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

The task ahead

The new Chief Executive, Chris Green, outlines new issues and perspectives for English Heritage, including the dilemma we face in establishing criteria – with which the Government, public, and owners are all happy – for the listing of important buildings, such as Millbank Tower, above

Jennie Page's valedictory contribution to the last edition of *Conservation Bulletin* suggested that one of my tasks as the new Chief Executive of English Heritage might be to take forward our research into the economics of conservation, with particular attention to what the public is prepared to pay for its built heritage.

The difficulty lies in interpreting the public consensus, and in translating it into decisions that balance the interests of the individual with those of the community. Fortuitously, my arrival at English Heritage coincided with the Secretary of State's announcement in March of his intention to publish a Heritage Green Paper later this year. As he said, 'it is an essential function of Government not merely to deliver a range of specific remedies to particular problems, but also to promote a broader discussion about the objectives which we should set ourselves in a given field of policy'.

We at English Heritage very much welcome this debate, and expect to contribute to it vigorously. The time is long past when the value of conservation was seriously questioned in this country. The systems we have developed for protecting and enhancing our heritage are the envy of many, and we have only to look around us to see the success of existing policies in areas ranging from the inner cities to the countryside.

Norgas House, Northumberland (bottom) and Trellick Tower (below) could be listed in the near future

These systems, however, were developed some years ago and we need to examine critically whether they are still serving us well in every respect. The difference between Department of Environment Circular 8/87 and Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG 15), encapsulates neatly the much broader approach which we now take to conservation, recognising that the settings of important buildings and the quality of townscapes are often of as much value to communities as is the detailed control of individual listed buildings. We welcome the additional controls which the Government has already decided to give to local authorities to conserve the quality of conservation areas.

Greater debate

The Secretary of State has already flagged some issues which he wishes to see discussed. For example, how does listing policy now fit with this shift of focus? We are nearly at the end of the great survey programmes instituted by Michael Heseltine in the mid 1980s, which related, in the main, to building types with which the public is familiar and in sympathy. We are now well into research on building types which are either under represented on the existing lists or are threatened, mainly as a result of Government disposal programmes in the health and defence services. These types are much less well known, and our vision continues to widen. We have just completed a major exercise on the Manchester textile mills, the cathedrals of the North, on which there was a seminar in June. Research into post-war buildings is also nearly complete.

The Secretary of State has announced that listing recommendations emerging from this thematic work will be subject to public consultation, and there is great merit in vigorous public debate in approaching this less well known territory. Listing must have public understanding if it is to underpin our conservation policies for the long term. But there are difficult questions, about the interface between the expert valuation of some of these buildings, current public perceptions, and the interests of their owners, which will have to be faced. The dilemma is simple to express but difficult to resolve. Can we afford to wait simply because we appear to be ahead of public opinion? Or should we move so far ahead of public opinion and jeopardise the credibility of the conservation interest? Alternatively, is some relaxation of the current listed building controls an approach which ought to be considered for certain categories of building, both to make listing more palatable, particularly to commercial interests, and to encourage flexible reuse? We share the anxiety expressed by the amenity societies about the suggestion that the interiors of Grade II buildings, which constitute some 93 per cent of the statutory list, should not be subject to any control, and would resist the relaxation of controls over important historic fabrics, internal or external. But there is no denying that the importance of some buildings lies largely in their exteriors and these might be just as effectively protected by less onerous controls. Where is the balance? And do our current controls allow the right balance to be struck?

The right balance

The right balance is, of course, so often a matter of professional judgement, since the essence of conservation work is tailoring solutions to particular buildings and areas. In announcing the Green Paper, the Secretary of State acknowledged the key role which local authorities have to play through their conservation officers. If there is an opportunity to enhance their competence and the resources at their disposal, this should be taken energetically. The Green Paper may well present an opportunity to achieve other changes which will benefit the heritage, and which we have ourselves canvassed in recent years.
I personally look forward to the debate, not only as a means of understanding the issues, which are new to me, but of exploring with an open mind where we can make the improvements to the system which will carry us successfully into the next millennium.

Chris Green

Chief Executive

How to protect our industrial heritage?

Croat Mill, Bolton: this monumental and richly detailed mill remains fully used, demonstrating the versatility and economic viability of many textile mills in the Greater Manchester area

Specialists and enthusiasts in the fields of industrial archaeology and conservation have long urged English Heritage to place the protection of our industrial heritage more firmly centre-stage. This article emphasises the need for full evaluation and public consultation

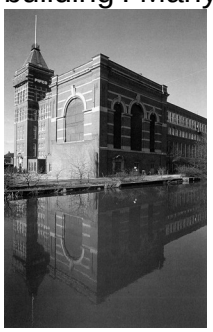
A strategy for the protection of important industrial sites has always been a central concern of English Heritage, and our annual repair grants to industrial structures have fluctuated between a little less than £1 million to more than £2 million since the mid 1980s.
However, sound heritage management policies can only work credibly if the initial assessments of the importance of an historic site are safe and sound. Long-term and intensive research and evaluation on a number of industries has been underway for some years, mostly under the umbrella of two closely related programmes: the industrial component of the Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) and the Thematic Listing Programme.
These projects are now beginning to bear fruit in the form of specific recommendations regarding appropriate designations and management regimes. We started off by examining the lead mining and textile manufacturing industries, and work in the field of post-war industrial buildings. Our project on Manchester mills is now complete. In addition, work on several other industries is well advanced.

Research programmes

The fact that progress has appeared to be relatively slow is a direct consequence of the current state of national research on industrial structures: completely lacking in some sectors, uncoordinated in others, or, as in the case, for example, of the Greater Manchester cotton industry, only recently made accessible in published form.

The details of the approach and methodology of the MPP industrial programme will be discussed in a future article. Nevertheless, it can be said that only by defining and identifying what is there, and by painstakingly evaluating individual sites within a broad, well-researched context, will it be possible to arrive at decisions likely to stand any chance of gaining public confidence.

Of course, we are not starting from scratch. About two per cent of scheduled monuments and a little more than three per cent of listed buildings fall within the 'industrial archaeology' category. As our work proceeds, the proportion will definitely rise. Protected sites range from 17th-century coalpits and 18th-century corn mills and model farmsteads to inter-war grain silos and the 1964–5 Cummins Engineering Works at Darlington, Co Durham. Small though the proportions are, these data comprise a large number of sites and buildings, and it is important that we go out of our way to justify additions that we make to the lists and schedules. This is particularly the case with those building types that do not readily conform to popular public perceptions of what constitutes an 'historic listed building'. Many important industrial structures fall into this category.



Regent Mill, Oldham: an example of the early 20th-century mill building boom in Greater Manchester, hitherto hardly represented in the statutory list

Opening up listing for public consultation

It is particularly timely, therefore, that the Secretary of State for National Heritage announced in March of this year that he proposed to open up the listing system to public consultation, and that this would start with those recommendations resulting from our thematic listing programme.

The first formal listing consultation exercise, which was carried out by the Department of National Heritage on a group of 29 post-war industrial and commercial buildings, has been completed, and we await with great interest the Secretary of State's decision, due later this year. The recommendations of English Heritage include the technologically remarkable Bank of England Printing Works, Debden, Essex and the unique Sheldon Bush Shot Tower, Cheese Lane, Bristol.

The MPP and Thematic Listing Programmes have always included a degree of specialist public consultation, but the Minister's proposals take things much further. Public consultation opens the debate still wider and allows both individual owners and the general public to discuss and challenge our recommendations and selection criteria.

English Heritage welcomes the opportunities that the new consultation procedures provide. Never before have we been able to discuss listing so openly. Under the old conventions, specific recommendations to list remained confidential until a final decision was reached by the Secretary of State. Openness carries with it the risk that an owner might take pre-emptive action before a building is listed. This is a risk worth taking with the relatively small numbers of recommendations resulting from the thematic programmes, but a temporary form of protection will need to be introduced during the consultation period if the new procedures are to be extended to include all potential new listings.

Consultation allows us to put our case for listing as fully as possible for the first time. We can stress the rigour of our selection procedures: for example, the selection for possible

scheduling or listing of 200 or so lead mining sites of national importance is taken from a stock of 10,000 sites estimated to survive in England; and the 37 new recommendations for listing textile mills in Greater Manchester, to add to 59 already listed, are taken from a surviving stock of well over 1,000, a selection that reflects the international historical significance of the industry.
We can discuss in detail and with reference to specific examples our methods of evaluation. For example, a leaflet explaining how we arrived at our listing selection of mills in Greater Manchester is available free on request (from English Heritage, Conservation Group, Listing Branch, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB).
We can underline the nature of the threat: at the height of the 1980s' development boom, for instance, more than two Greater Manchester mills were demolished each week.

The future

We can also discuss the future. While the special architectural and historic interests of the buildings still remain the only criteria for listing, it is natural and desirable that owners and others with a special interest in the future of historic industrial buildings and sites will wish to debate the wider issues. Designation is not an end in itself, and the credibility of the system depends on our ability to ensure a viable or sustainable future for historic sites and buildings. English Heritage has already commissioned important research on the economic performance of listed buildings and will continue to analyse the full effects of conservation on society and the economy generally. More specifically, consultation on listing helps focus the debate on specific building types and areas, and to this end a major conference on the future of Greater Manchester's historic mills was held there at the end of June. (A report on this conference will appear in a future issue of *Conservation Bulletin*.)

Martin Cherry

Head of Listing Branch

Managing Hadrian's Wall

Last February, English Heritage launched a process aimed at compiling and agreeing a comprehensive Management Plan for the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone, one of England's 10 World Heritage Sites. Sustained work by representatives and staff from a number of bodies who have interests in the Hadrian's Wall area has led to the production of a plan which has just been launched for widespread consultation and discussion

The start of work on a comprehensive Management Plan for Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site was marked by an article in the March 1994 issue of *Conservation Bulletin* (**22**, 45). This outlined some of the main difficulties faced in dealing with an area as extensive and sensitive as Hadrian's Wall, which in its course across the country from Wallsend to Bowness travels through several distinctive types of countryside as well as through some densely inhabited areas.
So far as is practicable, the draft Management Plan has followed international guidelines laid down for formulating such plans for World Heritage Sites. These guidelines include the need to establish the significance of the site and the resource before dealing with specific management proposals and issues that surround it. These have been broken down into four main areas: the identification and evaluation of the resource, setting in place policies for its protection, providing for the required landscape, farming and countryside management, and dealing with the problems of visitor access.

