

Conservation Bulletin, Issue 20 supplement

Summary of Activities in 1992/93

OUR MISSION

The magnitude and importance of England's historical and architectural heritage are exceptional. Our built heritage is one of the nation's greatest assets and its protection and promotion generate significant economic, social and cultural benefits. As the centre of expertise in all aspects of conservation and as the major single source of funding, English Heritage seeks to be involved whenever England's heritage is at risk. However, at a time when resources are scarce, our primary aim is to ensure that our funds and expertise are concentrated where there is the greatest need. In determining priorities, we alone do not set the agenda. We consult extensively with Government, private owners, local authorities, developers and amenity groups and we attempt, at all times, to communicate efficiently and helpfully with the public to whom the heritage belongs. We are extremely proud of England's built heritage and we believe that its conservation is a national priority.

A YEAR OF EXPANDING COMMITMENTS

During the year to 31 March 1993 we announced plans to channel our limited resources and expertise to areas of greatest need. At the same time, we handled an expanding flow of regular casework and consultation.

Need for protection

The total number of listed entries rose by 1,762 to 441,188
47 post-war educational institutions were recommended for listing
1,474 scheduling recommendations were made under the Monuments Protection Programme.

Building consents

The total number of listed building consent applications rose by 11.2% to 8,627
In addition we dealt with 919 scheduled monument consent applications and 4,129 planning consultations.

Financial assistance

Grant to owners of listed buildings rose by 13.8% to £33m. Of this, £13.4m (40.6%) was spent on secular buildings and monuments, £3.0m (9.1%) on cathedrals and £9.2m (27.9%) on churches
£7.4m was spent on a variety of conservation area schemes.

Unearthing the past

£7.4m was spent on 301 archaeological projects
We made plans to launch 30 major urban archaeological projects over the next 5 years.

Historic properties

Despite a fall of 4% in the number of visitors, income from membership subscriptions, admissions and retail sales rose by 16.5% to £11.4m – 54.6% of the cost (£20.9m) of running the properties in our care
We attracted 42,351 new members ending the year with 293, 860.

Research and education

We undertook 50 projects of scientific and technical research
The Fort Brockhurst Training Centre was completed
Our educational programmes catered for a record 499,157 students.

People and management

We completed the relocation of the management of our historic properties to Newcastle, Northampton, Bristol, Tonbridge and Kenwood House in London
We reorganised our new direct labour force in order to prepare for privatisation in 1995/96
We improved our standards of customer service and expenditure on staff training rose by 20%.

SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Only by working together with central Government, local authorities, developers, owners and others can we fully realise the significant economic, social and cultural benefits to be derived from protecting our historic environment. Some examples of successful collaboration during 1992/93 are set out below:

Safeguards

We helped to secure a refusal of consent at public inquiries into minerals exploration and exploitation within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site
We assisted Plymouth City Council to take enforcement action against an epidemic of breaches of listed building controls – plastic windows, blinds, fascias and signs.

Preservation

A grant offer of £215,000 to the National Trust for the landscaped gardens at Stowe and £142,000 direct to Stowe School for the first phase of repairs
An offer of £188,000 to the purchasers of Barlaston Hall, Staffordshire after the building was rescued by SAVE from the threat of demolition by British Coal
An offer of £250,000 to St Walburge's, Preston on the expectation of a major fund-raising campaign to be launched by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lancaster
44 offers to Cathedrals totalling £4.5m for 1993/94. The largest single grant was £720,000 for repairs to Lincoln Cathedral and the Close Wall.

Conservation

In York we completed a highly successful town scheme of 28 years' standing in partnership with York City Council
We carried out a study with the DoE and Newcastle City Council of the conservation opportunities in Grainger Town, the early 19th century city centre of Newcastle-upon-Tyne designed by Richard Grainger
We secured, together with Bridgnorth District Council and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, the unique clay smoking-pipe works at Broseley, abandoned in the 1950s, for future use as a museum and holiday accommodation
We completed the third year of a joint project with the Brighton and Hove Borough Councils for repair and environmental works, funded 50/50 by English Heritage and the boroughs at £100,000 each.

Support

We have funded local authority conservation officer posts, for example in the District of Kerrier in Cornwall, to help with the important task of finding a future for the enormous

concentration of tin mining monuments. We also secured the establishment of a permanent conservation officer post in Tynedale District, Northumberland.

