Conservation Bulletin, Issue 14, June 1991

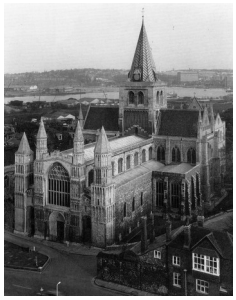
(NB: page numbers are those of the original publication)

CATHEDRAL REPAIR GRANT SCHEME

The cathedrals of England are among the country's very best buildings; indeed, some have been designated as World Heritage sites. They are the focus of Christian mission in the dioceses which they serve and form architectural centre-pieces to the cities that have grown up around them. They are important not only for their architecture and their historic interest, but also for their enormous archaeological value, since they often occupy sites of great antiquity in the midst of our oldest cities. Cathedrals also display in their fabric, fittings, and decoration the finest craftsmanship and artistic achievements of many centuries.

When places of worship in use were included in the government's repair grants schemes for the first time, in 1977, the cathedrals of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church were deliberately excluded. It was then considered, by Churches and State alike, that cathedrals were well placed to raise funds privately, and the limited resources available should go towards the churches and chapels most in need of public help, especially those in rural and inner city areas. Since 1984, English Heritage has operated church grant schemes which have offered, for example, over £9m in 1990–91 for the repair of buildings in religious use.

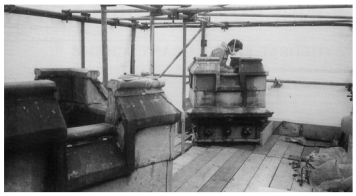
Not only are cathedral churches complex structures of great quality, but, with their contents, they are often of a fragile beauty and require the most careful repair, conservation, and research. Most older cathedrals underwent major restoration in the nineteenth century, and others were built or extended then, but as nineteenth-century materials come to the end of their useful life, they all now need major repair programmes within a relatively short period of time. The costs of these repairs are beginning to overtake the abilities of even the most dedicated and effective fundraisers, and some urgent work is already being delayed or even postponed for lack of money.



Rochester Cathedral, viewed from the castle: the west front with its Romanesque central door is shortly to undergo careful conservation work similar to that completed at Wells Cathedral

EXTRA FUNDING

Following an approach from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prime Minister, the Government has agreed to provide English Heritage with an extra £11.5m over the next three years (1991–4) to set up a new grant scheme under existing legislation for cathedrals of all denominations and their ancillary buildings.



Ely Cathedral: the famous Octagon, damaged in recent storms, has been thoroughly overhauled, especially involving the repair of damaged high-level leadwork details, last repaired by Sir Gilbert Scott in the last century

The scheme will be designed to ensure that urgent repairs are completed to appropriate standards and, as far as the Church of England is concerned, will run in tandem with the new Care of Cathedrals Measure, for the care and conservation of cathedral buildings and their contents. This additional public money is intended to supplement existing fundraising efforts, not to replace them. Most finance for repairs to cathedrals will still be raised from private sources.

HOW THE SCHEME WILL WORK

It has been agreed with the Churches and the Government that the scheme will operate on the same basic principles as other English Heritage repair grant schemes. In particular, individual cathedrals will have to qualify either as buildings of outstanding architectural and historic interest or because of their location in conservation areas. Grant will only be offered for urgent repairs, and there will be an assessment of the degree of financial need. While the new resources are very welcome, they are not unlimited. It is therefore important to ensure that grants under the new scheme are targeted on the projects most in need of extra external funding. Interim arrangements will have to operate for the first couple of years. Once the scheme is fully functional, it is likely that most grant offers will consist of flat-rate annual contributions over a period of years to a previously agreed repair programme. To assist us in the decision-making process, we have built on the Churches Advisory Committee with a new, strengthened Cathedrals and Churches Advisory Committee which draws on expert advice from outside English Heritage.

ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

In addition to major structural repairs, English Heritage hopes in due course to offer grant towards the conservation of major monuments and works of art historically associated with the building. Such projects are often very important and urgent, but at present have to take second place to securing structural repairs.

Cathedrals provide an immensely rich field of study for scholars. Every opportunity should be taken to learn more about these important buildings. Repair and conservation programmes provide such an opportunity. The costs of essential analysis for the design of repairs, recording of fabric undergoing or exposed during repair, and the publication of the results will be aided by grants.

SURVEYING THE CONDITION OF CATHEDRALS

English Heritage has commissioned Harry Fairhurst, past President of the Cathedrals Architects Association and former architect to Manchester Cathedral, to carry out a survey, with the cooperation of the cathedral authorities and their professional advisers, of the present physical state of English cathedrals and the likely costs of necessary fabric repairs over the next decade. It is hoped to complete this survey by July 1991, in order to provide a basis for prioritising grant offers by English Heritage, and to offer the first grants in September 1991. In future years, grants will be offered in advance of the financial year in which work is expected to take place.

English Heritage is still discussing the detailed running of the scheme with the church authorities. Our aim is to ensure the development of a close partnership with the cathedral authorities and those concerned to secure the future of these magnificent spiritual and cultural monuments for the worship and appreciation of present and future generations.

RICHARD HALSEY

EDITORIAL

KEEPING UP THE FIGHT

In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, according to Benjamin Franklin, except death and taxes, and the latter can change quite markedly in nature and impact, as we all now know. Not unconnected with those changes is the increasingly unsettled political climate, as possible general election dates approach and recede and as arguments develop about the extent of the economic recession. These uncertainties affect us all. Within the still large, but more focused world of conservation, there are other destabilising influences: we are all trying to assess the impact of the proposed changes in local government on the protection of the manmade heritage (by the time this is published, English Heritage will have responded formally and, I hope, publicly to the Government's consultation document). At the time of writing, rumours are also rife of a change of heritage minister (yet again) which could bring, within the overall policy framework, yet more changing priorities. For English Heritage itself, there is also the expected announcement of a new Chairman to succeed Lord Montagu at the end of his present term.

In addition, of course, a lot of change is going on within English Heritage. We have recently achieved a major reorganisation of Conservation Group which is described elsewhere in this issue of the *Bulletin.* We also have the proposed move of the main headquarters to Nottingham in 1994 to plan for. This will bring unavoidable disruption to the lives of staff and to our work as the move gets closer. More positively, such a major relocation will bring opportunities to improve a whole series of systems and to offer better working conditions.

Not only personalities, structures, and locations are seen to be changing. Within the policies set by Government and the traditional ways of handling their implementation, there has been discussion about further areas of perceived change, for example, in the increased focusing of English Heritage historic buildings grants towards buildings, where physical and financial need can be demonstrated against tests which are becoming more explicit (this was described in the editorial in *Conserv Bull,* **12** for October 1990). Here, I

believe, the change is one of emphasis (driven by the challenge of tackling a widening range of problems), rather than one of direction. The Buildings at Risk sample survey (due to be completed in June) will give us a much better feel than we have at present for the extent to which the total stock of protected buildings is at risk, and where the emphasis should lie for the longer term. It will not guarantee the resources to meet the problem.

Some recent, well-publicised cases have given rise to fears about possibly changing Government commitment to conservation and about the efficacy of the legal powers of protection available to English Heritage, local authorities, and conservation groups. At present, I do not believe that there is sufficient evidence to support such fears. As is explained elsewhere in this issue of *the Bulletin,* the implications of the decision on Number One Poultry, while severe for that case, were so extraordinary that they do not open an obvious route through which other cases must be lost. I do not, however, underestimate the dispiriting effect which losing such cases inevitably has on those who have fought hard for the survival of a valued part of the heritage, or the possible increase in the number of attempts to exploit what others might see as serious blows to the conservation cause.

In other words, conservation is being practised in a world which is changing, perhaps more dramatically than previously experienced. Its advocates and practitioners need to be able to adapt old tools, and invent new ones, to cope. This is, of course, the reason for many of the management changes within English Heritage.

Reorganisation has created teams which are designed to work more effectively in their patches, and we have increased the training and support effort to help them improve the service which they can give to the outside world. The Nottingham move presents a real challenge to find new ways to respond to staff needs for a good working environment. We are setting clearer objectives and measuring our performance against them.

Nor have all the external changes been hostile to conservation. Within a climate of financial constraint, undoubtedly felt by everyone, the Government contribution to the heritage in 1990–91 has recovered something of earlier buying power, through the 14% increase year-on-year in the grant-aid to English Heritage and the extra funding given through the OAL to arts buildings. English Heritage and the Church authorities have got the cathedrals grant scheme established and hope to see the first grants given in the early autumn. The extended storm damage grant scheme was able to make a significant contribution to the repair of historic gardens and landscapes.

A very welcome change has been the production of the Government's PPG 16, moving archaeology into a central position in the planning process. We in English Heritage are very pleased to have started, with the Framing Opinions conference in April, a campaign to tackle the slow erosion of historic detail, in particular doors and windows, in buildings that are listed or in conservation areas. The Government's decision on English Heritage's recommendation to list a building by Norman Foster as Grade I and one by Erno Goldfinger as Grade II is a very welcome extension of statutory protection to two challenging postwar buildings. Public support for the heritage, as shown in visits to properties and numbers joining the membership schemes of English Heritage and the National Trust or the Friends of the Historic Houses Association, continues to grow.

Growing public commitment to conservation brings increased expectations of what should and could be saved and, obviously, demand for services and support continues to outstrip resources, human as well as financial. In addition to the day-to-day tasks of managing those resources to go as far as possible, and to fight the cases which continue to need support, we must try to stimulate debate on the long-term needs of the man-made-heritage. This requires us, I believe, to think about the impact which the general framework of the economy and of changing social values has on the conservation world and its ability to sustain the great riches that the country still retains.

Access to financial resources – whether in direct grant or in other ways (tax concessions on maintenance funds for example, or relief of VAT on repairs) – is obviously one necessity. The development of skilled people able to work in organisations with appropriate resources and powers is another. The stimulation of public commitment through education is a third. In addition, there are questions about the extent of protection and support which can be mobilised in the light of emerging priorities, for example, for Grade II buildings outside conservation areas, for fragile relict landscapes, or for the retention of historic entities (house and contents and parkland). These are already recognised areas of concern, and there are no doubt others which could he added.
In this perspective, the urgent challenge is to address some of these larger issues in a coherent fashion, to put aside the temptation to fight again yesterday's battles, and instead to work together to define the ground for tomorrow's long(ish) term perspective on the heritage as a whole.

JENNIFER PAGE

Chief Executive

HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

For several years and from a variety of starting points, English Heritage has been approaching the complex issue of historic landscape conservation. Except for general agreement that the historic landscape is important and deserves protection, there is, so far, remarkably little explicit common ground among the many individuals and organisations who have interests in the countryside over even basic matters, such as definition and the measurement of importance. The need for coordination between interests, for improved implementation of existing conservation measures, and for the establishment of a common national framework for conservation decisions is also acute. We are aware that others have made inroads into this subject, including, notably, our partners in the Countryside Commission who are charged with the protection of the scenic beauty of the countryside.
Central Government has also clearly indicated the need for new initiatives on landscape in the Department of the Environment's recent White Paper, *This common inheritance* (1990). This includes an invitation to English Heritage to prepare a list of landscapes of historic importance. As a first step, to clarify our own position and to facilitate more detailed discussion with other interests, we have prepared, with help from our Historic Landscapes Advisory panel, a brief statement of policy on the historic landscape and its conservation. We hope that this statement, by setting out our immediate objectives and basic philosophy, will stimulate debate among those concerned with the countryside, as a first step towards the partnership, coordination, and integration which will be essential to protect our countryside's historic character and fabric. Our preliminary thoughts will develop further over the next few months, especially on questions of definition and the best methodologies for preparation of a register, and we envisage more detailed consultation with other landscape and landowning interests later in the year.