The significance of Hadrian's Wall

Management of a cultural resource which has received world recognition must be based on a reevaluation of the heritage resource and its relationship to its setting. This is part of the process that aims at ensuring that the site is properly understood and appreciated, and that management objectives are in tune with its value and importance.

The remains of Hadrian's Wall, comprising elements of a Roman frontier system built, maintained and occupied for about three centuries of operational use, are of great physical complexity and diversity. They include stonework and earthwork or timber-built structures of robust Roman military workmanship, which, together with roads and control works, dominate the terrain. Associated remains, of more ephemeral structures, include domestic and commercial buildings and traces of industrial, agricultural and extractive processes.

Hadrian's Wall at Cawfields

Of fundamental importance is the group value and the state of preservation of all these elements. Hadrian's Wall and its associated structures within the Military Zone represent the Roman approach to and evolution of a linear frontier, expressed most obviously in terms of the Wall itself, but also reinforced by its ditches, the valium and associated military roads. The scale and setting of the Roman frontier is closely associated with the landscape formation: Roman military engineers adapted their plans to the available terrain in a way which was both operationally and tactically to their best advantage and, to the visitor today, remains highly picturesque.

The primary interest of Hadrian's Wall and its associated remains rests with the construction, creation and evolution of the frontier and its zone. The presence of the remains has helped shape the evolution of land uses in the Wall corridor, including agricultural and settlement patterns, and continues to exert an influence over land management and operational uses today.

In terms of the values that we should today attach to the remains of the Wall, the Wall forms a strong authentic and identifiable feature of a historical episode when Britain lay at the periphery of a wider and influential pan-European Roman culture. Technically, it displays the Roman engineering, logistical and surveying mastery of its grand design, as well as a clear impression of the quality of life within and around the Zone. Although there are frontier zones in other parts of the Roman world, none has the combination, as seen on Hadrian's Wall, of archaeologically significant remains, linear barriers and other features, within such a concentrated area. This combination of factors is here matched to a landscape setting which was used to reinforce the strategic and tactical elements of the frontier, and with which it clearly blends.

The Roman frontier and its setting is a tourist attraction of a primary order, which has led to repeated fears about its capacity to sustain increased and concentrated tourism. Its remains, however, form an educational resource of high value, which is often associated with recreational interest. The Wall also forms an information resource in its own right, on which careful and informed decisions have to be taken about what elements should be preserved for the future or exploited now.

Future management of the World Heritage Site

The Management Plan aims to set a number of strategic objectives for the management of this Zone, and, in so doing, it flags up a number of specific problems and possible solutions. Adoption of the Plan's broad principles will, however, only go some way towards the achievement of better management for the World Heritage Site. In some cases, other, more detailed work on planning for individual sites or on the provision of standards or set prescriptions for certain types of work within the Zone is still required.

The Plan seeks to provide for future management of the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone by widening its national and international recognition, by guiding the development of policy or good practice relating to it, by outlining priorities for future action, and by forming a basis for future monitoring to safeguard the area.

UNESCO-approved guidelines suggest that a management plan for a World Heritage Site should seek to identify long-, medium-, and short-term objectives. It suggests that a long-term strategy covering up to 30 years should integrate all the information contained in documentation and action plans. There should also be medium-term plans for, say, five years, as well as annual project plans. In setting out these objectives covering the next five and 30 years, we are attempting to set out our vision for the future of the Wall and its zone.

A vision for the World Heritage Site

Five-year objectives

Clearly define the extent of the World Heritage Site and obtain confirmation of this by UNESCO

Provide enhanced and appropriate protection for the archaeological sites and their settings

Apply coordinated planning policies which recognise the importance of the World Heritage Site within local and structure plans

Provide a database of archaeological, planning and management information

Introduce an agreed academic research framework, and publish information from previous excavation and survey work

Resolve whether the World Heritage Site should include the course of the Wall and associated remains in the urban areas of Tyneside and Carlisle

Target environmental and archaeological land management schemes to benefit the archaeology and landscape

Monitor the condition of the Wall and its surroundings, and apply corrective action where necessary to deal with problems

Raise awareness among residents and visitors of the World Heritage Site designation and what it means

Monitor the impact of tourists and visitors to the Wall area, and divert pressures on areas most at risk

Encourage the introduction of an integrated transport strategy to improve access to the whole of the World Heritage Site

Enhance the quality of the visitor's experience of the whole of the World Heritage Site

Develop a coordinated approach to interpretation throughout the World Heritage Site

Maximise local benefits from tourism through stronger links with local services and businesses

Integrate current proposals for the Hadrian's Wall Path within the Management Plan approach

Establish a Hadrian's Wall Management Committee to oversee the implementation of the Plan

Appoint a Hadrian's Wall Manager or small team to coordinate management efforts within the Wall Zone

Thirty-year objectives

Specific problems or opportunities which may arise in the Hadrian's Wall area within the next 30 years cannot at present be easily foreseen. The following principles, however, are recommended as a means of assessing longer-term objectives for the area.

Keep things as they are, or better: Change is inevitable, especially so within any landscape that has an organic nature; the essence of the approach to management of the World Heritage Site is that the impact of change must be appreciated and monitored, and, if it begins to have a serious effect on the resource, appropriate and sensitive remedial action should be taken.

Maintain and reinforce the special character of the area: The strengths and weaknesses of the surroundings and setting of the Zone have been identified in the Plan; measures need to be taken to build on these natural assets, to encourage the removal of discordant elements, and to discourage or not to permit the introduction of additions which are out of character.

Maximise opportunities for freeing the most sensitive sites from modern development or planting: There are still archaeological sites of high importance which are currently buried beneath buildings or under tree cover; careful consideration needs to be given to the possibility of removing modern buildings from the more significant sites (wall forts, their settlement remains, or elements of the wall curtain, vallum or ditch) along the line of the Wall, especially where their archaeological preservation has been shown to be good; areas where archaeological remains are known to exist should be cleared of trees and kept free of replanting.

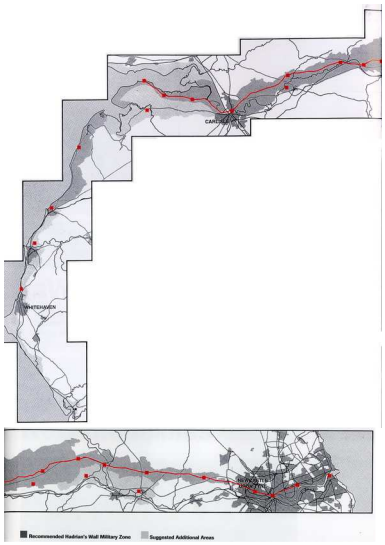
Raise public awareness about the value and importance of the Zone: Public understanding in the UK and abroad about World Heritage Sites and their international value and importance should be fostered by whatever means possible; respect for the sensitivity of the Zone, its landscape, and archaeology needs to be built into educational programmes at all levels; visitors or tourists to the Zone should be in no doubt that they are entering somewhere special.

Continue to improve the visitor's visual, cultural and educational experience of the World Heritage Site: Removal of elements of the landscape that detract from the 'wild landscape' experience of the central sector of the Wall, or other visual impairments, should be considered whenever possible; efforts should be made to keep interpretation for visitors up-to-date, and by methods which reflect current expectations, provided these are appropriate to the World Heritage Site.

Develop understanding of the archaeological or historic value of individual sites: The exact course of the Wall, or the quality or nature of its survival is still unknown in a number of places; opportunities which arise for examination and recording should be seized, and fed into the processes of strategic research on the Wall; development of the research agenda, and keeping it under continual review, should help focus on the real questions that need to be answered.

Encourage ownership of the Wall and its landscape by bodies dedicated to its care and preservation: The secret to the long-term preservation of the Wall is sensitive and concerned management by those who we can be assured will attach high value to the resource; many private owners have a high regard for the continued well-being of the Wall and its landscape, but a more secure future may be assured if it is placed in the ownership of bodies committed to its preservation.

Improve access to and within the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone: The provision of transport, particularly to the central portions of the Wall, provides one of the main environmental problems facing the management of the resource; means should be found of improving the public transport provision, limiting the growth of intrusive parking, and introducing methods of traffic management appropriate to the sensitivity of the Zone.



Hadrian's Wall and the Wall Zone


Hadrian's Wall at Walltown Crags, looking west

Maximise public and private resources for the improvement of the environmental resource: Determined efforts have not been made to date to seek 'sponsorship' for funding environmentally sound initiatives relating to the Zone, or to coordinate the application or use of funds from public sources; with heightened awareness of the fragility of the natural and manmade environment, it should become increasingly attractive for both public and private bodies to align themselves with efforts to assist its conservation and preservation.
Retain the vitality of the Wall's landscape: It is important that the landscape surrounding the Wall continues to be used and is kept dynamic, not fossilised as a totally sterile archaeological zone; while care needs to be exercised to ensure that the character of the landscape is not irreparably altered by the way in which it is used or by inappropriate developments within it, it must continue to sustain agricultural uses, despite the 'wilderness' feel to much of it.

