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

The Prime Minister, here with Secretary of State Stephen Dorrell, at English Heritage's tenth birthday conference, paid tribute to 'all those individuals who devote their time, their money and their energy to conservation...'

Opportunity – and challenge

The tenth birthday conference of English Heritage was a memorable occasion, with the Prime Minister and two of his ministers present, and a message from the Prince of Wales. Jennifer Page, chief executive, reflects on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead

All of us at English Heritage were delighted with the responses to our tenth anniversary conference on 16 September 1994 and with the many congratulations we have since received. More than 550 people accepted our invitation to join the debate at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre. The Prince of Wales sent a message of support and the surprise guest speaker was the Prime Minister.

Two Members of Cabinet – the Secretaries of State for National Heritage and for the Environment – also spoke. Jocelyn Stevens and Lord Rothschild, chairmen respectively of English Heritage and of the National Heritage Memorial Fund which will distribute the heritage element of the new National Lottery Fund, gave major presentations. Howard Davies, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Simon Jenkins, former editor of The Times and a member of the Millennium Commission (another distributor of National Lottery funds), spoke from more detached viewpoints about the relevance of the heritage to larger economic and political issues. Three local government chief executives gave the day's proceedings a convincingly realistic and practical finale.

The role of the heritage

The day was remarkable for the broad-based acceptance of the role of the heritage in the country and for recognition of the great opportunity presented by the National Lottery to find the funds necessary to save and enhance that heritage.
The Prime Minister, who was introduced by Stephen Dowell, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, emphasised two key issues on which later speeches expanded. First, the archaeological and historical heritage is of critical importance in creating a sense of

community and pride. It provides a link with the past and reinforces a sense of identity, which is of permanent importance as a basis of social stability and is also of particular value at a time of rapid economic and social change when many traditional values are being questioned. As Simon Jenkins subsequently emphasised, the historic buildings of a community are effectively its identity; in their character and diversity they reflect local identity and embody what each area likes to think of as its distinctive personality. Recent polls, including one by Gallup commissioned by English Heritage in August 1994, have demonstrated unequivocally the priority that people attach to protecting and enhancing this heritage.

Economic benefits

Second, the Prime Minister said that the heritage produces significant economic benefits. The archaeological and historical heritage, in particular, is an essential ingredient in one of England's major industries: tourism. Tourism is worth over £30 billion a year to the country and sustains 1.5 million jobs, or some 6 per cent of employment. Howard Davies stressed that tourism is critical to growth in the development of local economies in many rural and deprived areas, as well as in the tourist honeypots. The changing structure of the economy and of the nature of employment make tourism an industry to nurture because the wealth and well-being of the nation depend on it.

Ten years of achievements

Jocelyn Stevens reviewed the first ten years and in particular the huge advances made by English Heritage in the implementation of its forward strategy, introduced in 1992. From the various aims successfully achieved, he singled out the following actions, which have advanced the cause of the heritage:

The investigation of Grade I buildings, which has established that, of the 11,600 buildings, only about 1 per cent are in a critical state, although another 8 to 9 per cent are vulnerable; we are now working with each owner to find solutions

The introduction of local management agreements for some of the 404 nationally owned historic properties, in order to increase local involvement in the care of the heritage; 45 such agreements with local authorities, local trusts, the National Trust, and others are already in place and we expect to sign another 44 agreements by the end of 1994

The growth of the programme of grant support to churches – £90 million over ten years – and the introduction of a successful repairs grant scheme for cathedrals

The partnerships with London boroughs, created to help them build up their conservation expertise, to encourage them to exercise their existing powers to protect Grade II buildings, and to enable English Heritage to deploy its expertise at the strategic level in the capital city, where the concentration of important listed buildings and conservation areas creates very special problems; seven partnerships have been signed and we expect to have completed five more by March 1995

The development of our programme of urban archaeological strategy studies, with 34 studies completed, identified, or under way

The creation of the Conservation Area Partnership Scheme where, following the successful introduction of 15 pilot projects to run for three years from April 1994, a phenomenal 191 applications were received from 128 authorities for schemes for the three years beginning April 1995; the chairman announced that he expected up to 115 of these 191 applications to develop into full partnership agreements

The development of plans to turn Stonehenge, recently described by the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons as 'a national disgrace', into the 'eighth wonder of the world' – that is, to work with the National Trust and the Department of Transport to enable the latter to remove the roads that cross the Stonehenge site and to enable English Heritage and the National Trust to combine their landholdings to create a great new

natural park, with new visitor facilities created with private finance at a distance from the stones

Local government involvement

The Chairman brought applause when he announced a new Open Churches Trust to be created by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, who will provide £1m capital and three years' administrative expenses. The object of the Trust will be to open those churches of architectural and historic merit which must otherwise remain shut for security reasons. Jocelyn Stevens' suggestion to the Prime Minister that the Government should introduce lower rated VAT on historic buildings repairs was also applauded.

Finally, he identified the two great threats facing the heritage as the problem of redundant government buildings, particularly defence buildings, and that of the many Anglican historic churches that are unlikely to remain in active religious use.

The key role of local government in achieving a heritage capable of sustaining social and economic well-being was repeatedly emphasised. Local authorities – not only in their planning role, but also as direct managers of important components of the local environment, such as parks and museums – can make a major contribution to attracting visitors to their areas.

The archaeological and historical heritage, and in particular its extensiveness, richness and local diversity, are important assets that have potential appeal for a growing segment of both the domestic and overseas tourist market – an ageing, relatively affluent population seeking a quality holiday away from the beach. That potential will only be realised if the opportunity is taken now to develop and invest in the quality of the environment and the facilities that visitors expect.

John Gummer spoke convincingly of the need to look for quality, not only in the past we seek to preserve, but in the new buildings that will constitute our future heritage. Like other speakers, he emphasised the vitally important part played by the built environment in creating the nature of our society and the need to be fully aware of geographical diversity in securing the sense of place on which communities are built.

The messages of the keynote speakers were reinforced by the chief executives of Staffordshire County Council, Tynedale District Council, and Greenwich Borough Council, who provided concrete examples of the links between investment in the heritage and the development of the economy in their areas. It is clear that the conservation and enhancement of historic buildings is as important for urban regeneration as it is for tourism.

The message of the day to local government was that the platform for success is there; the opportunity remains to be seized to build fully on our rich inheritance. The National Lottery will offer an unparalleled opportunity to capitalise on our assets. 'The lottery gives us the biggest chance that anyone has ever had for making a significant, permanent difference' to the quality of our environment, said John Major.

The challenge

It is likely to make available sums undreamed of in the context of mainstream public spending. Each of the five spending areas – heritage, sport, arts, charities and the millennium – could receive as much as £320 million a year when the lottery is fully up and running. The Prime Minister was equally clear that government will make no reductions on conventional public spending programmes to take account of awards from the National Lottery.

This then is the real challenge: to develop the projects capable of using the lottery funds and to find partnership funding. The distributors of both the heritage sector of the lottery and of the Millennium Fund will have as one of their objectives the support of projects of

specific local benefit. Local authorities as well as charitable organisations need to think fast and imaginatively about initiatives that could attract funding.
The Prime Minister called for a national outbreak of lateral thinking. Jocelyn Stevens responded with a checklist of local projects that might mark the millennium: ‘squares, bridges, festivals, ponds, parks and piazzas, better shop fronts, monuments, memorials, newly designed street furniture, allotments, battlefields, flagpoles, railings, town halls, lost landscapes, canals, windows, clocks, fountains, playgrounds, swings, roundabouts and millennial bells’!
The challenge is for each part of England to develop these and other projects for the benefit, both social and economic, of the local community.

Jennifer A Page

Chief Executive

Taking up arms for battlefield conservation

In recognition of the importance of involving owners and occupiers as well as historians and local authorities in preparing the draft Register of Historic Battlefields, we are seeking responses from a wide range of those concerned. As the consultation period draws to a close, this article describes how the register came about, its rationale and its objectives and looks forward to the implementation of battlefield conservation

Battlefields are the punctuation marks of secular history, wrote Winston Churchill, and English Heritage has been asked by the government to list those punctuation marks: ‘to prepare a register of landscapes and sites (such as battlefields) which have historic significance but where there are no longer any identifiable remains’.
Like the existing register of gardens of historic interest the battlefields register will be informative, without direct legal effect. But the government’s intention for battlefields to be considered in the planning process was signalled in the phrase ‘through this register the government, local planning authorities and others will be alerted to the significance of these sites when considering development plans and applications for planning permission’.

Importance of battlefields

Some battles herald whole new chapters in English history – a Tudor dynasty ruled England after 1485 because Henry’s army was victorious over Richard III’s at Bosworth Field. Others individually bring history to less than a full stop – Naseby or Marston Moor, for instance – but combine with terminal effect, as Charles I learned.
Battlefields provide a means to recognise the role of warfare in the political history of England and of many of the key individuals in that history, to whom burial epitaphs make incomplete monuments.
They can capture the imagination of students and so provide a springboard for the study of events leading up to and resulting from the battles, as well as being important for tourism and recreation. And they can provide poignant war memorials to the unnamed soldiers who died making history.

Objectives

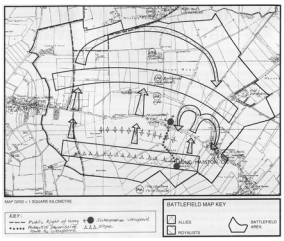
England’s battlefields have survived to a remarkable extent as part of our cultural heritage. Some have succumbed to suburban development, while others have been hemmed in by roads in the post-war years, but only recently has development pressure become more acute. The register aims to ensure that the value of battlefields is given sufficient weight when land-use decisions are being made, and it will underscore the educational and

recreational potential of battlefields and help to present their part in tourism and farm diversification schemes.
David Smurthwaite, Assistant Director of the National Army Museum and author of an Ordnance Survey book on battlefields, was commissioned by English Heritage to research and report on 69 possible battlefield register candidates. Each of his reports was considered by a panel of experts, whose diverse skills and perspectives were brought to bear to consider whether the fighting constituted a battle rather than a lesser level of engagement, and to consider whether the evidence allows a reasonable definition of the area in which the battle took place. In order to be considered for the register, an engagement must have involved recognised military units. Civil unrest, while of historical importance, would be impossible to include consistently because there are frequently no real boundaries and documentation is often poor. Sieges are also excluded because of their usual association with physical remains, which can be conserved through existing mechanisms.
Three yardsticks have been used for battles:
political significance – was the battle a ‘little local difficulty ‘ or can its impact be traced nationwide?
military significance – were the tactics notable?
biographical significance – did the battle crown a military career, or was a famous leader killed or captured?
Engagements not defined as battles are classed as skirmishes and will not feature on the register.
The reliability of detailed evidence for each battle was then considered. Where the evidence of documents, archaeology, topography and landscape history was enough, the area within which most of the fighting took place was defined as the battlefield. Where the general location of the battle is known but the evidence did not allow a boundary to be defined the engagement will go into an appendix as the site of a battle. A small number of battles which cannot be even generally located have been excluded until further evidence is uncovered.