Management

We found a beneficial user for the Tribunal, a medieval stone house in the High Street in Glastonbury. Until recently it was open to the public with an English Heritage custodian and with a locally owned museum on the upper floor. Visitor income was not enough to cover costs. Now under an agreement with Mendip District Council, the local Tourist Information Centre occupies the ground floor. More people now see the inside of the building, free of charge, and the museum artefacts are better displayed

We reached agreement with the Dartmoor National Park Authority for them to manage three of our properties, Hound Tor Deserted Medieval Village, Merrivale Prehistoric Settlement and Grimspound Bronze Age hut circles.

Marketing

With the Historic Houses Association and the National Trust, we produced and circulated nationwide a Northern Splendours leaflet, promoting the great houses and castles of the North

A non-destructive archaeological survey marked the first phase of planning work with Scarborough Borough Council to develop plans for a new visitor centre and management arrangements at Whitby Abbey and its headland.

Research

The Fort Brockhurst Training Centre was completed. Run in conjunction with the University of Bournemouth, the Centre provides courses on practical conservation for people in the building industry, conservationists and our own craftsmen

The provision of training for nine conservation students from the Courtauld Institute on English Heritage sites to undertake supervised research. With their help, important additions to the wall paintings at Chester Castle were discovered.

Education

Seven more titles were published in the Batsford series of popular history books, a joint venture between English Heritage and Batsford

"Cumbria to Northumberland" was the latest of a joint series of historic gazetteer guides produced with HMSO

We produced a guidance note on the conservation of historic ironwork in London. Further titles planned include joint ventures on such topics as the conservation of London terrace houses, the treatment of historic prison buildings (already agreed with the Home Office and the DoE), the insurance of historic buildings and the treatment of historic hospital buildings (with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors).

FOCUSING OUR RESOURCES

In October 1992 we announced plans to reduce our administrative costs, channel resources to areas of greatest need and improve the quality of our service to the public. Significant progress has been made in all key policy areas and as a result of our economies we were able to re-allocate £6m in the current year to the conservation of the historic properties in our care, to grant offers and to education.

Alternative site management

In October 1992, we committed ourselves to extend our existing and successful policy of some years standing which had resulted in varied local management agreements at 20

properties, with English Heritage in all cases retaining responsibility for repairs to the historic fabric

During the year we received expressions of interest in the management of 84 properties and entered into discussions with 48 local authorities or other bodies, including such organisations as the National Trust, the Landmark Trust, North York Moors, Dartmoor and Peak District National Park Authorities, Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, and local councils such as North Norfolk, Breckland and Barnsley. We began an 18 month examination of the management of the 17 properties jointly managed by the National Trust and English Heritage, which range from the complex of prehistoric remains, standing stones, circles and museum at Avebury to the Victorian Church of St Mary's, in the grounds of Fountains Abbey, Studley Royal. In economic and practical terms, it may well make sense for either one of the organisations to assume overall management at each site.

Conservation area partnerships

With only £7.4m grant available for conservation areas in the year, we decided to concentrate our grant powers on areas where there were special reasons for our involvement and to target our resources on authorities most in need of help or where most could be achieved

Therefore we looked for areas which combined townscape quality with financial, material and social need. This policy will be phased in over three years as existing schemes are reviewed

In May 1993 we published a consultation paper on our new Conservation Area Partnership Scheme. In the light of the most encouraging responses, we are working with local authority associations at a national level and we are consulting with individual local authorities, planning officers and amenity groups. Up to 15 pilot projects will be introduced in 1994/95.

Conservation in London

In October 1992, we proposed that the majority of listed building consent applications relating to minor alterations and extensions to Grade II buildings in London should become more fully the responsibility of the London boroughs themselves, as they are elsewhere in England. The Secretaries of State for National Heritage and for the Environment agreed in April 1993 that we should proceed by negotiating voluntary conservation agreements with the boroughs. Responsibility will be devolved only where boroughs have the necessary commitment, policies and expertise

We held discussions with over half of the London boroughs. Whilst this process of consultation will take time, we aim to have the first six of the new conservation agreements in place by April 1994. In addition, we are reviewing all the Grade I and II* buildings and all buildings owned by local authorities on the Greater London Buildings at Risk Register.

