Conservation Bulletin, Issue 7, February 1989

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

BUILDINGS AT RISK: NEW INITIATIVES

There are two principal means by which English Heritage can influence the future of historic buildings. The first involves us in responding to certain types of application for planning permission or listed building consent where there are proposals for alteration, demolition, or new development. Only those applications defined in Circular 8/87 have to be referred to English Heritage *(see Conserv Bull* No 2, 11).

The second area of influence, a rather more positive incentive, is the ability of both English Heritage and local authorities to offer grants towards the cost of repairs to historic buildings. Since grants were first offered on the advice of the Historic Buildings Council for England in 1953, their area of influence has been extended. To grants for 'outstanding' secular buildings of national importance have been added grants by local authorities (from 1962), for buildings in conservation areas (from 1972), and for Places of Worship in use (from 1977). These may stem from English Heritage alone under Section 10, or jointly with the local authority for buildings within a Town Scheme under Section 10B. Out of a total of 6000 conservation areas, some 500 currently benefit in this way.

GRANTS – IDENTIFYING THE NEED

32 Heathcote Street, Nottingham, originally the Spanish Consulate, built in 1883: this building at risk was initially saved by temporary repairs by the City Council and the Nottinghamshire Historic Buildings Preservation Trust and has now been fully repaired

Given the limited funds which were first made available 36 years ago, and the backlog of neglect and damage in the years after the war, it was natural that grants should at first have been concentrated on those ancient monuments, buildings, and towns which were regarded as of national importance. The threat to historic buildings today is as likely to stem from an excess of investment and pressure for redevelopment as from under-use, although particular categories of building, such as redundant churches, farm, dockyard, or

early industrial buildings are still likely to suffer from neglect. The emphasis in offering grants in more recent years has tended towards those monuments, buildings, and historic areas with the greatest need. Serious risk to the integrity of the structure is an increasingly important factor in English Heritage's assessment of need. Although our existing grants are being directed more in this direction, many buildings at risk lie outside their scope. We have therefore decided on three initiatives to assist the salvation of more buildings at risk.

THE NEW INITIATIVES

First, it is clear that we need to define the scale of the problem currently facing us, and there is therefore an urgent requirement to compile 'risk registers' for all areas similar to those which have already been undertaken in some areas as pilot studies. Second, we are publishing detailed guidance on temporary 'holding' repairs to historic buildings. Limited essential repairs can give a building at risk of deterioration the chance of an extended lease of life while another use, or resources, for more comprehensive repair are found. Third, we are extending the scope of our grant-aid to cover certain classes of buildings which are at risk.

IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

To assist the identification of areas of need, a number of local authorities have, commendably, made systematic surveys of the condition and use of the historic buildings in their areas *(see Conserv Bull* Nos 1 and 4). A comprehensive survey of buildings at risk was made in the district of Kirklees with the assistance of English Heritage. It was found that 1.5% of listed buildings were in risk category 1, that is, in very poor condition and vacant, or by their nature unoccupiable. If other buildings in poor condition and partly-occupied are included, then the proportion of listed buildings at risk may be said to be about 5%. Only some 40% of the listed buildings in Kirklees were actually in a conservation area. Other local authorities have carried out surveys of buildings at risk with similar overall results, but with important variations. In order to make the results of the various surveys more comparable and comprehensive, all local authorities will now be encouraged to survey their buildings at risk and to follow the computerised system of risk categories which was developed at Kirklees. Our buildings at risk officer is able to provide the necessary advice and information.

EMERGENCY REPAIRS – CLEAR ADVICE

An historic building is obviously more at risk when it becomes unoccupied. There is no-one there to see that the roof does not leak, or to prevent theft or damage. The first response of a local planning authority to the problem of an unoccupied listed building which is at risk will be to offer advice. To assist them, and the owner, English heritage is publishing a book by Eleanor Michell entitled *Emergency repairs for historic buildings* which gives sound practical advice illustrated by case studies.

NEW ASSISTANCE WITH GRANTS

In addition to advice, the owner may need some financial assistance. All local authorities, providing they have made budgetary provision, are able to offer grant under the 1962 Act. In order to assist both the owner and the local authorities, English Heritage has now decided to adapt and extend its existing grant schemes to cover buildings at risk. To qualify, the building must be listed, unoccupied, and in very poor condition.
Grants are normally given under Section 3A or Section 10 as a contribution to restoration work to a building as a whole. Grants for a building at risk, however, will be directed towards those essential works which are necessary to make the building safe and weatherproof, even though the future use of the building, and a scheme to achieve

complete restoration, may not have been agreed. The intention is, wherever possible, to offer grant directly to a willing owner for such works as roofing or making safe which will gain time in order that plans for a longer term future can be formulated. Grant will normally be offered at the rate of 25% of eligible works, although exceptions can be made in special circumstances.

If, despite the offer of advice and grants, an owner is unwilling or unable to act, then the local planning authority may wish to consider using its powers under Section 101 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 as amended. In those cases the local authority may, after seven days notice, enter the site and carry out urgent works itself, before seeking to recover the costs. Providing the extent of the works has been previously agreed, English Heritage may offer grant to the local authority to cover up to half of any costs which it is subsequently unable to recover from the owner or of any costs which allow fuller repairs, rather than temporary patching, to be carried out.

This scheme of grants for buildings at risk is designed to assist the local authority as well as the owner, but because repairs are sometimes urgently needed, will have to depend upon the cooperation and assistance of the local planning authority and its conservation officers. In the first instance all applications for grant for buildings at risk should normally be assessed initially by the local planning authority and forwarded to English Heritage with the recommendation of the local conservation officer. It is hoped that in most cases the local authority concerned will be able to offer a matching grant in order that the owner may be persuaded to do the necessary work without recourse to statutory action. Budgetary provision will be made by English Heritage for these grants from 1 April, but guidance notes and application forms will be available in March. The extension of English Heritage grant schemes to buildings at risk which are either ‘outstanding’ or in conservation areas will, it is hoped, encourage local authorities to take a more active role in persuading owners to repair their historic buildings and to give them a new lease of life. Non-outstanding buildings at risk outside conservation areas will not be eligible, but local authorities are encouraged to use their powers to offer grant in such circumstances.

It is hoped that local authorities will take this opportunity to extend their working partnership with English Heritage; to plan for the protection of buildings at risk of redevelopment; to make an assessment of all the buildings at risk in their areas; and to provide a real incentive for their owners to secure their repair.

MIKE PEARCE

Emergency repairs for historic buildings by Eleanor Michell is published by English Heritage and is available from Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE, price £15.

EDITORIAL

FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE WAY FORWARD

The role and expectations for English Heritage in managing the 400 properties entrusted to it were clear when it was created nearly five years ago. Its task was to conserve the fabric of the monuments to the high standards already set, to make them more attractive to visitors, and to exploit the educational and commercial opportunities they presented. Those objectives were endorsed in Parliament and, although some doubts were expressed that the monuments would be vulgarised by excessive commercialism, they were endorsed also by the public at large.

English Heritage’s precise role in the field of conservation was less easy to define, particularly in legislative terms, and was the subject of differing expectations. The Department of the Environment’s consultation paper *The way forward* published in 1982 asserted that ‘the provision of a single, committed, and central focus for our heritage of

monuments and historic buildings will provide the most powerful and creative stimulus to improved preservation and presentation in the future', but it also made clear that it did not intend to remove its hands from central control – 'the fusion of some of the existing heritage bodies into a single executive and advisory agency would in no way reduce the Government's ultimate responsibility for the preservation of the nation's heritage. The Government do not intend to relinquish those responsibilities and will not do so. Ministers would, and indeed must, remain closely concerned with the overall direction of policy'.

The implementation in the National Heritage Act 1983 of that unambiguous policy statement did, however, leave grey areas. Some were clarified through the financial memorandum controlling the limits within which we exercise our own judgements or through the Secretary of State's response to policy issues in our corporate plan.

The Act did contain the seeds of conflict, for it imposed a general duty on English Heritage, 'so far as practicable' to preserve ancient monuments and historic buildings as well as giving it responsibilities to advise the Secretary of State. At one extreme, there was a naive view that the Government was creating a body designed to berate it for any perceived shortcomings in the conservation field. Even before English Heritage was born, the secretary of one of the major heritage societies criticised the embryo for showing signs that it would not be independent enough to stand up against the Government when necessary. Events – such as No 1 Poultry, or our efforts to save buildings such as Thoresby Hall and Brodsworth – have given the lie to fears about our readiness to give public expression to our views. On the other hand, we have had to recognise, and persuade our friends outside to accept, that the weight attached to our advice to the Secretary of State is greater if we select carefully our causes to champion and express our judgements soundly in measured tones.

As I prepare to hand over my responsibilities as Chief Executive to my successor, I wonder how successfully we have been able to combine the roles of being adviser to and instrument of Government strategic policy with that of being 'a more powerful influence in the whole sphere of conservation… in a position to adopt a more creative policy for conservation, while at the same time avoiding confusion in the minds of the public, overlapping functions and diverse policies'. The fact that we receive occasional complaints, but also enjoy increasingly close relationships in both directions, encourages me to hope that we are getting the balance about right.

Although the changes we made in the management of our historic properties were more immediate and dramatic, I believe that the continuation of gradual development in the conservation field has been more profound and more difficult. The completion of the accelerated resurvey of listed buildings has been accompanied by the real breakthrough of the Government's acceptance of the need to begin listing buildings under the '30 year' rule. We have embarked on the Monument Protection Programme which over the next ten years or so will schedule up to about another 50,000 monuments of national importance and give the vital first stage of protection to monuments increasingly at risk from developments of various kinds. We have focussed attention on historic buildings which are at risk. We have published the Register of Historic Gardens. We have started to shift the emphasis in grant-giving policy towards churches and conservation areas. Our influence in historic areas has increased, even with the small resources devoted to this activity, mainly by getting in early on planning discussions. Where our advice has not prevailed at the planning stage, we have been ready to commit considerable resources to key public inquiries to bring fundamental issues to the fore. We have not, however, insisted that nothing should change, for we recognise that many historic buildings and areas will be saved only if they are adapted to the needs of today.