Imaginative reconstruction of the Battle of Flodden, 9 September 1513

Landscape evolution

Landscape evolution is an important component of battlefield interpretation and presentation. Once the battlefield areas had been defined, each was considered for its interpretative potential by the Centre for Environmental Interpretation (CEI), part of Manchester Metropolitan University. Having inspected each site, CEI provided an overlay map of the amenities at each battlefield to highlight the most sensitive areas for interpretive potential. Their map-based research also provided a thumbnail sketch of the landscape history of the area to characterise the form of the landscape at the time of the battle and to illustrate how the landscape took on its modern form.



Marston Moor, 2 July 1644; battle plan from the Battlefields Register.

re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings, at Battle Abbey, Sussex

Implementation

Like the Parks and Gardens Register, the Battlefields Register will not provide statutory protection, nor does it imply any control beyond the normal planning powers. However, the significance of battlefields is a material planning consideration (as confirmed in the recent issuing of Planning Policy Guidance Note 15) and the register will give English Heritage's view on the extent of the areas of historical significance and the most important amenities within and around them .

The register will be maintained and reviewed periodically by English Heritage in consultation with the battlefields panel. Local planning authorities, however, are best placed for battlefield conservation. General advice will be given principally through an English Heritage guidance note. This will identify the main properties of battlefields that should be conserved: authenticity, visual amenity, archaeological integrity, and accessibility.

Even where at present there is little prospect of access to battlefields, the conservation of their educational and amenity value for future generations will, we would expect, be recognised as integral to local authorities' conservation objectives. Inclusion in the relevant development plans will be the key to long-term conservation.

The best prospect for battlefield conservation, however, is the early recognition of their value to local communities and tourism. In some circumstances the potential of battlefields can be realised soon, by initiatives from owners or occupiers, local authorities, amenity groups, or a combination of all of these. Where such initiatives coincide with broader conservation and interpretation priorities, financial and technical help may be available through agencies such as ourselves, the Countryside Commission, or regional tourist boards.

Completing the register

Now that the reports have been considered by the panel, we are consulting widely over the placement of boundaries; many individual local historians and battlefield enthusiasts will be able to contribute to the process of defining battlefields. Above all, we want to keep the relevant owners and occupiers involved in the process of registration and aware of the importance of conserving or enhancing the battlefields.

Consultation ends on 1 December 1994, after which responses will be considered by the panel, and then by the Ancient Monuments Advisory Committee and the English Heritage Commissioners. Assuming a favourable reception, the Battlefields Register will then be ready. Once published, we expect it to evolve as evidence emerges with which to revise the initial boundaries. Cases for the inclusion of additional battles, changes in status, or revisions to boundaries should be made to English Heritage (Battlefields Register), Room 329, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

Andrew Brown

Battlefields Register

VAT and the repair of listed buildings

[G] Value added tax on repairs to listed buildings is a penal pressure on Britain's built history. Much help given from the public purse with one hand is taken away with the other. But pressure on European Union finance ministers might soon put matters right

At English Heritage's recent tenth anniversary conference the audience of building professionals, local authority representatives and owners burst into spontaneous applause when reference was made to the desirability of reducing the rate of VAT applied to the repair of listed buildings. This outburst reflects the growing concern felt about the impact of VAT on hard-pressed owners of historic buildings; the seemingly inexorable rise in rates since its introduction has not been paralleled by any similar rise in government funding for grants and other assistance to owners.

Precise figures are virtually impossible to come by, but in terms of grant-aided repairs alone, the cost of the recent 2.5 per cent increase in VAT probably represents somewhere between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the total grant aid offered by English Heritage last year.

In addition, the last few years have seen a significant reduction in the existing concession on alterations to listed buildings. Often referred to as the 'Gutter's Charter' because of the encouragement it gave to alteration and demolition over repair, the concession nevertheless offered some assistance to listed building owners; however, since July 1990 that assistance has been restricted to residential buildings or to certain buildings owned by charities.

Of course the impact of VAT on owners can vary. In some cases, for example where a building is owned by a commercial business or has significant income from public opening, VAT paid on repairs can to some extent be offset against VAT charged on opening or on other activities. But such recovery is often only partial, and for many of the most needy owners, such as churches, charities, owners of smaller and less visited country houses and people who have monuments or buildings of little or no economic value, the ability to offset provides no relief at all.

The UK government does not have absolute freedom to set VAT rates; it is ruled by the Sixth VAT Directive, the long-term aim of which is to bring existing VAT rates in the European Union into a common standard band. However, Annex H of the Directive sets out a list of goods and services to which a reduced rate of VAT can be applied, with a minimum of 5 per cent. At present that excludes the repair of listed buildings.

The European Commission is required to produce a revised draft of the Sixth Directive and its annexes by the end of this year for discussion by Finance Ministers. There is an open-ended EU commitment to reach agreement on a revised text. This revision provides the opportunity to include repairs to listed buildings in the appropriate annex to the new version – an essential preliminary to the introduction of any reduced rate of VAT for repairs to listed buildings in the UK.

Over the last few months an international campaign has been mounted, led by Europa Nostra, the international body representing non-government organisations involved in the built and natural heritage, to try to get an appropriate provision into the annex to the revised Sixth Directive.

Within the UK, this campaign has been pursued particularly by English Heritage, the Historic Houses Association, and the National Trust. Representations have been made by various national bodies in the UK and elsewhere to the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament and individual Commissioners.

There are signs that as a result of this campaign the Commission will agree to include the repair of listed buildings among the categories of goods and services to which a lower rate can apply in the draft of the Sixth Directive to be discussed by Finance Ministers.

This does not, of course, mean that it will necessarily be included in the final agreed version, although Ministers may not wish to be seen to oppose a measure that has such a degree of support across the entire European Union.

As part of the campaign to persuade governments to support this measure, English Heritage is commissioning research to try to determine more precisely the impact of

present rates of VAT on repair work to historic buildings in the UK, and to try to assess the fiscal and other effects of the application of a reduced rate.
If the international campaign is successful, then it will be open to national governments to impose a lower rate of VAT on repairs to listed buildings.
Whether they will do so, of course, is another matter, and present UK government policy is to maintain a single rate. There will clearly need to be another major campaign of persuasion if this attitude is to be changed!

O H J Pearcey

Conservation Group, Deputy Director

Conservation Area Partnerships

Our invitation to local authorities to apply for Conservation Area Partnership Schemes met with great success. Almost twice the expected number of schemes will be in place by April 1995. But sharing out limited funds among so many applicants is not an easy task

Town Hall, Eye, Suffolk. Among schemes accepted subject to action plans is one for Eye, with a proposed allocation of £50,000.

The Thanet Towns partnership scheme for regenerating Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs may include details of Ramsgate's Wellington Terrace, shown in this 1850s print

During April 1994, all local authorities were invited to consider applying to English Heritage by the end of June for the establishment of new Conservation Area Partnerships (CAPs) to run from April 1995. These new schemes have been introduced to help focus joint resources more effectively on areas of the greatest need, to encourage greater participation by local authorities, and to develop more flexible schemes which are more responsive to local needs. Earlier articles have given the background to this approach, and described the process through which we have sought to develop and pilot these schemes (*Conservation Bulletin* **21**, 17; **23**, 268).
By April 1997, Conservation Area Partnership Schemes will be the single formal means of directing English Heritage funding into conservation areas, apart from a limited number of specific one-off direct grants; for example those to outstanding historic churches, buildings or monuments, or to buildings at risk. It is clear, therefore, that existing allocations of funds, including town schemes, need to be carefully considered as they reach the end of their current cycle, and, if there is still a need for a grant scheme, should be refocused and brought into the new CAP framework.

Response

We were unsure of the response that local authorities might make to this invitation. Our estimate of the number of new schemes that might be in place by April 1995 was about 60. The resulting bids from all authorities, however, exceeded our expectations: 191

submissions were received from 128 separate local authorities, representing a total bid for funds from English Heritage of just over £12.9 million. Of these, 96 were for the conversion of existing town schemes so just under half were in entirely new areas or in areas where our grants work in the past has not necessarily attracted full participation of the local authority.

Assessment

All of the schemes have been assessed according to the criteria set out in our consultation paper in 1993 and repeated in the subsequent advisory documents. These included the quality of the area, the extent of its repair or other problems, the financial need for grants, the capacity of the authority to run the scheme, and its commitment – expressed in terms of available finance as well as the application of conservation policies to improve the quality of its conservation areas. In the event, we have been able to allocate funds that allow us to endorse nearly two-thirds of the proposed schemes. We will be inviting authorities to work up their action plans in 115 of the areas submitted to us for consideration. A list of the successful schemes for 1995 and the provisional allocations of funding, totalling £5.56 million, is shown on the right.

Results

Inevitably, there are some schemes where we consider that our criteria have not been met, or where we have not been able to promise as much funding as has been sought. We have also looked particularly carefully at those areas where we have been involved for a considerable time through town schemes.

In a number of cases it is clear that conservation is now self-sustaining and that the task originally envisaged, of achieving a steady improvement in the building stock of an area through small-scale grants, has met with some success. In such cases, therefore, there is little further to be added by the conversion of some of these schemes into Conservation Area Partnerships. We can offer assistance in other ways for any remaining significant problems related to historic buildings in the area.

In other cases, where it is not clear what contribution the authority itself is able to make, our acceptance of the scheme will be conditional on local financial resources being made available and stated explicitly in the action plan. Where authorities have made a number of applications, we will try to focus available resources on those schemes that appear to offer the best chance of concerted action, and tackle problems with realistic budget allocations.