Historic dimensions to the Warwickshire landscape: a once common Midlands landscape – near complete relict medieval deserted village and field systems preserved below Enclosure hedges (Cambridge University)

The statement is printed in full below. It is also being issued separately as a freestanding leaflet to reach others who will have an interest.

GRAHAM FAIRCLOUGH

THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE: AN ENGLISH HERITAGE POLICY STATEMENT

The English landscape in which we live and work today has largely been shaped by human use. Whilst not always immediately recognisable, the historic components of the landscape are widely varied. They range from those which form the very grain of the land (hedges, walls, woods, fields, tracks) to individual features (earthworks, ruins, barns, and settlements). Much of these are also underlain by earlier, now invisible, traces of human activity. The material remains of the past, whether very ancient or more recent, scenic or derelict, industrial or semi-natural, thus make an essential contribution to the appearance of the countryside and to the range of values we attach to it, as they do to the appearance of our historic townscapes.

The historical interest of a landscape is inseparable from its other valued characteristics, such as ecological, scenic, or economic interests. Historic features can survive as active components of the modern working countryside, or in relict form within the landscape. In either situation, the historic landscape owes both its present appearance and future survival in good condition to the continued commitment of the landowners and farmers who actively work the land. Especially in the rural context, all landscapes of historic interest are part of a living and evolving countryside, and effective policies for historic conservation must form part of wider strategies designed to achieve both conservation and agricultural support. These policies must recognise the inevitability of change, and the need for the thoughtful direction and management of necessary changes in order to avoid sterile fossilisation.

English Heritage has an obvious interest in this historical dimension of the landscape, whether in the heart of the country, in the urban fringe, or in historic settlements and towns. We have clear statutory duties and corporate objectives to promote the understanding and conservation of the whole historic environment. Our resources for conservation in the countryside have in the past been focused principally on specific features in the landscape, whether buildings or monuments, but it is increasingly clear that this perspective is too narrow, in terms both of the methods available to preserve and enhance our environment and of its historical evolution.

English Heritage has already begun to develop a broader approach to the historic landscape. We published a first statement within the preliminary review, *Ancient monuments in the countryside*, in 1987. We have also examined the definition of historic landscapes and their components as part of our Monuments Protection Programme and through the work of our Historic Landscapes Advisory Panel, whilst our work on the designed dimension of the historic landscape is more well advanced through our *Register of historic parks and gardens.* We have been involved with a number of local authorities, and, of course, a great many private owners and the major estates, in the development of management plans for important areas. In some cases, this has involved financial support, as for instance in the Yorkshire Dales.

To develop further our aims in landscape conservation, English Heritage intends to continue to work in partnership with landowners, farmers, and foresters and with the other national agencies and local authorities who share responsibility for the protection of the countryside and its landscape. In general, the means of conservation already exist in the present agricultural system and in the wide range of legislative instruments, planning controls, and grant schemes which are available. Relevant grant schemes, for example, include those administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, especially

Environmentally Sensitive Areas, the Countryside Commission, and other bodies, while historic landscape is now a common theme within statutory development plans. The way forward (through partnership, rather than restriction) must be to coordinate and build on existing means rather than to seek new legislation. Moreover, definition and identification of those historic characteristics of the countryside which need to be taken into account in its preservation, management, and enhancement should be more comprehensive and rigorous than at present. Hence, the Government invitation in the White Paper, *This common inheritance* (1990), to English Heritage to prepare a register of historic landscapes. Such a register, perhaps analogous to that already compiled for historic parks and gardens, could provide a non- statutory guide for owners, local authorities, and others with an interest in countryside management. A major objective would be to ensure that nationally important landscapes of historic interest are identified, so that they can be accorded appropriate special treatment. At the same time, since a sense of place is very much a local matter, local perspectives and the value attached to the familiar and the cherished, and to locally important landscapes, should also be recognised and supported. We accordingly propose to pursue this in close partnership with local authorities, local communities, and individual landowners.

Historic landscape presents considerable problems of definition and the precise form and scope of any register will need to be developed in consultation with a wide range of interests. If such a register is to serve a useful purpose, it must be seen to be founded on a generally acceptable and objective definition of what constitutes the ‘historic’ component of the countryside. The extent to which identified landscapes will need to be on a central rather than a local register requires further thought, but a distinction of the kind adopted for ancient monuments, between ‘national’ and ‘more local’ importance, might well be appropriate.

The proposed register will be based on the following broad principles:

it will need to cover all historical elements of the countryside, and not just those individual features traditionally classified as historic buildings or ancient monuments

it will need to provide relative weighting of landscapes of greater or lesser historic importance in order to aid planning and resource allocation

it will need to provide a methodology for defining and evaluating man-made features of the countryside which can be used by landowners, local authorities, and English Heritage for the local identification and grading of historic landscapes

it will need to be able to inform and assist local management conservation decision at all levels, from the strategic and national to the most important day-to-day work of landowners and others who live on the land.

THE REGISTER OF BUILDINGS AT RISK IN GREATER LONDON

English Heritage has launched a major new initiative for action on historic buildings at risk in Greater London. This forms an integral part of the broader national survey of listed buildings at risk, begun in 1990, to evaluate the overall scale of the problem in England, so we can target available resources more efficiently and effectively at the buildings most in need of assistance. The aim is to bring concerted action to bear on the buildings most open to damage and, wherever possible, to arrest any further deterioration in the fabric of our historic buildings and areas.

The *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* is the outcome of a wide-ranging survey of vacant and derelict listed buildings across the capital. Information was supplied by our own staff, as well as by London Borough Councils and over 150 local amenity groups and historical societies. The results, which are held on the computerised Greater London Sites and Monuments Record, are being updated continuously.

Group of disused mid nineteenth-century warehouses at Jubilee Wharf, Lusk's Wharf, and Lower Oliver's Wharf, Wapping Wall, Tower Hamlets

The Belgrave Hospital, Clapham Road, Lambeth: an early twentieth-century disused hospital under active consideration for hostel use for the homeless

Ruxley Church, Bromley, is a scheduled ancient monument at risk: the thirteenth-century church has been used as a barn since the seventeenth century

Buildings on the *Register* are assessed according to their state of repair, occupancy, and degree of risk. Some are the subject of current refurbishment proposals, or are owned by Building Preservation Trusts, and these will be deleted once new uses are found and repairs are complete. Others stand empty, their future uncertain. Each entry contains basic details of location, list grade, building type and use, condition, and occupancy.

About 950 buildings have been identified as being at risk from neglect or dilapidation in London. The properties include a broad spectrum of building types from large nineteenth-century warehouses to neglected public monuments, redundant churches, chapels, and hospitals. Over 70% of all the buildings are Georgian terraced houses in deprived inner city areas, such as Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Islington, and Camden. Some are owned by local authorities. About 75 buildings are listed Grade I or II*. Among these are Gilbert Scott's spectacular Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station, Eltham Orangery in Greenwich, a thirteenth-century church at Ruxley in Bromley, and a fine Palladian villa at Danson Park, owned by the London Borough of Bexley.

Why do important historic buildings fall into disrepair? There are numerous reasons for this. Often it is due to shifting patterns of use or changing economic and social circumstances. Great city churches, like St Mark's, North Audley Street, or St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, may become redundant as congregations dwindle and the expense of upkeep becomes an impossible burden. With nineteenth- and twentieth-century hospitals and asylums, like the Belgrave Hospital of Children at Clapham, modern practices or methods of care may be incompatible with the original design or purpose of the building. Elsewhere, once-elegant domestic buildings, like the terraces of early eighteenth-century town houses in Stoke Newington Church Street, Hackney, fall victim to inertia, lack of initiative, or sometimes simply a failure to recognise their real potential.

English Heritage is convinced that the problem can be tackled effectively. The vast majority of these buildings can be reused profitably. Increasingly, they are being seen as opportunities rather than problems. The preparation of the *Register* is not an end in itself. It is a beginning which provides a clear framework for action. There is widespread public support for action to deal with urban decay. Derelict buildings are an eyesore and neglected local landmarks, such as churches and former public buildings, arouse dismay as well as causing apathy in the local community. Restoration can act as a stimulus to the regeneration of a rundown area and provide a focus for a revival of civic pride.

We are determined to stop the rot. Our grants are already being targeted increasingly towards buildings at risk – and with impressive results!

At 368–374 Commercial Road restoration is now under way in a fine terrace of Georgian houses. These were the subject of an application to demolish only two years ago. Nearby at St Matthias, Poplar, the oldest building in Docklands, a fascinating thirteenth-century church, encased in a later Gothic Revival shell, has been rescued from a desperate state of neglect by joint funding from English Heritage and the London Docklands Development Corporation.

The constructive use of grant-aid as an incentive to repair is just one of a series of measures planned as part of an accelerated programme of action. Each London Borough Council is being circulated with detailed guidance on appropriate ways and means of tackling the problem in London. Concerted pressure is being applied on recalcitrant owners to repair or to sell their properties, where necessary, making full use of available statutory powers. Closer links are being forged between English Heritage and local building preservation trusts, as well as with other parts of the public, private, and voluntary sectors to coordinate plans for the promotion and marketing of vacant buildings and for the creative adaptation of neglected properties to new uses. We are seeking a closer dialogue with large property-owning bodies, like the area health authorities, so that in future problems of redundancy or obsolescence can be anticipated, and pre-emptive measures taken, before the destructive forces of weather, vandalism, and architectural theft begin to take their toll.

The rescue and repair of the buildings on this *Register* is a challenge to us all. At first sight, some cases may appear to be intractable, but experience has shown that this is rarely so. Acting in concert with the London Borough Councils, amenity societies, and the private sector, English Heritage is convinced that by adopting a dynamic, problem-solving approach these buildings can be restored, once again, to their full glory and provide valuable accommodation for a whole range of potential new uses. Considerable progress has been made already on many difficult cases.

Copies of the *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* can be obtained from Delcia Keate, Buildings at Risk Officer, London Region, English Heritage, Chesham House, 30 Warwick Street, London WIR 5RD; telephone 071-973 3750.

PHILIP DAVIES

RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY FUNDING: A POLICY STATEMENT

PREFACE

The archaeological heritage is a fragile and irreplaceable resource. If this resource is to be cared for, the individual monuments and landscapes of which it is composed must not only have survived to the present day, but need also to have been recognised by historians or archaeologists. Subsequently, if a monument is of importance, it must be protected, managed, and preserved from the many legitimate pressures in modern society which lead towards the destruction of the historic environment. Those monuments and landscapes which cannot be protected and managed should be investigated and recorded before their destruction.

The primary objective of English Heritage is to secure the preservation of archaeological remains. Where this is not feasible, we seek to ensure that archaeological work is carried out to investigate and record important remains before their destruction. Normally, this work is restricted to the minimum compatible with the extent of destruction, but there may be arguments in certain cases for recording more comprehensively to ensure that the intelligibility of the remains is not compromised. Archaeological work will always be undertaken in a way which maximises the information retrieved and makes it available both to the academic world and to the general public. This recording is expensive, however, particularly in urban areas rich in archaeological deposits. Recording is also by

definition destructive of those remains which it seeks to comprehend and which, if left in the ground, would certainly yield greater information to future generations armed with more developed recording and analytical techniques.

