Conservation Bulletin, Issue 8, June 1989

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

BRITAIN'S 'WORLD' HERITAGE

The UNESCO General Conference in 1972 adopted the 'Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage' with the aim of promoting cooperation among all nations to protect the world's most significant remains of past civilisations as well as the most moving areas of natural beauty. This is achieved first by the preparation of a list of those sites and monuments in countries which are signatories to the Convention, which are considered to be of such exceptional importance that protecting them is a matter for mankind as a whole. In addition, the Convention created a 'World Heritage Fund', which would channel international support for the conservation of the cultural or natural sites contained in the list, and a supplementary list of sites considered to be under particular threat, 'World Heritage in Danger'.

Although the United Kingdom is no longer a member of UNESCO, it is one of 102 countries which had signed the Convention by June 1988, and there are currently 14 UK Sites and Monuments (ten of them in England) inscribed on the World Heritage List. The sites chosen and accepted for the list span a considerable range: they include the prehistoric complexes of Stonehenge and Avebury and their associated monuments, the Roman military zone of Hadrian's Wall, Durham Castle and Cathedral, eighteenth-century Bath, and the early industrial sites clustered round the Ironbridge Gorge. These have joined such sites as the Pyramids of Memphis, Leptis Magna, Macchu Picchu, and the historic centres of Rome and Florence on the World Heritage List.

Ironbridge Gorge: the iron bridge across the River Severn

Under the Convention, the rules for selection of suitable sites are strict. The 'cultural heritage' is broadly defined as monuments, architectural works, works of monumental sculpture or painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings, and combinations of features which are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art, or science. It can also include groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity, or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding universal value from the point of view of history, art, or

science; ‘sites’, defined as works of man or the combined works of nature and of man; or ‘areas’ – including archaeological sites – which are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological, or anthropological points of view.
A ‘natural’ site must consist of an example of a state of evolution on earth, contain the natural habitats of endangered animals, or present a scene of exceptional beauty, spectacular views, or large concentrations of animals.
For a monument, group of buildings, or a site to be included in the World Heritage List, it must be considered to be of outstanding universal value under one or more of the following criteria. Each property should:
represent a unique artistic or aesthetic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; or
have exerted considerable influence, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on subsequent developments in architecture, monumental sculpture, garden and landscape design, related arts, or human settlement; or
be unique, extremely rare, or of great antiquity, or
be among the most characteristic examples of a type of structure, the type representing an important cultural, social, artistic, scientific, technological or industrial development; or
be a characteristic example of a significant traditional-style of architecture, method of construction, or human settlement, that is fragile by nature or has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible socio-cultural or economic change; or
be most importantly associated with ideas or beliefs, with events, or with persons, of outstanding historical importance or significance.
In every case, consideration must be given to the state of preservation of the property – it must be a good example of its type and period – and in addition it should be authentic in design, materials, workmanship, and setting. This applies not only to its original form and design, but also to all later modifications which themselves may be of artistic or historic value.
English Heritage has been involved in the selection of UK sites for submission through its membership of a DoE committee, and subsequently in preparing the documentation for the English and Welsh ‘cultural’ properties which now form part of the List. Once Ministers have agreed which sites are to be submitted, a dossier is prepared, which outlines not only its location and importance, but also details as to ownership, legal status, state of preservation, plans for conservation, and the overall justification for its inclusion within the List. Maps, photographs, and slides accompany the text, and these must delineate an actual area of land to be covered by the World Heritage designation. After signing by the Minister, the dossier is sent to Paris and laid before the World Heritage Committee. It is then evaluated by ICOMOS, who make a recommendation as to how far the site fulfils the necessary criteria. Final decisions on whether a nomination should be accepted, rejected, or deferred for amendment or further consideration are made by the UNESCO committee. The whole process, from initial selection to formal adoption, may take two years.

The stables at Studley Royal Park, North Yorkshire

It is not all, by any means, plain sailing. Some of the British sites for which documentation has been prepared have so far failed to gain the Committee’s acceptance. One of the more important submissions, the Lake District National Park, was originally prepared as a ‘natural’ site, but was subsequently identified as meeting some of the ‘cultural’ criteria. Work is still in progress on its resubmission, and it is now being seen as a test case for natural sites of this type, where man’s impact and the area’s inspirational effect on artistic

and literary achievement has been considerable. The Committee are still deliberating on what the criteria should be for acceptance of this kind.

The UK World Heritage sites:
City of Bath
Blenheim Palace
Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey, and St Martin's Church
Durham Cathedral and Castle
Fountains Abbey and St Mary's, Studley Royal
Giants' Causeway and Causeway Coast, Northern Ireland
The Castles and Town Walls of Edward I in Gwynedd
Hadrian's Wall military zone
Henderson Island, South Pacific Ocean
Ironbridge Gorge
St Kilda
Stonehenge, Avebury, and associated sites
Tower of London
Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey

After its inclusion on the list, a site will be periodically inspected by UNESCO representatives to ensure that adequate measures are being taken by the responsible authorities concerned to ensure its continued well-being. Under Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention, each signatory State pledges 'to do all it can and to the utmost of its resources' to ensure the identification, protection, conversation, presentation, and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated… on its territory. Article 5 goes on to commit States to the endeavour to adopt a general policy which aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community and to integrate the protection of that heritage into comprehensive planning programmes. Although the framework of legislation which affords protection to sites and monuments of national importance has been in place for some time within the United Kingdom, it is only recently, with the acceptance of British sites on the World Heritage List, that they have been accorded any formal status as sites of world importance. Recognition by UNESCO of this enhanced status does not currently entail any additional protection for such sites, other than the existing statutory provisions relating to development control and the safeguards already in place in respect of the built and natural heritage. Yet the fact that controversial developments have in recent months been planned both in Durham City and at Avebury has forced local authorities to examine the status of these sites very carefully. Their designation is an additional, material factor to be taken into account in planning decisions, whether by the local authorities concerned or by the Secretary of State. In recognising the special status which needs to be accorded to Avebury, English Heritage has decided to submit a master plan for the site's management and will consult widely in setting up and financing this study, in co-operation with the local authorities, the National Trust, and others. It is hoped that this initiative will act as an exemplar for the treatment of other World Heritage sites in Britain.
The definition of different levels of importance – local, national, or international – may seem to some to be an arbitrary exercise. Alternatively, at best, it may be merely to pile further honours or greater recognition on already familiar and well-respected landmarks of achievement. The benefits, however, of recognition of some of our most prestigious sites in terms of their international value lies in the increasing awareness that we are part of a wider heritage, on the same scale as our growing concern for the well-being of the world as a whole. It must be a matter of considerable pride that we can rank some of our finest buildings, sites, and monuments on an internationally-accepted global scale of importance.

STEPHEN JOHNSON

EDITORIAL

ENGLISH HERITAGE MISSION STATEMENT

Like many another non-departmental public body or quango, English Heritage has adopted as part of its management system a formal planning process structured around an annual plan which looks 2–3 years back and 3–5 years forward. The plan is the blueprint for implementing in the medium term specific programmes of action designed within an agreed strategy. Plans are built 'bottom up' by the individual managers responsible for programmes and reviewed 'top down' by Commissioners and senior management to ensure that there is a continuing match between the strategy of the organisation, the aspirations of managers, and the resources available.