Litton, North Yorkshire; a successful scheme by Yorkshire Dales National Park to repair barns and walls in Swaledale has encouraged similar proposals in Littondale

Conservation Area Partnership Schemes, 1995

Schemes accepted in principle, subject to action plans

county	district	name of scheme	proposed allocation £
Avon	Bristol	Bristol	50,000
	Woodspring	WestonSuperMare	50,000
Cambs	Peterborough	Thorney	15,000
		Minster Precincts	40,000
	Fenland	Wisbech	15,000
	Huntingdon	St Neots	10,000
Cheshire	Chester	Whitefriars	20,000
	Macclesfield	Bollington & Kerridge	20,000
Cleveland	Langbaurgh-on-Tees	Loftus	30,000

	Hartlepool	Headland		25,000
Cumbria	Eden	Alston		42,000
	Carlisle	Botchergate		100,000
	Lake District	Keswick		30,000
	South Lakeland	Ulverston		20,000
	Barrow	Dalton-in-Furness		10,000
	Allerdale	Maryport		30,000
	Copeland	Whitehaven		50,000
Derbyshire	Amber Valley	Belper		20,000
	North East Derbys		Eckington	15,000
	South Derbyshire		Melbourne	20,000
	Derbyshire Dales		Cromford	25,000
	Bolsover	Bolsover		18,000
	High Peak	New Mills		30,000
Devon	North Devon	Ilfracombe		50,000
	Plymouth	Plymouth		100,000
Dorset	Weymouth & Portland		Weymouth	75,000
Durham	Darlington	Darlington Town Centre		30,000
	Sedgefield	Sedgefield		20,000
	Teesdale	Barnard Castle		28,000
	Wear Valley	Wear Valley Roofing Scheme		20,000
Essex	Southend on Sea		Clifftown	20,000
	Colchester	Colchester		120,000
Gloucestershire	Tewkesbury	Tewkesbury		80,000
Greater Manchester		Bolton	Wood Street	10,000
	Bury	Bury Town Centre		40,000
	Stockport	Mkt Underbanks/Hillgate		75,000
	Tameside	Millbrook, Stalybridge		20,000
		Fairfield Moravian Settlement		8,000
	Wigan	Wigan Town Centre		75,000
	Manchester	Northern Quarter		100,000
Hampshire	Gosport BC	Priddys Yard		100,000
Hefts	Dacorum	Hemel Hempstead Old Town		35,000
Humberside	Hull City Council		Hull Old Town	30,000
	Boothferry BC	Howden		26,000
Kent	Thanet DC	Thanet Towns		200,000
	Gravesham	Gravesend		130,000
		Canterbury		100,000
	Shepway DC	Folkestone		10,000
Lancashire	Hyndburn	Oswaldtwistle		10,000
	Preston	Avenham		35,000
		Fishergate Hill		20,000
	Pendle	Colne		30,000
	Burnley	Padiham/Burnley/Canalside		75,000
Leicestershire	NW Leics DC	Ashby de la Zouche		10,000
	Melton DC	Melton Mowbray		10,000
	Rutland DC	Uppingham		10,000
	Leicester City	New Walk		32,000
Lincolnshire	Boston	Boston		180,000
	East Lindsey	Horncastle		50,000
London	Camden	King’s Cross		100,000
	Haringey	North Tottenham		50,000

	Islington	Keystone Crescent		160,000
	Merton	Mitcham Cricket Green		20,000
	Southwark	Bermondsey		150,000
	Tower Hamlets	Stepney Green		75,000
		Spitalfields		100,000
	Westminster	Queen's Park Estate		50,000
Merseyside	Liverpool	Duke Street		200,000
	Wirral	Birkenhead		200,000
	Sefton	Lord Street/Promenade		45,000
Norfolk	Norwich	City Centre		150,000
	South Norfolk	Harleston		15,000
Northumberland		Alnwick	Alnwick	29,000
North Yorks	York City	Bishophill North		20,000
	Yorkshire Dales	Littondale		15,000
		Settle Carlisle Railway		50,000
		Swaledale Arkengarthdale		50,000
	Hambleton	Stokesley		20,000
		Bedale		20,000
	Scarborough	Whitby		30,000
	Harrogate	Ripon		40,000
	NYMNP	Staithes		17,500
	Selby	Selby		30,000
Nottinghamshire	Newark & Sherwood		Newark	70,000
	Mansfield	Mansfield Woodhouse		30,000
Shropshire	Bridgnorth	Broseley		10,000
North Shropshire		Ellesmere, Market Drayton, Prees, Wem, Whitchurch		150,000
	Shrewsbury & Atcham		Shrewsbury	50,000
Staffordshire	Stoke-on-Trent	Burslem		24,000
Suffolk	Babergh	Sudbury		45,000
		Hadleigh		25,000
	Mid-Suffolk	Eye		50,000
	Waveney	Bungay		15,000
	Forest Heath	Mildenhall		15,000
St Edmundsbury		Bury St Edmunds		40,000
Tyne & Wear	Gateshead	Saltwell Park		30,000
Sunderland	Old Sunderland	Riverside		100,000
West Midlands	Birmingham	Key Hill		35,000
		Lozells & Soho Hill		35,000
		Steelhouse & Colmore Row		35,000
West Yorks	Calderdale MBC		Ackroydon	20,000
		Halifax Town Centre		40,000
		People's Park		40,000
	Kirklees MC	Batley Station Road		75,000
		Dewsbury		15,000
		Huddersfield		75,000
	Bradford MBC	Bradford City Centre		100,000
	Leeds CC	Leeds Riverside		75,000
	Wakefield	Wakefield Town Centre		15,000
		Pontefract		15,000
Wiltshire	North Wiltshire	Malmesbury		50,000
TOTAL				£5,564,500

A realistic approach

It was no easy task to reduce bids for nearly £13 million to around £5.5 million – the sum affordable within our expected conservation areas budget for offers of partnership schemes in 1995–6. In addition to the criteria set at the outset, apart from considering carefully the merits of continuing the town scheme approach in certain areas, we have also had to look carefully at the realism of the more ambitious bids and reach our own view of the resources we can afford to make available. We are also conscious that the current series of applications is the first of what will become an annual cycle. We propose to invite authorities again in April next year to submit preliminary applications by the end of June 1995 for further new partnership schemes to begin in April 1996. We have been enormously encouraged by the interest that the scheme has attracted, and it is clear that a number of authorities have put time and effort into thinking about the problems of their conservation areas that might be addressed by a partnership scheme.

We are looking forward to the challenge of converting all these 115 proposals into firm and achievable action plans by the early weeks of 1995, so that firm commitments and offers can be made by April.

Stephen Johnson

Conservation Group, Regional Director, North

Economic consequences

In May *The listing of buildings: the effect on value* was published, a report of research undertaken by the Property Research Unit, University of Cambridge, on behalf of English Heritage, the Department of National Heritage, and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (available from RIOS Books, 12 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AD, £7.50). The study was a joint initiative to improve our understanding of the economic issues related to historic buildings and was particularly concerned with the question of how listing affects the value of a property. As a pilot study based on a number of difficult cases, the main result of the work was to define the issues and set the agenda for further research. The results were discussed at a seminar held in Cambridge in May 1994, as a result of which further joint research will be commissioned to look at the wider economic and social value of conservation, in particular the correlation between urban conservation and enhancement and the economic and social well-being of neighbourhoods, towns, and cities.

Greenwich agreements

On 6 July 1994 English Heritage signed a conservation agreement with the London Borough of Greenwich, delegating to them responsibility for determining applications for minor works to Grade II listed buildings. We are providing part funding for conservation staff to help them to deal effectively with the whole range of conservation issues in the borough, and to run the pilot Conservation Area Partnership (CAP) scheme in Greenwich Town Centre, which is now fast gaining momentum. The first major grant (£25,000) went to the Mitre Public House, a prominent early Victorian building on the approach to the town centre. Work began on site in August. A further 19 repair projects are expected to be initiated this year. We have offered separately £55,000 for repairs and lighting to King William Walk, a key route through the town centre. As part of their CAP Action Plan the borough is targeting breaches of planning controls, in particular unsightly signs and street clutter, and pursuing measures to lessen the impact of traffic, including a HGV ban.

Church insurance

In March we published *Insuring your historic building: houses and commercial buildings* jointly with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. In September we published a parallel leaflet dealing specifically with churches and chapels. This gives advice on their insurance primarily against damage caused by fire and other perils and during building works. Our aim is to advise parishes or trustees and assist surveyors and other professional advisers to deal with the potentially complex issues involved in the insurance and insurance valuation of historic churches and chapels. Copies of both leaflets are available free on request from English Heritage, Room 221, 30 Warwick Street, London WIR 5RD.

All notes above by Paul Drury

Conservation Group, Regional Director, London

Caring for churches, with faith in their chosen system

The Department of National Heritage Ecclesiastical Exemption Order, which came into force last month, will require careful study by all who are concerned about the conservation of England's historic churches

Last month a new Order came into force which may have a significantly favourable effect on the conservation of England's ecclesiastical buildings.

Only religious denominations which conform to a code of practice approved by the Department of National Heritage (DNH) will have limited exemption from listed building and conservation area controls.

Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reformed and a majority of Baptist churches have set up their own systems and will determine applications for alterations, additions, or demolition of their listed churches and chapels and unlisted church buildings within conservation areas.

All other denominations and faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox, the Salvation Army, for example, as well as those Baptist chapels which do not belong to the Baptist Union – are now subject to normal listed building and conservation area controls.

Under the Ecclesiastical Exemption Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Order (SI 1771), which came into force on 1 October 1994, the exemption for those denominations with a DNH-approved system is now reduced in scope to:

a church building used primarily for worship

any object or structure within a church building

any object or structure fixed to the exterior of a church building (unless itself listed)

any object or structure in the curtilage of the church building (unless itself listed)

A guidance note, *The Ecclesiastical Exemption: what it is and how it works**, issued by the DNH, gives details of the operations of each denomination.

The Church of England has revised its faculty jurisdiction with the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991, and introduced controls over its cathedrals with the Care of Cathedrals Measure 1990. The Roman Catholic cathedrals will be included within the diocesan arrangements; a document on the operation of the Roman Catholic Code is available from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

For Church of England cathedrals, the DNH has agreed, on a map, the extent of the exemption for each cathedral. Such procedures should remove any doubt over how far the exemption extends to cloistral buildings beyond the cathedral church itself. Each relevant local authority, as well as the individual cathedral and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England in London, has a copy of this map.

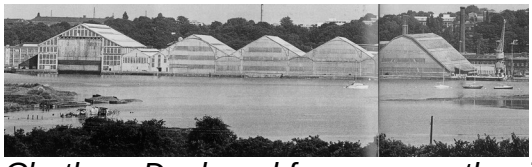
The exemption will continue for those ecclesiastical buildings in religious use currently outside the individual denominations' systems. These include the Church of England peculiars (such as Westminster Abbey), college, school, and hospital chapels, and the buildings of religious communities.
The intention is that all these buildings will be included within a denominational system by a certain date, or be subject to normal secular planning controls. The DNH is pursuing this inevitably complicated matter with the institutions.
In Chapter 8 of the new PPG 15, the Government has set out guidance on the 'Exercise of controls over non-exempt church buildings' (paragraphs 8.10–8.14). This section sets out in particular the material considerations to be taken into account by local planning authorities when determining applications for the alteration of church building interiors.
The Order refers only to listed building and conservation area controls. Ecclesiastical buildings in use remain exempt from scheduling as ancient monuments. However, the area around a church building or structures in the curtilage, such as churchyard crosses or outdoor immersion places, can be scheduled; scheduled monument consent will be needed therefore for any works to such monuments.
Each denomination has agreed to include archaeological considerations in the responsibilities of the bodies deciding applications under the Code of Practice.
The detailed operation of the new denominational systems will no doubt evolve in the light of experience. English Heritage hopes that interested members of the public, as well as those immediately affected, will take advantage of the opportunity now available to contribute to the preservation and continued use of England's ecclesiastical built heritage.

Richard Halsey

Conservation Group, Regional Director, Midlands

**Copies available from the DNH at 2–4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH; 0171 211 6000.*

Dockyard lessons



Chatham Dockyard from across the river, in the 1980s, showing the historic range of slipways, roofed to prevent wooden warships rotting while under construction.