English Heritage's commitment to the management of the Wall

We recognise that coordinated action by all the agencies and individuals who have responsibility for management in the Hadrian's Wall area is vital if these recommendations and objectives are to be seen through into local action for the benefit of the World Heritage Site. Planning for the future is a process of continual review, and any mechanisms for the delivery of the conclusions from this plan must incorporate this provision.
It is also essential that implementation of the plan's accepted conclusions is achieved by two main methods: by mutually agreed oversight and coordination of individual or corporate efforts; and by the provision of additional resources to enable the necessary cooperation and communication fully to work.
Within the Management Plan, English Heritage has promised to undertake certain specific tasks as follows:
We will manage our own sites on Hadrian's Wall as an example of the World Heritage Site approach
We will develop proposals for a management database with relevant local agencies
We will take the lead in helping to develop a research strategy for Hadrian's Wall

We will ensure that the protection of the archaeological sites is up-to-date and soundly based
We will arrange for a Management Committee of local partners to oversee implementation of the Plan
We propose to fund and manage a Coordinating Unit to maintain the database, improve communications and coordinate management efforts within the World Heritage Site
Many people have an interest in how an area as extensive and complex as the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone can be well managed for the future. A large number of individuals and organisations have already been involved in formulating proposals, and many more are being invited to comment in the consultation phase. These include owners and farmers, local residents and business operators, local authorities, statutory bodies and agencies, public bodies, charities and museums who manage parts of the Wall, and visitors and tourists to the Wall area this summer. Our aim is to complete this process by October, and to issue the final version of the Plan early in 1996.
Readers of *Conservation Bulletin* who wish to comment on or assist this process are invited to do so by writing to Hadrian's Wall Management Plan, Bessie Surtees House, 41–44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF by the end of September 1995.

Stephen Johnson

Conservation Group, Regional Director, West Midlands and North

Dr Christopher Young, formerly Regional Director of Historic Properties North, has heen appointed Director of Hadrian's Wall

New guidelines

English Heritage has recently published two guidance leaflets, generated from the joint research initiative by the Department of National Heritage, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and English Heritage, which is considering the economic aspects of conservation

Policy, procedure and good practice guide

Development in the historic environment: an English Heritage guide to policy, procedure and good practice aims to distil the experience of good practice by developers, local authorities and English Heritage into guidelines for minimising the delay (and therefore additional cost) and conflict that are often associated with development involving listed buildings or within conservation areas. The guidance provides a clear outline of current policy, powers and responsibilities, describes the procedures likely to be involved in applying for consents, and encourages all concerned to undertake negotiations with willingness and in a spirit of openness.

Guidelines for managing listed buildings

Developing guidelines for the management of listed buildings advocates a proactive approach to managing change, particularly in large commercial buildings of interwar and post-war date, and in large housing estates. This is based on defining where the special interest of the building lies and therefore what does, and particularly what does not, affect its character, through guidelines established between the owner, the local planning authority and English Heritage.
We have also republished, jointly with CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments, *Historic prison buildings in England and Wales: guidelines to alterations*, revised in the light of experience of the first edition (1993).
Copies of these leaflets are available free of charge from our Customer Services Department, 429 Oxford Street, London WIR 2HD (telephone 0171 973 3434).

Paul Drury

Conservation Group, Head of London and the South East Region

Making the point and raising standards

English Heritage's initiative on the problems of repointing of brick and stonework provided the focus of our stand at this year's Restorex/Refurbex exhibition

The theme of the English Heritage Conference and stand at this year's Restorex/Refurbex exhibition was 'Raising the standard – improving approaches to the conservation of old buildings'. The exhibition, held at Olympia over three days from 23 to 25 May, was opened by the Chairman of English Heritage, Jocelyn Stevens. It was aimed generally at the trade end of the market and attracted many visitors, mainly professionals but also members of the public. A wide range of companies were exhibiting and the products displayed were extremely diverse.

English Heritage had a large, centrally positioned stand. The design of the stand aimed both to provide a general view of our work and also to highlight our new initiative on the problems of repointing brick and stonework.

Repointing initiative on view

Much of the repointing that is carried out is unnecessary and the joints are perfectly sound. Repointing is a skilled craft and needs to be done by properly trained craftsmen using the right materials and tools. If it is not done correctly terrible damage can be caused.

On display was the 'Making the point' exhibition with its associated video. There was also a practical demonstration of hacking out and repointing brickwork by our master craftsmen from Fort Brockhurst Training Centre. We had on show a mobile mortar mill, which was developed by English Heritage and the manufacturers.

The stand also featured a display of the work of Historic Property Restoration, which is now operating with substantial independence within English Heritage. Staff from our Customer Services Department were present to answer general enquiries and to distribute English Heritage brochures and other materials.

On the second day of the exhibition English Heritage hosted a one-day seminar, the purpose of which was to discuss possible new national technical standards of care for historic buildings. Lectures by leading experts were given on a variety of specialist subjects.

The display of the work of Historic Property Restoration

Nigel Oxley

Architectural Conservation Branch

Repair grant spending rises by £5.5 million to £48 million

Barns, mills, cathedrals, castles, historic aircraft hangars and a railway viaduct were among structures which received English Heritage repair grants in 1994

Hawksmoor's Christ Church, Spitalfields, London, for which a rescue grant of £435,359 has been offered; it was built in 1714–15 by Huguenot immigrants in the area, but had become largely derelict by the 1950s

In 1994/5, English Heritage offered repair grants of £17.2 million for outstanding secular buildings and monuments, £14.1 million for churches, £4.2 million for cathedrals, and £12.1 million for buildings in conservation areas. Together with £0.4 million offered for repairs to historic gardens, this made a total commitment of nearly £48 million in repair grants in the year, an increase of about *£5.5* million over offers in 1993/4. In the period between October 1993 and September 1994 we dealt with 505 applications for Historic Buildings and Monuments Grants, 546 Church Grant cases, and 482 applications for buildings in conservation areas. We met our performance standard for handling these cases comfortably in the case of the first two schemes, but were slightly below our target for the third – largely because of the complex larger cases.

Historic Buildings and Monuments Grants

In 1994/5 we increased substantially the funds available for repair grants to buildings of great architectural or historic interest, including 42 grants for £100,000 or more. Some of these were to the National Trust, including Sudbury Hall, Derbys (£935,000), White Barn Farm, Shugborough, Staffs (£153,816), Ightham Mote, Kent (£173,714), Dyrham Park, Avon (£175,855), and the restoration of garden buildings at Stowe, Bucks (£250,930). As last year, a sizeable proportion of the large grants went to save buildings in private or charitable ownership facing major repair problems, including Capesthorne Hall, Cheshire (£263,622), Lathom House, Lancs (£227,500), Paston Barn, Norfolk (£347,000), Laxton Hall, Notts (£225,000), Barlaston Hall, Staffs (£269,342), Stowe, Bucks (£292,560), Pell Wall Hall, Shropshire (£1 million), and Stoneleigh Stable Block, Warwicks (£621,810). Other major buildings which have benefited from offers of substantial English Heritage grants are House Mill, Newham, London, which is to become a Museum of Social History, (£500,000), Queen Street Mill, near Burnley, Lancs, which is being restored as a Museum of the Lancashire Textile Industry (£300,000; see *Conservation Bulletin* **17**, 18–19), and Stanley Mill, King's Stanley, Glos, which was offered £496,429. We helped Cumbria County Council with work to the former Crown Courts Building in Carlisle (£400,000), and Christchurch Borough Council with a major phase of repair to Highcliffe Castle (£748,000), and offered £300,000 towards the repair of the Palm House in Sefton Park, Liverpool, £225,000 for work on Lambley Viaduct, Tynedale, Northumberland, and £205,000 towards repairs on the historically significant series of aircraft hangars at Calshot, Hants.

Church Grants

In 1994/5 we offered over £1.5 million more to churches than we had in the previous year. Twelve grants of £100,000 or more were made to churches, the largest being to Christ Church, Spitalfields (£435,359), Holy Name Roman Catholic Church, Manchester (£330,187), Hope Street Baptist Chapel, Rochdale (£243,039), and Union Chapel, Islington (£242,379).

Conservation Areas

This year we introduced our new Conservation Area Partnership schemes, 16 of which were launched as pilots with a total commitment of £2.15 million. We also continued to operate 248 Town Schemes with local authorities, and many of these were reviewed carefully as they came to the end of their three-year cycle, to determine whether there is still a need for continued support for those areas, and to consider the conversion of these into the new Partnership Schemes. A further £4.07 million was committed in this way during the year.

The remainder of our budget for work in conservation areas was deployed as grants for work in London and elsewhere, including £385,000 to Slater Terrace in Burnley, to be converted into a hotel, £162,000 for the Quayside area of Berwick-upon-Tweed , and £240,000 for the repair of the Rose Wharf building in Leeds.

Conservation Area Partnerships 1995/6

Within the year we invited the first applications for Conservation Area Partnerships, and 115 of the 191 applications received were successful. The relevant authorities worked up their proposals, to a second stage, and we have offered a Partnership Agreement to authorities to commence all but five of these schemes in April 1995. A further scheme, in Brixton, London, has also been agreed, so the total number of Partnership Schemes we are launching this year is 111, to add to the 16 continuing into their second year. The total funding committed by English Heritage to these schemes in 1995/6 amounts to almost *£8* million.