The practice of planning in this way, rather than the production of a comprehensive document, is the basic management discipline. However, the plan itself is valuable within an organisation and, in the case of a quango, within its sponsoring department, where it is assessed as a demonstration of the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation as a whole. Government departments, or at least the Department of the Environment, devote much effort to exhorting quangos to practice good corporate planning.

One thing which is not stressed in this guidance, but which is important to most organisations which take their planning and strategy formation seriously, is the formulation of a statement of the mission and aims of the organisation. This is an exercise which needs to be done every 5–7 years, and which should engage the commitment of all the senior management. English Heritage has recently, as part of its 1989 planning cycle, gone through the procedure.

What is a mission statement? The name has overtones of management jargon and self-importance which can cause discomfort in those who are unfamiliar with the concept. But it is a useful tool for focusing attention on the future, and, if real commitment is created, it can be the rallying cry for an organisation otherwise fragmented by diverse experience or activity.

Very simply, an organisation's mission statement describes ideally in less than 30 words – the nature and concept of the future business. Together with a list of supporting aims, it establishes common goals for people within the organisation and states the major philosophical premises within which strategy and plans can be developed. It is always very general and frequently sounds like an affirmation of motherhood and 'apple pie' or, if not platitudinous, is so aspirational that it can seem to have little relationship to real life. For example, the mission of the major Japanese electrical goods manufacturer, Matsushita, is 'to serve the foundation of man's happiness by making man's life affluent with an inexpensive and inexhaustible supply of life's necessities'.

Compared to this, the English Heritage statement is relatively concrete, precise and, given the wide range of our activities, comprehensive.

The mission of English Heritage is to bring about the long-term conservation and widespread understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations, using expert advice, education, example, persuasion, intervention, and financial support.

To do this, we are committed to:

working with the public, private, and voluntary sectors to increase resources for and commitment to conserving the historic environment

ensuring the flexible and responsible use of resources, taking account of long-term conservation priorities

securing the best possible protection, care, and use of the historic environment, and ensuring recording in cases of unavoidable loss
establishing high standards based on our own research and practical experience, and that of others, and upholding those standards in our judgements and in the example we give
giving independent, authoritative information, advice, and assistance reflecting the standards we have set
helping people to enjoy and understand the historic environment, and to see the need to protect it
being open, responsive, and fair in all our dealings
attracting and keeping the best staff for the job and providing appropriate training and development to promote their effectiveness and job satisfaction
managing our resources effectively, efficiently, and economically.

JENNIFER A PAGE

Chief Executive

THE WATER HERITAGE

IS PRIVATISATION A THREAT OR AN OPPORTUNITY?

How far the potential major organisational and ownership changes in the water industry could affect the conservation of their historic buildings and plant is a matter which should be of considerable concern to the public bodies responsible for the historic environment. A study published in 1987' identified 80 locations where one or more steam, gas, diesel, or water-powered installations were then surviving; considerably more listed buildings and structures survive without their plant. These cover a wide spectrum of activity, including land-drainage, water-supply, and sewage.

Mine drainage, however, was the catalyst which led to the first successful application of powered pumping – the earliest surviving steam pump in England is the Newcomen-type mine drainage pump at Elsecar in Yorkshire, dating from 1795 – and in the colliery districts particularly, drainage of the mines and the supply of water for the population became mutually-supporting activities. This initial private development of industrial pumping meant that the supply of water and the disposal of sewage were never entirely publicly-run enterprises. Alongside the specially constituted bodies like the Metropolitan Water Board in London or the Manchester Corporation Water Department, there were always large supply companies like the South Staffordshire Water Company, which supplied Birmingham, or the Newcastle and Gateshead, supplying much of the Tyneside conurbation.

Lilleshall House, Kempton, now re-equipped with electric pumps

Elkesley Pumping Station: now demolished and the plant scrapped

Any catalogue of preservation activities shows that the private companies had already set a cracking pace in conserving their heritage before the 1970s. Ryhope (Tyne and Wear), Blagdon (Avon), Maplebrook (Staffs), and Brindley Bank (Staffs) are examples of major engines preserved *in situ* while the remainder of the site was kept in use for public water supply. These companies continue to survive, although as they change from private statutory companies into publicly-quoted ones, with a much wider ownership of shares,

there must be concern about the greater emphasis that they are likely to place on profit generation at the expensive of conservation.

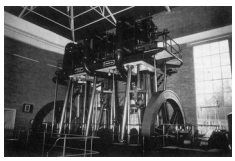
Other pumping plant never passed from local authority hands on the setting up of the regional water authorities; at Papplewick (Notts), for example, the former local authority owners provided for the preservation not only of the plant, but also of the impressive 'municipal park' style surroundings as well.

The regional water authorities, constituted by the Water Act 1973, are the most recent arrivals on the scene. Although the Act gives them the power to promote conservation in the wide sense, from the beginning some Authorities have been more concerned than others to preserve the relics of their own industry. A significant loss during the mid-1970s was the demolition, after a public enquiry, of the listed Elkesley Pumping Station (Notts) by the newly-created Anglian Water Authority. Attitudes have now changed: AWA and almost all of its counterparts have become active in assisting preservation.

Why is pumping plant so important? It is a microcosm of the development of prime-movers: waterwheels and turbines, reciprocating steam engines, steam turbines, gas and diesel engines, and electric motors of various types, driving a variety of pumping gear. Buildings are often to a very high standard of architecture and finish, being seen as flagships by their builders and owners. Pumping plant, which usually runs slowly with a constant load and a high level of supervision and maintenance tends to remain use for a long time, with new equipment added rather than replacing the old because of the need to maintain supply, and to fit in with runs of mains and fixed installations such as settling tanks. At the same time, pumping stations have in the past tended to be located in areas where there was no major pressure on land availability. So the survival rate of historically-interesting buildings and equipment is very high.

There are obvious problems for water authorities trying to integrate the needs for continued operation of pumping sites with their attempts to preserve outdated plant *in situ.* These include their concern to run efficiently, to meet statutory constraints, and to turn all available landholdings to good account. On occasion, day-to-day management of the historic plant and fabric may be assigned to a Trust formed for that purpose, but many such Trusts are hard pushed to generate enough income to maintain ordinary structures, let alone the prestigious, highly-finished buildings in which they find themselves. A number of these groups have had to consider strategies for raising sufficient funds which may compromise the very historic buildings or machinery they seek to preserve. Groups wishing to maintain a whole water supply or sewage treatment complex, perhaps comprising acres of ground with settling tanks, dams, and other large structures, as well as pumping houses and plant, are particularly vulnerable.

However, the threat to historic pumping sites is now much greater than it has been in the past. Increasing pressure on land values, especially in urban areas, is leading to much closer assessment of sites for redevelopment potential. Much of the Victorian infrastructure of water-supply and sewage collection is now coming to the end of its useful life, needing wholesale replacement, and water authorities are taking the opportunity to relocate pumping plant at new sites. Increasing labour costs coupled with the de-manning of sites, developing skill shortages for the maintenance and operation of some older machinery, and, in some cases, declining enthusiasm among owners for preserving historic relics are reducing the scope for low-key preservation operations on a care and maintenance basis. At the same time, neither scheduled monument nor listed building controls provide a totally satisfactory basis for controlling works to historic plant; and the financial resources available to English Heritage, the Science Museum, and local authorities – the main grant-aiding bodies involved – are limited and not always sufficiently flexible in application.