A report on English Heritage-funded repair works to the dockyard at Chatham, and the work on the unique covered slips, offer lessons for saving other defence buildings

The current programme of repairs to the scheduled buildings at Chatham Dockyard, funded with a grant of £3 million from English Heritage, is nearly complete. Chatham is the most complete surviving example of a dockyard for the sailing Navy. Denied modernisation in the later 18th century, bypassed by the creation of a new Victorian dockyard in the 1860s, and spared heavy bombing in the 20th century, it retains the principal buildings needed to build, repair and provision wooden warships.
Grand buildings, like the still-working ropery of the 1790s, are internationally significant and are complemented by architecturally modest buildings such as the timber seasoning sheds. Forty-seven buildings or structures are scheduled as ancient monuments and when

the dockyard closed in 1984 their future needed to be secured. The approach adopted for repair works contains lessons for other historic defence sites facing an uncertain future.

The size of the problem

No 3 slip under renovation. Note the scatter lights and the dormer, which will be replaced

Control passed to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust established in 1984 with an endowment of £11.35 million and a brief to create 'a living museum'. The most historically important buildings were left to be accessible to the visiting public; visitor numbers are rising and substantial investment has been made in facilities for the public, including catering. Other buildings were let to tenants and the rent, some £500,000 a year, is being used to further the Trust's aims. People are encouraged to live in the dockyard as well as work there.

The endowment of £11.35 million was a significant sum but has proved inadequate in relation to the size of the repair liability inherited by the Trust. Many buildings had been neglected and problems included dry rot and roofs repaired with inappropriate materials; £3 million was spent on the comprehensive repair of the Ropery under a contract inherited from the MoD and a further £4 million repairing the Mast House and Mould Loft and converting them to a major visitor attraction, *Wooden Walls*, which tells the story of the construction of a wooden warship.

To secure the repair of the terrace of 12 houses built in 1722 for senior dockyard officers, an agreement was reached with a developer to combine large single residences within the terrace for sale with newly built housing to the rear of the walled gardens. Lack of alternative land for development has unfortunately meant that the new houses are close to the historic buildings and impinge on their setting, and the recession in the housing market has affected this joint venture.

By the late 1980s a great deal had been achieved by the Trust at Chatham but it found itself in difficulties. It had spent much of its original endowment but still faced a major backlog of essential repairs to its buildings. The effects of recession were felt on its tenants, the housing market and on its visitors. An approach was made to the Government for more funds and after lengthy negotiations it was agreed that an additional £3 million would be provided to the Trust under the supervision of English Heritage. A programme of works was devised combining repairs to buildings capable of being let to tenants with the repair of the most historically important and vulnerable structures. The intention was to augment the Trust's ability to earn income from rent-paying tenants without ignoring buildings less capable of reuse but important to its role as a museum of a working dockyard.

The downturn in the building industry in the early 1990s meant that more work has been possible within the budget than had at first been envisaged. Around the dockyard corrugated metal and asbestos roofs have given way to handmade tile and slate. Other grant-aided works have had a less obvious impact: rot has been tackled and timber frames of buildings carefully repaired. The most significant group of buildings repaired is undoubtedly the covered slips.

The covered slips

In the early 19th century the Navy introduced shipbuilding under cover to prevent the premature rotting of warships while under construction. Building slips had large span roofs, initially made of timber but later of iron. From 1845 Baker and Sons built for the Navy some of the earliest large-span metal roofs in the world. These structures with trusses and columns of wrought and cast-iron were the first to be built in this way; they predate the

great railway station roofs and even the Crystal Palace. The change from timber to all-iron warship construction made covered slips redundant and so they were a relatively short-lived building type. At Chatham five covered slips survive in the historic dockyard and are the most important in the country, fully illustrating the development of the type. No 3 Slip of 1838 is one of the last covers built in timber, with its cavernous interior like a great upturned hull. Nos 4, 5 and 6 Slips followed in 1847 and were the first metal slips constructed at Chatham. No 7 Slip of 1852 to a design by Colonel Greene completes the group.

A large proportion of the recent £3 million repair programme has been devoted to the covered slips. The three of 1847 have been re-roofed using sheeting of a profile pressed-on tooling produced specifically for this project. Scatter lights have been reintroduced, the iron frames repaired and painted, and the gable ends repaired. Almost £1 million has been spent on these works, with No 3 Slip proving the most important.

Nearly £850,000 is being spent on comprehensive repairs to this slip, with the 1856 photograph forming the starting point for much of the work. The roof was covered in asbestos cement sheeting and there was much discussion about a more appropriate replacement material. Documentary evidence of early experiments by the Navy with tarred paper was confirmed by traces nailed to the boarding, but for practical reasons the metal sheet covering of the 1856 photo was favoured. Tests of the boarding revealed high levels of zinc and this kind of sheeting is now being laid to a plan worked out from a large-scale enlargement of the photograph. The scatter lights are being reinstated along with the large dormer window at the apsidal end, the function of which is uncertain.

The roof is carried on composite timber columns with their feet in cast-iron shoes. Most column bases had rotted and are being renewed, requiring a rig purpose-built to take the weight off the post while its foot is cut away. Traditional dockyard skills in handling large timbers had to be relearned for these carpentry repairs.

The current programme of works funded by English Heritage will see a substantial improvement to the condition of many of the dockyard buildings but will leave significant challenges for the future. No 7 Slip and No 1 Smithery need repair and the massive Anchor Wharf Storehouses stand largely empty. The Chatham Trust has ambitious plans for adding to the attractions of the dockyard, but if these are be achieved they need to see the current investment in their buildings translated into increased income.

Important lessons can be drawn from what has happened at Chatham. Buildings must not be neglected in the run-up to their disposal, which reduces their value and creates problems that the public purse may have to solve. A detailed assessment must be made of the condition of buildings and their likely repair costs before a body takes over responsibility for a historic site. This can then form the basis of discussions on any endowment. If such cash funding is not available an alternative might be land suitable for development from which income can be earned. A living museum can work, but it needs imagination, favourable conditions for tenants and the right market conditions. Visitor income alone is unlikely to sustain sites like Chatham and alternative income streams will be needed. However, the dockyard's future does now appear more secure than it did in the late 1980s, and for anyone who has yet to visit Chatham it remains a fascinating day out.

Below: 1856 photograph of No 3 Slip, built in 1838

Peter Kendall

Conservation Group, Southeast

The Windsor Castle fire: learning lessons from the ashes

Water damage, site clearance and stripped walls have helped fill in the history of a great royal palace, as has the expertise gathered in dealing with the ruins of earlier fires

St George's Hall, where destruction of plaster and panelling revealed 14th century masonry; the oak roof dates from the late 17th century.

The disastrous fire that struck Windsor Castle in November 1992 caused extensive damage to a large section of the historic core of the royal palace buildings in the Upper Ward. The long process of restoration is now well under way, and before it is complete much will have been learned about the development of the buildings from archaeological recording of structures damaged and revealed by the fire.

Recording of detail

The recording of historic detail has been under way since the day after the fire. English Heritage's Central Government and Palaces Branch and Central Archaeology Service (CAS) have built up considerable expertise in such work, having dealt with the fires at Hampton Court Palace and at Uppark House, West Sussex, and the lessons learned from those projects were to prove invaluable in mounting a rapid and effective response to this disaster. In addition, CAS had only just completed a four-year project of excavation and survey related to the underpinning of the Round Tower at Windsor, and were thus familiar with the building history of the site as well as with some of the problems likely to be encountered in working in an occupied royal palace.

The immediate priority of the clearance programme was the recovery of damaged fixtures, fittings and decorative finishes from the fire debris. At the time that this work began, no decisions had yet been taken on the nature of the reconstruction of the damaged buildings. The decision on whether to restore or rebuild became a national, and at times heated, debate. However, if the fire debris had simply been thrown out, little or none of the decorative detail would have been preserved from several of the rooms, and authentic restoration of the buildings would have been impossible.

Royal Kitchen in the 19th century; illustration by Stefanoff, from Pyne's Royal residences

Where a room is to be restored to its former appearance, as is the Grand Reception Room, many of the moulded plaster elements which were collected in the clearance programme will be reused in the restored ceiling. An important contribution to this restoration is the existence of pre-fire stereo photographic records of several of the fire-damaged rooms. These had been deposited in the National Buildings Record, and were used by our Research and Professional Services Survey Branch to produce photogrammetric plots of the ceilings and walls. Other rooms were covered by rectified photography, which will also be invaluable in the reconstruction. The fabric survey has also aided the reconstruction project in many ways, from the provision of accurate measured survey of all of the elevations to assessment of the historic importance of the exposed fabric. The recording has allowed English Heritage to curate the buildings more effectively throughout the clearance and reconstruction programmes. Curatorial decisions can be

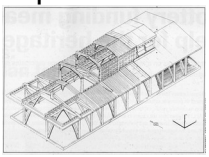
made against a vastly increased understanding of the development of the buildings. This will ensure the survival not only of the important medieval and 17th-century fabric, but also of structures from later periods, such as the early 18th-century ‘New Kitchen’ and Blore’s Kitchen Cloister of 1843.

Recording of structural timber

The initial recording work included the recording of burnt-out timber structures prior to, during and after their demolition. In several cases, trusses were salvaged from the damaged buildings and recorded on the ground; most of the roof of St George’s Hall was recorded off-site. This work was essential in the early stages in order to evaluate the date and range of structures damaged by the fire, as well as to provide information on the extent of damage and constructional details which would have formed the basis of authentic reconstruction of the roofs if that option had been taken. The most important discovery from this work was that the Kitchen roof is medieval and had survived a number of repairs and alterations. The early identification of this important structure ensured that it survived the initial site clearance work, and that it would be repaired rather than replaced. Most of the roof structures dated from the major reconstruction of the royal accommodation carried out in the 1820s–30s by Sir Jeffry Wyatville; these were of softwood, strengthened with iron bolts, ties, and strapping. The information recorded during site clearance, combined with surviving 19th-century construction drawings, has allowed the full drawn reconstruction of several badly damaged roofs.
As the removal of the fire debris progressed, it became clear that large areas of the underlying masonry shell had been exposed and that fabric from several periods of the castle’s development had been preserved. The fire had varied in effect from area to area, but was largely confined to principal floor level and above, the ground floor having been protected by medieval vaulting and 19th-century iron, brick, and stone floors. In the Grand Reception Room and Kitchen the fire flashed through the roof space, damaging the roof and destroying ceilings but leaving the wall finishes largely intact. Elsewhere, panelling and lathe and plaster finishes were destroyed, exposing the underlying fabric.

Water damage

Great though the initial impact of the fire was, the effects of water penetration have exposed as much if not more of the underlying fabric. The damaged buildings were provided with a temporary roof with remarkable speed, but exposure to the elements even for a short period, combined with the effects of the fire-fighting saturation, meant that the damaged buildings were very wet indeed. In such circumstances timber structures are highly susceptible to fungal infection, and it is not possible to reinstate the buildings until dehumidification has been completed. To accelerate the drying-out process, virtually the whole of the ground floor was stripped of render and other finishes, vastly increasing the exposure of historic fabric.