Some Key Performance Indicators

	1991/92	1992/93
1 INCOME TO ENGLISH HERITAGE	£102.9m	£114.4m
Grant-in-aid	£90.2m	£99.9m
Earned Income	£12.7m	£14.5m
2 NUMBER OF LISTED ENTRIES	440,675	441,188
3 NUMBER OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS	13,209	13,864
4 LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS	7,698	8,627
Outside London	5,686	6,574
In London	2,012	2,053
5 SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENTS	936	919

6 EXPENDITURE ON REPAIRS FOR:		
Historic Buildings and Monuments	£11.9m	£13.4m
Cathedrals	£0.8m	£3.0m
Churches	£9.6m	£9.2m
7 EXPENDITURE ON ARCHAEOLOGY	£7.5m	£7.4m
8 EXPENDITURE ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES	£22.2m	£20.9m
9 TOTAL TRADING INCOME	£9.8m	£11.4m
10 NUMBER OF VISITORS	5.0m	4.8m
11 NUMBER OF MEMBERS	251,509	293,860

SOME CONSERVATION REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

North

A historic buildings and monuments grant of £166,000 to North York Moors National Park for repairs to the East Mine, Rosedale Kilns

A conservation area grant of £131,655 to assist the North British Housing Association in refurbishing Framlington Terrace, Newcastle, one of several buildings at risk in the region for which we helped to negotiate a solution

Participation in the setting up of a joint study into the environmental capacity of a historic city, based on the City of Chester

Encouragement to Liverpool City Council to include a Canning partnership scheme within their City Challenge bid

Setting up of new Town Schemes in Burnley, Colne, Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge as part of a concerted effort to target North West towns.

Midlands

A historic buildings and monuments grant of £120,000 to the District Council at Bury St Edmunds towards repairs to the West Front of the Abbey ruins

A historic buildings and monuments grant of £106,000 towards the repair of Soho House in Handsworth, Birmingham, built by Matthew Boulton

A conservation area grant of £50,000 to the Cambridgeshire Brick and Tile Company to help start production of handmade buff Gault bricks and tiles for the Ely area

Completion of a photogrammetric survey of Castle Hedingham and the repair of the Tudor access bridge to allow important repairs to the stonework of the medieval keep to be put in hand

Presentation of major objections at the public inquiry into the Norwich Inner Relief Road resulting in significant changes to the approach taken.

London

Established the Greater London Archaeological Planning Advisory Service which has led to several discoveries including a 6th century Anglo Saxon cemetery in Croydon

A church grant of £100,000 for the repair of the tower of St John's, Waterloo, a Grade II* listed Greek Revival style church in a prominent location

Gave advice and assistance to the Royal Household following the Windsor Castle fire, including archaeological clearance of debris and fabric survey

Secured the future of the shell of St Luke's, Old Street, with a historic buildings and monuments grant of £100,000 towards repair work by the Diocese of London. It will become the first London Church to be vested in the Redundant Churches Fund

Played a significant and positive statutory role in key conservation projects including the Savoy Theatre, the National Gallery, the Tate Gallery and the Mansion House.

South East

A historic buildings and monuments grant of £200,000 for Charlton Old Barn, Steyning, West Sussex, a building in grave need of repair

Successful restoration of Becks Buildings, Lewes, a timber warehouse now brought back into use with a historic buildings and monuments grant of £64,000

Continuing financial support for work at Maidstone Old Palace, totalling £445,000

A high volume of comment on development plans, 60 in total

Continuing involvement in discussions with Union Railways, the Department of Transport and others on proposals for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link as the route is developed.

South West

Successful support for Bristol City Council at a hearing where the developer of the Bryan Brothers Site appealed against the refusal of planning permission for new offices affecting views of the Cathedral

Help with engineering advice, archaeological expertise and grant-aid to record and rebuild the nave, arcade, spire and roof of Hatherleigh Church following the collapse of the medieval spire through the nave roof

Offering, within 24 hours of fires at Marlborough High Street, Athelhampton House and Prior Park, the local authorities the services of our specialist structural engineers and archaeological recorders

Contributed to major UNESCO funded international seminars on all aspects of our conservation work, particularly stained glass.

If you require further information or a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts for 1992/93 then please contact the Public Relations Department on 071 973 3000 or write to them at English Heritage, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.