Although in many areas we are still critically short of hard facts about monuments, historic buildings, and historic areas on which to base fully-informed judgements about priorities and cost-effectiveness, it seems to me that we should continue to place historic buildings

at risk high on the agenda. Their numbers are likely to be swollen by redundancy of some of the magnificent mental and other hospitals, and prisons. Nor have we yet geared ourselves up fully to face all the issues that are on the horizon with churches and chapels. In the field of archaeology, we should continue to encourage funding by developers, but we will need to find means of ensuring that important projects in which English Heritage is not financially involved are written up and published promptly.

Many of these issues can only be tackled successfully if all local authorities assume their full responsibilities, for they are at the heart of the planning system. English Heritage's role, as a focal point for advice and the setting of standards for conservation, cannot and should not be to handle large numbers of individual cases. The task of integrating the needs of conservation with demands for desirable social and economic change, and with architectural innovation, will require the continuing commitment of our Commissioners and staff. Despite what has been achieved in the past five years, there will be a massive amount more to do, and there can be no let up. I wish all of those with whom it has been my privilege to work success in their efforts.

PETER RUMBLE

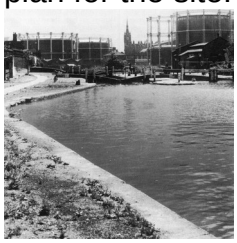
Chief Executive

THE RAILWAY LAND DEVELOPMENT AT KING'S CROSS

King's Cross and St Pancras are amongst the best-known railway stations in the world, familiar to travellers and visitors, and venerated by historians and architectural critics. Most people, however, when dashing to catch a train or waiting to meet a relation from the north, experience only their most public aspects: the concourse and platforms beneath W H Barlow's majestic train shed at St Pancras, or the assembly area which fronts, and partly conceals, Lewis Cubitt's King's Cross. Only the most diligent explorers have considered venturing into the hinterland behind the two stations, and probably few people would have realised how complex are the tunnels which curve and intertwine beneath the site, had it not been for the horrific undergound fire at King's Cross in November 1987.

About 270,000 passengers pass through the main line and underground stations at King's Cross and St Pancras each day, all of them converging on the point where the stations nestle against the Euston Road. There is no sign of that number diminishing: on the contrary, British Rail would like to see it increased. Behind the stations, however, particularly in the King's Cross Goods Yard, the story is wholly different. What was once a major depot for the supply of food, coal, and other goods to London is now used by only a trickle of trains serving a ready-mix concrete works.

A few years ago British Rail decided to exploit the contrasting fortunes of the passenger and freight traffic by promoting the redevelopment of the King's Cross Goods Yard, partly in order to fund improvements to the two termini and the railway approaches to them. This proposal, ambitious enough in itself, assumed a yet more momentous form when King's Cross was selected as a terminus (in addition to the one at Waterloo) for Channel Tunnel traffic. Following a select competition, the London Regeneration Consortium was appointed as developer in June 1988 with Foster Associates responsible for the master plan for the site.



One of the classic views of Victorian London: the Regent's Canal at St Pancras Locks, with the gasholders and St Pancras Station beyond; the canal runs though the heart of the King's Cross Railway Lands site

This development forms easily the largest case of its kind to have come before the London Division of English Heritage in recent years. The overall site of more than 48ha includes 14 listed buildings and is partially covered by two Conservation Areas. Almost every kind of conservation issue is involved: the setting of two Grade I listed buildings, the protection and reuse of other listed buildings (including four gasholders), the maintenance of the historic texture of the area, and the assessment of how these priorities can be reconciled with British Rail's requirements.

The first problem for English Heritage has been to research the historic development of the site. Much has already been written about the two main line termini, but the streets around, and even more the railway goods yard, have been as little explored by historians as by the general public. Indeed, the goods yard has until recently been almost as secret a place as the Royal Dockyards and, as at Chatham and Portsmouth, greater freedom of access has been a revelation for admirers of industrial architecture. Under the supervision of London Division historians two researchers from the Ironbridge Institute have surveyed the buildings, artefacts, and fixtures in the goods yard and the area immediately south of it. Their report and inventory, completed last autumn and published by English Heritage, is an essential conservation tool.

Well before the coming of the railways the character of the area began to be stamped by brick and tile makers and other industries typical of the urban fringe. The completion of the Regent's Canal in 1820 attracted further similar developments, notably the works of the Imperial Gas Company whose gas-holders, rebuilt and added to, are still major landmarks. The canal was a blessing and a headache for the railways: a blessing because it offered a way of forwarding goods to other parts of London, but a headache because it had to be crossed by any line venturing closer to the Euston Road. The Great Northern Railway went under it to reach King's Cross (1850–2), while the Midland went over in its approach to St Pancras (1866–8). The discrepancy in levels between the two stations is one of the many difficulties in designing a feasible link between them.

Evidence of how the Great Northern goods yard was connected to the canal has largely disappeared, but in most other respects the principal goods handling facilities in the yard have survived, forming what is now probably the best collection of their kind in the country. Presiding over the yard is the Granary (1851–2), a dignified six-storey warehouse still in its original use. Behind this stretch the long arms of the main goods shed with an extensive roofed area between them. An adjacent roof of 1888 wraps around an early carriage shed, eventually converted for the potato trade. Further into the yard are two long structures built in the 1850s for coal-handling, evidence of the Great Northern's campaign to wrest the coal trade from its traditional sea-borne routes. One of these coal-drops, although damaged by fire in 1985, retains parts of its original apparatus; the other, later converted to a goods shed, merits further investigation to unravel how it first functioned. Complementing all of these structures are the offices built for the clerks who kept a tally of what passed through the yard, and stables for the horses that fetched and carried around the whole of London.

The Great Northern Hotel, designed by Lewis Cubitt as part of the station facilities at King's Cross, and lying directly between the station and St Pancras: it was built on a curve to fit the road running behind it and the Fleet Sewer beneath

The Granary in King's Cross Goods Yard, an exceptionally well-preserved warehouse of 1851–2, and a rare example in London of such a structure still in its original appearance and use; it is still essentially as built, except for the loss of the canal basin which once fronted it

The Foster master plan, unveiled in Spring 1988 and much amended since, acknowledges the importance of at least the principal goods yard buildings: the Granary, the two coal drops, and the goods offices. If, as is proposed however, they are severed from the railway and surrounded instead by parkland, some of their historic meaning is bound to be lost. The canal will be enhanced by having two basins which once stemmed from it opened up again, and the four gasholders are promised a further lease of life (one in the unlikely role of a transformer station). South of the canal, however, amidst the vortex of uses around the stations, the possibilities for compromise between conservation and other requirements are less obvious. The published proposals for a new interchange station slotted between King's Cross and St Pancras presuppose that the listed Great Northern Hotel will have to be demolished, while to the east of King's Cross the cut-and-cover tunnel work, to bring a new line into that third station, will threaten two more listed buildings.

The King's Cross Railway Lands development takes as its starting point the railway and service infrastructure laid down in the last century. For historic buildings and their context it is a test case of whether one of the most important parts of Victorian London can be reshaped without destroying its essential character.

ROBERT THORNE

British Rail are promoting a private bill (The King's Cross Railways Bill) to empower them to carry out development works at King's Cross. English Heritage has decided to petition against parts of the Bill, particularly Clause 19 which would set aside the need for the proposals to obtain any necessary listed building, scheduled monument, or conservation area consents.

GRANTS OFFERED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE AUGUST–NOVEMBER 1988

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Section 3A	Number	Cost (£000)
New offers (secular)	56	2709
Increased offers (secular)	30	228
New offers (churches)	106	1406
Increased offers (churches)	69	636
TOTAL	261	4972

Section 5B	Number	Cost (£000)
New offers	2	19
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	2	19

Two grants for acquisition, totalling £18,870, have been given for buildings at risk. The first is for **Southorn's pipeworks, Broseley** (Shropshire), a clay pipe factory surviving to a remarkable degree with most of its contents and equipment intact. **Elsham Top Farm** (South Humberside), a group of derelict and decaying chalk farm buildings, received grants both for purchase and for subsequent repairs.
Among the secular Section 3A grants, of particular interest are a grant of £30,000 for the repair of the decorative rills and other built structures in the Lutyens/Jekyll gardens at **Hestercombe** (Somerset) and a grant of £63,000 for two of the Tecton buildings at **Dudley Zoo** (West Midlands). The largest grant given in the period, however, was a grant of £150,000 for works to **Crabble Mill, Dover** (Kent), a large watermill.
Church grants include a very substantial increased grant (£175,000) offered to **St Mary's Church, Hemingborough** (North Yorkshire) to allow repairs to this fine thirteenth century church with its remarkable fifteenth century spire. A grant of £36,870 was offered to **All Saints' Church, Barton on Irwell** (Greater Manchester), thus securing for continued worship a church which would otherwise have been at risk of redundancy and possible demolition.

HISTORIC AREAS

		Cost
Section 10	Number	(£000)
New offers	134	889
Increased offers	38	128
TOTAL	172	1017

The largest grant offered in the period (just over £53,000) was for the **Abbey Brewery, Malmesbury** (Wiltshire).
The poor condition of this early purpose-built brewery has long been a cause of local concern, and the Malmesbury Preservation Trust is now restoring it to commercial use. In the **Canning Street** area of **Liverpool**, where we are repairing over 180 fine Georgian Houses, £30,000 has been offered to Liverpool City Council towards street improvements. By contrast, we are helping with a grant of £9000 for another environmental scheme in the medieval core of **Rothwell** (Northamptonshire).