Timber-framed kitchen roof of the 15th century. Work following the fire revealed that it had survived many repairs and alterations. Early identification meant that it would be repaired rather than replaced

Fabric survey

The fabric survey began in earnest in June 1993, and the bulk of this work will be completed by January 1995, although further blocks of survey work have been identified

for later in 1995. Taken in all, much has been learned already about the surviving medieval and later structures. It is now possible to look critically at the model for the development of the palace buildings provided by Sir William St John Hope in his two-volume study of the castle (*Windsor Castle*, 1913). It is a tribute to the skill and depth of Hope's analysis that the basic dating and constructional sequence which he established still largely holds good; where our interpretation now differs, it is largely over matters of detail that were hidden from him but are now revealed to us.

The work has been based on primary measured survey, largely in the form of photogrammetry and rectified photography, which has been shown to be the most cost-effective and accurate way of capturing the enormous quantities of data recovered in such an exercise. The survey data have then been augmented by a team of experienced building recorders, with enhancements added to the digital drawing database. The end result will be an archaeological site archive capable of further analysis.

It is inevitable that, in a set of buildings that has a continuous history of occupation from at least the late 12th century, more will be learned of the later developments, but information on the earlier periods of the castle's development has exceeded expectations.

In the light of past experience of similar projects, new data will continue to be recorded throughout the reconstruction programme. At the end of this, the information recovered will be assessed for its potential for analysis in the same way as for any other archaeological recording project; however, it is already clear that this project will result in a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the development of this great palace.

Brian Kerr

Central Archaeology Service

Steven Brindle

Central Government and Palaces Branch

Lottery funding means help for the heritage

As Britain embarks on a national flutter, English Heritage anticipates extra funding from the National Lottery – but the criteria for the use of the money are still unclear

The National Lottery has been introduced by the Government to promote extra support for good causes in addition to existing public expenditure. The National Lottery Act 1993 identifies the causes as the arts, sport, the national heritage, charities and projects to mark the year 2000 and the beginning of the new millennium. Each cause will receive 20 per cent of the net proceeds, estimated at £750 million in 1995, the first full year, rising to £1,600 million in peak years.

The license to operate the lottery has been awarded to Camelot Group plc, who will pay the net proceeds into a fund, under the control and management of the Secretary of State for National Heritage, called the National Lottery Distribution Fund. The balance of this fund, together with any interest or dividends earned, which will be tax exempt, will be apportioned between the bodies distributing the money in each area, who will be able to draw down funds from their account to meet expenditure on approved projects and their expenses in administering the lottery.

The scale of lottery funding predicted to be available to the archaeological and historical heritage far outstrips the resources that have been made available by the Government in the past. The Heritage Lottery Fund, distributed by the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), should have available £150 million in the first year rising to £320 million per year as income peaks.

Although the money available will be expected to cover the natural heritage and projects in the whole of the United Kingdom, it still compares favourably with the £41 million made available for repairs to historic buildings by English Heritage through its major grant schemes last year. In addition, some expenditure from the lottery money distributed by the Arts Council may be directed towards capital works to historic buildings, for example, housing, theatres, cinemas, etc, and some heritage projects may qualify for funding from the Millennium Commission, which is responsible for funding anniversary projects.

By the time this article is published, the National Heritage Memorial Fund should have produced the final version of the guidelines for applicants. An earlier draft was considered at a number of public meetings in August and has been commented on by English Heritage and the other agencies who will be asked by the NHMF to advise on individual applications.

We anticipate that in the final version of the guidelines our main concerns will have been taken on board. They have centred on the linked questions of eligibility and additionality. Significant efforts have been made to ensure that lottery money is treated as new money rather than used to substitute for existing government expenditure programmes. We are anxious to ensure that the field of potential applicants for lottery funding is set as wide as possible and that the money available should be spent quickly and efficiently. It is important to note that, owing to the limitations on the powers of NHMF as a distributing body, private individuals and profit-distributing companies are excluded from lottery funding; this has at a stroke removed some major groups of historic buildings owners, such as the Historic Houses Association members, as well as most of the grant recipients within existing Conservation Area Partnerships and Town Schemes.

The final guidelines should also be clearer about the extent to which English Heritage funding can be used as partnership funding for lottery grants, and about the extent to which lottery funds will be able to pick up works that might in certain circumstances have been funded by our own repair grant schemes.

English Heritage will itself be applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance towards certain projects. But our main involvement will be as an adviser to the National Heritage Memorial Fund on applications relating to ancient monuments, historic buildings and their contents, design, and landscape, and industrial, transport, and maritime history. We are currently considering with the NHMF the level of advice they will require on individual cases. While much of the work – endorsement of individual schemes, approval of specifications, and monitoring of works – is broadly in line with work we are carrying out in any case, other areas, such as Grade II buildings outside conservation areas and major alterations or new works associated with historic buildings, may require additional expertise. Once we have agreed procedures with the NHMF, we hope to issue our own guidance to applicants. The timetable is very tight, with formal applications invited by the NHMF from 4 January 1995, and there will inevitably be a learning period at the beginning of the scheme as classes of application are identified and procedures developed.

As regards the other sources of lottery funding, the Arts Council of England issued a draft application pack in September and proposes to produce a final version in November. Their starting date for applications is the same as that of the NHMF. The Millennium Commission is rather further behind, with no formal guidelines even in draft by the end of September.

The availability of lottery funding presents major opportunities for the preservation and enhancement of the built heritage which have not existed before, but it is clear that applications will need much thought and procedures are likely to be at least as complicated as those of existing grant schemes. English Heritage will do all it can to assist grant applicants within government constraints and our role as advisor to the NHMF.

Any queries about the Heritage Lottery Fund should be addressed to: Miss Rosemary Ewles, Head of Lottery, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 10 St James's Street, London SW1A 1EF; telephone 0171 930 0963.
Enquiries about English Heritage's specific role should be addressed to: Mrs Sally Embree, English Heritage, Room 222, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB; telephone 0171 973 3265.

O H J Pearcey

Conservation Group, Deputy Director

Means and ends: the Corporate Plan for 1994–98

The English Heritage Corporate Plan aims to balance needs that never decrease with an increase of income from its own earnings by making the heritage work harder

The 1994–98 Corporate Plan sets out our strategy for the next four years, as follows:
What we aim to achieve
How we propose to achieve our aims
What it will cost to achieve them
How we will measure whether we are succeeding

Aims

As the national body established by Parliament to safeguard and promote our heritage, and as statutory advisers to central and local government, our three essential tasks are:
Securing the conservation of the best of England's historic sites, monuments, buildings, and areas
Raising awareness of this shared heritage and increasing commitment to its preservation
Promoting people's enjoyment and understanding of this country's past through its material remains
The Corporate Plan sets out the level of funds, comprising government grant-in-aid and our own earned income, that we anticipate being available to us over the next four years. The scope of our objectives and the targets we have set are based on this premise.
A general rise in economic activity as the country moves out of recession will impact on our work in a number of ways. While the prospect of securing a greater private sector contribution, both voluntary and development-related, will grow, so too will the pressures on the built heritage. While the workload on staff resulting from increased development may be containable through sound management and improved systems it is important to recognise that the staff reductions achieved in 1993 and the subsequent restraint on payroll and running costs will make this a major challenge.
The most significant change in our areas of interest over the next four years is likely to be the substantial contribution that will come from National Lottery funds. This is a profoundly important and welcome development and we expect to play a full part in securing the best use of these resources in the heritage field, while bringing forward proposals of our own for projects that will merit Lottery support.

Safeguarding historic buildings, sites and areas

Over the next four years we plan to increase our annual grant expenditure on historic sites, buildings and areas from £33.8 million (spent in 1993–94) to £41.3 million in 1997–98, seeking particularly to support those projects which will prolong active and beneficial use. Over the period of the Plan it is our intention to offer £54 million for churches, £16.5 million for cathedrals and £57 million for secular buildings and monuments.

Corporate Aims 1994–98

1 To make England's heritage more accessible, enabling people now and in the future to appreciate and enjoy the extent and variety of our historic surroundings.
2 To identify and seek to conserve the historic structures, sites, and areas which embody our heritage and, where these are at risk, to ensure that action is taken to safeguard their future.
3 To secure maximum funding for conserving the historic environment:
by increasing the profit from our income-generating activities
by encouraging sponsorship, legacies, gifts, and other private contributions
by identifying and promoting heritage conservation projects suitable for funding from the National Lottery, the Millennium Fund, and other national and European sources
by seeking other ways of enabling the private sector and local government to deal with problems for which local solutions are right
4 To provide authoritative advice, set standards, and undertake research on key issues through the retention, development, and flexible use of our own professional skills and to use these skills to intervene directly, quickly, and decisively to resolve particular problems where no-one else is able or willing to do so.
5 To increase awareness of our heritage and the need to preserve it, using our education and publishing programmes to increase commitment to our cause.
6 To provide a stronger protection for the historic environment by monitoring the effects of current law and advising Government on desirable legislative changes.
7 To continue to improve our efficiency and standards of service to the public and to other users of our services.
There is an essential balance within our aims and the resources we apply in pursuit of them. Generating additional funding for our work through trading and improved visitor facilities, for instance, has to be balanced against the conservation needs of the monuments, while visitor enjoyment itself can be adversely affected by inappropriate development.

We anticipate that the rationalisation of the defence estate, the changing infrastructure of the health service, continuing church redundancies and the changing needs of industry will all continue to present us with challenges in the form of major historic structures for which conservation solutions have to be found.
Conservation Area Partnerships with local authorities will progressively replace our existing conservation area grant schemes and our target is to have at least 60 Partnership Agreements in place by April 1995. In London we will continue to seek agreements with the boroughs, which will result in more of the decisions on Grade II buildings being taken locally.
With regard to our own historic properties, the condition of some of the monuments we took over from the Department of Environment in 1984 has been a continuing source of concern and we are targeting £25 million of our works expenditure to clear the backlog of repair by the year 2000.
We have agreed with the Department of National Heritage to take responsibility for the conservation of the Albert Memorial. We will ourselves provide £1 million of the project costs in 1994–95 and over the next two years a further £1 million. The target date for the completion of the work is 2000.

Above and below: restoring the Albert Memorial – an English Heritage responsibility

Identifying significant historic structures and sites

Through our Monuments Protection Programme we will continue to extend the protection of ancient monuments and have set a target of 1,800 scheduling recommendations per year. We are changing fundamentally our approach to the listing of historic buildings by focusing on the development of thematic surveys of particular building types, while continuing to review existing lists.

We have launched a programme to prepare urban archaeology strategy documents for historic towns and aim to complete 30 such studies by 1998. We are also undertaking a major three-year study (the Monuments at Risk project), to be completed by 1997, whose purpose is to assess the condition of archaeological remains nationally and to provide a baseline for future monitoring.

This year we are publishing for consultation the first Register of Historic Battlefields, which will afford for the first time a measure of protection for these sites by allowing them to be taken as a material consideration in planning proposals.

Making our heritage more accessible and enjoyable

In 1993 our properties attracted 9.5 million visitors, including an estimated 4.6 million to our free sites. Through the provision of improved visitor facilities and better marketing we aim to increase the number of people paying to visit our properties by 100,000 per year so that by 1997–98 they will number 5.4 million at properties with admission charges. We will continue to seek local management agreements for those properties that will benefit from such a change and our target is to conclude 69 such agreements by April 1995.