Pell Wall Hall, Shropshire, a major building at risk, whose Trustees have been offered £1 million towards the costs of repair to the outer envelope

Left: Paston Barn, Norfolk, where a grant of £347,000 has been offered for repairs which will, it is hoped, be carried out as part of the conversion of the building into office use, largely retaining the open spaces of the interior

Stephen Johnson

Conservation Group, Regional Director, West Midlands and North

New conservation area partnership schemes 1995/6

County	Name of scheme	proposed allocation/£
North Yorks	Bishophill, York	20,000
	Littondale	15,000
	Settle Carlisle Railway	50,000
	Swaledale Arkengarthdale	50,000
	Stokesley	20,000
	Bedale	20,000
	Whitby	33,980
	Ripon	42,000
	Staithes	17,500
	Selby	32,680
Humberside	Howden	26,000

West Yorks	Ackroyden	20,000
	People's Park, Halifax	40,000
	Batley Station Road	75,000
	Dewsbury	15,000
	Huddersfield	75,000
	Bradford City Centre	100,000
	Leeds Riverside	75,000
	Wakefield Town Centre	15,000
	Pontefract	15,000
Cleveland	Loftus	30,000
	Headland, Hartlepool	25,000
Cumbria	Alston	20,000
	Botchergate, Carlisle	100,000
	Keswick	30,000
	Ulverston	20,000
	Dalton-in-Furness	10,000
	Maryport	52,000
	Whitehaven	50,000
Durham	Darlington Town Centre	30,000
	Sedgefield	20,000
	Barnard Caste	28,000
Wear Valley Roofing Scheme		20,000
Northumberland	Alnwick	29,000
Tyne & Wear	Saltwell Park, Gateshead	30,000
	Old Sunderland Riverside	100,000
Gtr Manchester	Wood Street, Bolton	12,000
	Bury Town Centre	40,000
Market Underbanks, Stockport		75,000
	Millbrook, Stalybridge	14,200
Fairfield Moravian Settlement		8,000
	Wigan Town Centre	75,000
Northern Quarter, Manchester		100,000
Cheshire	Whitefriars, Chester	20,000
	Bollington & Kerridge	20,000
Lancashire	Oswaldtwistle	10,000
	Avenham, Preston	35,000
	Fishergate Hill, Preston	20,000
Padiham/Burnley/Canalside		75,000
Merseyside	Duke Street, Liverpool	200,000
	Birkenhead	200,000
Lord Street Promenade, Southport		45,000
Shropshire	Broseley	10,000
	Ellesmere	150,000
	Market Drayton	
	Prees	
	Wem	
	Whitchurch	
	Shrewsbury	65,000
Staffordshire	Burslem	24,000
West Midlands	Key Hill, Birmingham	35,000
Lozells & Soho Hill, Birmingham		35,000
Steelhouse & Colmore Row, Birmingham		35,000

Derbyshire	Belper	20,000
	Eckington	15,000
	Melbourne	20,000
	Cromford	40,500
	Bolsover	18,000
	New Mills	35,000
Lincolnshire	Boston	180,000
	Horncastle	70,000
Nottinghamshire	Newark	70,000
	Mansfield Woodhouse	30,000
Leicestershire	Ashby-de-la-Zouche	5,500
	Melton Mowbray	10,000
	Uppingham	10,000
	New Walk, Leicester	32,000
Suffolk	Sudbury	45,000
	Hadleigh	25,000
	Eye	50,000
	Bungay	15,000
	Mildenhall	15,000
	Bury St Edmunds	40,000
Hertfordshire	Hemel Hempstead Old Town	42,000
Norfolk	Norwich City Centre	190,000
	Harleston	15,000
Cambridgeshire	Thorney	15,000
	Minster Precincts	40,000
	Wisbech	15,000
Essex	Clifftown	20,000
	Colchester	120,000
Avon	Bristol	50,000
	Weston-Super-Mare	50,000
Devon	Ilfracombe	50,000
	Plymouth	100,000
Dorset	Weymouth	75,000
Gloucestershire	Tewkesbury	40,000
Wiltshire	Malmesbury	40,000
Hampshire	Priddys Hard	100,000
Kent	Thanet Towns	200,000
	Gravesend	100,000
	Canterbury	100,000
	Folkestone	10,000
London	North Tottenham	100,000
	Keystone Crescent	160,000
	Mitcham Cricket Green	21,300
	Bermondsey	150,000
	Stepney Green	75,000
	Spitalfields	100,000
	Queen’s Park Estate	50,000
	Brixton	150,000
TOTAL		**5,578,660**

Existing conservation area partnership schemes in their second year

Lancashire	Bacup/Rawtenstall	65,000

Merseyside	Liverpool (Canning Street)	372,000
Northumberland	Haltwhistle	100,000
Tyne & Wear	Newcastle (Grainger Town)	300,000
North Yorks	Knaresborough	58,000
	Scarborough	35,000
West Yorks	Bradford	130,000
Cambridgeshire	Collyweston Slating Scheme	8,000
Lincolnshire	Lincoln	185,750
	Wainfleet All Saints	89,750
Warwickshire	Leamington Spa	52,500
Avon	Bath	170,000
East Sussex	Hastings	300,000
West Sussex	Hove	220,000
Wiltshire	Wootton Bassett	60,000
London	Greenwich	180,000
TOTAL		**2,326,000**

London's civic architecture at risk

The Old Fire Station, Waterloo, Grade II: now a restaurant
Architectural testaments to civic pride, like libraries, fire stations and public baths, are increasingly at risk as they become redundant because of changes in local and national government policies. Here we examine how such buildings might be saved

In recent years, social, political and economic pressures for change, together with restructuring in many areas of national life, such as defence, healthcare, education and local government, have resulted in an unprecedented scale of redundancy of the buildings which were designed to house those services. Many are listed or form prominent landmarks in historic town centres, or, in the case of the large defence, hospital or transport complexes, are often designated as conservation areas in their own right.
To focus greater attention on this emerging problem, and to encourage more imaginative strategies for reuse by owners, English Heritage recently published *In the public interest: London's civic architecture at risk*, which features more than 100 illustrated examples of redundant buildings which are currently, or have recently been, in public ownership. A wide range of building types is represented, including town halls, schools, hospitals, public baths and libraries, park and cemetery buildings, military sites, docks and transport buildings, and former public utilities. Most of the examples are taken from the *Register of buildings at risk in Greater London*, which is now in its fifth edition.

Friern Hospital, Barnet, Grade II, where development proposals are under discussion, but its future is uncertain

High Cross School, Tottenham, Grade II, where the surrounding site was redeveloped for housing without securing agreement for the repair and reuse of the school

The principal aim of the publication is to provide guidance to local authorities and other owners on the interim maintenance and disposal of redundant buildings in their portfolio, and to stress that, by forward planning at an early stage, many of the worst problems of dereliction and disrepair can be avoided. Successful examples of reuse are highlighted, such as The Old Fire Station, Waterloo, now an award-winning restaurant, and the former Royal Free Hospital, Islington, which has been converted to provide low-cost housing.

English Heritage's buildings at risk initiative in London has proved extremely successful. More than half the 1,000 buildings that appeared in the first edition of the *Register* in 1991 have been repaired or restored to new uses. However, tackling the problem of council-owned buildings at risk remains one of our key priorities in London, where English Heritage has concurrent statutory powers with the London Boroughs to enforce the repair of neglected listed buildings. About 25 per cent of the 900 buildings on the current *Register* are in council ownership, and a further 10 per cent are, or have been, in other forms of public ownership.

Often, the problems arise from unrealistic expectations of the development value of the buildings by owners, lack of consultation with planning and conservation staff, failure to appreciate the potential of listed buildings as assets, or, it must be said, sheer inertia. Escalating costs as a result of disrepair can reduce the scope for sensitive reuse, creating a vicious downward spiral of neglect and decay.

Since 1991, the publication of the *Register of buildings at risk in Greater London*, coupled with the threat or service of urgent works and repairs notices on London local authorities, has raised the profile of this issue, resulting in the repair or sale of many of the buildings concerned and a greater degree of commitment by councils to addressing the problem of empty historic buildings in their ownership.

Above: Haggerston Library, Hackney, Grade II. Empty since 1975; repair costs estimated to be over £1m

Hospitals will present a major challenge for the property market in coming years. Nationally, it is estimated that some 120 major historic hospital complexes will become surplus to requirements over the next five to 10 years, each in excess of 500,000 square feet. In anticipation of this, in 1992 English Heritage and NHS Estates convened a working party to examine the problem and a joint publication: *Historic buildings and the Health Service*, will be published shortly to provide detailed advice on planning for redundancy and on the conservation and adaptation of former hospital buildings. A more detailed article will appear in the next issue of *Conservation Bulletin*.

In the public interest is available for £6.50 (incl p & p) from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton, NN6 9RY; tel 01604 781163.

The Register of buildings at risk in Greater London, *is* available for £5 (incl p & p) from English Heritage, London & South East Region, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB; tel 0171 973 3757. Cheques should be made payable to English Heritage.

Historic buildings and the Health Service will be published by HMSO shortly.

Delcia Keate

Conservation Group, Buildings at Risk Advisor, London and South East Region

Philip Davies

Conservation Group, Regional Planner and Head of Kensington and South London Team, London and South East Region

Metal detecting and archaeology in England

A joint EH-CBA study quantifies the hobby's impact and highlights a complex problem

Archaeologists have long been divided over metal detecting. Many accuse it of causing serious damage to archaeological sites through the undisciplined removal of artefacts from their context. Others regard it as an invaluable aid to the investigation of the past. Among detectorists, opinion is also divided between those who regard archaeologists as elitist intellectuals determined to prevent them from pursuing a legitimate hobby and those who work with archaeologists to a joint agenda. Yet in the decade of the popularity of metal detecting, there has been no comprehensive study of its effect on archaeology in England. In order to quantify this impact, English Heritage commissioned a survey from the Council for British Archaeology, *Metal detecting and archaeology in England* by Colin Dobinson and Simon Denison, 1995, which concludes that the hobby has been for good as well as for ill, and that its potential benefits have not yet been harnessed to the full.

Conclusions of the EH-CBA study

The nine main conclusions represent the first attempt to address the issues in a neutral way, by quantifying the impact of metal detecting on sites in England, and its contribution to archaeological knowledge.