LONDON

		Cost
Section 3A	Number	(£000)
New offers (churches)	7	126
Increased offers (churches)	9	80
New offers (secular)	6	482
Increased offers (secular)	2	12
TOTAL	24	700

		Cost
Section 10	Number	(£000)
New offers	19	74
Increased offers	2	8
TOTAL	21	82

		Cost
London Grants	Number	(£000)
New offers	58	221

Increased offers	10	279
TOTAL	68	500

A grant of £10,000 was offered to the **Queen Adelaide's Dispensary, Pollard Row, Tower Hamlets** for repairs to the roof and dome of this purpose-built nineteenth century dispensary. **Liberty Mills, Priory Park, Merton**, which has been in use as a textile print works for over two centuries, has also received a grant of £10,000 for repairs to the waterwheel and wheelhouse used for washing textiles. The largest grant offered in the period was to the **Royal Albert Hall, Kensington and Chelsea**. £164,000 was offered for the restoration of the terracotta frieze and for general repairs to the roof. English Heritage will contribute £28,200 towards roof repairs to **The Friends' Meeting House, Isleworth, Hounslow**.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Cost		
Section 24	Number	(£000)
New offers	40	325
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	40	325

Cost		
Section 17	Number	(£000)
New agreements	21	20
Renewed agreements	31	35
TOTAL	52	55

Cost		
Rescue	Number	£(000)
New offers	34	198
Increased offers	14	106
TOTAL	48	344

We have offered grants to further phases of continuing projects, such as **Lincoln Castle** and **Jervaulx Abbey** (North Yorkshire). Most offers, however, have been for new programmes of work, one of which is to help to improve the management and presentation of a historic field system on **Eastbury Down** (Berkshire). We are working in close partnership with the local Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group on this project in order to integrate all aspects of countryside conservation.

A major grant offer (£84,000) is for a large-scale programme of consolidation of the twelfth and fourteenth century remains of **Tonbridge Castle** (Kent), during Edward I's reign one of the seats of the de Clares, the earls of Hertford and Gloucester. In Norfolk we have offered a grant of £14,000 for the repair of parts of **Great Yarmouth Town Walls**, including work to one of the surviving towers.

We have also offered grants to two contrasting monastic sites. We have met half the cost of the purchase of **Tupholme Abbey** by the recently formed Lincolnshire Heritage Trust, who aim to consolidate the standing remains and improve the management of the site's earthworks for the visiting public. In Cumbria, small grants for repair and recording totalling £9000 have been made to the County Council for work at **Ravenstonedale**, a small cell of the Gilbertine Priory of Watton in Yorkshire. The site was partly uncovered in 1928 and the current work will repair the exposed remains at the same time as increasing our knowledge of the houses of this little known and rare order.

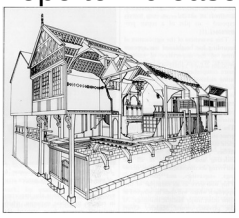
The figures for rescue grants include four survey grants which total £8321. This is a relatively new scheme, intended to assist farmers who wish to identify historic features on their land in order to present them to the public.

PAUL HOPPEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Following the creation of English Heritage in 1984, a number of new initiatives were put in hand relating to our grant-aided repair work. One of the most important was the decision that as far as practicable all repair programmes to nationally important historic buildings grant-aided by us should include survey, recording, and analysis of the building. This principle, well established for ancient monuments, represented a substantial new departure for historic buildings work. Over the past three years, this has developed from a small pilot study to an expanding and diverse involvement in an exciting variety of projects. Collaboration has been stinulated with many local and national authorities, ecclesiastical bodies, research institutions, archaeology units, and private owners – as well as with our sister organisation, the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England (RCHME), among whose statutory duties is the recording of threatened buildings. The results have increased the collective knowledge of a wide range of topics, promoted awareness of the problems associated with conservation, provoked debates on the philosophy of reconstruction, and have extended our educational role.

Even though the funds available for the recording of buildings have to date been limited, we have so far commissioned some 57 separate recording projects, varying in cost from a few hundred to several thousands of pounds. The initial expenditure in 1985 was very small, then in 1986/7 it rose to £25,000, increasing in 1987/8 to £69,000. We have budgeted for an expenditure of some £90,000 in the current and next financial years. These figures exclude expenditure, expected to total some £210,000, for the intensive programme of work at Acton Court near Bristol (see p 13). To reflect the anticipated increase in church grant activity from 1990/1 onwards, as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the Church of England's working party on church archaeology, we hope to increase significantly the allocation for recording work in all places of worship.



The fourteenth century Leche House, part of the Rows, Chester, as it may have appeared by the seventeenth century: a hall of two bays lies behind a single bay shop; a substantial solar occupies the space above the shop and the Row

Although most of these projects have been wholly funded by English Heritage, a significant number have been collaborative ventures involving contributions from other organisations, notably the RCHME, local authorities, and the owners of buildings. With all of these agencies, we work closely to ensure that there is no duplication of effort, and in particular, we always advise RCHME of any project we commission, and all its records are copied to them for the National Monuments Record whose archives are open to the public. For the future, where appropriate, we are aiming to fund most recording work at the same rate as any repair grant involved – using our locus in grant-aided repairs to establish the incorporation of basic levels of recording in all schemes, by stipulating it as a standard requirement of approved architects' specifications with more detailed work where appropriate. Recording work related to our statutory responsibilities will continue to be commissioned separately.

This increasing emphasis on recording is a direct response to awareness of our obligation to the future, engendered by our experiences of the past. All levels of repair can reveal information about the history or architectural development of the garden or building that will be accessible only for a short time before being covered up again and must necessarily be destroyed by the repair works. Our recording grants ensure that these opportunities are not missed. Repairs grant-aided by us can also catalyse in-depth investigative work, either to establish the chronology of construction or to solve specific technical problems.

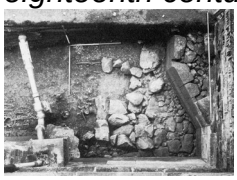
Previously unrecorded repair works seriously impair our present understanding of many buildings which we are grant-aiding. As technology has advanced, so has the extent of intervention possible in the repair and restoration of historic buildings. Techniques, methods, and materials have often been deployed without regard for the long-term consequences and without any record of what was actually done. Frequently, the failure of a previously untried method has led to the problem our grant-aid is helping to solve, and the lack of detailed records of the work can make a solution harder to find. However, while adhering to our principle of replacing like with like and encouraging minimal intervention, we recognise this is not always the most realistic or practical approach to every problem. Therefore, we aim to promote the principle that recording is essential whenever the fabric of an historic building or garden is deconstructed, removed, or altered – or even merely exposed – as part of a repair programme.

This awareness of the significance of recording has heightened our appreciation of the importance of existing records. We aim therefore to foster a more comprehensive approach to collating material relating to unpublished surveys or archaeological excavations. We also regard this as part of our educational role and intend to encourage the full participation and interest of owners and their architects. The National Trust has accepted 100% grant-aid from us to conduct a complete survey of the structure of Lacock Abbey (Wilts), which includes the indexing and assessment of all the surviving documentation – plans, drawings, engravings, and photographs. This will serve as an exemplar of this approach which will then be adopted at their other major historic buildings. At the privately-owned Madeley Court (Shropshire) we have grant-aided both survey and excavation work in order to improve the understanding of the building, and publication of this project will incorporate unpublished material relating to the earlier excavations of the site and studies of the building.

If historic buildings with a complex structural history are to be the subject of comprehensive repairs or extensive alterations in adaptation to a new use, it is clearly vital that the works are planned and decisions taken about what degree of change is acceptable in the light of a full analytical survey. This should define the various elements of the building, their sequence of construction, and relative importance. Ignorance of these criteria can result at best in the inadequate exploitation of the historic fabric, and at worst in the irrevocable loss or damage of much of importance.

We are encouraging local authorities and owners to take the view that analytical surveys must form the basis of any acceptable application for listed building consent in such cases, and their cost is generally met by the developers concerned. The principle is fully established in Hereford, for example, where the City Archaeological Committee frequently undertake such surveys, and is increasingly being applied elsewhere – especially for complex groups of urban buildings of medieval origin. This is also important in relation to public inquiries, where analytical surveys have assisted the Department of the Environment’s inspector, and even in some cases averted an inquiry altogether by establishing the historical and architectural facts of the case.

Repairs tinder way to the 'Museum' building at Enville, Staffs, one of a number of mid eighteenth century garden structures recorded before extensive repair



Foundations of an earlier polygonal porch recorded during excavation in advance of drainage works at SS Mary and Hardulph, Breedon, Leics

We have recently extended our activities to commissioning generic surveys of particular types or groups of buildings. This has come about in response either to requests from our own specialist advisory committees, in order to assist them in their identification and thus directing grant-aid towards preservation of the more important examples of a particular building type, or from local authorities who need to define a conservation strategy in relation to listed building consent casework. The Chester Rows Research Project is a result of partnership between ourselves, the local authorities, the local archaeology unit, and the RCHME. This is proving to be a most revealing enterprise, transforming our knowledge of a unique form of urban development at a time when the form and character of these rare buildings is under increasing commercial pressure. Further surveys – of 'clay lump' buildings on the Solway Plain and the Devon Farmhouse project – are designed to direct our grant-aid and our statutory work towards the most important survivals of these threatened vernacular structures. Since both are being conducted with the close involvement of several local authorities in the areas concerned, expertise and experience have been shared in coming to an awareness of the building types and their features.
We have the benefit of representation on the ICOMOS (International Commission for Monuments and Sites) working party on recording buildings, so we are well placed to benefit from their collective knowledge. We intend in the future to produce a list and bibliography of completed and published reports which will be regularly updated: an interim list is now available which shows the variety of projects which have been carried out with the invaluable assistance of all the owners, local authorities, architects, surveyors, recorders, and archaeologists concerned, and, above all, the RCHME.