The balance of funding for rescue archaeology has altered significantly, since the first statement of English Heritage policy was published in 1986. In the first part of that decade, central government provided the bulk of the funding. In recent years, the onus of meeting the costs of recording has increasingly been shifted to developers, and increased contributions are also being made by local authorities. These changed circumstances are reflected in the Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG 16) on *Archaeology and planning* issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990.[1] The purpose of this policy statement is to replace that issued in 1986 in the light of these changed circumstances.

LEGISLATION AND CRITERIA

The power to fund rescue archaeology is contained in Section 45 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, as amended by the National Heritage Act 1983. It enables English Heritage to 'undertake, or assist in, or defray or contribute towards the cost of, an archaeological investigation of any land in England which [it] consider[s] may contain an ancient monument or anything else of archaeological or historical interest.' The power is limited to the funding of specific projects and is not intended to cover the support of a permanent archaeological service. It relates to ancient monuments in general, not just to those which have been scheduled. Furthermore, it covers the whole process of archaeological investigation through to publication.

The great increase in the number and variety of sites and landscapes which are now recognised as being of archaeological or historic importance means that archaeology grants can be allocated only for projects that can be justified within a framework of academic priorities and can be related to sites of national importance. Following extensive consultations with our statutory advisory committee (AMAC) and archaeology groups and individuals, English Heritage is publishing a strategy document *Exploring our past: strategies for the archaeology of England*[2] which sets out the academic framework within which the programme is devised. The following criteria are the same as those which define a monument as being of national importance for the purposes of scheduling and are taken into account when funding decisions are taken:

survival/condition – the survival of archaeological potential is a crucial consideration

period – it is important to consider for the record the types of monuments that characterise a category or period

rarity – there are monument categories which are so rare that any destruction must be preceded by a record

fragility/vulnerability – important archaeological evidence can be destroyed in some cases by a single ploughing or similar unsympathetic treatment and must be preceded by a record

documentation – the significance of a project may be given greater weight by the existence of contemporary records

group value – the value of the investigation of a single monument may be greatly enhanced by association with a group of related contemporary monuments or with monuments of other periods; depending on the nature of the threat, in some cases it is preferable to investigate the whole, rather than isolated monuments within a group

potential – on occasion, the importance of the remains cannot be precisely specified, but it is possible to document reasons for anticipating a monument's probable existence and so to justify the investigation.

FUNDING POLICY

In November 1990, the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment issued a Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG 16) on *Archaeology and planning.* The importance of the PPG is that it contains advice to developers, planning authorities, archaeologists, and other interested parties which not only confirms that archaeology is material to planning considerations, but, by emphasising the importance of archaeology and highlighting the need for serious consideration to be given to the preservation of important remains, places archaeology firmly on the centre stage of the planning system.

Where it is not feasible to preserve archaeological remains, an alternative may be to arrange prior excavation, during which the archaeological evidence is recorded. On the subject of funding, paragraphs 25, 26, and 30 of PPG 16 state:

'25 Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains. Such excavation and recording should be carried out before development commences, working to a project brief prepared by the planning authority and taking advice from archaeological consultants. This can be achieved through agreements reached between the developer, the archaeologist, and the planning authority (see following paragraph). Such agreements should also provide for the subsequent publication of the results of the excavation. In the absence of such agreements planning authorities can secure excavation and recording by imposing conditions (see paragraphs 29 and 30). In particular cases, where the developer is a non-profit-making community body, such as a charitable trust or housing association, which is unable to raise the funds to provide for excavation and subsequent recording without undue hardship, or in the case of an individual who similarly does not have the means to fund such work, an application for financial assistance may be made to English Heritage.

'26 Agreements covering excavation, recording, and the publication of the results may take different forms. For example, developers or their archaeological consultants and local planning authorities may wish to conclude a voluntary planning agreement under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or other similar powers. The Secretary of State is pleased to note the increasing number of agreements being reached within the terms and spirit of the British Archaeologists' and Developers' Code of Practice. Model agreements between developers and the appropriate archaeological body regulating archaeological site investigations and excavations can be obtained from the British Property Federation. These agreements can provide for the excavation and recording of sites before development work starts. Voluntary agreements are likely to provide more flexibility and be of greater mutual benefit to all the parties than could be provided for by alternative statutory means. They have the advantage of setting out clearly the extent of the developer's commitment, thereby reducing both uncertainty over the financial implications of having to accommodate any archaeological constraints and the possibility of unforeseen delays to the construction programme.

'30 In cases when planning authorities have decided that planning permission may be granted but wish to secure the provision of archaeological excavation and the subsequent recording of the remains, it is open to them to do so by the use of a negative condition ie a condition prohibiting the carrying out of development until such time as works or other action, eg an excavation, have been carried out by a third party. In such cases the following model is suggested: 'No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the

Planning Authority.' (Developers will wish to ensure that in drawing up a scheme, the timetable for the investigation is included within the details of the agreed scheme).'
The use of this model is also advocated in the CBI *Code of practice for mineral operators*.
The advice on the use of the above condition should be regarded as supplementary to that contained in DoE Circular 1/85 relating to archaeology.
In line with the advice given on archaeological matters in PPG 16, English Heritage policy is to allocate the funds at its disposal for recording those archaeological sites which cannot be preserved and whose destruction is taking place beyond the control of agencies with the power and resources to deal with the problem. In particular, local planning authorities have a clear role to play in ensuring that the archaeological implications of their planning decisions are properly assessed; and that, where destruction of important archaeological sites is unavoidable, due provision for essential recording is agreed and made before permission for a particular development scheme is given. In the view of English Heritage, responsibility for producing a published record of archaeological deposits which are unavoidably threatened by development and which cannot be preserved *in situ* lies with the developer whether in the public or private sectors. That work should include the processing and primary research necessary to prepare the excavation archive for preservation in a usable form and to produce a full report for publication. It should include the analysis and investigative conservation of material directly relevant to the interpretation of the chronology, economy, organisation, and environment of the site and the ordering of other classes of data. English Heritage will continue to fund the total cost of selected projects where all possibilities for saving the site or attracting excavation funds from elsewhere have been exhausted. In addition, we will commission projects which in our view, and that of our advisers, should be undertaken to enable us to carry out our statutory duties and to direct funding to particular problems with this in view.
There may be cases where it is not practical for a developer to make full provision for archaeological work required by a planning authority, and where, subject to the availability of our funds, English Heritage may be prepared to offer some financial support. Such cases will normally fall into two main types – where a development is demonstrably unable to make full provision in its budget for the level of recording demanded by the quality of a threatened site, and where (despite properly designed and conducted evaluation) unpredicted and important evidence has emerged subsequent to the granting of planning permission and beyond the resources already put aside for archaeological work.
Grant offers are made subject to an understanding that the sum offered constitutes a ceiling which will not be increased, unless additional work is agreed as essential and that payment will be in instalments, subject to completion of work to previously agreed targets.
English Heritage has produced a manual *The management of archaeology projects*,[3] which sets out good practice in archaeological project management for recipients of its own grants and as an aid to other financial sponsors.
An annual account is published of archaeological activities undertaken and grant-aided by English Heritage. The *Archaeology review* was first published in 1989 and contains a list of grants made during the preceding year.[4]

Notes
1 Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 16): *Archaeology and planning*, November 1990, HMSO
2 *Exploring our past: strategies for the archaeology of England*, 1991, English Heritage
3 *The management of archaeological projects*, 2 edn, 1991, English Heritage
4 *Archaeology review* 1988–9 and 1989–90, English Heritage

CONSERVING NATURE ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Castle Acre Castle, Norfolk: by leaving areas of grass uncut until autumn, wild plants can flower and habitats are provided for butterflies and other creatures

Historic sites, and the monuments or buildings they contain, comprise a substantial resource of wildlife habitat – grassland, woodland, wetland, buildings, walls, and so on – all of which can make a very real contribution to nature conservation. All such places will have some significance for wildlife, whether it be a show of wild flowers, a roost for bats, or a simple lichen-covered stone. Whilst all or most of the habitats present will be to a greater or lesser extent man-made, they frequently provide valuable refuges for plants and animals which may have difficulty in surviving elsewhere. Indeed, artificial habitats are often of particular interest as they provide specialised opportunities for some species. The swallow is a good example of a bird which nests almost exclusively in buildings. English Heritage, in common with many other owners and managers of land, is now looking at ways in which nature can be maintained or enhanced. The flora and the associated fauna will include species which are typical of the particular locality and may have become scarce there. Most historic sites are islands of land which have escaped both development and agricultural improvement. In that respect, they augment and complement nature reserves and other protected areas such as the properties of the Nature Conservancy Council and the County Wildlife Trusts, even though they exist for quite different reasons. Sites such as Maiden Castle and Bratton Camp, for example, represent refuges of chalkland vegetation and fauna in an area of England where cereal-growing has extinguished much of the former downland.

The plants will sometimes include species which have been present for centuries and may have been introduced there for medicinal or culinary purposes. If so, this fact may assist in the interpretation of the archaeological evidence. Where the site is open to the public, such features will provide an additional interest to the visitor.

Although the first priority is the conservation of the historic monument, garden, or industrial feature, there will almost always be scope for maintaining or enhancing the wildlife interest of any site. This will often necessitate the adoption of a management style which involves the retention of growth and may sometimes appear untidy. This is inevitable, if seeds and fruits are to survive and if habitats are to be maintained to meet all the varying needs of the fauna, including food, shelter, places to breed, and cover in which to hibernate. A dry bank, for example, which is left to grow long may be most attractive in June, but dreary and unkempt in September. However, many of the butterflies and other insects which frequent it in high summer will place their eggs, larvae, or pupae there through autumn and winter and, without the right conditions, cannot complete their life cycles.

Clearly in practice there have to be compromises. Indeed, the requirements of the myriad different plant and animal species are themselves different, so no one management regime can suit everything. Choices have to be made and expense and practicality taken into account. Fortunately, management for wildlife is frequently less intensive and hence less expensive than the more traditional approach. Grass which has been routinely fertilised, treated with weed-killer, and cut numerous times during the year may be a more valuable and attractive feature if it is simply cut once or twice after flowering. If areas at the margins can be left permanently uncut, so much the better. These will act as a habitat for creatures which require winter cover and will also support voles and field-mice which in turn will help to ensure food for predators, such as stoats, weasels, owls, and hawks.

The rusty-back fern (Ceterach officinarum) is associated with wall mortar in southern and western Britain (English Nature)

It does have to be remembered that the cutting and removal of long grass may require different machines and techniques which may be costly to introduce and maintain. Nevertheless, a careful comparison should show significant savings in the majority of cases.

Of course, there will often be a need for short grass, whether it be high-quality lawns or simply pathways or places where the visitor can go to view or photograph the monument. Circumstances will sometimes dictate that such areas be managed to a high standard of traditional excellence, but very often there will be no need for weed-killing or fertilising. A strong and healthy turf does not have to consist solely of fine lawn grasses. So long as it fulfils its principal functions, it may be more attractive if it is bright with daisies or speedwell and it may produce cowslips or cuckoo flowers in spring.