Archaeological sites are suffering significant damage from unregulated metal detecting largely because only a minuscule number of finds are reported

Raids by metal detectorists on archaeological excavations are widespread

The level of illicit detecting on scheduled sites is unacceptably high – at least 188 scheduled monuments are believed to have been damaged since 1988

Successful prosecutions of illicit detectorists are rare

The metal detector is an extremely important archaeological tool and has made a major contribution to the understanding of individual sites

Metal detectorists have recovered a vast amount of new material for archaeological research; more Celtic coin hoards have been found by detectorists in the past 10 years than were found by conventional means over the previous three centuries

Metal-detected finds account for perhaps a third of all casual archaeological fords recorded each year

The use of metal detectors by archaeological organisations is widespread but unsystematic

Metal detectors have been responsible for advances in archaeological knowledge and could bring many more

The report has highlighted a complex problem. Tens of thousands of objects are lost annually because of the lack of a proper record, yet properly directed, the hobby widens the possibilities for research. The conclusions are a starting point rather than a solution. Liaison between archaeologists and detectorists must be improved, as must communications among archaeologists. Above all, methods must be found to encourage a large increase in the referral rate of objects to museums. This will bring problems of resourcing, but it is an opportunity to enhance understanding of our common heritage.

Geoffrey Wainwright

Conservation Group, Chief Archaeologist

New ways to interpret the past

New technology and an innovative approach to presentation are adding to visitors' enjoyment at English Heritage sites, while ensuring the conservation of the fabric and the historic landscape

There have been a number of significant interpretive developments at English Heritage sites during the past few months, particularly at Stonehenge, Dover Castle and Battle Abbey. Each project had its own problems, but the overriding concern has been to provide visitor-friendly interpretation within sensitive historic settings.

Battle Abbey

The Battle Abbey project aimed to fulfil a number of objectives. The most important issue addressed was that visitors, drawn to the site mainly because of its association with the Battle of Hastings in 1066, found there was too much information about the remains of the Abbey and not enough about the battle itself. Access to the battlefield was limited by poor paths and way marking, while the nature of the landscape of the site and its beautiful setting made it exceptionally sensitive to change or intrusion.

Our solution was to use new audio wands which relate to site graphics along an upgraded route around the battlefield. The new wand system allows users to choose the information they want to hear. The wand is hand held and information is stored digitally on a solid-state chip, accessed through a numbered keypad. The visitor can follow the story of the battle from a selection of 'viewpoints' eg those of a Norman knight, a Saxon warrior or Edith Swanneck, King Harold's wife.

A video, which was already on site, introduces the Norman and Saxon characters who feature at an orientation point, at a raised model of the battlefield site, and in the Abbey remains. A sculpted aluminium graphic panel above the model shows each of the characters, each of whom has a number and a symbol. Visitors can follow one or all of the characters around the battlefield by pressing the numbers given on the panels around the site. Each panel shows a scene from the relevant stage of the battle, with an inset showing the characters next to a number. There is no text. Additional symbols are given, also related to numbers, to introduce further topics, such as Who were the Normans?, Arms and Armour. Strategies, and, at the end of the tour, the English Heritage Battlefields Register. By giving visitors choice, we can help them create their own tours without intruding on the landscape.

A shorter version of the tour is available along the terrace, with views of the battlefield. This can be used by visitors with limited time, in wet weather, or by wheelchair users. Using sculpted graphic panels gives partially-sighted visitors more information. The tour runs from the battlefield through the Abbey, and numbered labels give information about the building or space. Previously unsafe or impassable slopes have now been replaced and the old models of the battle positions have been removed and replaced by the smaller, lower panels. Tours are available in English, French, German and Japanese; versions for children and for partially-sighted visitors are also planned.

Visitor reaction has been positive, and old and young can easily master the new technology.

Dover Castle

Several projects have been completed recently at Dover Castle, including a children's activity area in the Keep basement, and the opening of the Underground Hospital in the uppermost layer of tunnels at Hellfire Corner.

The children's activity area has been extremely successful, and not just with children. It focuses on the household of Hubert de Burgh and has a mini banqueting table, replete

with laden platters and a recipe for a medieval delicacy to make at home. Cut-out figures and mini seats provide both photo opportunities and information on the inhabitants of the castle in four languages.
The most successful element of the scheme has been the brass-rubbing tables, where images of the castle and of life within its walls can be created. This has highlighted a strange phenomenon: children do one or two of the rubbings and take away their images as prized souvenirs, while adults, who nearly all use the table, systematically do all four rubbings and then leave their images behind!

User-friendly technology: the Interpreter wand, far left, offers site-specific information; tours of the site of the Battle of Hastings and Battle Abbey, centre, reveal the conflict from the perspective of different people in 1066; exhibition at the Gatehouse at Battle Abbey, left

The Underground Hospital is the major project at Dover this year. The tour starts at Hellfire Corner Visitor Centre, and is programmed to fit in exactly with the Operations HQ tours.
The construction of the Hospital began in 1941, in response to an expected increased requirement for Casualty Reception Stations. Originally it included eight wards, an operating theatre, reception, a kitchen, stock rooms, stores and a dispensary. When construction was completed, however, several of the wards were designated as dormitory accommodation for the staff. We were fortunate to have a good photographic record of the interiors to guide our reconstructions, and many of the people who worked in the tunnels have been contacted and asked to give accounts of what it was like to work there.
The core of the scheme is a tour route along the tunnels, taking in all the relevant areas. Each is presented according to the evidence in the photographic archive, and much work has gone into obtaining authentic artefacts and bringing the fabric of the tunnels back to a suitable condition.
There are facilities for French, German and Japanese-speaking visitors, who are offered the Interpreter wand. The wand is triggered by an infrared source in each part of the tunnel. Visitors with a hearing impairment can use a personal induction loop.
The tour starts with an eight-minute video which describes the context of the construction of the Hospital and the progress of the war up to 1943. Tour guides are essential for visitor safety in the tunnels, and the guides accompany visitors out of casemate level and back through the original entrance.
The appeal of the tour lies in the reconstructed historic interviews, which are complemented by a sophisticated light and sound system along the route, sound effects of the areas in use, and conversational set pieces in each area. These are dialogues written to include relevant information about the use of the tunnels and to give a perspective on what it was like to be there. Nothing comes over more strongly in these personal accounts than the good humour and spirits that were maintained in the face of constant shelling, bombing and strafing.

In contrast to the existing Operations HQ tour, the reconstructed areas of the Hospital tour are walk-through, rather than stage sets. Special effects have been used, including lighting, historically accurate fittings, and even the relevant smells for each location. There are other surprise effects, but you will have to visit the tunnels yourself to find out what they are.

Stonehenge

New interpretation methods have also reached Stonehenge. An Interpreter audio tour (similar to that at Battle Abbey) is now available in various languages.
The tour uses a simple narrative guide to the main features of the monument as currently understood, and begins through the approach tunnel, which is lined with graphics recreating the changes in the surrounding landscape that occurred throughout the construction of Stonehenge.
At each of seven small numbered plaques positioned around the monument a further element of the story of Stonehenge unfolds. Two extra dimensions offered by this technology are myths and legends about Stonehenge, told by a local shepherd and his mother, and an authoritative archaeological view from Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage. The visitor can access either or both.
It will also soon be possible, for a trial period, to walk all the way around the stones instead of having to double back, as at present. This will distribute the wear on the surrounding turf more evenly, and provide a more complete experience for visitors. Visitor management improvements have also reduced wear by allowing more space for visitors around the monument. So, while the constraints of the A303 and A344 remain, the experience has still been enhanced.
Visitor response to the improvements at all three sites has been encouraging, and we hope to continue building on the interpretive base that has been created.

Brian Bath

Head of Design and Interpretation

Review of grant conditions

Changes to the conditions attached to grants, proposed last year, will soon be implemented and should bring about welcome developments

In ‘Keys to the cash’ (*Conservation Bulletin* **23**, 7–9) Oliver Pearcey explained the origins and management of the main English Heritage grants schemes and the ways in which we were seeking to make them ‘easier to understand, easier to operate and better targeted’. A year on there is further progress to report!
Last year we issued a consultation paper proposing changes to the conditions attached to grants for the repair of outstanding historic properties. These were designed to protect the fabric after repair and to offer owners a more realistic timescale for compliance with the postrepair conditions. The proposals acknowledged the need to monitor compliance with these conditions as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.
Many helpful comments were generated and the following changes will be implemented this summer.

Time-limited conditions

A 10-year enforcement limit will be imposed on all post-repair conditions attached to Section 3A (secular and church grants) of £100,000 or less. This means, for instance, that public access will cease to be mandatory 10 years from the date of the last grant payment, although, no doubt, many owners will still open their properties to the public. Single grants

in excess of £100,000 will be subject to a 15- or 20-year limit, with provision for review at the 10-year point. We hope that a finite enforcement period will be more manageable for owners, and that it will encourage grant applications, in particular from those with more modest properties who have been deterred by ‘in perpetuity’ conditions.

Reporting and monitoring

To enable us to check that post-repair conditions are being observed, and the public interest is protected, an annual reporting system will be introduced with monitoring visits to randomly selected properties, chiefly to check opening arrangements.

Maintenance

To ensure that public funding is backed up by regular maintenance, owners will have to report annually on their maintenance arrangements after repair. Reports will be based on a maintenance checklist attached to each grant offer. For a trial two-year period, Anglican parishes will have the option of providing copies of annual fabric reports instead of a validated checklist.

Insurance

To protect the historic fabric during repair, owners will have to carry works insurance as a grant-eligible cost. They will also be advised, but not required, to insure the building on a first loss basis to cover statutory reinstatement liabilities.

Notification

To counterbalance these additional requirements, owners will no longer need to seek our approval for future works in addition to the necessary statutory consents. They will, however, be required to notify us when submitting an application for planning, listed building, or any other consent which relates to the grant-aided building, or to its curtilage. The consent requirement for churches in ‘exempted denominations’ will be retained until April 1997 to allow the new ecclesiastical controls to become well-established.

Professional advisers

In recognition of the developing expertise in non-architectural disciplines, and to allow us to capitalise on recent training initiatives, owners will be able to appoint as their professional adviser ‘a competent building professional or professional team (registered architect, RICS accredited surveyor or chartered engineer), with the appropriate specialist conservation knowledge, ability and experience to plan and specify the work in detail, and to inspect the work while it is in progress’.