Maple Brook Pumping Station, Chorley: triple-expansion engine moth-balled alongside new electric pump

If we are to ensure the long-term survival of at least the most important pumping stations, then it is essential that we know what exists at the moment. English Heritage is therefore reviewing its database of surviving buildings and plant, and this will be available to local planning authorities and other interested parties soon. This will include information about statutory protection, original function, current ownership and administration, and historic importance; and it will include electric plant and post-1939 structures and machines where appropriate. Where a threat exists to historic pumping plant, there are a number of ways in which it can be met.

RECORDING BEFORE DEMOLITION

This is obviously only appropriate where absolutely unavoidable. In addition to conventional recording through plans, sections, and still photographs, the pumping plant, like any other industrial complex, should if possible be recorded while working, using video or film with appropriate sound recording, while at the same time the opportunity should be taken to record the recollections of any surviving operators of the plant and to recover documentary evidence from the site.

NEW USES

There are a number of instances where successful new uses have been found for pumping houses, despite difficulties presented by their situation and size. These have often been combined with moth-balling of historic plant; in other cases, the plant has been removed, either to another museum site or to scrap. At the Thames Water Authority site at Kempton, the massive 1929 triple-expansion engines and 1930 steam-turbine plant have been moth-balled *in situ,* while the earlier Lilleshall triples were cleared out of their engine house to be replaced by electric pumps. At Maplebrook, Walsall, the 1915 triple-expansion engine survives adjacent to later electric pumps. More comprehensive reuse includes the conversion of one Midlands pumping station to housing and of a floodwater pumping station in the London Docklands to accommodation for musical rehearsals.

WORKING MUSEUMS

Where the historic importance of a site warrants it, it may be appropriate to consider preservation as a working museum. Whether this can be achieved successfully is, however, critically dependent on adequate funding, reasonable security of tenure, a skilled as well as an enthusiastic workforce which will probably have to rely heavily on volunteers, and a competent management with a coherent museum philosophy and capable of attracting the public as well as operating machinery. The scale of such a museum can vary dramatically. At one end is the Westonzoyland (Somerset) drainage site: a simple single engine with associated boiler plant of a rural type often ignored. It is now operated by a Trust on a relatively low-key (and low-cost) basis. Papplewick is a good example of a single-period site, designed, constructed, and landscaped to a very high standard as a unity and now operated as a museum. The pumping station at Kew Bridge represents a large multiperiod site, with historic steam, diesel, and electric plant, and a number of engines moved there for preservation from elsewhere. The sewage-pumping station in Norwich, now being preserved by the local authority as a museum, represents a range of later technology now of historic interest. The Clay Mills site has survived, following a period

of moth-balling by the regional water authority, to be transferred to a Trust for opening as a museum. English Heritage has been involved in all of these sites through consideration of Scheduled Monument or Listed Building Consent and has offered some grant-aid for the repair of buildings. The Science Museum has similarly grant-aided the removal and repair of plant in some cases.

Kew Bridge Pumping Station, Brentford: 1867 standpipe tower, recently repaired with grant-aid from English Heritage (Kew Bridge Engines Trust)

Regrettably, there is likely to be a steady erosion of historic pumping plant and buildings in the future; but there is plenty of scope for reducing its impact through preservation, re-use, or in the worst cases at least recording of what is to be lost. At the same time, it is reassuring that new pumping stations, often to a high architectural standard, are still being created: the recent pumping station by John Outram for the London Docklands Development Corporation is a distinguished successor to a long tradition.

OLIVER PEARCEY and PETER WHITE

The water heritage, published by the Water Authority Association, 1987.

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY FUNDING 1989/90

As from March 1989 a rolling programme for rescue archaeology projects has been in operation. This has removed the need for an annual round of applications, so that for 1989/90 organisations were simply invited to confirm costings for projects already in the programme. Applications for new projects will be considered throughout the year in the light of uncommitted funds, the balance of the current programme, and views on future priorities.

At the beginning of April, 121 projects were being funded at a total cost of £3.61M. This leaves £1.97M for allocation to new projects in the course of the year: a process which has already begun. The majority of the 121 projects (89) are post-excavation programmes to publish the results of work already undertaken. These programmes are currently concentrated on historic cities, such as London, Lincoln, Colchester, Chelmsford, Leicester, Ipswich, Derby, Newark, York, Chester, and Carlisle, and take up £2.88M of the £3.61M assigned to projects at the end of March. Rural projects in the post-excavation programme include those of prehistoric date in wetland environments at The Stumble (Essex), Etton (Cambridgeshire), and West Row Fen (Suffolk); settlements excavated in advance of building operations at Lismore Fields, Buxton (Derbyshire), and Reawla and Trethellan Farm (Cornwall); and the major hillfort project at Danebury (Hampshire). Those of Roman date include the military sites at Rocester (Staffordshire), Pakenham (Suffolk), and Castleford (West Yorkshire); the *vicus* at Lancaster; and the Roman town of Cirencester. Major projects for the later medieval period are Grove Priory (Bedfordshire), Burton Dassett (Warwickshire), Thornholm Priory (North Yorkshire), and Beverley Dominican Priory (Humberside).

Of the 15 excavation projects currently in the programme, 9 are concerned with multidisciplinary investigations of landscapes through time in environments which vary from the wetlands of East Anglia (Flag Fen and Fen Edge Survey) to the river valleys of north and mid England (West Heslerton, Raunds, and Thornhill Farm, Fairford) and the gravels of the Thames Estuary (Chigborough). Single site investigations are confined to those of particular interest – the Palaeolithic site at Boxgrove (West Sussex), the Roman

fort and *vicus* at Ribchester (Lancashire), and the medieval hospital at Brough St Giles (North Yorkshire).

New projects during 1989/90 will be funded from the £1.8M which is held in reserve for that purpose. Broad themes for the next five years will be the establishment of projects to investigate the wasting wetlands in north England, the preparation of urban surveys where appropriate so that due emphasis may be given to the conservation of sites as well as their recording, and the establishment of projects to design management strategies for the historic features in the countryside, as well as to record those where destruction cannot be averted. These themes will be developed in conjunction with others and integrated to form a coherent strategy for the 1990s.

GEOFFREY WAINWRIGHT

GRANTS OFFERED BY ENGLISH.HERITAGE APRIL 1988–MARCH 1989

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Cost *Section 3A*	Number	(£000)
New offers (secular)	177	6057
Increased offers (secular)	89	867
New offers (churches)	319	4722
Increased offers (churches)	199	1699
TOTAL	784	13345

Cost *Acquisition (Section 5B)*	Number	(£000)
New offers	6	72
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	6	72

The number and value of offers made in the year were lower than last, but not significantly so. The last four months of the year saw grants offered to the parish church at **Walpole St Peter** (Norfolk; £17,000), described by CliftonTaylor as ‘probably the finest village church in England’, and to the second phase of repairs to the stables at **Wimpole Hall** (Cambridgeshire; £66,000). These are being converted by the National Trust as a visitor centre serving the Hall itself and the rare breeds farm. An offer of £58,000 has been made towards roof repairs at **Melton Constable Hall** in Norfolk, a fine but little-known house built in the late 1660s.

HISTORIC AREAS

Cost *Section 10*	Number	(£000)
New offers	400	3766
Increased offers	116	510
TOTAL	516	4276

We offered slightly more than last year, both in numbers of grants and in value, but the increase was not as much as inflation and demand continues to be high. A faster take-up of offers also meant that we exceeded our original expenditure budget.