In our first ten years our membership scheme has grown by an average of 30,000 new members per year. We aim to increase the rate of growth to 40,000 per year in order to achieve 468,000 members by 1998.

Each year we ask a sample of visitors to our sites whether they have enjoyed their visit. Since 1990 their responses have ranged between 95 per cent and 99 per cent who found their visit enjoyable. Our aim is to maintain this high satisfaction rating.

Increasing funding for the heritage

Our Forward Strategy, published two years ago, made clear our determination to attract maximum funding from all sources for conservation work. Our grant schemes currently lever in substantial contributions to the projects we fund and we will continue to explore sponsorship opportunities and other methods of bringing in private sector resources.

Over the next four years we plan to increase investment in our marketing activities in order to raise the contribution our earned income makes to frontline work. Our target is to build our income from £15.6 million in 1993–94 to £20.5 million in 1997–98, raising the proportion of the resources we earn ourselves from 14 per cent to 16 per cent.

Making the most effective use of our skills

The current restraints on payroll and running costs and the likelihood of increasingly stretched resources from 1995 onwards require us to use the skills and experience of our staff as flexibly and effectively as possible. To this end we are developing a computerised human resource information system, which we intend to be operational by April 1995.

Working in partnership with others, both in local government and in the private sector, will assist us in focusing our own expertise in areas where it will have the greatest effect. Such areas include the development of standards and problem-solving through research.
This year our Research and Professional Services Group is developing a major five-year programme of research projects aimed at addressing conservation and archaeological problems.
We have a key role to play in education and training. Raising awareness of our heritage is the key to increasing public commitment to its conservation. Over the next four years we plan to increase our expenditure on education across all our activities. The work of our Education Branch in providing a wide range of publications and in working with schools in the context of the National Curriculum has been an important success and we plan to invest more in this activity from 1994 onwards. We also plan to extend and develop our publishing activities, including joint initiatives with external publishers, to spread our message to new audiences.
Our Conservation Training Centre at Fort Brockhurst, opened last year to provide training in professional, technical and craft skills, is now attracting considerable interest. Over the next two years we plan to double the number of courses on offer.

Improving our efficiency and standards of service

We are establishing a programme of Efficiency Reviews to consider all areas of our work in terms of the criteria set out in the 1993 Government Guide to Market Testing. Targets have been set for achieving a return of £250,000 in savings for each year, from 1995–96, contributing to our target of achieving a saving equivalent to 2 per cent of payroll in the three years from 1995–96.
During the period of the Corporate Plan the privatisation of our direct labour force, renamed as Historic Properties Restoration (HPR), will be completed, implementing our business plan for developing HPR into an independent and commercially profitable high-quality building conservation service.
This summer we reviewed and republished our standards of service to our customers. We have created a new Customer Services department and over the period of the Plan we will be using surveys of visitors and other customers to help us assess how we are performing, while continuing to monitor and publish our performance against the targets set for response times and the turn-round on casework.

Planning the use of our resources

The funding for our work comes from two principal sources, from Government and from income generated at our historic properties through recruitment of members, admissions, and trading. Grant-in-aid continues to be our principal source of income, representing 86 per cent of our available resources in 1993–94. Our earned income has increased from £5.02 million in 1986–87 to £15.62 million in 1993–94 and is projected to rise to £20.45 million by 1997–98. Over the next four years the contribution of our earned income is planned to rise from 14 per cent to 16 per cent of our resources.
Our financial plan for the next four years may be summarised as in the table above right. Government funding is planned to increase by 1.6 per cent next year but no further increase is indicated for the following two years. Although our own earned income will make an increasing contribution over the period of the Plan the impact of the ‘flat line’ in our grant-in-aid can be seen in deficits for 1996–97 and 1997–98. Should this gap between what we plan to spend and the resources available increase, we will have to revise many of our targets for these years.

The Albert Memorial, before it was enclosed in scaffolding and renovation began

£m	**1994/95**	**1995/96**	**1996/97**	**1997/98**
Grant-in-aid	104.1	105.8	105.8	105.8
Income	16.6	17.8	19.1	20.4
TOTAL	**120.7**	**123.6**	**124.9**	**126.2**
Planned Spend	120.7	123.6	125.8	131.2
Planned Deficit	0.0	0.0	(0.9)	(5.0)

Conservation Grants for historic buildings and monuments are planned to increase from £33.8 million in 1993–94 to £41.3 million in 1997–98, an average increase of 4 per cent per year over the period of the Plan. These figures exclude archaeology commissions, provision for which is broadly retained at current levels. Church grants will increase substantially from £10.2 million in 1993–94 to £13.6 million in 1997–98, as will historic buildings grants, which will rise from £8.4 million to £12.7 million over the same period; £4 million per year is earmarked for the Cathedral Grants Scheme.

Historic Properties provision increases from £29.8 million to £35.2 million in order to make substantial progress in clearing the backlog of repair and develop improved visitor facilities.

Our marketing budget is increased to support our need to increase the contribution from our income-earning activities.

In line with the strategy set out in the 1993–97 Plan, expenditure on Corporate and Research and Professional Services falls in real terms over the next four years. Expenditure on Corporate Services decreases from 13 per cent of our overall spend in 1993–94 to 12 per cent of our budget in 1997–98, which releases £3 million to spend elsewhere over the three Plan years.

There remain a number of areas of work and specific projects that we are unable to undertake within our planned level of resources and we have made an additional bid for government funding of £14.6 million for this work.

John Hinchliffe

Head of Corporate Planning

Grade I buildings at risk survey

A survey earlier this year of England's Grade I buildings appears to reveal good news: just over 1 per cent were found to be suffering from neglect and only about 8 per cent are in need of attention. However, a closer look may indicate that this is an underestimate

at risk – Hill Hall, Epping Forest; it will be made safe at a cost off 1.8 million

A rapid national survey of all Grade I listed buildings, funded from savings in our 1993–4 budget, was commissioned and carried out in the early months of 1994, in accordance

with English Heritage's intention to give priority to the most important historic and architectural buildings and sites.
Its main purpose was to provide a picture of the general condition of England's very best buildings, using the same criteria as those employed in the original buildings at risk survey carried out during 1990–91. The survey provides us for the first time with a reasonably reliable assessment of the number and character of Grade I buildings and of their locations.

The range of buildings

Grade I buildings make up just over 2 per cent of the estimated half million listed buildings in England. Unsurprisingly, they are concentrated in traditional historic centres, such as London and Oxford, which between them account for a tenth of all Grade I buildings. Similarly, the unequalled concentration of medieval churches in Norfolk and Suffolk accounts for a further 10 per cent of Grade I buildings. Although by far the largest proportion of Grade I buildings are churches, the range is considerable. It includes examples of widely known architectural masterpieces, but also many less well known buildings of great diversity – medieval crosses, dovecotes, 20th-century zoo buildings and modern commercial and educational buildings.
The results show that just over 1 per cent of all Grade I buildings were found to be at risk from neglect. In addition, however, just over 8 per cent were vulnerable and in need of repair to prevent them falling into a critical condition. The intention of the survey was to ensure that not only are we aware of any Grade I buildings at risk, but that where necessary we are initiating action to secure their preservation.
In fact, in the vast majority of cases we are already actively involved in detailed negotiations and discussions to facilitate their repair and we are following up the fewer than 20 per cent of cases where either a grant has not already been offered or where negotiations to secure the building are not in hand.

The survey procedure

Breakdown of Grade I buildings by building type

Building category	Number of buildings	% of total no of Grade I buildings
Religious	4500	40
Domestic	3500	30
Ancillary	1300	11
Educational	370	3
Military	360	3
Commemorative	220	2
Transport	200	2
Garden Landscape	170	1
Civil	160	1
Commercial	140	1
Agricultural	100	1
Other*	580	5
TOTAL	**11600**	**100**

This category includes street furniture, manufacturing & processing, storage, power.
The survey system is designed to identify buildings at risk from neglect by an external assessment of their overall condition and whether or not they are occupied. The procedure does not constitute a fill condition survey, which would require internal access to each of the buildings and would be enormously expensive in time and resources. The two factors

of condition and occupancy are judged in association to define the different categories of risk. This provides a national standard of risk assessment.
Because of the need to complete the Grade I survey within a tight timetable and to cover the national stock of buildings, it was decided to employ a single company to carry out the assessments, rather than work through local planning authorities as we did with the 1992 sample survey. Once the initial results were available, they were verified as far as possible by English Heritage regional teams in consultation, where appropriate, with local authorities in each area.
Not all structural faults are revealed by visible external signs. While external assessment is reasonably reliable for smaller buildings and structures such as tombs and street furniture, it is less so for larger and more complex buildings, such as churches and major country houses.
Moreover, in some instances time constraints prevented the organisation of adequate access to sites. As a result, buildings have been identified as being at risk only where we are absolutely sure that this is the case; the results therefore almost certainly underestimate the number of buildings in poor and very poor condition.

The survey database

English Heritage is currently participating in a joint project with the Department of National Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England to produce a computerised database of listed building entries. However, such a database was not available when work started on the current survey, and the work has therefore allowed us to produce, for the first time, a comprehensive list of all Grade I buildings and some reasonably reliable general statistics, both on the number of buildings of this grade and on their distribution among the broader categories of building type.
By far the commonest is the religious building; this reflects the large number of medieval churches throughout the country, particularly concentrated in areas such as East Anglia and the West Country. The next largest group comprises buildings designed originally for domestic purposes, whatever the present use. Associated with this type should be many of the buildings categorised as ancillary; of these about a thousand are unoccupiable structures such as walls and gates listed in their own right, while the other buildings in the Category tend to be domestic estate buildings, such as stables and brewhouses.

The survey results

Historically, Grade I buildings have tended to be identified from the early years of the listing process, but before listing existed a number of them were scheduled in order to ensure their protection. The survey has highlighted the very wide range of structures considered appropriate for listing at Grade I, including, for example, parts of Hadrian’s Wall and Chester City Walls, which would not at first sight appear to be conventional listed buildings and which present obvious problems of assessment in a survey of conditions. These structures highlight the broader problem of overlap between listing and scheduling, which will be addressed progressively in the course of the Monuments Protection Programme and on the basis of improved data.
The number of Grade I buildings identified as at risk or as vulnerable by this survey is lower than the previous sample survey of all listed buildings led us to believe. While the current survey may have tended to underestimate numbers, because surveys were not carried out by local authorities armed with local knowledge about condition and occupancy, the most likely conclusion is that the previous survey overestimated the number of Grade I buildings at risk or vulnerable, because the proportion surveyed was too small a sample from which to draw reliable conclusions.