Formal contracts

Owners will have to employ all professionals and contractors under a standard form of contract, or formal written conditions, except where we accept that this requirement can be dispensed with without placing public money at risk.

Tenders

To guarantee that grant-aided repairs are undertaken at minimum cost consistent with the approved specification, owners will be required to obtain at least three to five competitive tenders, depending upon the size and cost of the project. They will also need to include an overall evaluation of these when submitting a priced specification based on the lowest tender, or that which they propose to accept subject to our approval. This condition may be modified at English Heritage’s discretion where the nature of the project, or scarce specialist skills, make it reasonable to do so.

Final certificates

To ensure that grant cases do not remain open for unacceptably long periods, owners will be required to submit final certificates within a set period of practical completion unless there is a clear reason for delay.

Right of entry

To protect its ability to act to safeguard public funds, English Heritage will reserve the right to enter the grant-aided site, after giving notice, to inspect the works, and to require owners to produce any information that relates to their procurement or execution.
Later this year we hope to report on follow-up reviews of the grant repayment and access conditions. The first will include the scope for waiver in relation to 'deficit' grants, designed to meet the shortfall in projects for the repair and reuse of historic properties, revolving fund schemes, and other cases where considerations of public benefit may be met by other means. The second will examine the efficacy of the present access and advertising requirements and the rules determining the number of days on which public access is required as a condition of grant aid, as well as the case for extending time-limited conditions to existing grant recipients.

Judy Hawkins

Conservation Group, Policy and Research Team

Who settled where, and why?

A detailed study of settlement patterns from medieval times reveals that many factors create the distinctive 'look' of the landscape. The results will be published as an atlas, which will complement the Countryside Commission's Map of Landscape Character and English Nature's Map of Natural Areas, and will help to guide decisions on land use and conservation

Practised travellers on the railway lines of England can glance at the landscape flashing by and, from a quick assessment of the shape and size of a passing settlement, its building types, and the pattern of its fields, make a good guess at where they are. Along the East Coast Main Line, for example, there is a marked difference between the heavily wooded country of Hertfordshire, with its small fields and scattered brick buildings strung out along a maze of lanes, and the more open limestone upland north of Peterborough, where villages, surrounded by big rectangular fields, are larger and more concentrated, often around large medieval churches, and are fewer and farther between.
The contrasts along the railway are many, and most of us put them down to differences in geology. But although rock and soil types have a role, the picture is much more complex. The settlement pattern of England, and the variety of landscapes which people living in those settlements have created, has long been recognised as a rich palimpsest produced by many factors: economic, social and political – as well as geological – over a period of some 5,000 years.

'Classic' cases: how representative?

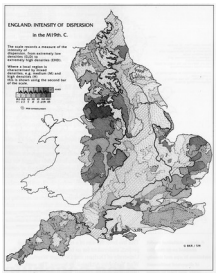
So, to manage our legacy of historic settlements, we need to understand this patterning in order to be sensitive to these subtle, but crucial, regional distinctions. The extensive archaeological studies of settlements such as the deserted medieval village at Wharram Percy in eastern Yorkshire, which is for many the classic example of a medieval settlement site, or Raunds in Northamptonshire, must be put into a wider context.

We know that Wharram, for example, was a village and an associated agricultural landscape, which first came together as a community during the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods and which, with some vicissitudes, lasted as a tightly clustered settlement from the late Saxon period to the 16th century. We also know how the inhabitants of the settlement at Wharram moulded its surrounding landscape and what types of field pattern were used by its farmers. Furthermore, around Wharram we can see, even in the modern settlement pattern, many similar villages whose populations, we can guess, have had similar histories and impact on their surrounding landscapes.

But over what size of area is this true? Where exactly, and why, do settlements change their character, and thereby reveal a different settlement history? How do we define the geographical and historical spread of those settlement types of which Wharram is an example?

For conservation managers this question is as pressing as it is for academics. Of what area, or period of time, or local political circumstance is Wharram typical? If we invest all the resources we have available for the conservation of settlements in examples such as Wharram, what are we missing? And are the types of settlement we are missing significant?

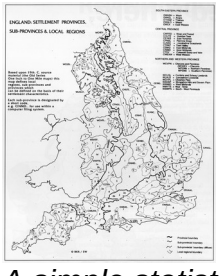
Settlement sites scheduled as Ancient Monuments, for example, tend to be earthwork sites of villages which are representative of much the same, very particular, combinations of political and economic factors as at Wharram. But it is clear that settlements in Hertfordshire or Cornwall or Cheshire do not look like Wharram – they have quite different, but equally interesting, social and economic profiles through history and their inhabitants have consequently produced a completely different historic landscape. Very few 'deserted villages' are scheduled in Hertfordshire, because settlement there manifests itself quite differently. Is that appropriate, or does it represent a misdirection of scarce conservation resources?



The project's new map shows the distribution of 'predominantly dispersed' and 'predominantly nucleated' settlement patterns in England

Mapping the 'character' of settlements

What we need is a map of England which attempts to define the regional character of its historic settlement. This has been the aim of a recent English Heritage project, undertaken for us by Dr Brian Roberts of the University of Durham and Dr Stuart Wrathmell of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The work has twin, related aims. First we wish to understand and to define or 'characterise' in a practical way what, exactly, is different between settlements in, for example, East Yorkshire and Hertfordshire?



A simple statistical model enabled us to map the variations in size and density of dispersed settlement units, and then to divide these sub-provinces into 180 'local regions'

The role of characterisation in wider historic landscape assessment has already been recognised by English Heritage (*Conservation Bulletin* **22**, 1617). The key distinction between settlements in these two areas is that, around Wharram (and through much of central and northeast England) settlement is ‘nucleated’. That is, up until the recent past the community’s buildings were grouped tightly together around the communal foci of church and manor. In Hertfordshire, by contrast, the buildings are, and probably always were, scattered throughout the landscape or only grouped together in small units, and communal buildings such as parish churches are more or less isolated within the community. Such a settlement pattern is said to be ‘dispersed’.

The main characteristics of the ‘predominantly nucleated’ and ‘predominantly dispersed’ settlement patterns have been defined through the project, and the distribution of these characteristics has been mapped (previous page) to show the spectrum of settlement types nationally, from areas where almost all settlements are nucleated to those where almost all are dispersed.

It has long been known that in the central area of England, the ‘champion lands’ as they were called by 17th-century topographers, were very different in character from the territories to the east and west. Now we have been able to define exactly where the boundaries of this distinctive ‘central province’ of settlement lie. We can now show, for the first time, that the two provinces to the south-east and to the north-west, west, and south-west of this central province have entirely different patterns of settlement. In both of these areas ‘dispersed settlement’ is the dominant form, although in more favoured locations some villages and towns are present.

Further refinement: types within types

This is not all. The three provinces are not homogeneous, but show a variety of different settlement characteristics within themselves. When we look at other indicators of settlement pattern, such as what sort of field systems the settlements have, or how intricate the road system is, we can also see ‘characteristics’ that can be defined and mapped. The settlement characteristics of fields and roads in the Weald, for example, are quite different in detail from those in Wessex, although both are in the south-eastern province of dispersed settlement.

The distinctions between these two ‘sub-provinces’ are influenced to some extent by geology, but geology is only one of the significant factors. Twenty-three such sub-provinces have been defined. Even this is not the maximum resolution possible; we have also been able to detect, through the use of a simple statistical model, variations in the size and density of dispersed settlement units, which allow division of the sub-provinces into 180 ‘local regions’ (see map, left).

The methodology used to define all three levels of distinction is clearly vital. The methodology used in defining the levels, along with a variety of maps and a characterisation of each province, sub-province and region will be published, probably as an atlas, by English Heritage in the near future.

The atlas: conservation and research

This new series of maps has already served one practical conservation function: it has provided the background for the selection of medieval and later settlement sites for statutory protection through the Monuments Protection Programme. Stuart Wrathmell has used this new division of the country into settlement zones as the basis for his argument for scoring and selection of nearly 2,000 medieval and later settlement sites for assessment for scheduling.

Now that we can characterise the distinctions between settlement zones, we are able to argue that some of the rarer settlement site types should also be included on the schedule, as well as the more ‘classic’ deserted, nucleated, settlement sites in the central province.

As we can now compare like with like, rather than having to compare everything with dramatic earthwork sites such as Wharrarn Percy, there will now be more scheduled medieval settlement sites in counties such as Cheshire and Hertfordshire, which hitherto had very few.

Valuable though this single use is, it should not obscure the wider significance of this characterisation and mapping project. In future, many aspects of research and management can he referred back to the map. The map itself has been generated using the earliest complete, standardised mapping of England by the Ordnance Survey in the early 19th century. So, although we now know that this settlement patterning is demonstrable at that date, this project does not tell us when or why the settlement patterning it shows came into existence. For example, the map shows intense areas of dispersed settlement in southern Lancashire, West and South Yorkshire, and in Tyne and Wear.

This situation is in part the result of 17th and 18th-century industrialisation, although many studies have suggested that, generally, some areas of nucleated settlements in the central province are the result of massive intervention by the medieval aristocracy, who imposed a particular kind of collectivism on the management of agriculture. Furthermore, it has been suggested that parts of Essex, now revealed in the map, owe their modern settlement pattern to the survival of a systematic division of the landscape during the Romano-British period. The settlement which is being mapped, then, may have a great variety of origins, though it is thought that much of the central province and some parts of the northwestern and southeastern provinces are predominantly medieval in origin.

Shifting boundaries

What is more, the boundaries shown on the map are not stable. The map shows a slowly turning kaleidoscope of regions, frozen as they were in the early or middle years of the 19th century. It is clear that many of the local regional boundaries have expanded and contracted in the past and, of course, many have altered again as the kaleidoscope sped up in the later 19th and 20th centuries, since the base maps for the project were made. The intense dispersion in Tyneside, for example, brought about through industrial activity, was clearly laid out over an earlier system of nucleated settlement in tightly knit villages similar to the adjacent regions within the central province. This underlying nucleated system is still visible in the postindustrial landscape, like a skeleton beneath the skin. It gives these two regions a distinctive character which is quite different from the settlement pattern in early industrial Lancashire, where settlement had always been dispersed.