JILL KERR

The National Monuments Record is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Written notice will ensure that the information you require is available: NMR RCHM(E), Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London, W1X 2HE.
A list of recording projects funded to date is available from the Historic Buildings Division of English Heritage.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING OF ANCIENT MONUMENTS

The use of archaeological techniques of recording and analysis to assist in managing and presenting ancient monuments was the subject of an earlier short article in *Conserv Bull,* No 2. This emphasised the need for a full understanding of a monument's history and fabric, before any major works of repair or management can be safely carried out. Repairs undertaken without understanding can all too often damage a monument and reduce its value as a document of the past. In turn, failure to make a proper record of new work on monuments will make the task of future guardians of our heritage even more difficult.

A number of major projects are in progress which can be described as ‘traditional’ recording. These involve the preparation of accurate and detailed records of monuments during major campaigns of consolidation. The end, result of such work is a permanent archaeological record of the monument, essential for the ‘conserve as found’ approach which is central to the philosophy of the conservation of ancient monuments. The work at Jervaulx is a prime example of this type of project; other recent similar schemes include the Colchester Archaeological Trust’s work for us on the Roman city walls and castle of Colchester, and surveys of towers on the medieval walls at Great Yarmouth commissioned from the Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

Increasingly, however, we are spreading our resources by commissioning more limited projects which ‘target’ the most urgent tasks. In recording recently carried out for us by the Exeter Field Archaeological Unit on the bishop’s palace at Bishopsteignton, an outline survey of the building was made and detailed stone-by-stone recording was limited to those areas directly affected by rebuilding or stone replacement. The careful selection of areas for record is likely to become a more common feature of recording work; for example it will be the approach adopted during work planned to start this year at Ludlow Castle.

The most important widening of our use of recording techniques, however, is to the preliminary survey of ancient monuments as an essential prelude to implementing proper management plans or display proposals. Such surveys, the equivalent of an architect’s or engineer’s condition report on a building, are often indispensable if monuments are to be treated correctly.

Surveys of this type were recently carried out on a moated site at Little Weston in Shropshire, before repairing damage caused by unauthorised excavation many years ago, and at a prehistoric enclosure at Urswick in Cumbria to produce a management plan for a site threatened by the illegal destruction of limestone pavement. Small-scale excavation work, funded by this form of grant, has been used to identify the least disturbing way to carry out essential drainage and underpinning work at St Andrew’s church, Wroxeter (Shropshire), and to identify the most sympathetic way of converting into holiday accommodation an unused building at risk at Langley Hall (Shropshire). A major example is a survey of Bindon Abbey (Dorset), recently commissioned from the Trust for Wessex Archaeology. This will produce earthwork, building, and vegetation surveys of the remains of the medieval abbey and important post-dissolution gardens. A full management plan, integrating the needs of both archaeological and ecological conservation and presentation, will be produced to form the essential starting point for programmes of conservation.

We are also concerned to support and design schemes for recording which have explicit academic research frameworks. The results of this type of work often have significance or application wider than the confines of a specific monument. In Northamptonshire, for example, recording in anticipation of repair of the earthen rampart of the hillfort at Hunsbury, with the opportunity to bring together the results of earlier unpublished excavations, has allowed reassessment of an important Iron age and post-Roman monument. Work at Colchester is producing new information on the defences of one the major cities of Roman Britain, as did earlier work linked to repairs at Chester and York – a valuable addition to our knowledge of the Roman province.

All recording work which we grant-aid is tied firmly to the management of individual monuments, but always with the aim of improving general approaches to conservation work. In Bedfordshire a series of recording projects has allowed the county council to produce instructive case-studies of the treatment of historic bridges still in use as highways, while in Devon recording work by Exeter Field Archaeological Unit at Gawton Quay and Great Consols Mine has refined models for the management and recording of industrial monuments.

GRAHAM FAIRCLOUGH

RECORDING PROPERTIES IN ENGLISH HERITAGE CARE

THE NORTHERN REGION

The various sites in our care have come to us because of their importance as material evidence of our country's past. As with an historic manuscript, it is important that this evidence should be preserved unaltered so far as is possible, so that future generations have the opportunity to study, to experience, and to appreciate these sites in the same way that we can.

For this reason, therefore, we devote very considerable effort to conserving the sites in our care in such a way as to preserve their value as evidence for the past. Any intervention in a historic structure, however well-meant, may change its character or its authenticity. For example, original mortar which can shed important light on methods of construction has to be replaced, masonry may have to be removed temporarily to allow the insertion of essential reinforcement, or failed elements may have to be replaced to prevent future collapse. In order to preserve them from the effects of wind and weather, it may on occasion be necessary to remove particularly important fragments, such as figured sculpture, to a more controlled environment. It is essential, therefore, that a proper record of our sites should be made as an integral part of the conservation process.

Proper recording and analysis of our sites is also important for other reasons. Detailed survey and analysis before conservation work begins can greatly help the planning, definition, and efficient execution of necessary consolidation. Areas of high significance can be defined, light can be shed on previous works to the site, and specific technical and practical problems can be identified. The resulting survey document will then form the basis for specifying necessary consolidation work.

Another important aspect of our work is to present and interpret our sites to the public. Here again accurate analytical survey work can be of the greatest assistance, since it enables us to understand our sites better and thus to tell a clearer and more accurate story to our visitors.

For all these reasons, therefore, we regard analytical survey in advance of consolidation as an essential tool of our trade, together with observation and recording during work actually in progress. It will take many years before all sites are fully recorded to modern standards, but the essentials of the methods are now clear and a priority order for the work is being developed, dealing first with those sites where consolidation is most urgently needed.

Not all structures will need to be recorded in the same detail. For example, the elevations of Berwick Barracks or Berwick Ramparts, both regular and repetitive in their build, are probably dealt with sufficiently by basic photogrammetry or rectified photography. Normally however, particularly when dealing with the remains of a building which has undergone many and complex changes, the photogrammetric record of elevations would be used as the basis for further analysis of the building and the production of drawings analysing its development and current state.

Essentially, this work uses the methods of archaeological stratigraphic analysis to produce the required information. The basic photogrammetric record is usually produced for us by the York Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies. Further work, including the correction and amplification of the base record, is carried out either by archaeologists employed in-house, as at Fountains Abbey or at Hadrian's Wall, or by archaeological units contracted to do the work for us, as at Carlisle Castle or Furness Abbey.

Despite the intensive and time-consuming nature of the work, and the fact that our recording budget has also to cover other types of recording such as earthwork survey, watching briefs, and archaeological excavations, considerable progress has been made in recent years. Survey work on some of our major sites in the north of England, including

Furness Abbey, Carlisle Castle, Brougham Castle, and Fountains Abbey, are now well advanced. As resources permit, we shall continue with this work as an essential part of the preservation and educative process which we are carrying out.

CHRIS YOUNG

SURVEYING THE MONUMENTS

With modern methods of working, surveying and recording buildings involves several disciplines. A primary distinction can be made between the physical act of surveying, that is measuring the structure, and its interpretation, primarily to analyse its architecture and archaeological form and history.

Virtually all of English Heritage's work centres on the need to prepare drawings of a building 'as found' – preparing a record to show accurately its present form and condition. Many hand-measured surveys from the past may well have been idealised views, where for example one typical bay might be measured and then used as a basis for all others. Today, the philosophies of archaeology combined with the techniques of modern land survey enable extremely high standards of accuracy and thoroughness to be achieved.

Traditionally, any form of surveying of buildings was carried out by hand survey methods of measurement. This method of survey is still required, but to a large extent it has been supplanted in English Heritage by architectural photogrammetry, a technique which has been steadily refined and developed over some 15 years. This has not just replaced the traditional method of hand-measurement, but it has provided a new dimension to the surveying of historic monuments, for these can now be surveyed quickly, accurately and economically to provide a volume of measured drawing which was not previously possible without a vast resource in manpower. In turn, this has created a new area of opportunity for the interpretation of monuments.

HAND SURVEY

Although photogrammetry has transformed the overall approach, hand survey still has an important role to play. The basic methods of hand survey have changed little over many years. To produce an accurate elevation drawing a grid is marked with chalk or strings over the facade. The architectural detail is then measured and this information transferred to the drawing.

For floor plans of buildings, tape triangulation methods are used, but increasingly theodolite and 'total station' instruments (which electronically measure distance as well) are being used. Also CAD/CAM systems can be used to build up the drawing and to save on expensive hand drafting in ink. Most English Heritage drawing offices are now using CAD/CAM systems for a proportion of their work.

Hand survey is a very necessary part of the process of surveying, and there are areas where it is indispensible. There will be parts of monuments where the photographic-based methods are not possible or economical, for example in narrow interiors or areas obscured by other features. For very large-scale details, hand survey is recommended. Also, a primary part of the survey of a building involves the preparation of plans. Even where data can be derived from photogrammetry, much work may be needed to complete the measurements on site and to build up the typical architect's plans and sections.