Grazing can be a particularly effective way of controlling vegetation on such sites. Grazing animals are efficient and adaptable and usually very cheap on account of the value they accrue. Animals do of course need daily inspection and suffer from pests, diseases, and accidents, including attacks by dogs, but increasing use is nevertheless being made of them for land management as opposed to meat production. Sheep, cattle, and goats are normally used, but geese may also have a role. The use of rare or traditional breeds will sometimes have advantages in terms of hardiness or historical relevance.

Much of the land associated with monuments is grassland of one sort or another, but a wide variety of other habitats also occur. These include rock outcrops, cliffs and dunes, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers. There may be springs or marshes. Sometimes there will be caves. Many of these are particularly important habitats in their own right and all of them contribute to the diversity of the monuments. Trees and woodlands are of course a very important feature. The most valuable from a wildlife point of view will be native trees and native woodland on old woodland sites. If these have been continuously wooded throughout history, they may well include scarce species of plant or animal life. As with the grasslands, much will depend on the condition of the site and the style of management. If the undergrowth is cleared regularly, the trees pruned, and fallen timber cleared away, many opportunities for wildlife will have gone. If a varied structure can be maintained, however, old over-mature trees retained, and some dead timber left lying, it can be a very different story. Climbers such as ivy and honeysuckle will also add greatly to the diversity of the fauna. That is not to suggest that trees or woods should be totally neglected. New trees will be needed to ensure succession and there will often be safety considerations to consider.

There will be instances where the nature conservation value of a site can easily be restored or enhanced by suitable management. The planting of native trees and shrubs may not always be possible because of archaeological considerations. However, attractive wildflowers can be sown or planted and some of the newer techniques are surprisingly cheap.

So far as buildings are concerned, there is growing interest in the potential role of plants in protecting wall-tops from adverse weather. Plants intercept and utilise some of the rain and mist, thereby reducing the amount that enters or runs down the masonry. Whilst deep-rooting woody plants clearly do a lot of damage, the majority of ferns, grasses, and other flowering plants are relatively harmless. Clearly, this is a field for detailed technical research and an area where botanists can contribute greatly to our understanding of the processes involved. Birds and other animals also make use of our buildings and most are

quite harmless. In the case of bats, it is important that we fulfil our legal obligations in consultation with the Nature Conservancy Council (now 'English Nature'). This is important, not only on properties managed directly by English Heritage, but also when advising owners and occupiers, negotiating agreements, or offering grants.

Where a low-input style of management is practised, there may be other hidden benefits. Long grass on steep slopes not only discourages climbing or sliding, but it also helps to combat erosion by ensuring an abundance of seeds and other propagules to rejuvenate the vegetation and revegetate bare areas.

An essential prerequisite to planning for nature conservation is a knowledge of what is present on a site and an evaluation of its importance. In practice, this usually means a survey of the vegetation and habitats coupled with consultation with local specialists. They will often know of particular plants or other features which cannot be detected during a normal survey.

In a number of cases, the wildlife interest is so great that the Nature Conservancy Council will have designated the area as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This will require the owner or occupier to consult English Nature before carrying out any activity there, which has been listed as likely to damage the special interest. In these cases, it is imperative that English Heritage should be party to the discussions, because the ideal management for nature conservation may not always protect the historic interest. This is especially important where formal management agreements are being made by one or both parties. Even where no SSSI is involved, a management agreement can often take account of the wildlife interest if the terms are carefully worked out. There will not usually be any extra cost.

The keys to successful integration of wildlife conservation and heritage protection are knowledge of what lives and grows on a site and of how to maintain their habitat requirements. This requires specialist knowledge. By developing its links with naturalists and the nature conservation organisations, both locally and nationally, English Heritage hopes to give greater regard to wildlife, whilst at the same time continuing to fulfil its principal objectives.

JOHN THOMPSON

THE TRUNDLE, CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX

The Trundle lies on the southern edge of the South Downs some four miles north of Chichester in the coastal plain. Around the summit of the hill are the ramparts of a Celtic hillfort occupied from the fifth century BC to the first century AD. The hillfort overlies the remains of a Neolithic enclosure dating from about 3000 BC. Only 43 such enclosures are known in England and they represent the earliest surviving form of settlement in the country. Therefore, when British Telecom applied for scheduled monument consent to construct a new building, an aerial mast 28.9m high carrying 14 dish receivers each 3m in diameter, associated facilities, and a perimeter security fence within this important archaeological site, they were opposed at the inquiry by English Heritage.

The Inspector concluded that the proposed new structures would seriously harm the intrinsic character and archaeological importance of the Trundle and that the new tower would be entirely inimical to its surroundings. In addition, the Inspector did not regard the full excavation of the application site as any justification for granting the application. He therefore recommended that scheduled monument consent be refused.

The Secretary of State rejected the advice of the Inspector on the grounds that the need for the development, with all the benefits that it would convey, outweighed the adverse environmental impact which the Secretary of State accepted the proposed development would have on this monument.

Discussions are now taking place with British Telecom to arrange for an archaeological excavation before the construction of the new facilities takes place.

GEOFF WAINWRIGHT

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

PROCEDURES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY ACQUISITION FOR SALE

A change of ownership is often a more important factor in securing a future for an historic building than a change of use. If the existing owner is reluctant to allow others the opportunity of using a decaying listed building, its acquisition and resale by a local authority – perhaps to a building preservation trust – may be the only route to saving it. English Heritage is cooperating with the Association of Conservation Officers in a study of the Compulsory Purchase procedure which allows local authorities to acquire historic buildings in order to secure their preservation.[1] It is intended to publish the conclusions of this study later this year and to include discussion of the many complaints about the procedures submitted in response to a joint questionnaire. In the meantime, it is clear that some local authorities are operating the system effectively. English Heritage is keen to promote the use of all the available legal powers in appropriate circumstances, and this note seeks to clear away two misconceptions about the technicalities which may be deterring others from using their powers to preserve historic buildings.

LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPITAL FINANCE CONTROLS

Authorities are often reluctant even to consider acquisition because of general financial constraints. It is important therefore to understand that there are exceptions in favour of historic buildings. Local authorities may acquire historic buildings in order to secure their preservation, either by agreement[2] or by compulsory purchase following a repairs notice. Many authorities believe that, if they acquire and resell a listed building, the normal restrictions on capital finance will apply. This, it is thought, will effectively penalise the authority, by allowing it to use only 50% of the sale price for other projects. This is incorrect. The government has for some time made special arrangements about the application of the rules governing local authority finance to permit local authorities to carry out their enabling role for the preservation of historic buildings. These are continued in revised form under The Local Government and Housing Act 1989.[3] Provided that an historic building is not retained in local authority ownership after acquisition, there need be no financial penalty. The rules, as explained in the Circular,[3] state that, whereas local authorities are restricted in their use of most capital receipts when they sell property, they can sell on an historic building which is acquired either by agreement or by compulsory purchase with no effect on the amount that they can then spend on other projects. If the price received on resale is the same as that paid by the authority or less, the capital receipt is unrestricted. Any profit will be subject to the normal restrictions, but incidental expenditure, such as legal costs during acquisition, can be added on. The authority must make a contract for disposal of the building before acquiring it or within two years of the acquisition. Thus, the authority can dispose of the building immediately without undertaking any works itself or can delay disposal for up to three years provided the contract for disposal has been made within two years of the acquisition. The disposal must cover the interest acquired, eg leasehold or a greater interest such as a freehold. However, the freehold can be retained if a leasehold of at least 125 years is granted and 90% of the price is received by the authority within a year from the time of disposal. Under Regulation 17 the authority can, in certain circumstances, do ‘enhancement’ works before selling the building, and the expenditure will not be penalised provided not more than two years elapse before disposal. This means that a local authority may be able, if

necessary, to acquire a building, agree to sell it on, but do some works itself before disposing of it. Local authorities considering works will need to consider the definition of 'enhancements' in s40 of the 1989 Act and Regulation 17.[3]
There is no longer any need for an authority to obtain specific authorisation, since the published regulations give automatic approval provided the conditions are complied with. This summary must be used only as a general guide. Any authority considering acquisition and resale should look carefully at the current regulations to ensure that the criteria are met. Detailed advice is essential in each individual case.

LISTED BUILDING PURCHASE NOTICE

Section 32 of the 1990 Act permits an owner to serve a Purchase Notice requiring the local authority to acquire his listed building. It seems to be commonly held that this option is available whenever a Repairs Notice (s48)[1] has been served. It is, however, only available to an owner where he can show that the building is incapable of reasonably beneficial use *and* where listed building consent for works has been refused or granted subject to conditions affecting its viability.
S48(5) of the 1990 Act limits the owner's right to serve a Purchase Notice whilst the Repairs Notice/Compulsory Purchase procedure is under way, and this has led to the confusion. If there has been no refusal of consent or conditional consent, the Purchase Notice procedure is not available to the applicant.
The service of a Repairs Notice does not in itself commit the authority to acquiring the building, although it does imply a willingness to consider this, if the repairs are not done.

VANESSA BRAND

Notes
1 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ss47–51
2 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 s52
3 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 1990 [SI 1990 No 432] Regulations 15–18
Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Amendment) Regulations 1991 [SI 1991 No 500] Regulation 2d amends Regulation 18 of the 1990 Regulations Circular 11/90, Annex A, paras 51–54 & 56

ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY STUDIES

With the growth in the number of excavations funded by commercial developers, English Heritage is embarking upon more broadly based syntheses in order to ensure that work is carried out within a framework of good professional practice and not in isolation. The most effective way to ensure the best use of resources and to facilitate future decision-making is to have available a clear statement of the current state of knowledge for each field of study.
Amongst the various categories of artefacts routinely recovered from excavations, Romano-British pottery presents a particular problem because of its ubiquity and abundance. That subject was therefore chosen as the first in a series of reviews, on the basis of which the potential for further work can be examined and priorities established. The review was commissioned from the University of Reading and written by Professor Mike Fulford and Karen Huddleston. The review makes it clear that there now exists a corpus of material of considerable size and potential, but it also reveals that exploiting this material to the full has been constrained by a number of major factors. There is scope for improvement in a number of areas and the review makes a number of recommendations with this in mind:

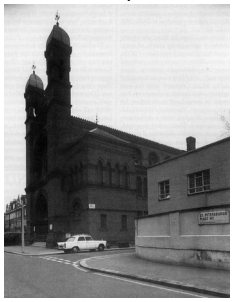
research designs should be prepared for all ceramic projects and should make explicit the objectives of the work proposed and the contribution to our general understanding of the past
the potential of the material should be considered at the beginning of the planning of a project
the level of pottery analysis and recording should be appropriate to the information that is required of it
the methodology adopted should be appropriate to the expressed objectives of the project
steps should be taken to establish appropriate reference collections for Romano-British pottery at national and local levels
the preparation of manuals and corpora on certain types of pottery as well as regional syntheses should be pursued
additional emphasis should be placed on the training and support of professional staff.
English Heritage will be discussing with the profession how best to implement the recommendations of this important review.