Some notable major grants were offered in the last period, among them being £200,000 to the **Square Chapel, Halifax**, £113,000 for **11–15 Fye Bridge Street, Norwich**, and £75,000 for **3/3B Cork Street, Frome**. All are important buildings in their respective towns, but all had fallen into decay for different reasons. Our assistance will help to repair them and safeguard their future. In addition, a further grant of £200,000 has been offered to North Tyneside Borough Council for additional canopy repairs and the restoration of the main station buildings at **Tynemouth Railway Station**. The total grant to this project is now £475,000.

LONDON

Cost *Section 3A*	Number	(£000)
New offers (secular)	14	853
Increased offers (secular)	9	168
New offers (churches)	17	563
Increased offers (churches)	25	161
TOTAL	65	1745

Cost *London grants*	Number	(£000)
New offers	126	443
Increased offers	19	54
TOTAL	145	497

Cost *Section 10*	Number	(£000)
New offers	67	733
Increased offers	14	107
TOTAL	81	840

Cost *Town schemes*	Number	(£000)
New offers	9	32
Increased offers	0	0
TOTAL	9	32

In the last four months of the year, our most notable grant in London has been £100,000 for the first stage of repair of the **House Mill, East Ham**, a remarkable late eighteenth-century timber-framed building which is the largest tide mill in the country. For long empty and at risk, it is to become a part of the Passmore Edwards Museum. We have also made two large grants to churches: £113,000 for **Mitcham Parish Church**, where dry rot has ravaged the timbers behind the delicate early Gothic-revival plaster vaults, and £63,000 towards roof repairs to **St Dominic's Priory, Camden**, a very fine Roman Catholic Church built almost on the scale of a cathedral. On Section 10 grants the flow of smaller cases in the inner boroughs continues, the one large case being an offer of £70,000 towards repairs to the former **Bell Brewery, Tottenham**, which will become a community transport centre.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Cost *Rescue archaeology*	Number	(£000)

New offers	260	3590
Increased offers	40	977
TOTAL	300	4567

Cost	Number	(£000)
New offers	126	1175
Increased offers	20	126
TOTAL	146	1301

Cost *Section 17*	Number	(£000)
New agreements	42	36
Renewed agreements	74	64
TOTAL	116	100

Recent offers of grant for recording and repair (Section 24) have included a grant of £185,000 towards the cost of urgent work to the fourteenth-century curtain wall of **Ludlow Castle** (Shropshire). This will be the first main phase in a long-term programme planned with our support by the Powis Estate.

We have also supported long-term repairs at the major historic dockyards, including extensive expenditure at **Chatham** and a new offer of grant (£130,000) to **Portsmouth** for one of the most important naval storehouses. Among smaller grants are offers for the **Eleanor Cross at Waltham** (£20,000 to the County Council), one of only three surviv ing from twelve crosses erected in memory to Eleanor of Castile by Edward I, and the **'Hussey' Tower, Boston, Lincoln** (£8000 to the Borough Council), a fifteenth-century brick solar tower. We have also begun a full-scale photogrammetric survey of the standing remains of the church and fourteenth-century east range of **Calder Abbey** (Cumbria), as the first step towards a proper assessment of this important Cistercian monastery and to produce a specification for the most urgent repairs.

Recent management agreements have included a large number of renewed agreements, but an increasing number of new agreements are being offered. Some of these cover extensive archaeological landscapes (particularly medieval villages and prehistoric field systems), demonstrating the conservation value of working within the broadest framework of agricultural landuse.

PETER de LANGE

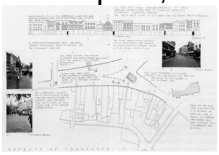
URBAN CONSERVATION STUDIES

In urban conservation, there is often great advantage in district councils seizing the initiative, identifying opportunities for development and enhancement, and providing detailed guidance on design, building on policy statements set out in statutory local plans. English Heritage has recently encouraged, and jointly funded, several such conservation studies, as a natural extension of our long-standing involvement in urban regeneration projects and the problems of individual buildings at risk.

HEREFORD

The *Hereford High Town conservation study* was a positive response to commercial development pressure in the High Town area, part of the main shopping area of the city, which was increased rather than relieved by the completion of the Maylord Orchards shopping centre nearby. It originated in proposals for the redevelopment as large retail units, behind retained facades, of 24–27 High Town, of which only No 27 was statutorily listed for the 'group value' of its eighteenth-century facade, although it is in fact a complex

building of sixteenth-century origin, as is 26 High Town. Ron Shoesmith (Director of the City of Hereford Archaeological Unit) demonstrated this in a report commissioned by the developers: No 26 was promptly spot-listed! After much negotiation, involving English Heritage as well as the City Council, the significant historic elements of all the buildings, listed and unlisted, are being retained and comprehensively repaired by two separate developers, to their considerable credit.



Part of the townscape analysis of the Hereford High Town study area

Dealing with this scheme brought the problems of the area into sharp focus. We realised that we were ignorant of the true architectural or historic interest of many of its buildings, despite a pre-war inventory by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments. The statutory list, a very early (1973) resurvey 'greenback', was based largely on superficial external inspection; yet most eighteenth- and many nineteenth-century facades, in Hereford as in most historic towns, conceal much earlier structures, or stand in front of earlier rear ranges or over medieval cellars. There were the usual problems of any historic town centre: vacant or partially-used upper floors, unsympathetic alterations and additions to old buildings, especially at the rear, 'temporary' car parks created behind the main frontages, and an important historic building, the fifteenth-century Booth Hall, under-used and obscured. Most importantly, this area of close-knit historic fabric was under considerable pressure for redevelopment to create large retail units of standard form, with ground-floor trading, first-floor storage, nothing above, and service yards behind.

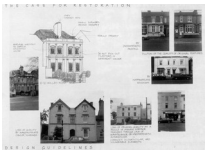
The High Town Conservation Study was therefore conceived to provide a detailed planning brief for the development of the area, in a fashion consistent with the retention and full utilisation of its historic buildings and with the reinforcement of its historic character and topography; and to suggest financially-viable forms of development which would make this possible. It provides the City Council with a framework for the assessment and determination of applications to develop individual sites and a basis for the initiation of enhancement schemes. Its recommendations are based on a detailed analytical survey of the historic topography and buildings, which has given us an indication of the reliability of the RCHM survey and Statutory List for the city as a whole. In essence, the aim of the High Town study was that the city should seize the initiative, rather than simply respond to piecemeal proposals unrelated one to another, and become, in current jargon, proactive rather than reactive. The report was produced by Rock Townsend and the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee.

LEAMINGTON SPA

Rather wider in scope is the *Royal Leamington Spa design guide,* jointly commissioned from Rock Townsend by English Heritage and Warwick District Council. This originated in a concern about the impact of new buildings and additions to historic buildings in this Regency spa. Proposals for new work were predominantly in a sort of debased classical style, in which the vocabulary was misunderstood: 'features' were used indiscriminately, and the form and scale of the proposed building tended to be at odds with the proportional framework provided by the historic style. The cumulative impact of such weak and reductive classical apologies was to dilute and erode the historic character of the conservation area, without making any new and positive contribution.