Any one of the 180 distinct local regions defined by the present project will have a complex settlement history. The history is visible, for example, in a predominance of dispersed medieval farmsteads set in small irregular fields, as in parts of Herefordshire or Kent, for example, by which it is distinguished from its neighbours, where the hedges may be mostly of the parliamentary enclosures and the farms of 18th-century date. This present situation will have arisen through a whole variety of influences which came to bear on the landscape at different dates through history.

An integrated look at the landscape

We can now look outwards from our own concern with historic landscape towards more integrated assessment and conservation of the whole landscape. We are also helping the Countryside Commission to prepare its map of landscape character, and we intend to use these settlement maps alongside this and English Nature's *Map of Natural Areas* to guide land use and conservation decisions into the next century.

With the completion of this project the challenge is laid for historic settlement and historic landscape studies in the future to design further work in every local region. Future work should try to test and understand the development of the distinctive settlement patterns we

have started to define and relate the patterns to their distinctive landscapes, so that what remains of that distinctiveness today, its local character, regional diversity and historical and archaeological interest, can be properly managed.

David Stocker

Conservation Group, Scheduling Branch

Local authority guidance note

English Heritage has played an important role in ensuring there are proper provisions for the conservation of our local heritage under the Government's reorganisation of local authorities

Last March the Government announced its final decisions on the review of local government, undertaken by the Local Government Commission, which was chaired by Sir John Banham. We now know that the review will result in the creation of 38 unitary authorities covering some of England's largest towns and cities, with the retention elsewhere of a two-tier system of county and district councils. A small number of mostly urban districts are also to be considered for unitary status by a reconstituted Commission.

Conserving interests

As the protection and enhancement of the historic environment rely on the competence of local authorities to deliver an effective conservation service, the progress of the review has been closely monitored by English Heritage, a statutory consultee. Our concern has been to ensure that the size and structure of any new authority would be sufficient to provide for the full range of conservation interests: archaeology, historic buildings and areas, landscapes, and parks and gardens. We have been particularly anxious about the loss of the county-based sites and monuments records and conservation teams, and the capacity of new authorities to find and fund the necessary specialist expertise to meet their obligations under *Planning Policy Guidance notes 15 and 16* (PPG 15 and PPG 16).
It became clear in 1994 that the review was too broad-brush to allow the interests of the historic environment to be reflected explicitly in the Commission's recommendations, and that conservation provision would be determined by new authorities after vesting. This worrying development prompted an approach to ministers and the preparation of an English Heritage guidance note designed to help new authorities to identify the key conservation functions to safeguard, to assess related staffing needs, and to prepare a management statement for the Department of National Heritage (DNH), setting out their proposed arrangements for securing the full range of specialist conservation advice. The guidance note will be circulated to new authorities by the DNH. Copies of the guidance note are available from English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

Judy Hawkins

Conservation Group, Policy and Research Team

The value of conservation

How much is a listed property worth? In addition to the straightforward monetary values of historic sites, English Heritage is in the process of devising a systematic approach to gauge other economic, and social, values in preserving them

Since 1990, we have become increasingly involved in considering the economic aspects of conservation, in cooperation with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and, more

recently, with the Department of National Heritage. We first commissioned a study from the Investment Property Databank (IPD) on *The Investment Performance of Listed Buildings* (RICS, 1993). It showed that, in general, listed office buildings performed no worse than other office buildings owned by major investing institutions, and indeed, better than many. The results are now updated annually, and so provide the first ongoing index of comparative performance of a group of commercial listed buildings.

We moved on to look at *The Listing of buildings: the effect on value* (RICS, 1994) through a pilot study by the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge. This concluded that the act of listing buildings and the imposition of restrictions on use, as well as the other constraints imposed by the planning system, may reduce their market value by eliminating or constraining potential development value. The effect is most marked for small buildings in areas of high development outside conservation areas. However, this is a one-time cost borne by the owner at the time of listing, so for most listed buildings it is a matter of history and not likely to affect subsequent performance, as the IPD study had demonstrated.

Social and economic values

The Cambridge study suggested the need to look at the wider question of the social and economic value of the conservation of historic buildings and areas, not least because well-established policies in England for the conservation of the cultural built heritage are implicitly based on the assumption that private constraints or costs are at least balanced by economic or other benefits to the wider community.

We commissioned the Department of Economics at Reading University, and DTZ Debenham Thorpe, to assess information already available from case studies, in Britain as well as in Europe and the USA. They were also asked to review critically the methods used in similar fields to measure or value the wider benefits of conserving historic buildings and areas and as a result to suggest an agenda for further research based on a thorough understanding of what has gone before. The draft report was presented to a seminar in June and the final version, to be published in September, incorporates comments from that session.

Benefits for the whole community

The benefits of most goods and services accrue to those who pay for them; what economists call ‘externalities’ are usually considered unimportant by the market. But beyond their direct use value to their owners, historic buildings and areas benefit others who, given the ‘public’ nature of architecture, can enjoy them, too. The value to their owners can be measured in the market place, since historic buildings are commonly traded. The difficulties mount as one considers increasingly less tangible values, for example, the value that historic buildings in conservation areas might be considered to add to all properties within the area.

Studies of retail rents in otherwise comparable historic and non-historic centres suggest that such added values are real enough. Beyond such ‘user values’, most economists accept that there are other kinds of value. ‘Option value’ is people’s willingness to pay for the preservation of historic buildings so that their continued use and enjoyment remain an option for present and future generations. ‘Intrinsic value’ is that placed on the existence of resources, even if they have no intention of ever experiencing or using them.

Such concepts, let alone the ascription of monetary values to them, may appear contrived. But our grant regime exists specifically to correct the ‘market failure’, to take account of such values. In most cases the financial criterion for offering a repair grant is that the cost of securing the repair of a historic building exceeds its use or market value. When we decide, with the advice of our committees, whether to offer a large grant, or that the difference between cost and market value is too high and that consent should therefore be

given for demolition, we are in effect estimating the sum of the values of the building to society as a whole.
So approaches developed by economists for estimating existence and option values, primarily of elements of the natural environment, may be relevant, at least in conceptual terms, to real decisions about the cultural heritage. Examples of these may be people's willingness to pay for knowing that such things will continue to exist, or the price people are prepared to pay to travel to see them.

Evaluating effectiveness

Regarding the 'dynamic' situation of investment in an historic area with the intention of achieving economic regeneration, the literature review revealed little other than anecdotal evidence to support or refute the hypothesis that urban conservation brings dynamic benefits to society as a whole, despite a general belief that the net benefits are large and positive.
Frameworks for evaluation have been developed from the concept of cost benefit analysis, particularly Nathaniel Lichfield's Community Impact Analysis and Community Impact Evaluation, and Peter Nijkamp's multi-criteria analysis. From the current study we hope to develop a systematic approach to monitoring the effect of urban conservation programmes we support through our Conservation Area Partnership schemes. Such an approach may in turn enable us to understand better what makes a scheme effective.

Paul Drury,

Conservation Group, Head of London and South-East Region

PPG 16 – the future

After two reviews, at three-year intervals, of the operation of this influential document on archaeology and planning, it is proving a strong foundation for future improvement

Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16) on Archaeology and Planning was published by the Department of the Environment in England in November 1990 and has been followed by similar versions for Wales and Scotland. It has proved to be remarkably influential, putting archaeology firmly in the planning system as a material consideration. It advocates the presumption in favour of preserving important archaeological sites and their settings and supplies the mechanism by which the cost of assessment, evaluation, excavation and analysis can be met by the developer.
PPG 16 provides part of the policy framework within which local authorities exercise their powers when considering proposals for new development and it is particularly concerned to ensure they recognise the importance of archaeological remains. It also provides the framework within which the Secretary of State for the Environment considers major cases of national importance that come to him for decision and others that come to him on appeal.

Early assessment and the planning process

The central message of PPG 16 is the vital importance of early archaeological assessment of a site by developers, archaeologists, and the local planning authority. Where this points to the likely presence of important archaeological remains, the planning authority may require the developer to commission a field evaluation before deciding on new development proposals.
The effectiveness of PPG 16 was reviewed after one year by Pagoda Associates Ltd. This review established that the advice in PPG 16 had been adopted by every local planning authority in England to the extent that a more consistent approach was being developed

towards archaeology in the planning process. English Heritage commissioned Roger Tym and Partners along with Pagoda Associates Ltd to undertake a second review of the work after four years. The consultants were asked to go beyond the areas covered in the first review to include issues such as the post-approval monitoring of planning conditions arid, where possible, to quantify the findings.

Main conclusions

With very few exceptions, every local planning authority in England is implementing PPG 16 in a way that ensures archaeology is given appropriate consideration in determining planning applications

Out of approximately 450,000 planning applications made in 1993, County and District Archaeology Officers recommended 1,677 predetermination evaluations (ie less than 0.4 per cent of cases)

Of those approximately 450,000 applications, 8,148 were archaeologically significant: that is, a County or District Archaeological Officer (CAO or DAO) made an archaeological recommendation on the application; (ie in less than 2 per cent of cases)

Only 19 decisions involving archaeology went to appeal by local inquiry in 1993, this low number indicating that the provisions and implementation of PPG 16 are generally accepted by developers

In 1993, there were 43 cases of unexpected remains coming to light after planning permission was granted: just over 1 per cent of the 3,493 planning applications approved with a watching brief conditions.