GEOFF WAINWRIGHT

SYNAGOGUES: A GROWING CONCERN

To those involved in church preservation, the problem of dwindling congregations in large buildings in need of expensive repair and maintenance is familiar. The same problem is affecting other faiths, among them the Jewish community. Younger people are no longer worshipping in their parents' synagogues and often move away from the area where they were brought up in a closely-knit religious and cultural community. The result is that Jewish buildings from the synagogue to the soup kitchen are being closed down or sold off and demolished.

The United Synagogue was set up in 1870 to administer existing synagogues and the building of new ones in areas recently populated by Jews in London. This powerful body owns the freehold of many fine synagogues in the capital and, like the Church of England, is under pressure to realise its assets and sell off some buildings. In the winter of 1987–8, the United Synagogue sold the East London Synagogue in Stepney Green (Davis and Emmanuel, 1877) to property developers without consultation or apparent concern for its fate. English Heritage was notified and inspected the building. Before it was listed, however, much of the sumptuous decoration and fittings had been destroyed.



New West End synagogue, St Petersburgh Place, Westminster, looking north

The interior of the New West End synagogue

The Manchester Great Synagogue was demolished in 1986. Liverpool's splendid Prince's Road Synagogue, designed by George Audsley in 1874 and listed II*, is currently under threat. Other synagogues, such as the Spitalfields Synagogue and Shacklewell Lane, Stoke Newington, have been converted into mosques. Such a conversion leaves the shell

of a building intact but often stripped of features such as a niche or platform for the ark, the galleries, or stained glass. Other building types, such as Jewish schools, baths, almshouses, and public institutions, are also vulnerable to neglect and decay and, in the case of cemeteries, to anti-semitic vandalism.

Following the tragedy of the East London Synagogue, still standing empty and forlorn after two arson attacks, a preliminary survey by English Heritage staff resulted in the addition of more synagogues to the statutory list. There are now eight synagogues listed in London. These range from the earliest Jewish Synagogue in the country, Bevis Marks in the City built by a Quaker Joseph Avis in 1701, through examples of High Victorian splendour, such as the New West End Synagogue in Bayswater (George Audsley, 1877), to Owen Williams' uncompromisingly modern, innovative reinforced concrete building at Dollis Hill (1933–8).

Such buildings as these are clearly listable. A more recent survey of synagogues has given a clearer picture of the situation. Many were not particularly old (some late nineteenth century, some inter-war), or of first class architectural quality when compared with the best contemporary church architecture; few would be considered outstanding for grant purposes. Yet some of these buildings were designed with a deliberately plain exterior to blend in with surrounding houses and belie elaborate, if crudely decorated, interiors, paid for with the limited funds raised by the congregation, often in poor parts of London. They bear witness to the settlement of Jews in a particular area and provide an important part of the social and cultural history of London, for example the Congregation of Jacob Synagogue on the Whitechapel Road or the Yahvneh Synagogue behind a group of turn-of-the-century houses in Ainsworth Road, Hackney.

The Jewish community is becoming increasingly concerned with the disappearance of their own heritage. Tony Kushner from the University of Southampton organised a conference entitled 'Preserving the Jewish heritage' last summer. This conference is to be followed up with another in London this autumn, which will address specifically the problem of building conservation. It is being organised by Dr Sharman Kadish, an academic and editor of the *Journal of the Federation of Synagogues.* Dr Kadish is a galvanising force in Jewish conservation; her articles on the destruction of the heritage are hard-hitting and pointed, demanding increased awareness and responsibility for this aspect of the built heritage.

The view was expressed at the Southampton conference that the synagogue as a building type has been deliberately marginalised. Although this may be overstating the case, it is clear that the contribution of synagogue architecture to the overall built heritage in this country needs more work and that a fairer representation is desirable. We are still lacking in knowledge about the extent of the stock of Jewish buildings, and about their builders, architects, and social history, and any help which the Jewish community or others can give us to improve our understanding is very much to be welcomed.

SUSIE BARSON

THE GREAT STORMS 1987 AND 1990

The great storms of 16 October 1987 and 26 January 1990 were a disaster to southern England's mature and declining fine landscapes, yet they have 'kick-started' grants for parks and gardens and provided the incentive to consider the management of these landscapes in the medium to long term.

English Heritage and the Countryside Commission were both concerned with the emergency arising out of the storms. English Heritage already had the power to provide grants to parks and gardens, in parallel with the longstanding scheme for buildings grants, but did not have the finance. A survey of the storm damaged sites on English Heritage's own *Register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England* provided the

facts for a successful plea to the Department of the Environment for additional funding. The scheme could only be extended to those sites declared ‘outstanding’, of which there are potentially only about 350 throughout England, and it was limited to those places that would provide at least some public access.

Meanwhile, the Countryside Commission set up a taskforce called Task Force Trees (TFT) to deal with storm damage to the wider countryside and green areas in towns through an extension of the amenity tree-planting grants. A special scheme was arranged for parks and gardens which are on the *Register*, but not ‘outstanding’.

The English Heritage Gardens Committee advised on whether some 240 sites were outstanding. Roughly one-third were declared outstanding, but, because they were often the larger and more elaborate sites, they represented about half the storm damage to registered parks and gardens. Both English Heritage and TFT require restoration schemes to be the basis of plans for replanting, and, as the schemes progressed, it was possible to align grant rates to be very similar (the English Heritage rates are 25% for clearance, 75% for professional fees in the production of restoration plans, and 50% for tree surgery, replanting, fencing, and other works). A landscape architect was taken on to assess the restoration schemes.

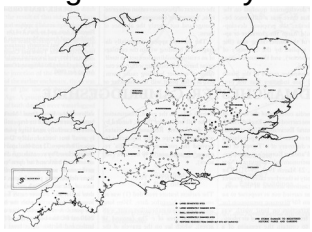
When the 1990 storm came, a very quick damage assessment was produced, leading within weeks to the minister, David Trippier, announcing another £1.5m to English Heritage for storm damage grants. Task Force Trees also obtained additional funding. Consultants were then employed in order to report on the storm damage at all registered sites in enough detail for costings to be undertaken. It was decided to continue the grant rates of the former schemes.

The consultants’ work revealed a distribution of damage even more widespread than that from the 1987 storm. Severe damage was found from Tresco in the Isles of Scilly to Wiltshire, and a scatter of damage as far to the northeast as Houghton in Norfolk, and far up into Wales and the Midlands to the north. The south-eastern margins of the affected area overlapped the north-western margins of the 1987 storm, so several places along a line through Hampshire, Hertfordshire, and Cambridgeshire had been hit badly on both occasions. A complicating factor was that the storms returned, though less severely, in February, and felled trees loosened in the January gale. However, the damage was about two thirds of that suffered in 1987.

The English Heritage Gardens Committee had been wound up, once its work on the 1987 storm had been completed, and its residual work subsumed in the new Historic Landscape Panel, created at the end of 1989. A group of garden history specialists on the panel thus found themselves unexpectedly convened to address the outstandingness of another 200 sites. A further 80 were found to be outstanding, and thus eligible for English Heritage grant, and the rest were passed to TFT, with whom coordination was close. English Heritage produced maps of the extent of the parks and gardens claiming storm damage and began once more to provide advice on restoration schemes submitted to TFT. It was clear that the 1990 storm exercise, despite attempts to streamline the system, would take almost as much administrative effort as the 1987 storm exercise.

Most sites affected in 1987 now have restoration schemes completed or nearing completion. The biggest omission in most of these schemes is the provision of detailed estimates of cost which are necessary before English Heritage can make grant offers, but that is rapidly being put right. English Heritage has recently announced a cutoff of 16

October 1991 (ie four years after the storm) for any claims for clearance and for the submission of costed restoration schemes.
The replanting phase started in earnest in the 1990–1 season, and the following two seasons are expected to see most of the planting completed. Some of the more notable replanting schemes to date are at Helmingham Park, Suffolk, where filling the gaps in a seventeenth-century oak avenue was perhaps the first completed replanting; Combe Bank, Kent, where a garden from the 1730s was still largely surviving until 1987 and which is being restored with accuracy and skill; Gunton Park, Norfolk, where several owners are coordinating their activities; Brockhurst, East Sussex, where elderly owners and their helpers are making great strides with restoring a remarkable rock garden with very little available capital; and Knole, Kent, where the scale of devastation was phenomenal but is being reversed by an ambitious replanting scheme.



The whole exercise is proving rewarding in more than just the obvious sense that damaged landscapes are being repaired. First, the realisation that an historic landscape needs specialist attention, just like an historic house, is taking root amongst owners. Families who have owned their properties for generations may not have employed a designer since the 1850s, when the formal gardens next to the house were installed. Institutional users have usually done no more than carry out minimal maintenance on ever declining budgets. Now, with the encouragement of grants, restoration and management plans are being written which will serve the owners well in the long-term care of their parks and gardens.
Second, there has been a gain the standard of professional advice available. This factor is probably more essential to the long-term care of the site than the amount of money immediately on offer: hence the 75% grant on professional fees in producing the restoration scheme. English Heritage has produced booklets setting out a methodology for producing these schemes. Meanwhile, experience amongst both English Heritage and the consultants is accumulating. It is fair to say that there is much more expertise in dealing with historic landscapes available today than two years ago. This is very welcome, because the task ahead in rehabilitating England's heritage of parks and gardens is truly enormous.

DAVID JACQUES

THE CONSERVATION AREA CRITERION

The special criterion applicable to the exercise of statutory planning functions* with respect to conservation areas (the conservation area criterion) reads as follows:
'Special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.'
There have been a number of court cases concerning this criterion since it was spotlighted in *Steinberg v Secretary of State for the Environment* in 1989, the most recent being *South Lakeland District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment* which was decided by the Court of Appeal on 12 March 1991.
In the Steinberg case, Professor Steinberg succeeded in getting the Secretary of State's decision in favour of the proposed development quashed on the ground that there was a difference between whether the proposed development would 'harm' the character or

appearance of the conservation area (the criterion applied by the Secretary of State's inspector), and the conservation area criterion.
The newspaper report of the South Lakeland case indicates that the proposed development was the erection of a new vicarage in the curtilage of the existing vicarage. The decision of the Court of Appeal starts by indicating that the issue was whether the decision-maker had to determine that the proposed development would make a 'positive contribution' to the preservation or enhancement of the area, or whether it would suffice to determine that there would be no harm. The court held that the words 'preservation' and 'enhancement' had their ordinary meaning, and that character or appearance could be said to be preserved (enhancement was not involved in this instance), where they were 'not harmed'. The Secretary of State's decision was, therefore, upheld.
The decision is difficult to understand, in so far as there would appear to be a strong argument for saying that, in the context of the conservation area criterion, 'preserving' connotes the absence of change and not merely the absence of harm.
The decision appears potentially damaging. If building within the curtilage of an existing building does not, in itself, cause harm, will building within the curtilage of another building cause harm; and at what point will the character or appearance of a conservation area be altered, or destroyed, if the process is continued?
Having said this, it has to be recognised that the conservation area criterion is not – and never has been – an embargo on development within conservation areas. This point was emphasised in *Bath Society v Secretary of State for the Environment* (decided by the Court of Appeal on 6 February 1991). In the course of quashing the Secretary of State's decision permitting development in a conservation area, a differently constituted Court of Appeal made it clear that, even if the conservation area criterion was not met, development could still be permitted, if the decision-maker was satisfied that the development entailed advantages which outweighed the disadvantages.