The *Design guide* seeks to provide an awareness of the structure and quality of Leamington Spa through historical and townscape analysis and to give guidance on the most important criteria to be applied to development proposals and on how those criteria might be translated into appropriate high-quality buildings. *Inter alia,* it seeks to identify

those very limited circumstances in which a strict classical reproduction would be appropriate or essential (generally, the completion or restoration, but not the expansion, of authentic historic groups) and to identify townscape opportunities. It does not generally attempt to dictate the style of new buildings in the *Essex design guide* sense. We hope that the Leamington guide will be of wide interest.



Defining one of the historic styles of Royal Leamington Spa

WELLS

In Wells, three-dimensional design and development briefs have been produced by Roy Worskett for three key areas in the historic city, following a recommendation by the Inspector who conducted the Local Plan Inquiry. These have been commissioned jointly by Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council, with support from English Heritage. The consultant's proposals, based on a wide-ranging study of the historic centre of the City, have been presented to the two councils and exhibited publicly; they are now being finalised, following this period of consultation.

CHESTER

Further north, the rows of Chester have long attracted speculation as to their origins and development. Although recognised to be of ancient origin, it was realised in 1984 that knowledge of the remaining medieval fabric was minimal. The Statutory List failed to recognise, for example, the existence of a major late thirteenth-century town house and shop, and a fifteenth-century hall house. This lack of knowledge was a cause of great concern for the future of the row structures, which are under ever-increasing pressure for alteration and redevelopment in a buoyant property market. It was seen as essential to understand the nature and importance of the surviving historic fabric of the city, as a necessary prerequisite to defining policies for its preservation. The Chester Rows project, jointly promoted by the City and County Councils, therefore aimed to inspect each building and identify surviving medieval fabric and to make detailed records, supplemented by information from recent architectural plans of alterations and similar secondary sources. The purely academic results of such a survey would be of great interest in themselves, hence contributions towards the cost have been forthcoming from RCHM as well as English Heritage.

CATHEDRALS

We are also involved in assisting major landowners in historic areas with the repair of their buildings and encouraging the exploitation of their full potential for beneficial use. A particular concern has been with cathedral closes. Schemes of grant-aid have been established under Section 3A of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 at, for example, Salisbury, Lichfield, and Ely. Earlier this year, we agreed to provide a contribution towards the cost of a feasibility study (to which the City Council will also contribute) to consider the financial and architectural potential of the capitular estate of the Dean and Chapter in Hereford. This was prompted by the proposed sale of the *Mappa Mundi* to raise funds, just as our substantial commitment to grant-aid at Ely was prompted by the proposed residential development of a site crucial to the setting of the cathedral. The Hereford study will seek ways of bringing historic buildings in the Close into full beneficial use compatible with their historic form and interest and will investigate the potential for development of sites in the Dean and Chapter's ownership and for the formation of a visitor centre in which the *Mappa* can be displayed, probably based on the

historic buildings south of the Cathedral. It involves the Dean and Chapter's architect – Michael Reardon – and archaeological consultant – Ron Shoesmith – as well as valuation surveyors, whose contribution to any feasibility study concerned with development is obviously vital.

These examples illustrate the range of studies which we are currently supporting in historic towns and cities. In our view, great advantage can stem from seizing the initiative and defining a framework against which development proposals can be assessed, within which changes can be encouraged in accordance with an overall strategy. By such means, and building on appropriate Local Plan policies, the full potential of historic buildings and areas is more likely to be realised; it becomes easier to refuse 'selfish' schemes for particular sites and buildings, which would frustrate exploitation of the potential of wider areas, and to win subsequent appeals. In some cases, the initiative has come from the local authority; in others, from us. In all cases, however, funding has been joint, generally on a 50:50 basis, but sometimes with contributions from third parties. This we regard as essential, not only for financial reasons, but also as evidence of commitment, and of the likelihood that the results of a study will be implemented. There is clearly a limit to the number of such projects which can be supported at any one time, partly because of our limited funds, and partly due to the amount of staff time involved in seeing them through; but we are always interested to hear of proposals!

The *Hereford High Town conservation study* will be available in the summer from the City Surveyor, Hereford City Council, Garrick House, Widemarsh Street, Hereford HR1 9EU; tel 0432-268121. *Royal Leamington Spa: a design guide* will also be available in the summer from the Planning Department, Warwick District Council, 1 Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5JD; tel 9026-450000. Alternatively, both publications can be obtained from the consultants, Rock Townsend, 35 Alfred Place, London WCIE 7DP; tel 01-637-5300.

GEOPHYSICAL PROSPECTING

One of the many roles of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory is to provide detailed subsurface information on the layout and character of buried archaeological sites. Such geophysical surveys have been undertaken by the Archaeometry section of the Laboratory for some 20 years, and the role of this unique service is becoming ever more important as the rate of destruction and development on archaeological sites continues apace.

An ability to detect buried remains – the outline of a Roman villa or the content of an Iron Age fort, for instance – is clearly an immensely valuable asset. The survey can provide fundamental evaluation of these and other such sites in response to the need for their conservation: they can be accurately defined for protection by scheduling or for taking into care; excavations can be correctly and economically located; and threats from development can be averted or accommodated. The archaeology can be better understood. Developers are being made ever more aware of a responsibility towards the archaeological heritage, and the increased need for preliminary exploratory survey is becoming more apparent to all concerned. English Heritage also has an obligation to enhance the public's awareness and enjoyment of sites in its care: the findings of geophysical survey can make an important contribution to the interpretation, and hence presentation and management, of our nationally-important sites.

TECHNIQUES

The two techniques routinely used for geophysical prospecting by the Laboratory over the last couple of decades – magnetometry and resistivity surveying – remain the most effective today. One maps changes in local magnetic field strength coincident with manmade features, whilst the other measures changes in soil moisture corresponding with the presence of buried remains. The capacity and sensitivity of the instrumentation for

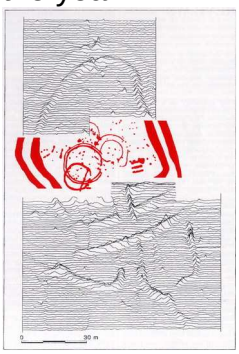
measurement of these data have recently been dramatically improved alongside greater refinement of processing and presentation. Although the demand for routine surveys has limited the Laboratory's involvement with research, we have nevertheless been at the forefront of testing new applications. We have now built up a special expertise in field techniques and interpretation of geophysical data which is recognised worldwide.
Magnetometry relies on the simple fact that soil is weakly magnetic and that this property is enhanced by human activity, especially burning. Magnetically-enhanced soil accumulates within the features of a site – pits and ditches, for example – and a sensitive magnetometer carried over the levelled ground surface can detect the resulting fluctuations (anomalies) in the local magnetic field. Modern magnetometers can detect archaeological anomalies with a strength of as little as 1/100,000th of the earth's magnetic field. Much stronger anomalies are caused by the thermoremanent magnetisation of baked clay structures such as pottery kilns.
Mapping soil moisture variation with a resistivity survey involves the need to insert electrodes into the soil at regular intervals across a site. Usually four probes are involved, two remaining stationary whilst the other pair, fixed with the meter on a portable frame, are moved from one sampling position to the next. A disadvantage of this type of survey is that the moisture content of the soil varies during the year, providing a differing pattern dependent on factors such as rainfall and local soil hydrology. Generally, though, since wall foundations are drier than their surroundings, they give a high resistance response, whilst buried ditches, which are damp and more conductive, give a low resistance response.