The Kern DSR 11 analytical photogrammetric plotter in use at the Photogrammetric Unit, University of York

Techniques of hand survey: hand measurement and the 'total station' theodolite in use for architectural survey purposes

PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Photogrammetry is the method of measurement from photography. It is a very precise science allied to land surveying and is the field of skilled professionals with years of training. Although its principal application its in map-making from vertical aerial photography, in the last 10 to 15 years there has been considerable growth in the field known as close-range photogrammetry, which includes architectural photogrammetry. Basically, the method consists of photographing the image –the facade of the building – using a special metric camera, which has a distortion-free lens. The photographs are taken in such a way that they overlap with each other to give stereopairs. These go into a photogrammetric plotting machine, whose operator can then trace off all architectural detail to produce the drawing. Of necessity, this is a very much simplified description of the process which does not really do justice to its methods. For example, the principal photogrammetric plotter in use with the York Unit is a very advanced piece of Swiss engineering and technology which processes data through complex mathematical routines by a powerful mini-computer and then passes the data on for plotting on an automated flat-bed plotter.

ADVANTAGES OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Photogrammetry is a complicated method of measurement, requiring qualified staff and a substantial capital investment. Why then has photogrammetry proved to be so valuable in the survey of buildings? First, the photogrammetric drawing is highly accurate and precise. No other method of survey can provide such a homogeneous level of accuracy over a facade or complete monument. Second, the survey can show as much detail as is wanted. Even substantial areas of a quite repetitive nature, such as ashlar walling can be drawn out at an economic cost. The survey is prepared quickly and safely, and it does not require architectural draughtsmen. In addition, photogrammetry provides an excellent form of archival record with the stored material being accessible at any time.

There are some limitations on the use of the technique. The matter of most interest to the user is usually the interpretation of detail. Since measurement is made from photography at a much smaller scale than the original, perfect interpretation of every feature is not possible. The operator of the plotter uses skill and experience in interpreting and editing detail, but nevertheless a degree of inspection and infilling of missing detail will still be needed on site.

English Heritage now holds well over 200 photogrammetric surveys of monuments in its care, prepared over the last 14 years. The production of these surveys has come largely from the Photogrammetric Unit, Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, under the direction of R W A Dallas. The Unit is wholly funded by English Heritage.

RECTIFIED PHOTOGRAPHY

Rectified photography in another very useful process which tends to be associated with photogrammetry. This is really a very simple method and consists of taking photographs with conventional photographic equipment, such that they are exactly parallel to the facade. A scale is placed against the facade and the subsequent photograph is printed exactly to this.

The method is particularly useful for flat elevations where there is much small irregular detail such as brickwork or rubble. However, the accuracy of the process is limited, since if a facade has any ‘depth’ this will lead to scale and displacement errors on the photograph. In effect, this limits the use of rectified photography to flat surfaces. Nevertheless, the process is most useful and is extensively used in its own right, in conjunction with photogrammetry or as a supplement to hand survey.

PREPARING SURVEYS

Within English Heritage, the requirement for the survey and recording of buildings is substantial. The demands of looking after some 400 monuments produce a continuous and ongoing programme of repair and maintenance work. All such projects, however, require preliminary study, preparation of specifications, and appropriate analysis of the part of the monument. The basis of all such work needs to be a thorough and accurate survey document, not only to assist with the work but also to provide a ‘before and after’ record of what is done.

Primary survey is principally provided through the Directing Architect’s Drawing Office which supplies photogrammetric survey through the York Unit, hand survey from ‘in house’ staff, and additionally procures surveys from the private sector. Much of this survey goes straight into use by architectural staff, but additionally much of the analysis or interpretative work is provided through archaeological units commissioned to provide it.

Other divisions of English Heritage also need surveys of buildings and other structures. In the process of giving grants for the repair of historic buildings and monuments, it is now recognised that provision and standards for survey and recording should be written into grants. Such survey is usually carried out by commissioned architects or archaeologists, often utilising primary survey data provided by photogrammetric survey. The London Division of English Heritage has its own drawing office, where a team is involved in a variety of survey work, for example, on threatened buildings.

CONCLUSIONS

Surveying historic buildings and monuments is a vital part of English Heritage’s activities. It is, however, not a static field. The introduction of new methodology, particularly photogrammetry, has raised the standards of this work and has led to new possibilities for the better understanding and conservation of monuments.

R W A DALLAS

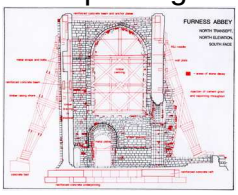
University of York

FURNESS ABBEY

The Furness Abbey project was begun in 1985, in response to the need for a second major programme of consolidation, some sixty years after its remains were first placed in the guardianship of the nation. It was planned to include a survey of the fabric of the abbey, one of the most substantial of surviving ruined Cistercian houses, as well as research into its documentation and carry out limited excavation in advance of works.

The survey, undertaken by the Cumbria and Lancashire Unit, based at Lancaster University, was aimed at the production of full plan coverage and elevation drawings of the buildings together with analysis to identify their constituent building periods. The work was to be based on photogrammetric and rectified photographic surveys produced by the IoAAS in York supplemented by some hand survey. A search of historical records concentrated on those dealing with past consolidation and repair works. Detailed stone by stone base drawings are being produced with overlays which highlight areas of erosion to

individual stones, subsidence cracks, and information on previous repairs, such as underpinning.



Furness Abbey, south elevation of the north transept, prepared from photogrammetry and hand survey with information concerning previous works and its present condition superimposed in red (drawing from the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit)

A rigorous approach to the recording and analysis of the elevations was necessary. The history of the church is far more complex than has previously been realised. The application of archaeological techniques of stratigraphic analysis to the standing structure has thrown considerable new light on the development of the abbey. The drawings generated by the project will illustrate both the historical development and the suggested reconstruction of the monument. The use of specialised survey techniques together with methodical analysis of the standing remains and earlier excavated evidence has undoubtedly led to a closer understanding of the monument and its structural history. Information gained from the study of the abbey in this way reveals as much about its historical development as any large scale excavation could ever have achieved. The preparation of separate overlays for each of the elevation drawings means that basic accurate information is now readily available when decisions are taken regarding future restoration programmes. Results of further work can be added to the overlays so that the permanent record is kept up-to-date.

The project will result in the provision of a considerable archive of material. This will include 23 sheets of plans, at ground and upper floor levels, and 180 sheets of drawings of elevations of the masonry, with a corresponding number of overlays showing the current state of repairs. There will also be a similar number of drawings which assign periods and phases, and where possible, suggested reconstructions to each of the individual periods identified. In addition, there will be a written commentary, amplifying and explaining the drawings, and a complete archive of documentary material. It is proposed that as much as possible of this material will be made available in due course in published form. Quite apart from the use of this archive of drawings as part of the planned programme of consolidation, the fuller knowledge of the building history of the monument which they give will lead to more informed presentation of the site to the visiting public. The survey data will provide an important resource for educational use and for the production of more popular interpretative guide-books.

The techniques developed by the survey team and the experience gained in their application will be invaluable for the design of future work of a similar nature on other monuments. The process of full analysis of the site has been time consuming and of a magnitude little suspected when the project was begun, but the potential profit is great for both the study of Furness Abbey and Cistercian architecture in general.

DAVID SHERLOCK

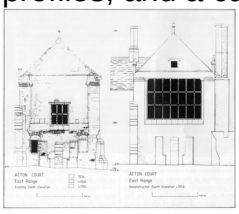
ACTON COURT, AVON

Acton Court was owned by the Gloucestershire branch of the Poyntz family from the mid fourteenth century until 1680. The family rose to prominence under the early Tudors, and the medieval house was largely rebuilt and greatly extended by Sir Nicholas Poyntz between 1534 and *c* 1550.

In recent centuries the building had been used as a farmhouse, and its architectural importance was not appreciated until after its sale, in 1984, to the Bristol Visual and

Environmental Trust, when it became the subject of grant applications. In 1986 it was acquired by English Heritage: we commissioned an integrated programme of structural analysis and excavation prior to its restoration. The work, which is now largely completed, is being carried out by the author and the Bath Archaeological Trust under the direction of Robert Bell; a final report is in progress.

Care was taken at the start to establish an integrated recording framework by setting out a permanent grid and by commissioning professional surveys of the environs of the house at scales of 1:200 and 1:500. The external elevations of the building were recorded photogrammetrically by the IoAAS at York, who also produced plan outlines at four levels. These proved especially valuable, as the building, which is constructed of pennant sandstone rubble set in loam, has undergone considerable movement, and it would have proved impossible to establish an accurate plan by any other means. The elevations were plotted at a scale of 1:50 with a few enlargements of complicated areas at 1:20. Individual lumps of pennant were not plotted because they were too small and the overall effect would have been too dense, but limestone, which is all reused, was included. Internal elevations were built up by measurement, using the reversed external elevations as a base. The house and its outbuildings are recorded in a series of 29 main elevations. There are – separate large-scale drawings of roof trusses, doors and other details, moulding profiles, and a catalogue of architectural fragments.



Acton Court, the south elevation of the east range showing (left) its historical phases in diagrammatic form and (right) how the elevation may have looked c 1550

The phasing of the building was carried out initially on purely stratigraphical grounds by comparing the nature of the rubble and its bonding material externally and by studying plasters and paint finishes internally. Four phases of Tudor work were established, the earliest of which can be dated by dendrochronology to 1534. There are no building accounts or other documentary evidence relating directly to the house, and the three later phases are currently dated on stylistic grounds and by links with excavated evidence. The house was reduced and altered *c* 1700 when it became a farm, and repaired in the early and late nineteenth century. Very little work has been carried out in this century.

The surviving building is a fragment of a courtyard house whose principal rooms were on the first floor. The east range of 1534 contained three large staterooms, lit by enormous windows, and the north range, added about ten years later, a long gallery. A feature of the architecture is the increasing use of classical detail in successive phases. Considerable traces of Tudor decorative schemes survive, because of the early decline in the fortunes of the house. High-quality painted friezes survive beneath limewash in the principal rooms, and the design of one of the painted ceilings can be reconstructed from fragments. There is some original panelling and a number of sixteenth century doors, a few of which retain their original door furniture.