DEREK TRAFFORD-OWEN

Note
*The criterion actually applies both to the Planning Acts and to Part I of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. The criterion was formerly contained in section 277(8) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, but is now in section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

GODMANCHESTER, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Recent media coverage of the results of excavations carried out by English Heritage's Central Excavation Unit at Godmanchester has fuelled speculation about the discovery of a 'Temple of the Sun', and 'ancient Europe's most sophisticated astronomical computer' (*New Scientist,* 23 March 1991, 29–31). The opportunity is therefore taken to present a more cautious account of this work, which was carried out in response to an application for planning permission for gravel extraction on land which was thought, from the evidence of air photographs, to contain the remains of a Roman villa. In the event, examination of the full area under threat, funded by the developers, Redland Associates, widened the scope of the researches far beyond the confines of the 'villa' remains, to cover nearly 40 hectares (100 acres).

'CEREMONIAL CENTRE'

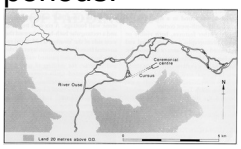
The earliest feature recorded (1) was an enclosure of Neolithic date, 350m long and 230m wide at its broadest point, with an internal area of *c* 7ha (around 18 acres), which lay on the gravels of the valley of the River Ouse. Marking the outside perimeter of its trapezoidal plan were 24 carefully sited large posts, mostly oval but occasionally D-shaped, spaced

between 31 and 46m apart. These were enclosed by a continuous ditch with an internal bank and an open ‘entrance’ to the north- north-east. An ox skull had been deliberately placed upon the bottom of the south ditch terminal and a deer antler and a lower cattle limb were found in association with the holes for the posts. A radiocarbon date of 2925–2620 cal BC has been obtained from the antler and further dates from charcoal found within the postholes should be forthcoming.

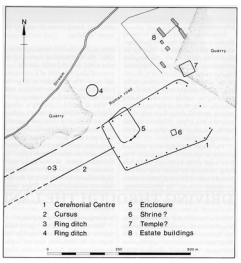
This arrangement of posts and ditch seems to be unparalleled elsewhere. The design of the enclosure precludes its use for defence, and it seems too elaborate to have been used simply for holding stock or any other farming or domestic use. The extent of the area enclosed, however, would be adequate provision for a large gathering of people, possibly together with their crops and livestock. The formal plan of this enclosure, its association with ritual animal deposits, and the provision of sufficient space for a sizeable assembly of people, can be taken as evidence that the monument may have been used as a ceremonial centre.

A more familiar feature in the Neolithic landscape is the later ‘cursus’ or long enclosure (2) which followed the same alignment as the ceremonial enclosure to its south-west. Its two long parallel ditches lay 90m apart, and its south ditch linked with a central point on the ditch, by now filled in, which marked the earlier enclosure’s south-western side. From here, the southern ditch of the cursus turned north to follow the line of the earlier ditch and create the square end which is a characteristic of cursus monuments. A gap between the ditches at the north corner was deliberately planned to form an entrance. Other interruptions in the line of the north ditch may be the result of this side never having been completed. Aerial photographs showed that the cursus ran southwestwards for at least 0.5km, up to the point where the built-up area begins. Since its line could not be traced beyond the town, its maximum possible length was 1.2km.

At the junction of the cursus and the ditches of the earlier enclosure, there was evidence of the use of the site in the Bronze Age. A group of pits dug through the fills of both ditches were waterlogged and contained large amounts of charcoal, burnt flint, unburnt small timbers and twigs, and a full range of other environmental material. A ditch enclosing a circle of 8m diameter (3) – probably also of Bronze Age date – was found symmetrically placed between the cursus ditches. There was no trace of anything within it, and despite excavation of half of its filling, no dating evidence was recovered. The position and layout of later field systems and trackways, as well as of four cremation burials found nearby, suggest that this circular ditch remained a visible feature into the Iron Age and Roman periods.



The relationship between the Neolithic features and the surrounding landscape at Godmanchester



The major features of the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Roman period discovered during the excavations

More limited excavation of a much larger ring-ditch (4) with a diameter of 36m, which lay to the north, also produced no secure dating evidence. There was a low turf mound within the

ditch, cut by a number of irregular pits, which may have been tree-holes. The mound was also cut by a shallow grave for a human skeleton.
An irregularly-shaped enclosure (5) of Bronze Age date was located in the north-west corner of the ceremonial area. It had an area of 0.8ha, an entrance to the south-east, and the circuit of its boundary ditch included two large oval pits, possibly used as water sources. A human skeleton was found in a small pit just outside its northwest corner.
Two other features, both visible on aerial photographs, were identified and examined within the area of the neolithic enclosure. A small square enclosure (6), bounded by a shallow continuous ditch, was fully excavated, but no datable material was recovered. This enclosure was cut by a ditch (not illustrated), which crossed the interior of the ceremonial area and turned to stop just before its north ditch.

ROMAN OCCUPATION

Cropmarks of Roman trackways and roads connected to the town of Godmanchester, 1.2km to the south-west, appeared carefully to skirt the northern edge of the area occupied by the prehistoric remains. The excavation of the Roman occupation was largely confined to the area previously regarded as a 'villa' (8) and a series of long, narrow ditched enclosures thought to be associated with it. One of these was found to contain a cemetery of 55 cremations in urns, with associated flagons, jars, and saurian dishes, and an adult and three infant inhumations.
Excavation showed that the enclosure ditches were earlier than the buildings, and that they had become filled by the time, in the third century, that the group of buildings (8) was erected. The buildings lay within an area defined by ditches on the west and north, a trackway to the east, and a metalled road to the south, replacing an earlier trackway leading from the town. Beyond the trackway to the east of the buildings were large numbers of rubbish pits, otherwise notable for their absence in the area around the building complex.
The major buildings were arranged around an extensive open space. Two very large aisled buildings, up to 36m long, occupied the north side and contained a total of 33 ovens, none of which produced evidence for metalworking. One of these buildings was joined by a corridor to a long 'hall' with impressive stone wall footings. A six-post building and a rectangular bath-house formed the west side of the 'courtyard'. Material recovered from the demolition layers of the bath-house included painted wall plaster and tesserae; the infilling of one of its three associated wells contained the stone base of a large column. The fills of the wells also produced a wealth of environmental evidence, and the timbers which formed their linings have been submitted for dendrochronological analysis. The final building discovered lay next to the metalled road and was constructed using two rows of seven square oak posts. The care taken to shape the posts and the size of the building indicates that it was of some importance.

A votive figure of a cockerel, before conservation, found within the area of the 'estate' buildings

The failure to identify a formal residential 'villa' among these buildings poses a number of questions regarding their location and interpretation. If they were part of a farm with an absentee owner and run by estate workers, why is there such an elaborate bath-house? On the other hand, the buildings could scarcely be seen as part of a roadside establishment for travellers, as the road does not continue further. Their layout is spacious, and there is no evidence of the alterations or additions which might have been expected from the occupation of a farm over a period of about a century. The presence of the earlier

cemetery must also be accounted for: cemeteries were usually located on the outskirts of Roman towns, but this one is rather more remote from Godmanchester.
A square enclosure (7) has been identified from aerial photographs south of the metalled road and opposite the Roman buildings. It lay alongside the earlier neolithic enclosure on the same orientation as the square enclosure (6). In plan and size, it is reminiscent of the kind of ditch which often surrounded Romano-British temples. No structures can be detected within the enclosure from aerial photographs, but nor could the bathhouse and other substantial buildings which have since been revealed by excavation be seen beforehand from the air. Much of this enclosure was quarried away without record in 1984, but part of the interior, approximately a third, has survived. The excavation of the remains of this enclosure is crucial and should take place later this year.
If this was the site of a temple, the buildings on the north side of the road could be interpreted as ancillary buildings for the temple complex. Cremation and inhumation cemeteries are also often associated with temples. The continued use of sacred sites from the Iron Age through to the Roman period is relatively common – Bronze Age barrows, for example, form the focal points for Roman shrines at Stanwick, in the Nene valley, 27km to the west, and at Haddenham, 15km east along the River Ouse. The evidence at Godmanchester suggests that the sequence of monuments here may be more complex and more varied than this, but careful study and evaluation may show some form of transition from Neolithic ceremony to Roman religion in a single location.

FACHTNA McAVOY

DRIVING THROUGH THE LANDSCAPE

There is concern that the present boom in golf course developments may damage our historic buildings, parks and gardens, ancient monuments, and conservation areas. A published statement, based on work by Hawtree and Cobham Resource Consultants, is being circulated with this *Bulletin,* to help local authorities assess golf course proposals. There is advice on the type of information needed, the organisations that ought to be consulted, and the impact assessments that should be made. Local authorities will need to know whether the proposal enhances the meaning and value of the historic landscape. The conditions and safeguards that might accompany the granting of planning permission are discussed.
Further copies are available from Rm 302, Keysign House, 429 Oxford Street, London W1R 2HD; 071-973 3695.

SUE MARCUS

THE RENOVATION OF PADDINGTON STATION ROOF

Paddington Station was built between 1851 and 1854 as the London terminus of the Great Western Railway; the heart of the Grade I listed station is its great glazed roof by Brunel, forming three great aisles. British Rail are currently undertaking a major overhaul of the roof, the first third of which has recently been completed, with English Heritage contributing a grant of £100,000.
The station was closely linked to the construction of the Crystal Palace for the 1851 Great Exhibition. Brunel met the architect Matthew Digby Wyatt on the Exhibition committee and invited him to design the detailing of the new station. Brunel recommended the firm of Fox and Henderson as the contractors for the ironwork, on the strength of their speed and efficiency as chief manufacturers of the Crystal Palace. The first contract for Paddington, for the southernmost of the three sheds, was let in spring 1851, as the Palace was going up, and the second contract, for the other two sheds, also by Fox and Henderson, was let

in July 1852. However, it progressed much more slowly and was not finished until 1854, with Brunel complaining bitterly about his contractors.
When the station was first built, there were only buildings up against the south side of the main shed, housing the offices and waiting rooms, designed by Digby Wyatt. The Great Western Hotel, by P C Hardwick, was built a little to the east of the train shed at the same time (although it was originally a separate development). The station has developed in a piecemeal way since then. In 1915, a fourth arched shed or span was added to the north of Brunel's sheds, and in the 1930s a lower, glazed roof was built over the concourse at the east end of the station, between the Brunel roofs and the hotel, together with the office buildings in this area.
Brunel's three sheds have spans of 21m, 31m, and 22m. They are crossed by two transepts, running roughly north to south, which house overhead gantries. Brunel's original cast-iron columns were replaced in steel in the 1920s, and the original glazing to the sheds (using a ridge-and-furrow system devised by Paxton for the Crystal Palace) was replaced as recently as 1970, with corrugated glass-fibre panels. The lower parts of the roof were (until 1987–8) clad in sheet steel panels, a replacement of the 1930s.