Resistivity data from lest Kennett Avenue plotted as a combination of graphical traces and contours: the contours indicate areas of high resistance, concentrating over the position of buried prehistoric stones, and the inset shows their probable location at a smaller scale
It is now possible to cover at least a hectare of ground a day during a magnetometer survey. Even resistivity surveying, previously less favoured because it was so slow and laborious, can now achieve almost this amount each day. Both types of instrument – magnetometer and resistivity meter – now have internal memories for storage of up to 16,000 readings. As the survey progresses, these data are periodically passed to a portable computer, providing a display of any emerging patterns below ground. The accumulated data are then finally transferred to the Laboratory's mainframe computer to be manipulated and clarified using our computerised graphics system. The whole process is constantly being refined: a recent development is the ability to produce high resolution colour and laser-printed plots.

Stanwick: greytone magnetometer plot showing a roadway, field enclosures, and pits

RECENT WORK

We survey about 30 sites a year. Recent work includes the plot shown here of magnetic anomalies at Stanwick in Northamptonshire. Successive geophysical surveys at this large Roman and Iron Age site have been vital for determining the strategy for each season's excavations by English Heritage's Central Excavation Unit. The magnetic anomalies, illustrated here by the darker tones of the plot, suggest the presence of a roadway and dense occupation features. These are under excavation this summer. Elsewhere on this very large site, we are conducting a long-term experiment into the effect of variation in soil moisture levels on the detectability of buried structures by resistivity at different times of the year.



Groundwell Farm: buried ditches, around the excavated features (shown in red), can be seen as upward deflections in the signal trace

Another illustration of magnetometer survey is provided by Groundwell Farm near Swindon where excavation on the route of a proposed access road uncovered part of an Iron Age enclosed occupation site with the foundations of circular buildings (shown in red). The magnetometer was used to define the full extent and outline of the site which was shown to have an elaborate entranceway crossed by a later road. The magnetic data was collected by traversing the site at one metre intervals with the magnetometer. The results are shown here as a series of stacked traces, or graphs, corresponding with the instrument traverses, arranged to scale across the site. The pattern of the archaeological features is clearly shown by vertical discontinuities in the traces.

Resistivity survey is often used when there is a need to locate wall foundations, for instance around medieval monastic ruins. We are about to complete a large survey of the abbey precinct at Barrow-in-Furness, a project being run in conjunction with the detailed archaeological recording of the ecclesiastical remains and their setting. More unusually, we have recently been working on the prehistoric complex at Avebury, locating the positions of buried or destroyed sarsen monoliths. The plot shown here accurately pinpoints the position of several pairs of concealed stones on the West Kennett Avenue. These are but a few examples of a very full programme in which surveys are already being considered nearly a year in advance. Although magnetometry and resistivity are the favoured means of prospecting, we also use electromagnetic methods for the measurement of magnetic susceptibility or soil conductivity as occasion demands. At present we are also investigating the application of airborne remote sensing and ground-penetrating radar to archaeological reconnaisance. The ability to predict and allow for the presence of buried archaeological remains looks set to continue to be one of the most important and sought after contributions that archaeological science can make towards the work of English Heritage.

REVIEWS

RURAL WETLANDS

The archaeology of rural wetlands in England, edited by John and Bryony Coles. Published by the Wetland Archaeology Research Project, Exeter University, price £5.00.

Field archaeology has a 'dry' image. There is a long tradition of investigating earthworks and standing buildings in the landscape, and for most people excavation means moving soil. Museum displays provide the same impression. They present the archaeology of durable objects: flints, pottery, and metal. In this book, John Coles quotes a limerick which ends with the question: 'In the Stone Age, did they have wood?' Perhaps the greatest achievement of the last decade's fieldwork has been to discover the potential of waterlogged environments, where organic remains reveal our past with a directness, richness, and variety inconceivable on dryland sites.

This book records the papers delivered in a one-day conference sponsored by English Heritage earlier this year. It has been published with admirable despatch and contains 16 short contributions. These fall into three broad sections. The first considers the environmental significance of wetlands on an international scale, linking the special concerns of the archaeologist with those of people engaged in other fields of conservation. The vital link between these general issues and the results of individual projects is provided by John Coles, who offers a retrospective account of his all-important fieldwork in the Somerset Levels. It was this work that taught British archaeologists how to investigate wetlands, but it also led them to engage more fully in their conservation. There are many practical lessons to be learned from this paper, as there are from Coles' closing chapter.

A series of regional reviews follow, describing projects in varying stages of completeness. Some papers address broad questions of tactics and strategy, for example Wilkinson's account of coastal and estuarine environments, French's discussion of dyke survey in the Fens, or Donoghue's useful paper on the archaeological potential of remote sensing. Others highlight the extraordinary richness of particular regions or particular kinds of environment. Two chapters stand out here: David Hall's review of the archaeological record in the Fenlands, as revealed by systematic field survey, and Needham's wide-ranging account of the potential of major river valleys, which is illustrated by his important research on the banks of the Thames at Egham.

After the euphoria, two papers bring us down to earth. Mike Hall considers the practicalities of conserving archaeological wetlands when the water industry is privatised. He writes as the one archaeologist employed by a regional water authority, and his thoughts are echoed from within the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments in a thoughtful paper by Morgan Evans.

The one-day conference was an exciting and encouraging venture, and this book catches much of its spirit. There is optimism in plenty, but we must be careful not to be overwhelmed by the riches that seem to be ours for the asking. Wetland archaeology is difficult to carry out and very expensive to fund. The right policy decisions have to be made at this stage, if we are to maintain the momentum. Here, more than in dry-land archaeology, it is essential that money should be well spent. But if the costs are daunting, the returns are well worthwhile, and they are clearly charted in this useful book.

PRACTICAL BUILDING CONSERVATION

Practical building conservation: English Heritage technical handbook, volumes 1–5, by John and Nicola Ashurst. Published by Gower Technical Press, 1988.

Based upon the experience and expertise gained over many years by the Research and Technical Advisory Service of English Heritage, *Practical building conservation* has been published in order to make available good and proper information upon all practical

aspects of the conservation of historic buildings and monuments. We understand that these volumes reflect those principal requests for information which are received by RTAS from practitioners. Volume by volume, the publication deals exhaustively with materials and techniques used in traditional buildings and their relevant current methods of conservation repair and maintenance.
As an organisation dedicated to protecting and preserving the architectural and archaeological heritage of England, and as an advisory service offered by highly-skilled professionals benefiting from every conceivable conservation art, craft, profession, and science provided either in-house or by advisory groups, RTAS is uniquely qualified to advise and guide us, drawing upon its years of practical research and application in the field.
Written by John and Nicola Ashurst with contributions from other specialists, these volumes have already considerably raised public awareness in the practice of careful conservation methods. Since the mid 1970s, John Ashurst's publications, articles, and talks, both independently and in conjunction with others, have been a voice of increasing authority and a point of reference for craftsmen and professionals seeking informed academic opinion and tried and tested techniques. Nicola Ashurst's acknowledged expertise in masonry and materials analysis is of major and continuing benefit both within English Heritage and as a service offered to outside practitioners.