The excavation brief was to recover the plan of the sixteenth century house and to learn something of its medieval predecessor. The results have proved unexpectedly complete and much more complex than was anticipated. The medieval house was itself of some size and contained within a moat. The principal block, of hall with oriel and porch, solar and offices, lay at the centre of the Tudor south range, and the core of the house, the fifteenth century hall frontage and porch, were retained as the centrepiece of the mid sixteenth century south elevation.

The recovery of such a complete plan of the house should allow a real understanding of how the building was actually used, and the combination of excavated and standing

evidence will ensure a high level of certainty in. reconstructing the appearance of the house at different periods.

KIRSTY RODWELL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AT JERVAULX ABBEY

Jervaulx Abbey lies on the west bank of the River Ure some five miles north-west of Masham, North Yorkshire. The ruins of the former Cistercian monastery, covering an area of almost 2ha, were used as a quarry for building stone from the suppression of the house in 1537 until 1805, when they were cleared of overburden on the orders of the then owner, the 2nd Earl of Ailesbury, and laid out as a picturesque garden, the focus of Jervaulx Park. A report on the condition of the abbey ruins, commissioned in 1981 by the current owner (for the abbey has, perhaps surprisingly, remained in private hands), identified areas of structural weakness in many of the buildings and proposed a major programme of consolidation and repair to ensure both the survival of the ruins and the safety of visitors to the site. Approaches were made to the Department of the Environment, as a result of which grant-aid was made available towards the cost of a pilot project, involving the consolidation of the chapter house, in 1984–5. The chapter house was selected, because, as a relatively low building, consolidation methods could be tested and their effectiveness monitored without recourse to extensive scaffolding.

Following the successful completion of this work, a wider consolidation programme was commenced in 1986. To date, emergency repairs have been carried out in a number of locations, whilst the abbot's lodging and the infirmary have been fully consolidated. Work in 1989 will concentrate on the monks' dorter, the west wall of which represents the greatest area of high-standing masonry on the site, and the misericorde.

A precondition of English Heritage support for the consolidation programme is that accurate drawings of all walls are produced well in advance of consolidation. Despite two earlier surveys of the site (one, in 1806, producing plans of the church and its tile pavements after Ailesbury's clearance, the other, in 1905, providing a ground plan of the entire complex), no accurate record existed of the upstanding structures at Jervaulx before the commencement of the present programme. The drawings therefore serve a number of purposes: providing an accurate record of the structure before consolidation (and thus the raw data for structural analysis and architectural study of the ruins); forming the basis for detailed proposals by the site architect in support of applications for Scheduled Monument Consent and for grant-aid; and illustrating the detailed instructions to contractors. Copies of the drawings, annotated by the site archaeologist during the course of consolidation works, also form a record of the work carried out.

Production of the drawings involves a variety of recording techniques. The initial set, for the chapter house, were produced by hand measurement; this was possible because of the relatively low height of the walls involved. Subsequent drawings, however, have been based upon the results of surveys carried out by the IoAAS at York and supplied in the form of outline drawings. These are checked against the monument, and any areas of stonework omitted from the outline (usually because they were hidden from the cameras by foliage) added. The drawings are then completed with details of tooling marks, masons' marks, and other archaeologically significant features.

The initial outline drawings supplied by the IoAAS are at a scale of 1:20, as experience has shown this to be a convenient scale for on-site work. Copies of the corrected outline drawings are supplied to the architect for the addition of his consolidation proposals, whilst separate copies are marked with archaeological detail. Final archaeological drawings are not produced until consolidation works are complete, since important information may be revealed during this process. Monitoring of the contractors and their work is therefore, obviously, an important duty for the site archaeologist.

Detailed recording is an integral part of the extensive consolidation programme at Jervaulx. The successful completion of the record, as with the successful completion of each phase of the consolidation programme, relies upon close cooperation between archaeologist, architect, and contractor.

ANDREW DAVISON

‘OVER THE SHOP’ – A PROGRESS REPORT

English Heritage’s travelling exhibition ‘Over the shop’, which is designed to show the benefits of the full use of commercial buildings in historic town centres, has now visited more than 60 local authority areas since 1983. This has stimulated a number of individual schemes, as well as two extensive programmes of work in Ipswich and Cambridge.

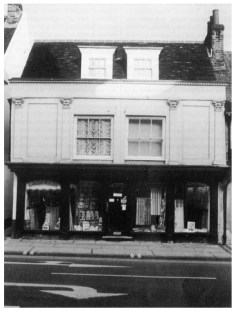
THE IPSWICH SCHEME

In 1984 Ipswich Borough Council became the first authority to introduce an ‘upper floors’ programme. Initially, the targets for this work were buildings already included in the Town Scheme – in order to concentrate resources on listed buildings and to harmonise with other approaches to conservation in the town. All the buildings involved so far have been in secondary shopping streets and most are concentrated in the area between the town centre and the docks. Most are pre-Victorian buildings, and collectively they make an important contribution to the historic character of Ipswich.

Twelve buildings in all have so far been renovated and these have provided 38 units of accommodation at an average grant cost of £8400 per dwelling. The dwellings vary from studios to two-bed maisonettes, but the majority are one-bed flats. Owners were offered grants of 75% of the reasonable cost of making the accommodation habitable, and this was provided from a combination of Town Scheme finance where available, Housing Improvement Grants, and an additional provision from the local authority’s capital programme. The latter amount was initially £100,000 pa, and the allocation for the current year is £190,000.

The programme has helped to restore confidence in areas which were particularly at risk and where the Town Scheme had failed to achieve an overall upgrading. In Fore Street, containing a number of valuable merchants’ houses, the general enhancement of the area has led to several buildings now being renovated without grant-aid.

As well as the benefits of finding a revitalised use for part of the historic fabric of the town, the programme has highlighted the social benefits of increased availability of affordable housing for rental and has demonstrated the potential of this resource for both private and institutional owners.



One of the timber framed and plastered houses in Orwell Place, Ipswich, which was the subject of the ‘Over the shop’ scheme

With the programme running well and sizeable grant funding, assured, Ipswich Borough Council are now able to concentrate resources where there is greatest need, for example other target areas and individual buildings of merit, and are doing so by means of a promotional campaign. Owners of targeted buildings will also be approached directly.

THE CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE

In 1987 Cambridge City Council began the application of a similar programme, although initially they were motivated more by their need for housing than by a concern for building conservation. The city has a particularly serious housing shortage due to highly-priced owner-occupied housing, a small local authority stock, and a high take-up of the 'right to buy'.

The Cambridge upper floors programme differs from Ipswich Borough Council's in that it incorporates a 'head landlord' scheme. The Council takes a five-year lease of the upper floors after their conversion to housing units and is then responsible for all aspects of management. No management fee is currently charged to the owner, although, as a result of the changes contained in the 1988 Housing Bill, the head landlord role is soon to be taken over by a local Housing Association and the question of a management fee may arise.

The programme initially operated only along one of the radial roads into the city. This consists of two- and three-storey Victorian shop properties with townscape value and extensive potential for increasing housing accommodation, but limited individual architectural merit. The programme was introduced in August 1987 and to date has completed two schemes, with a further 12 in progress. The average grant cost per dwelling was £7500, and the experiment has proved so successful that in spring 1988 it was extended to the entire city.

UNDERUSE OF UPPER FLOORS

Many local authorities would cite underuse of upper floors as the most serious conservation problem in town centres, and need no convincing that a solution is both desirable and urgent. The wider 'Buildings at risk' campaign, also spearheaded by English Heritage, has offered the salutary reminder that historic areas and buildings are as likely to be at risk from the 'negative' threat of neglect as from the 'positive' one of redevelopment. In theory, a building which is only partly vacant should be less at risk than one which is wholly empty, but the reverse may be true where the owner sees no incentive to make full use of the property and yet has no desire to sell.

The successful local authorities have recognised that to convince owners of the positive benefits of full use it is necessary to use completed schemes as examples, both to show what can be done and to illustrate the financial attractions. They have also had to deal sympathetically with owners' fears that subletting will mean an inability to regain possession. Shorthold tenancies now have Government and legislative support and can be applied to upper floor flats: but owners' misunderstandings of tenancy legislation are rife and this deterrent factor should not be underestimated.

Both of the programmes discussed above are remarkable for the townscape improvement achieved in so short a time. By addressing the question of the full use of a building at the same time as its repair, these programmes have demonstrated the cost-effectiveness of conservation, both for the local authority and the property owner. They have also, however, shown that the seemingly intractable problem of underuse may not be primarily a physical problem, nor even financial, but one of attitudes and perceptions which must first be changed before progress can be made.

ANN PETHERICK

Ann Petherick is a planning consultant who has carried out research as part of the English Heritage 'Over the shop' campaign

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

In 1985 the British and French governments invited proposals for building a fixed link across the Channel to join Britain and France. A number of alternative schemes were put forward and the Eurotunnel proposal for a rail tunnel was selected. After the passing of the necessary legislation in Britain and France and the raising of the finance required, construction began: the Tunnel is due to open in 1993.

The Tunnel will run between Folkestone in Kent and Sangatte in the Pas-de-Calais. At each end there will be a terminal with extensive areas of platforms, railway sidings, and associated installations, as well as improvements to local road and railway networks. These works will affect large areas of land – in Britain some 400ha – and this inevitably means that a number of archaeological sites will be affected by the development.