Paddington station roof seen from above, showing the work in progress on the first stage (British Rail)

The roof started to leak badly a few years ago. The true extent of the corrosion only became clear gradually, as cladding was removed and up to 20 layers of paint scraped off. British Rail, advised by the engineers A Monk, decided to replace the roof cladding completely, cleaning and renovating the structural ironwork. There were early concerns about extensive pitting on the main ribs (which are of wrought iron), and about the badly decayed timber packing, which Brunel had used to ensure a good fit between the ribs and the skewbacks connecting them to the columns. It was decided to bolt 6mm steel plates to either side of the ribs locally, where corrosion had been worst.
However, further problems emerged in the course of work. Large panels of ornamental tracery in cast-iron were attached by bolts to the wrought-iron main ribs. The bolts were seriously decayed, and it was decided to replace them all. There was worse news when a number of the panels were removed and serious corrosion discovered behind them; moisture had been trapped between the panels and the ribs. Clearly, bolting the 6mm plates to the ribs would be inadequate. It was decided to butt-weld the plates to the ribs or their flanges. A problem from the conservation point of view was that this would have obscured the pierced ornament in the ribs – star and circle shapes. English Heritage insisted that templates be made, and matching stars and circles cut into the new plates, so that the design would be preserved.
The renovation has provided an opportunity for some major improvements. A new white, grey, and red colour scheme will set off the architecture better (paint scrapes seem to indicate that in the late nineteenth century it was mostly salmon pink and ox blood red, but British Rail balked at attempting a return to this scheme). Secondly, one of Brunel's devices, whereby the roofs are drained through the middle of the columns, has been restored. Thirdly, horizontal tie-rods, which were introduced during the Second World War purely as a safety measure, can be removed.
English Heritage has kept a close watch over the materials specified for this major renovation. We were unhappy with the profiled GRP sheeting, which BR proposed to use for the main glazing, and have negotiated instead the use of a twin-walled polycarbonate material which will let in more light. The use of the same material on the country-end

lunettes is under discussion, but we are bearing in mind that it presents technical and visual problems of discoloration. It was proposed simply to repair Brunel's capitals in GRP, where they were damaged; we have instead insisted on the casting of new capitals in iron.

Detail showing the ironwork of the roof supports at the completion of the first stage of the work (British Rail)

The renovation of the Paddington roof is a long-running project, of which the first stage, covering about a third, has been completed. Detailed negotiation has produced an effective and satisfactory solution and given a new lease of life to one of Britain's greatest historic iron buildings. The next major phase of work will comprise the renovation of the whole of the rest of the Brunel roof. Tenders have already been invited, and British Rail are hopeful that work will begin later this year.

STEVEN BRINDLE

NUMBER ONE POULTRY

The judgement of the House of Lords in the Number One Poultry case has brought one step nearer the loss of a very significant group of historic buildings in the heart of the City of London, despite their listed status and their situation within a designated conservation area. This is inevitably a matter of great sadness for English Heritage, especially after the hopes that had been raised by the Court of Appeal, but we remain far from seeing the situation as cause for despair. Their Lordships were at pains to emphasise how narrow a legal issue was before them and this point deserves to be re-emphasised most strongly. The House was concerned, of course, not at all with the merits or with the wisdom of the former Secretary of State's decision, but solely with the legality of the decision-making process. The narrow issue was purely whether the former Secretary of State had complied with the Inquiries Procedure Rules by providing adequate reasons for his decision. This in no way involved, nor should it, weighing or balancing the opposing arguments for retaining the existing listed buildings refurbished, or replacing them with James Stirling's design. The question was simply whether adequate reasons were given by the former Secretary of State for his decision, and their Lordships concluded that the reasons given were adequate.

However, in relation to SAVE's expression of anxiety about the possible policy implications of a decision that represented a departure from declared policy, the judgement offers some words of comfort to the conservation world. 'It is only in the special circumstances of this case', reads the judgement, 'that the Secretary of State has decided that the presumption in favour of listed buildings should be overridden. The Inspector's report emphasises the unique location of the appeal site in a unique urban conservation area characterised by other listed buildings of the greatest architectural distinction.' The judgement adds: 'it is so improbable that the special circumstances which affect this appeal site could ever be repeated that SAVE's apprehension with respect to the impact of the decision letter on future planning policy seems to me quite without foundation.' So it remains business as usual, so far as we are concerned. Even so, it would be doubly reassuring if the present Secretary of State could give a firm restatement on some suitable occasion of the Government's commitment to conservation and to the policies embedded in circular 8/87.

PHILIP WHITBOURN

CIVIC TRUST

Nearly 1000 amenity societies with 300,000 members are registered with the Civic Trust and they have been given a voice with the establishment at the end of January of the National Council of Civic Trust Societies. The new council will work closely with the Civic Trust and will take up problems of national significance from local societies; a network of elected regional representatives will provide local information. The amenity societies work to prevent poor development or the destruction of our heritage, through cooperation and rational discussion. They have always provided input to the Civic Trust, but this role is now expanded with the national council.

The Civic Trust is also establishing a regional office in the south-west with a new regional officer. The Trust intends to be involved in more project work in the area, further collaboration with local authorities, and support for the 120 local societies. The regional office can be contacted at: The Bristol Executive Centre, Merchants House, Wapping Road, Bristol BS1 4RW; telephone (0272) 290320. The national headquarters for the Civic Trust are at 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW.

BLUE PLAQUE GUIDE

The official guide to London's familiar blue plaques has been published in a new edition for the first time in 15 years. The blue plaques identify the houses where remarkable people lived, commemorating famous writers, artists, musicians, inventors, reformers, scientists, and politicians who have made a significant and worthy contribution to life in London and beyond. English Heritage has been responsible for the scheme since 1986, when some functions of the GLC were taken over; the first commemorative plaques were erected over a hundred years ago by the Royal Society of Arts. The *Blue plaque guide is* published by the Journeyman Press and costs £6.50; it is available from selected English Heritage properties in London, good bookshops, and our postal sales outlet: English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY.

MINERALS CODE OF PRACTICE

The Confederation of British Industry has published a new code of practice for mineral operators with the intention of eliminating conflict between mineral operators and archaeologists by the use of pre-planning. This should enable mineral operators to be aware of likely archaeological remains or interest as part of the mineral planning application procedure; the importance of continual consultation with all parties is stressed. The code of practice has been updated from that first issued in 1982 with the continued aim of balancing the preservation of archaeological sites *in situ* against the needs for the exploitation of mineral resources. English Heritage and the DoE were consulted along with others in the revision. Copies of *the Archaeological investigations code of practice for mineral operators* are available from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU; telephone 071-379 7400; it is priced at £4 for CBI members and £8 for non-members.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Council for Environmental Education, which is the national body for the coordination and promotion of environmental education in all sectors of education, has published the *Annual review of environmental education,* reporting and evaluating major developments in this field. There is an assessment of progress in the National Curriculum, environmental education and IT, local authority policies, and the dangers of evangelising environmental education.

CEE has also produced *EARTHworks* – the *Environmental awareness resource and training handbook* – which offers a total approach to environmental youth work, covering

policy development, training, and ideas for activities. These areas are outlined in three booklets in the pack which are aimed at policy makers, trainers, and those who work with the issues.
The *Annual review* costs £4ł80p p&p and *EARTHworks* costs £7.95+£2 p&p from the Council for Environmental Education, Faculty of Education and Community Studies, University of Reading, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ.

TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has published a new technical pamphlet on the 'gentle way' to care for old timber framed buildings by respecting the qualities of age and beauty that these buildings possess. Many repairs are misguided in their approach of stripping down to bare frames with the loss of infill panels, plaster, floors, and other parts of the historic fabric of a building; and some frames are wrongly straightened up, sandblasted, stained black, and filled with resins. Timber frames can be repaired with the minimum loss of fabric and the least disruption to the building, limiting aesthetic and archaeological damage while retaining structural soundness, and this approach is described by James Boutwood in Technical pamphlet no 12, *The repair of timber frames and roofs*, available for £2 from SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London El 6DY; telephone 071-377 1644.

LIVING OVER THE SHOP

This project to promote increased residential use in town centres has attracted the attention of those involved in housing, building conservation, and urban renewal. An update on the report produced in June 1990 is available in the form of two briefing papers, one for local authorities and the other for private owners and occupiers; both outline the benefits of the scheme and identify sources of funding. They are available free of charge, along with papers from the *Living over the shop* conference, on receipt of an A4 size, 32p stamped addressed envelope, from: Living over the shop, University of York, Kings Manor, York YO1 2EP; telephone (0904) 433972.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The Joint Centre for Heritage Conservation and Management has been established as a collaborative venture between the Department of Tourism and Heritage Conservation at Bournemouth Polytechnic, the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, West Sussex, and the Conservation Unit of Weymouth College. The aim is to establish a national centre of excellence for heritage conservation by bringing together a wide range of facilities and specialised professional staff in archaeology, building conservation, and site, museum, and collection management. The Centre intends to enhance the provision of heritage education and to run short courses and conferences on related topics, as well as to provide specialist research and consultancy services. In July, there will be a summer school on masonry practice in restoration and conservation techniques and in October, a workshop on timber-framed building conservation. Further details of the Centre and the programme of activities are available from Una Lyon on (0202) 595516.
Bournemouth Polytechnic is also now offering a three-year honours degree and a two-year diploma in archaeology. All students follow the same course for two years on archaeological methods and practice, and then they can either take the Diploma and continue studies elsewhere, progress to the BSc in archaeology, or transfer to the BSc in heritage conservation. The course is intended to prepare students for a career in archaeology. Further details can be obtained from Alan Hunt on (0202) 524111. Address: Bournemouth Polytechnic, Poole House, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole BH12 5BB.
The field of historic conservation within the context of the town planning system is also being served by two joint courses from the School of Planning, Oxford Polytechnic, and

the Department for Continuing Education at the University of Oxford. They are offering a 12 month full-time or 24 month part-time MSc and a 9 month full-time or 21 month part-time Diploma in Historic Conservation. The diploma aims to provide a basic understanding of current knowledge and skills in the field of historic conservation and planning, while the MSc develops additional research skills and enables students to pursue an individual research study in historic conservation. Further details are available from: The Course Tutor, School of Planning, Oxford Polytechnic, Oxford OX3 0BP; telephone Roger France on (0865) 819425.

REVIEWS

PLANNING

Planning and the heritage by Michael Ross. Published by E & F N Spon, price £17.50.
Conservation planning by Ruth Richards. Published by Planning Aid Publications, price £6.50 50p p&p. Available from Planning Aid for London, 100 Minories, London EC3N 1JY; telephone 071-702 0051.
A *history of architecture* by Sir Bannister Fletcher and others, nineteenth edition. Published by Butterworth, price £60.00.
The English town by Mark Girouard. Published by Yale University Press, price £19.95.
Two recent publications help us to understand the legal framework from different perspectives. Michael Ross, of the DoE, has written a very good guide, *Planning and the heritage*, which shows, by way of introduction, that although current legislation for preservation has followed public opinion over the last 100 years, its roots can be traced to increasing academic interest from the end of the seventeenth century. Public concern, followed by grants, followed by control, is traced through the law of ancient monuments, listed buildings, and historic areas, as far as historic gardens. Areas of wider importance, whether world heritage sites or historic landscapes, could be next. Today, over two million people are concerned enough about the built heritage to belong to a national or local organisation. It is they, he states, who have helped place conservation squarely centre stage in any discussion about planning.
At a more popular level, Ruth Richards has written *Conservation planning* for Planning Aid for London. The foreword, by Dame Judi Dench, reminds us of the public campaign to save what is left of the ‘Rose’ theatre. By explaining the law of listed buildings, monuments, and conservation areas, she hopes that the book will give more people an understanding of how to conserve what matters to them. The book explains the whole range of current heritage law clearly and succinctly, with reference to the principal Acts and Circulars for those who want to follow any particular point. It is nicely illustrated and will be welcomed by local amenity societies and indeed anyone with an interest in their neighbourhood.
Current law reflects public opinion, which develops from a basis of knowledge. So far as individual historic buildings are concerned, there are many books on the history of architecture to choose from. The definitive work must be *A history of architecture* by Sir Bannister Fletcher, first published in 1896, which is now in its nineteenth edition. Published by Butterworth, this edition is a thorough review and extension of the work and is essential reading for all students of architecture.
Whilst architecture itself has been well covered, there has, until recently, been relatively little written about historic towns.
Mark Girouard is probably best known for his books on country houses, to which he has added a social dimension. His new book, *The English town*, published by Yale, brings our historic towns to life. There is much richness in our historic towns, whether of medieval, Georgian, or Victorian origin, but we cannot care for them properly unless we understand them. Girouard describes their component parts, the buildings, streets, and areas

developed for particular purposes which give towns their special character. The book is in three parts beginning with medieval towns. The first interlude introduces 'The polite and improving society', the consensus of Georgian life and its resulting elegance. This is in contrast to 'The Victorian frame of mind', where pressures and conflicts of a rapidly evolving century produce quite different planning and architecture. This contrast between societies in succeeding centuries shows how our towns reflected the reaction to the civil strife of the seventeenth century, and how the consensus of the eighteenth century then gave way under the stress of rapid social change in the nineteenth century – a pattern which, perhaps, is still being repeated.