SOURCE BOOKS

In 1983, John Ashurst's book *Mortars, plasters and renders in conservation,* published by EASA, broke new ground, presenting considered and authoritative technical advice upon complex issues in a format which was instantly accessible and usable for the purposes of specification and guidance on site. Used by crafts and professions alike, this publication became a standard reference and fundamental source book which transformed specification writing over night. *Practical building conservation* repeats that successful format, incorporating and expanding upon much of the advice given in the earlier volume, whilst moving into the field of other materials such as terracotta, earth, metal, wood, glass, and resin. John and Nicola Ashurst have incorporated contributions from Geoff Wallis and Dennis Toner upon metals, Jill Kerr upon glass, Edmund King upon resins, and also enlarged upon a previous publication by Patrick Faulkner for the section upon wood.
An important theme running through these volumes is that they only represent a point in time in the progressive development of conservation techniques through continuing research, empirical study, and also with the benefit of hindsight. It is quite unique for an organisation to be able to evaluate how work carried out by itself and its predecessors have stood the test of time. Comments are often disarmingly honest, for example, 'The old style of washed grit pointing which used to be carried out by the Ministry of Public Building and Works on ancient monuments was often a work of art but tended to become an end in itself'. The amount of research currently being undertaken is indicated by the case studies, research projects, and ongoing experimentation referred to in the various chapters; for instance, the continuing carbonation experiment into accelerating the curing of mortars in a carbon-rich atmosphere. It is the stated aim of the *Practical building conservation* series to revise and enlarge upon information in subsequent editions, as well as introducing new subjects in recognition of the fact that building conservation is a modern and advancing science.

MATERIALS

The layout of the books could not be more simple, being broken down volume by volume into the principal materials found in traditional building construction. Thus, volume 1 – *Stone;* volume 2 – *Brick,* including terracotta and also expanding into earth construction; volume 3 – *Mortars, plasters and renders;* volume 4 – *Metals,* including both roofing and

decorative work; and volume 5 – *Wood, glass and resins,* bringing together three relatively unrelated subjects into one volume. The entire list of volume, chapter, and subheadings is remarkable and provides an immediate reference to virtually any practical conservation problem with which one is likely to confronted. Volume 5 also includes a technical bibliography and list of organisations. An added bonus is the immensely useful list of specialist references and organisations included at the end of every chapter. As the publication is a work of reference, an index would greatly improve accessibility, particularly where an item could relate to more than one section, and where one knows that one has seen the subheading 'bees, rats and plants' but cannot quite recall in which volume!

In the first three volumes, John and Nicola Ashurst's practical expertise is presented in a particularly comprehensible format: material; repairs and maintenance; special issues such as cleaning, consolidation, etc; case studies; conclusions; and in some instances very welcome cautionary statements. In volume 4, the chapters are broken down more into types of materials in use, and in volume 5, the chapters take on a different format altogether, perhaps in response to the personal style of the contributors to these sections. For example, Jill Kerr's section on glass defines the scope of the chapter, provides a glossary of terms and carefully sets out conservation principles. It is interesting that both this and the chapter on wood, incorporating Patrick Faulkner's 1965 publication for the Ministry of Public Building and Works, slip into philosophical issues, whilst all other volumes remain resolutely practical. Whilst one can only admire the principles set out in 'The repair and maintenance of historic glass', certain statements contained in 'Structural and decorative wood in building' are philosophically contentious and would be unlikely to be supported by some conservation organisations. The great value of the *Practical building conservation* series is surely that it provides highly-detailed conservation advice which is universally acceptable because it does not enter into the philosophical debate. The expansion of the series into metals, wood, glass etc is most welcome and extremely beneficial to us all. However, it is important that the very high standards set in the first three volumes should be maintained throughout.

These volumes are an indispensable tool to any practitioner, and we look forward to additional information and new subject headings in subsequent editions. The continuing series will be a sound basis for specification and perhaps even statutory control for some time to come. The case studies and research projects demonstrate the remarkably high degree of expertise and care devoted to conservation projects by the large English Heritage team. The problem remains for the rest of us to maintain such exacting standards in the commercial world. *Practical building conservation* has gone a very long way towards helping us to do so.

MARTIN ASHLEY

BARNS AND WALLS IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

English Heritage has joined the Yorkshire Dales National Park in a new project to save the barns and walls of Swaledale. A large conservation area has been designated, and a grant scheme is being set up to assist farmers and landowners with repairs.

The landscape of the upper Dales is a sublime balance between man and nature. A patchwork of tiny fields, divided by drystone walls, is superimposed on the broad sweep of a glacial landscape. Within and amongst the fields are hundreds of stone barns, built and occupied over centuries for storing hay in summer and sheltering of cattle in winter.

The Dales barns are simple, highly practical buildings of no architectural pretension. For the most part, they are rectangular in plan and a single storey high, with a hayloft above. The barns are hard to date individually, as the stones and roof timbers were commonly reused, but most of the survivors are thought to be from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. Few, if any, are of listable quality. It is, however, the collective impact

of the barns and their unity of form and materials that makes them such an impressive sight.
Yet their numbers are diminishing. Changes in farming over the past few decades have meant that many barns have been abandoned and left to fall down. Others have been stripped of their sandstone slate roofs, to be sold for the repair of historic buildings in nearby towns and villages – an irony of otherwise welcome conservation activity.
The Yorkshire Dales National Park is acutely aware of the eroding of one of its prime assets. To address the problem, the National Park invited English Heritage, together with the Countryside Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Richmondshire District Council, to work out a joint rescue programme.
The result has been a unique package of measures involving all of the above agencies. A substantial conservation area has been designated, covering more than 70 square kilometres of farmland and taking in almost 800 barns. The designation provides the way ahead for a major grant scheme in which English Heritage will match the joint contributions of the National Park and Richmondshire. Grants from this fund will be available for the repair of barns and boundary walls, thus being the rural equivalent of a town scheme. The National Park has made a bid for additional funding from the European Commission.

A typical stone barn without its tiles (Y D N P)

The conservation scheme will be aimed at redundant barns that are no longer stockproof or weathertight. Grants of up to 80% will be available for works to bring the buildings back into working condition, using traditional materials. Where barns and walls are still in agricultural use, farmers will be able to apply for more modest grants from the Ministry of Agriculture's new Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme that operates in the Swaledale area. The Countryside Commission has agreed to fund a project officer to liaise with farmers and steer the scheme through its vital early stages.
So how have the farmers and landowners reacted to the scheme? The initial reception has been mixed. The urgency of the problem is recognised and the prospect of cash for repairs is welcomed, but there is some scepticism about the motives behind the conservation area designation. The National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners Association campaigned vigorously to scrap the proposal, fearing swingeing restrictions on demolition and on tree-felling. Tighter planning controls were predicted, and even the spectre of the Secretary of State directing repairs to unoccupied buildings has been gloomily forecast.
The National Park has forged ahead with designation, stressing the positive benefits of its grant scheme. It has tried to assure its critics that it will take a responsible approach in its development control powers. For example, no attempt will be made to keep every barn. Some are too far decayed to make repair a practical proposition, and, although some might be left as relics in the landscape, others will be better dismantled and used for repairs elsewhere. The main objective will be to prevent premature demolition before the case for repair has been examined.
Tree-controls will be kept as simple as possible, using woodland management agreements and a streamlined notification system.
Efforts are also being made to overcome the shortage of traditional materials, in particular stone roofing slates, by reopening a small local quarry. Demand generated by the barns project, as well as from the existing town schemes in the area, should be enough to make the operation viable.
But once the barns are repaired, will they be used – or will they just fall back into decay? Bill McIntyre, the National Park's conservation officer, thinks there are grounds for optimism. He points to recent changes in agricultural practices through new European

Commission subsidies, which benefit traditional methods of farming and animal husbandry. Once restored, the barns will need only modest maintenance, yet will provide useful storage space and shelter. Apart from agriculture, there is scope for using some of the barns for basic holiday accommodation on the 'stone tents' model, as used in the Peak District and elsewhere.