THE TUNNEL AND ARCHAEOLOGY

A significant feature of the Channel Tunnel scheme has been the willingness of Eurotunnel to take steps to limit its impact on the environment. It is one of the first projects to be reviewed under the EC Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment, and Eurotunnel included a preliminary study of the likely archaeological implications alongside a consideration of its effect on other areas, such as wildlife, vegetation, and geology.

General view of the Channel tunnel site at Folkestone, with the geological and archaeological excavation site at Holywell Coombe in the foreground (Canterbury Archaeological Trust)

English Heritage advised that an archaeological programme was needed which would allow sites to be identified at an early stage, their importance to be estimated, and the appropriate level of response to be made. Such an approach reduces the chances of important sites remaining undiscovered until construction begins, and therefore benefits both the archaeological sites and the developers.

Initial assessment identified 42 archaeological sites and monuments, ranging in date from the Neolithic period to the Second World War. A number of these sites were then trial-trenched by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, working under contract for Eurotunnel, to determine their date and character. In addition, some 14km of linear trenches were mechanically excavated by the Trust in order to locate any previously unidentified sites. This work revealed a scatter of archaeological sites, isolated features, and finds of all periods spread across the landscape.

A combined geological and archaeological study is being made jointly with Cambridge University to investigate an important series of Quaternary geological deposits at Holywell Coombe near Folkestone. Another important operation has been the careful recording of three post-medieval buildings (two are listed Grade II) prior to their dismantling and planned re-erection elsewhere.

Construction work on the Tunnel began in 1987. As well as recording known sites, an archaeological watching brief has been maintained on construction operations in order to locate and record any archaeological sites or finds not previously identified. Despite the difficult conditions in which such work must be undertaken, a number of new sites have been found, adding further to our knowledge of the area.

THE RESULTS SO FAR

Relatively little was previously known about the archaeology of the Channel Tunnel area. An Early Bronze Age settlement, well-preserved because it was sealed under hillwash, was located at Holywell Coombe. Finds included an important assemblage of Beaker

pottery. Three ring-ditches, possibly round barrows of the same period, lie adjacent to Holywell Coombe, on the line of the Department of Transport's M20 extension. These features await excavation.

Excavations, jointly funded by Eurotunnel and British Rail, at Dollands Moor near Newington have revealed traces of successive settlements and fields belonging to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Study of this site and of the finds from it, which include a rich assemblage of pottery, animal bones, and a rare Late Iron Age sword, should shed much light on the development of contemporary agriculture and society and on the important question of the contacts between Kent and the Continent in the Late Iron Age.

The Anglo-Saxon period in Kent has many rich pagan Saxon cemeteries, but the associated rural settlements have long proved elusive. The work around Folkestone has now located four such sites. Two of these (one at Dollands Moor) included early Saxon sunken-floored buildings. The other sites are dated to the eighth century AD and to the period just before the Norman Conquest.

Liaison has been established between the English and French archaeological teams working at the two ends of the Tunnel. A large-scale archaeological operation is also under way in France where a much larger area of land – some 900ha – is being affected by the development. Discoveries in France include Palaeolithic remains, Neolithic sites, Bronze Age funerary sites at Fréthun, a Merovingian cemetery, part of a Roman town, and deserted medieval settlements.

THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION

The Channel Tunnel archaeological project is a good example of cooperation between a responsible developer and archaeological interests. The project has been largely successful in ensuring that threatened parts of the archaeological heritage have been protected or properly recorded without disruption to the development. English Heritage contributed significantly to this success by ensuring from the outset that Eurotunnel was aware of its archaeological responsibilities and by advising of the measures required and how to implement them. The Channel Tunnel may provide a model for the integration of archaeological considerations into other major construction projects which prove to be necessary. English Heritage is already involved in discussions about the impact of the proposed high-speed rail link from London to the Tunnel. Our advisory role in 'developer-funded' archaeology is likely to become increasingly significant in the years ahead.

ROGER THOMAS

ARCHAEOLOGY AND PLANNING

English Heritage's first duty under the National Heritage Act 1983 is 'to secure the preservation of ancient monuments situated in England'. It is therefore our policy in the first instance to seek to preserve archaeological remains *in situ* rather than to excavate them. As a result, we have in recent years been supporting the development throughout England of Sites and Monuments Records to help planning authorities to identify areas of archaeological sensitivity. We have also been actively encouraging authorities to take adequate account of sensitive sites before planning decisions are reached with a view to either preventing development or securing the least damaging schemes. In our view, local planning authorities should insist on making decisions on development proposals affecting archaeological sites from a position of knowledge. They are empowered to require additional archaeological information to be supplied as part of an application. Where an archaeological constraint is identified, the onus should be on the applicant, in consultation with the local planning authority, to demonstrate how the archaeology will be accommodated within the development scheme. The nature of the accommodation will

depend upon the character, extent, and importance of the archaeological site affected, and the details of the development proposals.

There will be occasions when the survival of archaeological remains will be outweighed by other considerations and, in those circumstances, 'preservation by record' (ie excavation and recording) has to be considered. In these cases we consider it reasonable in the first instance to look to the developer, whether public or private, to meet the cost of archaeological constraints as they do for landscaping and other environmental purposes. This is increasingly happening in all parts of the country, to the extent that English Heritage now has a role as the funders of last resort when all possibilities for saving the site or attracting excavation funds from elsewhere have been exhausted.

The nature of the record we consider it is legitimate to ask developers to fund has recently been defined for the British Property Federation: it should be the excavation and processing necessary to prepare the excavation archive for preservation in a usable form, and the production of a synthesis of that for publication. More detailed analysis and comparative studies, not essential to the interpretation of the site, are not a legitimate cost to the developer. In special cases, by prior agreement, English Heritage will meet these costs to enable important material to be published.

GEOFFREY WAINWRIGHT

BOOK REVIEWS

How old is *your house?* by Pamela Cunnington. Published by A and C Black, price £9.95.

This is the second edition of an excellent handbook for owners, aimed at people who own small or middling houses with concealed interest or quirks of arrangement and appearance. There are three chapters on the historical development of this type of house and a chapter on inns, which make up about half the book, and a further four chapters which point out how this history might have been obscured over the centuries and identify most of the main types of datable feature or the 'false friends' resulting from restoration. Three case studies are appended along with a sensible short glossary. An owner who has thoroughly absorbed not only the information, but also the sympathy for earlier patterns of living which inform this book, would be a useful convert to the cause of conservation.

The book is abundantly illustrated with line drawings and photographs, but it is rather arbitrarily designed and crowded. It seems a pity not to include any cutaways or axonometrics, which are easier for many lay people to understand than plans; and the colour photographs, which should be attractive, are in some cases poorly reproduced. An owner with a very large mortgage might object to paying nearly £10 for this level of production. The first edition had better layout and nearly all the same photographs, equally informative, in black and white.

While the cheerful format may attract readers who did not buy the first edition, they will not find it has all been corrected. There is a lament about the small number of 'weavers' houses' in Yorkshire protected by listing; many *are* now. It is very unfortunate that the Department of the Environment is given an address in Savile Row, while English Heritage (here called HBMC) is described purely in its grant-giving role, which could be a source of some confusion. It is misleading to say that Grade II buildings are of 'regional importance'. They are of special interest, which need not be limited to their contribution to a region.

The author naturally prefers problem buildings, and these tend to be older than most people's houses; the title should perhaps be 'Have you got a really old house?' Those living in Victorian houses, and even in those of the eighteenth century, would be advised to look elsewhere. When trying to speak of the country as a whole, it is hard to be usefully precise, or even usefully approximate, about dates and styles. Reference is made to the highland and lowland zones (without a map) and to the time lag between them, but once

an owner has located a feature of interest from this book, he or she will need a regional study and will be lucky to find one: these are what we need now.

DAVID BROCK

Converting old buildings, by Alan Johnson. Published by David and Charles, 1988.

Alan Johnson's book comes hard on the heels of the similar volume by Pamela Cunnington (reviewed in *Conserv Bull,* No 5). Mr Johnson has crammed a great deal into 200 pages, but some may find the chapters preceding the examples rather a lengthy and involved introduction to the specific theme of converting redundant buildings.

Do not be misled by the references in the foreword to DIY activities. This is not a book for the home-handyman looking for a new challenge without professional help. Nor is the book aimed exclusively at the aspiring owner-occupier looking for something different. It demonstrates that, where buildings are large enough, economies of scale can result in housing of relatively low-cost – low enough to appeal to housing associations and co-operatives. Chapter 1 describes these organisations in some detail but without indicating their relevance to conversion activity. This only becomes clear later.

Chapter 2 sets out the complexities of historic buildings legislation and grants. Unfortunately, its dire warnings of compulsory purchase, fines, and imprisonment create an undue impression of a bureaucratic minefield to be added to all the other hazards of embarking on conversion schemes. There is then a detailed description of historic building construction followed by a chapter on the kinds of defects liable to be found in older buildings.

The specific theme of the book is then addressed with chapters devoted to farm buildings, churches and chapels, schools, industrial buildings, and those associated with public services, in particular railway stations. Each chapter contains several studies with photographs and plans along with an account of the historic context and functions for which each type of building was originally designed.

Each of these types of building lends itself to different forms of conversion, but the emphasis in the book is on residential use, all of which reflects to a greater or lesser degree the buildings' original function. Some of the examples described are excellent – at Granby House, for example, in the heart of Manchester, finance from a building society was topped up with urban development grant so as to provide housing for sale. This kind of example is invaluable for those seeking to save such buildings. Careful study of the cases discussed reveals that a combination of imagination, understanding, and ingenuity is required on the part of all those handling conversion schemes, and this includes those responsible for administering the building regulations and fire requirements.

The book ends with examples of conversions to mixed-use accommodation. It is only at this point in the text that economic factors are touched on and the book ends on the rather depressing implication that the economic viability of schemes is much less assured if they are located outside the London region. It would surely have been possible to include examples of successful mixed-use conversion from the provinces.