These books help to increase our knowledge. Knowledge informs public opinion, which influences Parliament, which gives us the legal framework within which we work. If we are successful, then our historic towns will still be recognisable to future generations.

MIKE PEARCE

MANAGING CONSERVATION

Managing conservation, edited by S Keene. Papers given at a conference held jointly by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation and the Museum of London. Published by UKIC, price £5, and available from them at 37 Upper Addison Gardens, London W14 8AJ; telephone 071-603 5643.

Conservators are notoriously shy of anything that comes with a 'management' label, so it was a notable achievement that the meeting on which these papers were based took place in a packed lecture theatre. The doubts of even the shyest of practitioners would have been allayed by Max Hebditch's opening remarks, which firmly established the framework of values within which it is necessary to manage conservation effectively, if our heritage is to be preserved.

Peter Rose, of the Industrial Society, has written a paper encapsulating received wisdom on techniques of team management. However, the more innovative sections of this symposium attempt to grapple with problems which are specific to conservation, such as the management of space (U V Wilcox), the management of conservation in design (J Morris), or the use of standards which bind in various degree, from the statutory to the ethical, to reinforce conservation goals (Cassar and Keene). These efforts to bring some clarity and order to rather large and shapeless problems – eg the management of space or the introduction of standards, as a tool of conservation management – are refreshing. They show very clearly how much more of this kind of thinking the profession needs.

Although J Ashley Smith obviously sometimes finds 'managing conservators' (his title) something of a contradiction in terms, his wry, honest paper traces the building up of his department and the corresponding growth of his own systems and understanding of management concepts over 13 years and is a valuable source for a profession that lacks role models in senior management. Equally valuable is S Staniforth's brave attempt to grapple with her financial colleagues on their own ground, by quantifying the benefits of financial control versus its costs.

Any conservator, tired of the profession's *laissez faire* attitude to management, should read this slim collection of papers, uneven though it is. In it will be found more questions than answers, but much to encourage more and clearer thinking.

KATE FOLEY

PAINTING CONSERVATION

Dirt and pictures separated, published by United Kingdom Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, price £7 to members, £9 to non-members. Available from UKIC as above.

Dirt and pictures separated provides an extremely useful discussion on the presence and nature of degradation products and airborne pollutants, and the deposition of dirt on the surface of varnished and unvarnished paint films. Also examined are various systems for the protection of paintings from these pollutants, and approaches to cleaning. The papers are compiled in logical order, starting with the sources of dirt and the mechanisms by which it adheres and finishing with an examination of cleaning methods. It is this latter section that is of special interest and, in particular, the assessment of cleaning with a relatively unknown chelating agent – triammonium citrate – as compared with an extensive range of related cleaning agents. Overall, this section gives clear and comprehensive technical information on the cleaning mechanisms of solvents (including Wolber's solvent emulsions), surfactants, soaps, and chelating agents.

Also of interest is a paper on the investigation into the darkening of lead white in nineteenth-century paintings, sometimes mistaken for the effects of dirt but now thought to be caused by conversion of the pigment into the dark-brown compound lead sulphide in the presence of hydrogen sulphide in the air. In general, this publication is well presented, informative, and of a high standard and, although directed primarily at easel painting conservators, can be recommended to all fine art conservators.

CAROLINE BABINGTON

TEXTILES

Archaeological textiles, edited by S A O'Connor and M M Brooks. Published by UKIC, Occasional paper, 10, 1990, price £8.50 to members, £10.50 to non-members. Also available from UKIC as above.

This collection of papers from a conference on 'Textiles for the archaeological conservator' introduces the complex nature of the study of archaeological textiles and stresses that conservation should not be undertaken without consultation with textile specialists and, in some cases, specialist textile conservators. John Peter Wild's introduction to the subject is essential reading for any archaeological conservator who may be faced with this material, while the papers by Frances Pritchard and Bill Cook convey the attention to detail which is so much a part of the textile and fibre specialist's work.

The case studies by Jean Glover, Lynda Hillyer, and Vivien Lochhead illustrate how the expertise of a specialist textile conservator is necessary when dealing with costume and similar material. The awareness of the potential hazards of textiles from burials and the precautions taken, covered in papers by Robert Janaway and Jean Glover, are even more relevant today with the implications of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations. Mention is made of the importance of correct methods of storage, both after excavation to limit post-excavation deterioration and after conservation: Cathy McClintock describes a method developed for one project.

Elizabeth Peacock's discussion on the need for research into the freeze-drying of textiles should form the basis for any such undertaking. This treatment has been applied successfully to other waterlogged organic materials and, with the advances in SEM studies of fibres and their condition, it should be possible to assess the results on the textile fibres themselves.

Mineral-preserved textiles are mentioned in John Peter Wild's contribution, but unfortunately there is no paper dealing with this material in any detail. In many cases, these are first noted by archaeological conservators dealing with metal artefacts: a complete coverage of the subject should include a paper on these remains. Despite this omission, it remains a useful guide and should be read by all who might find themselves dealing with archaeological textiles.

GLYNIS EDWARDS

RECORDING HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Guide to recording historic buildings, ICOMOS. Published by Butterworth Architecture.

The publication of the report of the ICOMOS committee established in 1987 to prepare guidance on archaeological and analytical recording of historic buildings for use by those involved in their care, conservation, and management has been awaited with interest, and the present *Guide* does not disappoint. It is a wide-ranging and clear summary of the methods, objectives, and uses of historic building recording. As prime artefacts of past societies, buildings are a most important source of historic information, and technical guidance on how to 'read' buildings as documents is in great demand. In studying these buildings, we also have a responsibility to pass them on to future generations in good condition, with their historical integrity and value unimpaired, and we can only achieve this through the application of the approach advocated in this book.

The first point to note is that while this book springs from the work of a committee, its drafting has wisely been put into the hands of a single individual (Nicholas Cooper of RCHME) and thus avoids all the pitfalls of writing-by-committee. The committee's second important decision was to prepare a very brief, but comprehensive, text (less than a third of the book) and to reserve most space for the 50, mainly full-page, illustrations which grace this book and form one of its most useful aspects. Carefully chosen and intelligently captioned with the help of Mike Sutherill of English Heritage, these illustrations depict the full range of both building type and recording method, from straightforward photographic record to sophisticated photogrammetric techniques, and from art historical record to archaeologically-based interpretation and analysis. For much of the book's audience, the lessons offered by these illustrations are likely to be equally useful as the checklists of the circumstances when recording is appropriate, of available sources of information, or of analytical and surveying techniques.

This of course raises the question of the book's intended audience, which is principally twofold–the architects, surveyors, and conservation officers who are responsible for most building conservation, and building owners themselves. There is obviously a danger here of reaching neither of these different audiences, but, in general terms, the book succeeds well on both counts. It should form a useful preliminary report for practitioners, while offering the basis for further material, aiming, as the Duke of Gloucester writes in the foreword, to bring a greater understanding and appreciation of their houses to owners and occupants, on whose care our historic buildings depend for their survival.

An important section of the book describes the range of professions and experience from which practitioners of building recording should come. The *Guide* is aimed primarily at the architectural and surveying professions which are increasingly taking responsibility for recording as well as repair. It will, however, also be of interest, even if partly already familiar, to other professions, such as art historians, archaeologists, and building historians, who are more traditionally concerned with 'reading' buildings in order to write architectural history and to provide information for conservation decisions. It must also be hoped that this *Guide* will foster the development of closer working relationships between all these professions. There is, as the *Guide* itself points out, currently no central body for the coordination of all practitioners of building recording, although there are initiatives (for example through the Institute of Field Archaeologists and through a seminar jointly organised by RCHME and the Society for Architectural History) to establish such bodies for two of the principal professions. This should form a first step towards a suitable framework for fully implementing the sound guidance contained in this book.

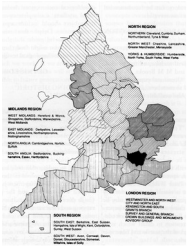
GRAHAM FAIRCLOUGH

NEW CONSERVATION GROUP STRUCTURE

The structure of the Conservation Group within English Heritage has now been reorganised. Previous work patterns, with staff organised separately to work on ancient monuments, historic buildings, and historic areas, have been replaced with new multidisciplinary teams divided into four regions, each headed by a Director. The regions are as defined on the map: North, Midlands, and South; our work in London is already carried out by a regional team which has responsibility for all areas, including planning, archaeology, and buildings at risk in the capital.

Each of the regional teams includes: Inspectors of Ancient Monuments to give advice in relation to scheduled monument casework and rescue archaeology; Inspectors of Historic Buildings to advise on listed building consent cases, development affecting listed buildings, and historic building grants; Historic Areas Architects/Planners to give advice on major developments in conservation areas, historic areas, and town scheme grants; and Historic Buildings Architects to advise on repairs to historic buildings and ancient monuments. Administrative support is provided by casework staff under a casework manager for each team.

Although the regional teams will carry out most of the Conservation Group work, some of it will still be concentrated or coordinated at the centre. This work falls into five main areas: listing of historic buildings, which includes the Records Office and the computerised database of historic buildings and scheduled monuments; publications, including the illustrator's office which provides archaeological illustrations as well as support for the publications output; archaeology covers the national coordination of rescue archaeology grants, the Monuments Protection Programme, and the Central Excavation Unit; planning provides a national strategic overview and includes the national Buildings at Risk registers and the Research Branch; and Historic Parks and Gardens which includes the Gardens Register and Grants for Parks and Gardens (although a central function, the team is attached to the South Region).



The intention of this reorganisation is to bring together on a geographical basis the management of work across the range of conservation responsibilities and to provide a more coherent approach to the assessment of need and the management of resources for conservation. The full details of the arrangement of the Group, the regional teams, their responsibilities, and whom to contact for particular matters are given in the directory which has already received wide circulation. Further copies can be obtained from J Hunt, Room 335, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

ROBIN TAYLOR