Breakdown of Grade I buildings at risk and vulnerable by building type

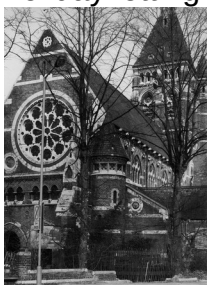
Building category	Number of buildings at risk	% of buildings type at risk	No of buildings vulnerable	% of buildings type vulnerable
Religious	18	0.4	115	2.5
Domestic	38	1.0	164	4.6
Ancillary	16	1.2	276	21.2
Educational	0	0	8	2.1
Military	16	4.4	129	35.8
Commemorative	10	4.5	93	42.2
Transport	2	1.0	49	24.5
Garden Landscape	6	3.5	40	23.5
Civil	0	0	6	3.7
Commercial	1	0.7	24	17.1
Agricultural	7	6.7	28	28.0
Other*	12	2.0	29	5.0
TOTAL	**126**	**1.5**	**961**	**8.2**

* This category includes street furniture, manufacturing & processing, storage, power.

While we are reassured that just over 1 per cent of all Grade I buildings were found to be in critical condition, we are nonetheless concerned that any such buildings are at risk from neglect. English Heritage has for a number of years attached a very high priority to securing Grades I and II* buildings at risk and this is reflected in the fact that, in 88 per cent of the cases where Grade I buildings are at risk, either grant has already been offered or negotiations to secure the building are in hand.

Abandoned, neglected for many years, Cullacott House, a 15th-century farmhouse with rare heraldic wall paintings, is now being brought back to life with an English Heritage grant of £276,126

Nearly half of the Grade I buildings at risk are privately owned and this fact probably reflects the size of the domestic and ancillary groups rather than any significant failure of this category of owner to maintain his or her building in good repair. This category includes buildings such as Cullacott House, Werrington, north Cornwall, a derelict 15th-century farmhouse containing rare heraldic wall paintings, which was abandoned as a home in 1869 when a new farmhouse was built near by. It had subsequently become a storehouse for agricultural equipment and was in a critical condition. It is now being repaired with a grant of £276,126 from English Heritage and it is the owners' plan to use part of it for holiday letting and public use once the work is completed.



What can be done with a redundant church? The fine Victorian Gothic St Stephen's, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, has been without a religious purpose for some 20 years, but so far no use has been found which might give it the prospect of useful survival

About 15 per cent of the Grade I buildings at risk are owned by local or central government. This highlights the relatively high proportions of military and commemorative buildings that are at risk. The Albert Memorial is perhaps the ultimate example of a commemorative building that has no beneficial use to generate an income to secure regular maintenance. Responsibility for the repair of this unique Victorian monument has recently passed to English Heritage and the work, which is expected to cost around £13 million and to be completed by the year 2000, has now started.

A handful of properties in the care of English Heritage, such as Mill Hall in Epping Forest, have been identified as being at risk. We were, of course, aware of their condition before the survey was carried out and they are top priorities in our backlog programme. Like many of our properties, they were originally taken on by Government for the very reason that they were important buildings and in need of major repairs. Unfortunately this was not always followed up by a commitment to find resources to carry out the work. It is only now, by focusing our attention on clearing the whole of our inherited backlog of conservation work by the year 2000, that we have been able to draw up a programme that will see all our properties in good repair within the next few years. In the case of Hill Hall, work will be carried out during the next three and a half years at a cost of £1.8 million to make the building fully windproof and weathertight and to prevent further damage. The work will mean that the hall will no longer be at risk of deterioration. We are, however, also trying to secure additional funding, if possible from the private sector, to make a full restoration of the hall and its landscape.

Very often the key to bringing a building back into repair is a change of ownership, and this can be encouraged by the service of urgent or full repairs notices. English Heritage seeks to work with local authorities to use the whole range of statutory powers available to them, and local planning authorities must inevitably be in the front line in such cases. English Heritage seeks to back them up as far as possible with professional advice and financial support; and, where the building justifies it, we are prepared to consider asking the Secretary of State to use his own reserve powers, as he did at the Crescent, Buxton. This outstanding Grade I building at risk was erected between 1779 and 1789 as the principal attraction and centrepiece of the Duke of Devonshire’s attempts to promote Buxton as a spa of national importance. It is currently undergoing repair with the assistance of a grant of £1 million and English Heritage is working closely with the County and Borough Councils in order to safeguard the building from further deterioration and to reestablish the Crescent and the surrounding area of The Slopes as the centrepiece of Buxton’s continuing vitality as a tourist centre.

Despite our best efforts there are buildings for which we have not yet been able to identify satisfactory solutions. For instance St Stephen’s Church, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, has been redundant for about 20 years. Although urgent repairs have been carried out to this prominent Victorian Gothic church, it is essential that a suitable new use and owner are found if the building is to survive in the longer term. Despite active intervention to encourage potential users it has not yet been possible to identify a suitable solution for the building, but English Heritage will continue to work closely with interested parties to find a way forward.

In some cases we have been unable to secure the repair of a building because of the scale of the resources required. The cost of repairing the West Pier at Brighton is currently estimated to be in excess of £15 million and is beyond the scope of any existing grant schemes. Despite being the supreme example of the Victorian fashion for seaside piers, it has been closed since 1975, and repair may now only be achieved with the advent of funding from the National Lottery.

Future action

Where English Heritage was not already involved in negotiations to secure Grade I buildings identified by this survey as at risk, we have already opened discussions with the relevant owners and local planning authorities. We will also be following up those Grade I buildings identified as vulnerable to determine whether any of them should be included in the 'at risk' list, and in any case to decide what steps can be taken to ensure that they do not deteriorate further and to secure their repair. Again we shall be seeking to work closely with the owners and with the local planning authority in each case.

English Heritage would welcome any comments on the current survey results and on the need for and scope of any future survey work.

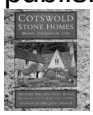
Sally Embree

Conservation Group, Policy and Research Team

Books

Living in stone

Cotswold stone homes: history, conservation, care, by Michael Hill and Sally Birch, 1994, published by Alan Sutton, £16.99



Taking one of England's most romantic architectural traditions, *Cotswold stone homes* provides a thorough and useful study of the region's characteristic building material and its use in vernacular domestic architecture. The authors aid our understanding of the buildings through examination of the social and natural landscape, the available building materials, and methods of use, and explain how these influenced the architecture of the Cotswolds. Conservation principles and issues, relevant legislation and procedures for listed building consent, grant applications, building regulations, and so on, are covered in a simple and straightforward manner.

The study begins with a sketch of the region, drawing together the physical characteristics of the landscape and its cultural and economic development, to explain how vernacular building types developed in response to the environment. Subsequent chapters outline in some detail the use of materials in the historical development of the buildings, including much useful information on stone types, methods of quarrying, lime, building techniques and so on. The present availability of materials for conservation and care is also covered. The architecture of the region is described in stylistic terms, with the evolution of the dwelling house outlined up to the present. The authors' knowledge of local building traditions and craft skills is recounted in a lively manner, which makes for an enjoyable and informative read.

The final chapter covers the conservation of the Cotswold house. Written essentially for the lay person, the chapter describes what is involved in taking on the responsibility for caring for such a building, including the pitfalls and financial implications. The text covers the conservation of existing dwelling houses as well as tackling the issues of adaptive reuse of vernacular farm buildings. The advice and subject areas covered are described simply and comprehensively, including the importance of seeking professional advice. In their discussion the authors do not, however, make sufficiently clear the distinction between the architect, the building surveyor and other related conservation disciplines, and the different roles they play in architectural conservation, an unfortunate present trend. Sadly, the demise of understanding of the importance of the architect's particular skills in

conservation work is reflected here, reinforcing a tendency for conservation to become more and more the realm of the generalist.
This lack of understanding has relevance for the case studies included in the text, which are perhaps the least successful part of the book. Unlike earlier sections, which are clearly and well illustrated, the lack of plans and graphic material generally reduces the case studies to descriptive text and photographs, which means that some of the conversions appear unconvincing.
A comprehensive bibliography provides a useful summary and reference point for the care and conservation of the Cotswold home. Appendices include descriptions of all relevant conservation and building legislation, a list of useful addresses covering the legislative bodies, suppliers of building materials and products, and training courses available for those interested in practical building conservation.
Thus *Cotswold stone homes is* a practical book and should be of interest to local building owners, those in the region involved in building conservation, and the architectural enthusiast alike. Informal in style and enjoyable to read, it provides much useful information on most aspects of conservation of the local building types in the Cotswold region.

Susan Macdonald

Getting plastered

Conservation of plasterwork: a guide to the principles of conserving and repairing historic plasterwork, compiled and edited by Simpson and Brown, Architects for Historic Scotland, 1994, published by Crambeth Allen, £5.00 plus £1.00 p&p (available from Historic Scotland, Scottish Conservation Bureau, 3 Stenhouse Mill Lane, Edinburgh EH11 3LR; telephone 031 443 1666)

A publication of this nature, which sets out to explain in great detail the current methods of conserving and repairing plasterwork, was long overdue.
The book starts with a brief introduction on the history of plaster and plasterwork, then continues with a lengthy explanation of the various materials that have been used and the methods employed to carry out the work. An interesting section is included on papier-mâché decoration, which could apparently be bought off the shelf and was easy to apply. It was thought at the time to be more durable than either timber or plaster ornament.
The subject of plasterwork conservation is covered well and stresses the need to repair authentic fabric, rather than to destroy the original and replicate it. A sensible warning is sounded about using modern plastering methods and techniques, which can be unsuitable for use on historic plasterwork.
An easy guide chart to plaster defects is included, which is informative but unfortunately does not contain suggestions for remedies or repairs.
The book has a number of black and white photographs, which have a rather aged appearance, but the line drawings are clear and precise.
The various methods of removing paint from plaster are explained in detail and helpful information is given on the types of paint that were and are used, including the difficulties that may be encountered when attempting to strip them. Advice is also given about the sorts of paint that are appropriate for use on historic plasterwork, avoiding excessive build–up and the obscuring of detail. Mention is also made of the need to choose paint systems that allow the surface to breathe.
A useful appendix gives addresses from which some of the more unusual materials (eg horsehair) can be obtained.

The book is carefully written in an easily understood, yet technical language, and will be helpful to both professionals and laymen. Although it is only a slim paperback it contains sound advice and would be a worthy addition to any conservator's or architectural historian's library.

Nigel Oxley

A broader view of the landscape

Rescuing the historic environment: archaeology, the green movement and conservation strategies for the British landscape, edited by Hedley Swain, 1993, published by Rescue, £9.95 to Rescue members, £12.95 to non-members. (available from Rescue, 15 Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DX)

This volume is composed of papers presented to the eponymous conference held in Leicester in January 1993; it is divided into four sections, which deal with defining the issues, the role of national bodies, case studies, and campaigning for conservation.

The conference and this publication were both put together by Rescue, the British Archaeological Trust, and in so doing the Trust has demonstrated the continuation of a welcome trend away from a narrow focus on rescue excavation towards a broader view, which takes account of wider landscape issues as well.

This movement is perhaps a reflection on the part of a non-governmental organisation (a term that understates Rescue's locus and style) of government conservation agencies' increasing interest in the broader picture: to cite English examples the Countryside Commission's 'New Map' (now the Landscape Character Programme), English Nature's 'Natural Areas', and English Heritage's work on the historic landscape.