A typical Dales landscape of barns and walls (Y D N P)

The barns and walls scheme breaks new ground by taking the instruments of urban conservation into a rural area. If it succeeds, an outstanding landscape will have been rescued from oblivion and the Swaledale approach may be copied elsewhere.

GEOFF NOBLE

'HEAD OF CONSERVATION' ROLE

The post of Head of Conservation at English Heritage was vacated by Richard Butt, who moved to be Chief Executive of the Rural Development Commission. His successor, on a temporary basis, is Mrs Jane Sharman.

BULLETIN ISSUE 7

Sent out with this issue of the *Bulletin,* recipients will find an amended version of page 12 of the last issue, February 1989, which shows the drawing of Furness Abbey North Transept with the red overlay, recording the current condition of the stonework. Apologies to our readers for the oversight which left off this information from the previous issue.

YORK PHOTOGRAMMETRIC UNIT – LIST OF SURVEYS

The Photogrammetric Unit of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York, whose work figured prominently in the last issue of *Conservation Bulletin,* has now produced an index of all the surveys of buildings which it has carried out since it was set up in 1975. These are primarily of the sites now in the care of English Heritage, but the list is available to anyone who wishes to receive it by applying direct to Ross Dallas, IoAAS, The King's Manor, York YOl 2EP.

AMENITY IN ACTION

A new handbook with the above title has been produced by the Civic Trust in partnership with the Shell Better Britain Campaign to highlight over 200 examples of how local communities are taking positive steps to improve their environment. Its aim is to provide ideas and a network of contacts to encourage and support voluntary groups in this form of action, including practical examples of surveying open areas of towns, restoring disused and derelict buildings, and many other practical ideas. Copies of *Amenity in action* are available free to voluntary community groups and can be obtained by sending a 50p stamped addressed envelope to: The Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW.

JOINT MA COURSE, TRAINING IN CONSERVATION

The Royal College of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum have joined forces to offer a new three-year course at postgraduate level, beginning in October 1989, leading to an MA (RCA) in Conservation. This course, replacing studentships previously available in the

Conservation Department of the museum, will offer four students each year the opportunity for practical work in the studios, supplemented by academic study of materials and processes encountered in works of art and design. Application forms and the RCA Prospectus are available from the Registrar, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU; general enquiries should be addressed to Alan Cummings, Senior Tutor (Conservation), Faculty of Humanities, at the same address.

LEAFLET ON SASH WINDOWS

The end of March saw the publication of the first in a series of Guidance Leaflets produced by the London Division of English Heritage. This first set of four sheets covers repair and replacement of sash windows in listed buildings and is available free of charge from English Heritage, London Division, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, London W1R 6AB; tel 01-734-8144. These leaflets are in A4 single-sheet format, suitable for storage in a ring binder or other A4 filing system. Future subjects to be covered include shopfronts, mansard roofs, and colour.

CIVILIZING THE CITY

The Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute will co-host a one-day conference with the above title on improving the quality of urban life on Wednesday, 28 June 1989 at the RIBA. The conference will be aimed at all those who have a role in improving the urban environment – architects, planners in private and public practice, developers, central and local government agencies, engineers, and financing bodies. The programme will offer a view of the city of the future and the professional and technical implications of the city. For further details, contact the RIBA Events Office, 66 Portland Place, London WIN 4AD; tel 01-580-5533 ext 4335.

SIXTH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM OF HISTORIC TOWNS

Cambridge is host to the Council of Europe's Sixth European Symposium of Historic Towns on 20–22 September 1989. The Symposium theme – a highly topical one – is the growth of tourism and the protection of historic towns. Speakers will define areas of conflict and opportunity using case-studies and drawing upon practical experience of historic towns in Europe: cities like Heidelberg, Florence, Bruges, Toledo, and Avignon. Further details can be obtained from Mrs Elizabeth Thompson, 42 Devonshire Road, Cambridge CB1 2BL.

CONSERVATION – THE VIDEO

Protectors of our past is the title of ą fifteen-minute video on conservation produced by English Heritage, which will be available by the end of July. It gives a short, vivid summary of our conservation work, the great diversity of problems, and the different strategies for solving them. It is aimed particularly at the small, specialist, local heritage or conservation group that wants to know how English Heritage can help its particular concern.

The video is deliberately non-technical and can also serve as a basic introduction to the conservation work of English Heritage, as well as an aid to visiting speakers.

Using film and interviews, it takes the viewer through the three main areas of heritage conservation work: historic buildings, historic areas, and ancient monuments and archaeology. It begins and ends at the strange and beautiful Woodchester Park, near Stroud: unfinished, abandoned, a problematic legacy for our own period, yet emphasising just how particular and idiosyncratic each treasured historic building can be.

The message, drawing on the bitter lessons of earlier decades, is that the conservation battle is far from won. There is no standardised solution, nor one single agency which can shoulder all the responsibilities. But, given close co-operation between different bodies, a

great number of strategies are available to deal with each case. English Heritage can deploy advice, persuasion, grants, legal powers, and political pressure.
The video, with accompanying leaflet, may be purchased at £10 or hired for a month by any suitable amenity society or group on payment of a basic postage and packing charge of £3. Please send cheque/order, payable to English Heritage, to Room 235, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE.

STEVE WILLIAMS

A gargoyle from Woodchester Park featured in the video (The Independent)

FARM BUILDINGS

NEW GRANT SCHEME

A valuable new source of funds for threatened farm buildings has been introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Their new 'Farm and Conservation Grant Scheme' – which replaces their former grants for capital improvements – includes a category of grants for the 'repair and reinstatement of traditional buildings'. The rate of grant is 35%, and grants are available for both listed and unlisted buildings (except for buildings being separately grant-aided by English Heritage). They are, however, restricted to farmers and to buildings in agricultural use (although this can be defined quite flexibly: casual storage will qualify).
Despite these restrictions, this is a very important development for a building type often beyond the scope of English Heritage or local authority support. Take-up of these grants should be encouraged by everybody involved in conservation. Application forms and further details can be obtained from MAFF Divisional Offices.

IAN JARDIN

THE STATE OF THE SCHEDULE

There was considerable publicity in early March when Gloucester Crown Court dismissed the prosecution case for damage to Condicote Henge, a scheduled ancient monument, on the grounds that the Crown had not produced satisfactory evidence in Court that the monument was entered on a schedule as required by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The prosecution sought an adjournment to allow the Department of the Environment to provide evidence on the form of the schedule which the Secretary of State is required to keep, but this was not granted.
The result of this case has been to cast some doubt on the validity of the Schedule of Ancient Monuments as a whole. The Department of the Environment is, however, quite satisfied that a proper schedule exists as required by the Act, and that any monument entered on that schedule remains fully protected by the law. If the matter is likely to be at issue again in court, the Department will provide a witness to give evidence. English Heritage meanwhile remains determined to press for prosecution in cases where wilful damage has been caused to scheduled ancient monuments.

JANE SHARMAN