of which have now been brought to completion. The schemes completed during the year included **St Mary's Church, West Walton** (Norfolk) and **St Andrew's Wroxeter** (Shropshire). In addition, major phases of ongoing works were completed at **Colchester Castle** (Essex), **Hadrian's Wall**, **Winchester Cathedral Close** (Hampshire), and the **Mary Rose**.
New grants continue to cover a wide range of monuments, although work on monuments of a later period – modern fortifications such as Martello Towers and industrial monuments – is increasingly being grant-aided. Spanning both areas of interest is **Chatham Historic Dockyard** (Kent), where grants of over £418,000 have been made for buildings including the masthouse, timber seasoning shed, and No 1 smithy.

Recording work is taking up an increasingly large part of the budget, and detailed analytical recording is becoming widely recognised as an essential aspect of repair work. A wide variety of sites have been brought into the scope of the management agreement scheme, including hillforts in Wiltshire and medieval saltworkings in Lincolnshire.

PAUL HOPPEN

GRANT OFFER LEVELS FOR 1988–89

The offer levels for our various conservation grants in 1988–89 (and comparable figures for 1987–88) are given in the table.

Offers of new section 3A, section 10, and London grants were allowed to exceed the original allocations last year to counteract the slower than expected take up of existing grants, which was leading to underspending. We hope that by increasing our outstanding commitments this problem will be reduced.

£m

	1987–88		1988–89
	Planned	Actual	
Section 3A historic buildings			
Secular	7.8	9.10	8.21
Churches	5.50	6.30	5.77
Section 10 conservation areas	4.35	5.00	4.57
Town schemes	3.00	2.80	3.10
London grants	0.45	0.65	0.47
Sections 17 and 24 ancient monuments	2.20	1.93	2.31

The higher levels of offers in 1987–88 are not sustainable in view of the relatively static level of overall grant-in-aid which we are receiving from the government, and we have set the offer limits for this year in accordance with last year's corporate plan. Broadly this provided for a 5 per cent increase on the original level of grant offers for the year 1987–88.

RICHARD BUTT

CONDICOTE HENGE

The small village of Condicote lies about 4km north-west of Stow-on-the Wold high on the Gloucestershire Cotswolds. Just outside the village lies Condicote henge, a Neolithic ceremonial enclosure of about 2000 BC – one of only 80 such monuments in the British Isles. In March 1988 the Secretary of State for the Environment, Nicholas Ridley, refused scheduled monument consent for development works within the enclosure. This decision was taken after a much publicised public inquiry, at which the archaeological case was put by English Heritage, strongly supported by the Council for British Archaeology, the Prehistoric Society, Gloucestershire County Council, and the county archaeological societies. The Inspector concluded in his report that Condicote henge had been shown to be of very high archaeological importance, and that it should be preserved both as a visible monument and as an archaeological resource for future investigation when improvements in archaeological exploration will enable the maximum amount of information to be retrieved. The excavation offered by the applicant was rejected on the grounds that the monument was too important for preservation by record, which would destroy the source material. It is heartening that the principles that the preservation of sites is often better than excavating them, and that the archaeological record is a finite and irreplaceable resource requiring careful stewardship, were fully appreciated by the Inspector and by the Secretary of State.

Condicote Henge from the air: the dark curving line of one side of the henge's ditch and bank outside it are clearly visible beyond the road across the picture; the site where housing was proposed was in part of the vacant field in the right-hand lower quadrant, this side of the road

Since 1983 eleven such hearings or inquiries, resulting from applications for scheduled monument consent, have been held. The Secretary of State has decided in favour of the archaeological case on eight occasions: the legislative safeguards are clearly working in favour of the protection of the archaeological heritage.

GEOFFREY WAINWRIGHT

PRESENTING THE PAST TO THE PUBLIC

Archaeological excavations hold a fascination for the public which has been insufficiently developed. English Heritage has a duty to educate and inform the public about the man-made heritage and is also responsible for providing nearly £6m in grants in 1988–89 towards the costs of archaeological excavations and the preparation of scholarly reports on them. We are now giving higher priority to exploiting the presentational and educational benefits for the general public which will result from these excavations.

The first step was to commission a manual from the centre for Environmental Interpretation at Manchester Polytechnic on how to present and interpret archaeological excavations to the public. It offers project managers and the staff of excavations who wish to present their work to the public guidance on how to communicate the often complex information which is being revealed by the excavations, and how archaeological techniques are used to understand and interpret what is being discovered. Other topics that are covered include how to make the best use of staff, ways of providing specialist services for schools, sources of practical help and financial support for interpretative schemes, promotion, marketing and working with the media.

In future English Heritage will provide grants for selected projects to enable the work to be presented to visitors in ways that are both attractive and informative. Without this extra dimension, the substantial contribution that archaeologists are making to the recording of our country's heritage is under-appreciated except by the specialised few in the archaeology profession itself. We are well aware that if we cannot stimulate interest in our archaeological heritage, we are failing in one sense to provide value for the money which society makes available for its preservation and recording. This does not mean any diminution of the academic standards of research and enquiry: it is in an attempt to redress the current imbalance between professional and public needs that English Heritage has commissioned this manual and will in the future consider providing grants for the presentation of archaeological excavations to the public.

Visitors to the excavations at Maiden Castle, Dorset, in 1986

GEOFFREY WAINWRIGHT

Copies of the manual will be available from English Heritage in August 1988