Does the volume succeed in providing strategies for the British landscape as set out in its subtitle? There are certainly some useful contributions.

Richard Morris's retrospective of public involvement in the environment through the medium of snapshots of archaeological events in the early 1970s is entertaining and instructive; his plea to put some of the soul back into an archaeological world influenced by market forces and professional practice should be heeded.

Geoffrey Wainwright used the conference to inform the assembled delegates that what is now the Monuments at Risk Survey (MARS) was advancing through its design stage (see *Conservation Bulletin*, **24**, 29–30), while Lesley Macinnes highlights commendable initiatives in Scotland.

Colin Bodrell (MAFF) and Tim Yarnell (Forestry Commission) demonstrate how policies that were damaging to conservation interests are changing and how various schemes can bring environmental benefit. Many of the case studies are valuable and worthy, particularly Margaret Cox's flagging of the complexities of proper archaeological conservation in a wetland environment. Kate Clark's consideration of where and how archaeological conservation might fit in with the concept of sustainable development is stimulating, even if she perhaps poses more questions than she answers.

Why then did the conference itself and now this volume seem disappointing? One important factor is that there is little that is new in this volume. It is instructive to see how the concepts that underpin the case studies and approaches in George Lambrick's seminal volume on archaeology and nature conservation (1985: Lambrick (ed) *Archaeology and nature conservation*) remain much the same almost ten years on. More recently Macinnes' and WhickhamJones' (eds) *All natural things: archaeology and the green debate* (1992) covers much of the same ground, and shares many of the same

contributors. Conceptual problems, such as the definition of the historic landscape, remain, as evidenced by Tim Darvill's musing on the subject, which opens the publication.
There is a significant amount of evidence in this book environment that some of the archaeological profession is only partly versed in broader aspects of land and environmental management. Even Darvill trots out the old adage that archaeological evidence is entirely non-renewable, whereas given the right conditions natural species and their habitat can renew themselves.
Caroline Steel of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation dismisses this argument. If habitat that has taken hundreds or even thousands of years to evolve is removed it may be that conditions for renewed development can be created, but this is no more the 'real thing' than the reconstruction of an archaeological site that has been destroyed.
Despite the best intentions of the organisers, the conference lacked a holistic approach. Most of the contributions to the publication are archaeologically led (as one might expect) and there is considerable emphasis on the relationship between archaeology and nature conservation. There is less representation from landscape interests, exceptions being the papers by David Brooke of the Countryside Commission and Robert White of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
If strategies to influence the management of the British landscape on broadly based environmental principles are to be developed then archaeologists need to recognise more clearly than is evident from this volume that archaeology and history form but one subset (albeit a vitally important one; of those elements which, together with geology, topography, vegetation, etc, make up the landscape.

Henry Owen-John

Craftsmen in their own countryside

Decorative plasterwork in the houses of Somerset 1500–1700, a regional survey, by John and Jane Penoyre, 1994, published by Somerset County Council, £12.95

As Geoffrey Beard points out in his Foreword, 'Plasterwork is anonymous stuff, rarely signed, and few plasterers' names appear in the conventional, or unconventional literature of art history.' Regional studies have increased in recent years, for example those by the Vernacular Architectural Group and by the Regional Furniture Society and books such as these go a long way to increasing our understanding of the huge variety of plasterwork that was once the hallmark of Britain.
Architecturally, the superb church towers of Somerset conveyed an impression of wealth to the 16th- and 17th-century visitor, which was reinforced when going into the houses; the sense of wonder at finding these ornate ceilings persists today. The Penoyres' book goes a long way to reveal the splendours.
Written from a comparative basis by looking at sources of designs, and comparing ceilings, friezes, overmantels, etc, the area covered ranges from Frome in the east to near Minehead in the west. Maps are quite invaluable in this type of work and it is intriguing to see the clusters of surviving work, especially around Frome and in a crescent from Yeovil through Taunton to Bridgwater. There are two excellent chapters on technique – including conservation – and one on craftsmen. The Penoyres make the point that it is almost certain that the majority of work was done by Somerset plasterers, for any real quantity of foreigners at work there would have given rise to more written references. Certainly Flemish patterns were used, for example those of Vredeman de Vries, but such designs were fairly common currency. Also there were probably some Huguenot tradesmen who settled in the county. When looking at any regional product, we do our ancestors no service by saying that it was probably made by a foreigner. The authors highlight in

particular the craftsmen Robert Eaton and the Abbot family. The Abbots, starting with John Abbot, worked mainly in Devon but the Penoyres have worked hard to define their work from that of others, some still unknown. Robert Eaton of Stogursey worked not only in Somerset but also in Dorset. Both Eaton and John Abbot were working from about 1600 onwards.

The chapter on technique is invaluable for dating evidence comes from looking at how a plaster ceiling and other decorated surfaces were made. Working with 18th-century plasterwork, this reviewer is struck by the terminology used by period tradesmen and how it differs from that used today, for example terms such as a 'Rich Dish', for what we might call a rosette. It would be interesting to learn the 16th- and 17th-century terms.

Finally, the book includes a gazetteer with 118 entries in Somerset along with some work from adjoining counties, an illustrated glossary, and a bibliography.

Treve Rosoman

Notes

Information leaflet

English Heritage's new leaflet, *Our commitment to the public*, describing our philosophy and services, has just been published. A copy accompanies this issue of *Conservation Bulletin*. Further copies can be obtained from our Customer Services Department, PO Box 9019, London W1A 0JA; Tel 0171 973 3434.

Historic property restoration

The Historic Properties Restoration arm of English Heritage has published a colourful brochure describing its current work and expansion into the commercial marketplace. For certain properties in England, it now offers specialist skills and expertise formerly exclusive to English Heritage. For brochure and further information write to Fraser Brown, Historic Property Restoration, 429 Oxford Street, London WIR 2HD or telephone 0171 973 3532.

EH Masterclasses

EH Masterclasses in practical building conservation will be held at Fort Brockhurst Training Centre, Gosport, Hants. Dates and subjects are:

January 16–20 Dressed stone treatment; 24 Structural engineering and conservation of buildings; 31 First aid and conservation of archaeological sites;

Feb 6–10 Structural treatment of masonry; 13–17 The conservation and repair of timber in historic buildings and structures (pt II); 21 Above-ground archaeology; 22–24 Terracotta: repair and cleaning;

Mar 6–10 Masonry conservation (pt I);

Apr 4 Ruins: their preservation and display; 5 Visitor facilities at ancient monuments and archaeological sites; 25 Consolidants: an introduction; 26 Lime washing and shelter coats; 27 Cathodic protection systems; May 2–5 Masonry: site assessment; 9–10 Mortars; 15–19 Laboratory techniques for conservation.

Details: Sebastian Bulmer, English Heritage, 429 Oxford Street, London WIR 2HD, 0171 973 3821

Caring for artefacts

Scientists from CABI, the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, have set up an international programme of Heritage Biocare, to make available expertise from specialists in bio-deterioration. It is organised by the International Mycological Institute and

the International Institute of Entomology. Further information from Dr Dennis Allsopp, IMI, Bakeham Lane, Egham, Surrey TW20 9TY, 0784 470 111.

Cast iron help

Cast Iron, published by the Victorian Society, provides useful advice to owners of Victorian and Edwardian houses on the care of decorative cast iron. Copies and further information: Kitt Wedd, Deputy Director, The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London W4 ITT.

Farm buildings conference

The Historic Farm Buildings Group, the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, and the Centre for Conservation Studies at the University of York held a conference in January on the recording of historic farm buildings. A volume produced by the group, *Recording historic farm buildings*, and further information, are available from Roy Brigden, Rural History Centre, University of Reading, Box 229, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG.

Framing wise ideas on windows

The look of old towns and villages, and their individual buildings, owes a great deal to the original windows and doors; replacements, including plastic-framed double glazing, not only ruin the appearance but are not necessarily an economy

A campaign to preserve traditional windows offers advice on preservation and alternative approaches to insulation and draughtproofing – for the ugly new may be a money-waster

English Heritage's Framing Opinions campaign to promote the repair, maintenance and upgrading of traditional windows, or their faithful replication where replacement is unavoidable, has been running since 1991. The climax of the campaign came this September with the publication of advisory leaflets and the launch of an educational video. Misguided home improvements, particularly those carried out over the last 20 years, have caused a crisis in our old towns and villages. Today as many as four million old doors and windows – features that do so much to give our historic towns and villages a unique sense of identity – are at risk from unnecessary replacement.

The Framing Opinions campaign was specifically designed to stop this erosion. Launched at the headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in Portland Place, London, in April 1991, the campaign has reached an extremely broad general audience. More than 40 million people, we calculate, have heard or seen the campaign message since 1991, via sources as diverse as *The Times, Plastics and Rubber Weekly* and *The Archers*. Conferences and exhibitions have been staged from Cornwall to Cumbria with speakers from English Heritage and our allies in the conservation world.

The message is definitely getting across. English Heritage has been inundated with approaches from home improvement manufacturers. Estate agents and financing companies realise that old properties that have suffered from unsympathetic alterations are devalued as 'period' dwellings, making them more difficult to sell.

Framing Opinions is not a plea for a return to a pre-industrial heritage, nor are conservationists in the business of applying the standards of 1720, 1820, or 1920 to old buildings. Whether they live in listed buildings or in conservation areas, houseowners understandably want convenient, draughtproof and well-insulated homes. What we have

been trying to point out is that window replacements may not be necessary, and that upgrading windows and doors to modern environmental standards does not have to be effected at the expense of historic fabric and period character.

The Framing Opinions campaign has not appealed solely to ‘good taste’, which is notoriously subjective: one man’s visual disaster can be another man’s delightful addition. Nor have we exclusively targeted modern materials. Softwood or hardwood window replacements can be just as visually damaging as plastic or metal replacements, and may have just as short a life span.

The culmination of the campaign has been the publication of seven free advisory leaflets, on subjects ranging from draughtproofing to metal windows, and the launch of a 30-minute educational video, aimed at schools and colleges as well as at homeowners.

These products are designed to provide consumers not with a list of imperatives but with information to help them make a properly informed decision on the repair, overhaul or replacement of their old windows. We advise, for example, that signs of ageing, patination and surface deterioration are not necessarily symptoms of irreversible decay. Our quantity surveyors used data from the Building Research Establishment and from the window industry to prove that rehabilitation and maintenance of old windows are more cost-effective than wholesale replacement, and that the energy efficiency of double-glazing (plastic, metal, or timber) is very often disappointing. At the same time, we try to point out that the life expectancy of replacements may prove far shorter than the old windows for which they are substituted and which may, of course, have already lasted for centuries.

We also advise on effective alternatives to double-glazing: draughtproofing and secondary glazing are benign, efficient and generally cheaper in the long-term than true double-glazing.

Armed with this material, local authorities and conservation bodies around the country should be better equipped to combat the propaganda widely distributed by the home improvement industry. In offering a series of attractive alternatives to wholesale replacement – benign, reversible, green and cheap – English Heritage’s campaign has, we believe, helped to safeguard the future of Britain’s historic towns and villages.

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