Some of the references in the book to English Heritage's own grant-giving and listed building procedures are incorrect, but despite this, the book deserves to reach a wide audience. It is not just for the home-owner and his architect: it can provide inspiration for local planners, housing associations, building societies, and many others. At the same time, the publisher's suggestion that this is an all-embracing source of reference does seem to overstate its practical relevance. No book of this size and ranging over such a vast field can be anything other than an introduction to the subject. But, as introductions go, it is a good one.

BRIAN HENNESSY

REVIEW OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS LIST

After almost 20 years' fieldwork, the Historic Buildings Resurvey is complete, and the remaining 'greenback' volumes will be issued by the Department of the Environment over the coming months. Since the resurvey programme started, there have been considerable advances in our knowledge of certain building types and the list entries themselves have thus become much better informed and more comprehensive. With this in mind, and after discussions with the Department of the Environment, a review of the least satisfactory list volumes is due to start within the next few weeks. Applications from suitably qualified people who wish to be commissioned as consultant fieldworkers were invited through press advertisements during January.

This list review is intended to bring older lists up to the standard of those currently being issued; it is not a means to introduce a substantially updated new list. The opportunity will however be taken to index at source some of the buildings and their descriptions on the new lists, in anticipation of computerisation, and to collect data for the 'Buildings at risk' initiative. Work will be carried out on a volume-by-volume basis across the country as necessary. So that the process can go ahead as quickly and efficiently as possible, the local authorities concerned will be asked to send in details of all the buildings which they consider to be potentially worthy of listing within the review area. This information will then be passed to those in the field. Local authorities will also be asked to nominate a liaison officer to maintain close contact with the fieldworker and the historic buildings inspector from English Heritage, whose task will be to see that a consistent standard is maintained.

A number of local authorities are already undertaking reviews at their own expense. Work is complete in Lincoln, and is under way in Brentwood, Boston (Lines), and areas within Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Devon. Other authorities are discussing part-funded programmes with English Heritage. This is welcome where lists are seriously deficient, as the amount of funds available centrally for list reviews is too small to cover all deserving cases. Part-funding gives the local authority concerned a much greater level of involvement, and it is hoped that others will come forward with suggestions for such schemes.

PETER WHITE

PRACTICAL BUILDING CONSERVATION

The final two volumes of the five-volume set of English Heritage Technical Hand-books entitled *Practical building conservation,* and written by John and Nicola Ashurst of the Research and Technical Advisory Service, have now been published. Volume 4, dealing with metals, covers the subjects of corrosion, the treatment of cast-iron, traditional copper roofing, outdoor bronze sculpture, lead sheet roofing, and lead and zinc sculpture. Volume 5, on wood, glass, and resins, analyses the problems of fungal and insect treatments and distortion of timber, deals with the techniques of conservation of historic glass (including problems of cleaning, paint-loss, vandalism, and variable climatic conditions), and incorporates a select bibliography to all five volumes in the series.

Individual volumes are available for £17.45, and the full set for £68.50 from English Heritage, Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, LONDON W1X 2HE (01-734-6010 ext 401).

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS LISTS

Individual county lists of scheduled ancient monuments have been updated and checked as part of the preparation for the Monuments Protection Programme. More than half the county lists, corrected with all additions up to 31 December 1987, are now published and available. It is intended that all counties' lists will be ready by the end of March 1989. Each

individual list costs £2.50, to include postage and packing, and is available from English Heritage, Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE (01-734-6010 ext 401).

RECORDING THE INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

English Heritage is organising an international conference under the auspices of the Council of Europe to be held in Durham from 10–14 April 1989. Delegates, drawn from across western Europe, will discuss various topics within the conference theme to formulate resolutions for the Council of Ministers. For details of the conference, contact Kate Emms or Peter White, Room 202, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE (01-734-6010 ext 365).

TIM BIDWELL

Tim Bidwell, head of London Division's Works Branch, died on Sunday 15 January at the age of 60. After joining the LCC in 1959 he was involved with many of the council's historic buildings, including the seventeenth century York Water gate; Chambers' Manresa House, Roehampton; Fowler's Covent Garden Market building; and the Shaftesbury Memorial in Piccadilly Circus. Since joining English Heritage in 1986, Tim's team has continued to provide professional advice for the protection of historic buildings in London, including the restoration of a unique seventeenth-century terrace of houses at Newington Green and Combe Cliffe Conservatory at the Horniman Museum. Tim was a member of the BSI steering committee for the cleaning and surface repair of buildings, and he lectured on his treasured subject of brickwork both at home and abroad. A man of great generosity, humour, and sensitivity, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

A European symposium under the above title will be held in Bologna, Italy, from 12–16 June 1989. It will provide a forum for examining the role of science and technology in the protection, conservation, and restoration of the cultural heritage of Europe, including historic sites, buildings and monuments, indoor and museum environments. It is intended that particular attention should be given to environmental factors – the effects of pollution, natural hazards, urbanisation, and tourism. For further information please contact Dr A Sors, Commission of the European Communities (XII/E), 200 rue de la Loi, 1049 Bruxelles, Belgium, or Dr.ssa C Sabbioni, Istituto FISBAT-CNR, via de' Castagnoli 1, 40126 Bologna, Italy.

ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION OFFICERS, DURHAM CONFERENCE

The Association will be holding its annual conference and general meeting from 5–9 April 1989 at Hatfield College, University of Durham. The theme will be 'Communicating conservation', and the lectures, discussions, workshops, and tours will stress the value of, as well as give practical advice on, the means of getting the conservation message across to developers, councillors, to children, and the public. Specialists in a variety of different media will be running workshops aimed at helping those who attend the conference to make best use of modern methods of cornmunication. Costs for attendance at the full conference will be in the region of £150, but Friday 7 April will be a day-school open to anyone to attend at a special fee of £18.95. Final details will be available at the end of January from Ian Ayris, Conservation Section, Civic Centre, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne NEI 8PH.

POLICY REVIEW OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION – THE MINISTER'S DECISIONS

Mrs Virginia Bottomley, the Minister with heritage responsibilities at the Department of the Environment, has written to the Chairman of English Heritage giving the Government's decisions on the major issues of principle raised in the review study – namely, the possibility of a merger between English Heritage and the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments in England, and the suggestion that consideration should be given to the transfer of some functions from English Heritage to the Royal Commission. It is clear that very thorough consideration has been given to the difficult issues raised. The Minister is correct in saying that we are disappointed that the opportunity has not been taken to move towards a merger of the two organisations. However, we are glad the decisions have been announced and will be delighted to explore ways of even closer working with the Royal Commission. The Minister's decisions are given below.

'The final Review Report is now being written up by officials. This will take perhaps a couple of months, because it has to cover Scotland and Wales as well. I wished to write to you meantime about the major issues of principle – the possibility of merger between the Royal Commission and English Heritage, and the suggestion in the consultancy study that consideration should be given to the transfer of some functions from English Heritage to the Royal Commission.

Merger

'As you know, the conclusion from the study was that the Royal Commission should be retained as a separate body, responsible for maintaining the national archive of heritage information. We have carefully considered the case which English Heritage put for full integration. We feel on balance we are persuaded that the Royal Commission should continue as a separate body.

Transfer of Functions: Sites and Monuments Records

'Our conclusion on this is that the Royal Commission should in future be recognised as the lead national body for oversight of the system of local Sites and Monuments Records. In exercising this responsibility, they must liaise with you, and take into account English Heritage's interest in SMRs as an input to the Monument Protection Programme and to local decision-making and conservation generally.

The basic funding of SMRs is, and should remain, local. We accept, however, that both the Royal Commission and English Heritage should continue to have discretion to make contributions to the SMRs, for developments relevant to either of your national functions. Any such contributions should come, as at present, from your individual budgets. So the new definition of lead responsibility does not in itself involve any transfer of existing resource provision between you and the Royal Commission.

Advice to the Department on Scheduling and Listing

'As we see it, the main purpose of listing and scheduling is to identify buildings and monuments which should be given special consideration in the planning and development control process. Listing and scheduling are therefore linked to considerations of conservation rather than record, and for that reason we conclude that it is more appropriate for English Heritage to continue to provide advice to us on these issues.

In doing so, you should make effective use of the Royal Commission's expertise in the architectural and historic qualities of buildings and monuments. For example, I believe that the Royal Commission should be formally represented on the Steering Group for the Monument Protection Programme.

Provided the Royal Commission's input to advice on listing and scheduling is secured in this way, we take the view that the duty placed on the Commission in 1908 to make its own direct recommendations to Government on buildings 'worthy of preservation' should be regarded as overtaken by the development of the statutory framework of listing and scheduling, and dropped from its responsibilities.

Funding of Rescue Archaeology

'I was impressed by the policy and practical arguments you advanced for the same agency handling all aspects of archaeology casework – scheduled monument consent, negotiations with developers and rescue archaeology if that proves to be necessary. Accordingly we believe that it is best for English Heritage to continue to deal with rescue archaeology.

Again, we feel that the Royal Commission's expertise must be fed into the running of the rescue archaeology programme – for example in the definition of priorities and criteria. I would ask you to ensure that this is achieved.

Liaison Between English Heritage and the Royal Commission

'Beyond the contact on the specific issues to which I have referred, there are many areas where the Royal Commission needs to take into account English Heritage's concerns and needs, and vice versa. There is contact at working level between the staff of the two organisations. I think you will agree there should also be some system of periodic contact and closer working at a higher level. This will become all the more important when the two organisations no longer share the same building. I know that I can look to you and to Charles Thomas (Acting Chairman, RCHME) to ensure that this happens.'