Main recommendations

Despite these encouraging findings, the report identifies a number of possible improvements:

CAOs should, where possible, provide archaeological constraint maps to local planning authorities and encourage them to use up-to-date maps in local plans

The use of Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) by CAOs and DAOs in considering planning applications needs to be improved both in content and usability; the SMR in each county should be transferred to a graphical information system as soon as possible

English Heritage should be given responsibility for developing and implementing local SMRs as a control tool for statutory planning purposes: each entry should show the extent of each site (ie the boundaries and not just a single-point map reference). Furthermore, consideration should be given to putting the SMR on a statutory basis within planning law; in particular local planning authorities should have a statutory duty to maintain the SMR for their areas

Publicity for PPG 16 should continue, with references to archaeology in the information local planning authorities give developers about to submit planning applications. English Heritage should promote editorial features and case studies in the building and construction industry trade press

Consideration should be given to encouraging the wider use of Article 4 directions to protect areas of archaeological potential from permitted development if other means of protection are not appropriate

A high proportion of CAOs and DAOs need to improve their system of monitoring to ensure that their recommendations are being followed and to check the outcome of each one. This system should cover all activities and should track whether the recommendations have been included in the decision notice; the start and completion of any evaluation or excavation; the archiving of records; the depositing of remains with the appropriate museum; the updating of the SMR

CAOs should make every effort to encourage local planning authorities to send them copies of decision notices for all planning applications that include archaeological recommendations
English Heritage should consider collecting statistics similar to those used for this review annually; details of the data required should be advised to CAOs and DAOs at the beginning of each year
The conclusions of this review are very encouraging and have quantified for the first time the extent to which archaeological considerations impinge on the planning process. The review has also made a number of recommendations to improve the implementation of PPG 16; there will be discussion with other organisations to see how this may best be achieved.

Geoffrey Wainwright

Conservation Group, Chief Archaeologist

BOOKS

***The house within: interpreting medieval houses in Kent* by PS Barnwell and AT Adams, 1994, published by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, £12.95**
***Conservation of timber buildings* by FWB Charles, with Mary Charles, reprinted 1995 by Donhead Publishing, £35**

Kent's medieval gems

Kent has probably the richest heritage of medieval houses in England and, as so many are graded highly, English Heritage is regularly consulted about proposals for alteration. It is possible to write short histories of these houses using documentary evidence, plans and photographs held by the RCHME, and *The house within is* intended to be 'found useful by the owners of such houses, by those who are professionally concerned with their preservation, and by the many people, both amateur and professional, who are interested in comprehending these monuments of past society for their own sake'. There are two complementary volumes, *The medieval houses of Kent* by Sarah Pearson, and *A gazetteer of medieval houses in Kent* by Pearson, Barnwell, and Adams.
The house within is one of the most accessible surveys of a vernacular architecture. Necessarily technical, with chapters on plan and form, timber frames, roof structure, structural details, timber walls, doorways and windows, decoration, smoke dispersal, and medieval houses today, only rarely does it become particularly complex (the section on reversed assembly and flying wall plates requires careful reading, for example).
The end result is a clear exposition of the medieval hall house in Kent, including discussion of its most important variants: the hall and cross wing (or wings), the end jetty house, the unjettied house, and that masterpiece of medieval concision, the Wealden. It is also very well illustrated with many plans, axonometrics and good photographs.
Particularly useful are the discussions, not only of whole buildings but also of their different parts, showing how they developed and how they can be used to date buildings. This is important because there are *lacunae*. The three volumes are not based on a complete survey of the medieval houses in Kent, although the parishes surveyed are cleverly chosen to cover all geological, economic, and agricultural areas of the county. It would have been useful if all these buildings had been covered, but such is the richness of the subject that it was not possible.

Given the continuing popularity of these houses, conservation officers and development control officers in Kent and adjoining counties should become familiar with its contents and local authorities should keep office copies of the gazetteer volume. With these three volumes, RCHME has made a significant contribution, comparing well with its early typological surveys. Together, they make up its most significant contribution to English architectural history for many years.

Richard Morrice

Wood, glorious wood

Before Freddie Charles set up in architectural practice with his wife Mary in 1962, he had worked in London with Walter Gropius & Maxwell Fry on the restoration of many ancient timber structures almost too ruinous to restore. In the course of this work, the firm has done much research and writing on such buildings, particularly on those of truck construction.

This book was originally published in 1984, when research into timber structures – which had only begun in earnest after the Second World War when redevelopment revealed a number of unknown medieval roofs and wall frames – was a relatively new field. The great need to identify and save traditional timber-framed buildings became of paramount importance to Freddie and Mary Charles, and this volume sets out in a clear and precise way some of the repair techniques, investigation procedures, and survey methods that can be used when conserving them. The photographs and illustrations are excellent.

The chapter on traditionally used timbers and their conversion is particularly interesting. One fascinating diagramatic illustration shows the enormous oak trees that were used to make extremely long beams. The book is technical but readable, with useful practical information.

A number of building case studies are described in detail. Although of great interest, they do not always reflect current standard practice. Some of the methods of conservation, and certainly the costs, have changed drastically. Some of the references are now incorrect and it is a shame that there are no updates. Despite this, I would still urge those who missed previous editions of this invaluable book to obtain a copy immediately.

Nigel Oxley

NOTES

Rodsworth opening

On 6 July, after five years of restoration work, English Heritage reopened the Italianate house and 14-acre gardens of Brodsworth Hall near Doncaster. It has been restored to present a picture of a Yorkshire country estate of the 1860s.

Brodsworth lies six miles northwest of Doncaster between the A165 and the A638 and will be open 1pm–6pm Tues–Sun and Bank Holidays until 15 October.

English Heritage in print

New publications from English Heritage include four new books. *Colliery landscapes: an aerial survey of the deep-mined coal industry of England* by Shane Gould and Ian Ayris (£10; product code XC10700) is a new study commissioned from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England to capture a record of the country's deep-mined coal industry at a time of its radical restructuring. *Conservation in London: a study of strategic*

planning policy in London (published jointly with the London Planning Advisory Committee; £5; product code XC10729) and *In the public interest: London's civic architecture at risk* (36.50; product code XC10677) are two studies of preservation and conservation in London. The first evaluates the city's historic environment and recommends key initiatives for the Government and those involved in London's planning process. The second (see p 21) is a gazetteer of publicly-owned buildings at risk through neglect. *The repair of historic buildings: advice on principles and practice* by the late Christopher Brereton is a revised edition of the 1991 publication (£9; product code XC13040).
Several new leaflets (see p 9) include *Development in the historic environment: an English Heritage guide to policy*; a revised edition of *Historic prison buildings in England and Wales: guidelines for alterations*, published jointly with CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments; and *Developing guidelines for the management of listed buildings*. (Details on p 9.)
Also new are *Manchester mills: understanding listing* (see p 3), and *Scaffolding and temporary works for historic buildings*, giving guidelines on safety and practice.
All are available free from English Heritage Customer Services, 429 Oxford Street, London WIR 2HD.

Other publications

There are three new modules of background information and practical advice from Glasgow West Conservation Trust; *[Conservation] Principles & practice* covers philosophical and practical aspects of architectural conservation; *Conservation law & finance* deals with legal and economic implications including development and preservation trusts; *Domestic decorative glass* covers the history, manufacture, and conservation of decorative glass in houses. Details from Glasgow Conservation Trust, 30 Cranworth St, Hillhead, Glasgow G12 8AG.
The booklet *A guide to church inspection and repair* gives guidance on the Church of England's procedures for regular inspection of churches and the implementation of the repairs recommended. It details relevant legislation, as set out in the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955, recently amended by the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991. It also gives advice on the selection and appointment of architects and surveyors and on the planning and funding of repairs. Details from The Council for the Care of Churches, Fielden House, Little College St, London SW1P 3SH; tel 0171 222 3793.
The UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is preparing a series of 17 *Coastal directories* under the general title *Coasts and seas of the United Kingdom*. The first is published, both in book form and as an electronic publication, in July 1995. The directories aim to help effective management of coastal zones by providing knowledge of coastal zone resources and the things that affect them – including geology and landscape, wildlife habitat and species, archaeology, protected sites, land use and infrastructure, human uses, and coastal management initiatives. Further information from Caroline Robson or Rob Keddie, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Monkstone Bouse, City Rd, Peterborough PE1 1JY; tel 01733 62626.

New journals

More than 50 leading architecture and landscape conservation academics and practitioners met at De Montfort University on 11 April to launch a new journal to be published three times a year. *Journal of architectural conservation* will be wide-ranging, including discussions on aesthetics and philosophies, historical influences, project evaluation and control, repair techniques, materials, reuse of buildings, legal issues, inspection, recording and monitoring, management and interpretation, and historic parks and gardens. Further information from Donhead Publishing, 28 Southdean Gardens, Wimbledon, London SW19 6NU; tel 0181 789 0138.

The second issue of *Twentieth century architecture*, features ‘The modern house revisited’ and an updated version of Jeremy Gould’s gazetteer of modern houses in Britain. Further information from The Twentieth Century Society, 70 Cowcross St, London EC1 6BP.

Courses and conferences

Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust have organised a series of one-day training courses at the Centre for the Conservation of the Built Environment at Bursledon Brickworks near Southampton. Two courses remain: ‘Brickwork repairs’ (22 Sept), and ‘Earth structures and their repair’ (23 Sept). Details from the Historic Buildings Bureau, tel 01962 846828.

The *1st International Symposium on Surface Treatment of Building Materials with Water Repellent Agents*, at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands on 9–10 Nov, aims to provide a basis for an engineering approach in water repellent treatment of building materials and structures. Themes include ‘Recent development in water repellent agents’, ‘Application procedures and quality control’, ‘Analysis of moisture movement before and after treatment’ and ‘Case Studies’. Details from the Symposium Secretariat, PO Box 5043, 2600 GA Delft, The Netherlands; tel 010 31 015 789111.

Reorganisation

With the retirements of Director of Research and Professional Services Roy Swanston and Director of Science and Conservation Services Kate Foley, we took the opportunity to reconsider the organisation of Research and Professional Services and decided to reorganise it from July to give a much clearer focus to the various functions.

Works Professional Services (WPS): Architecture, Building Services Engineering, Building Economics, and Conservation Engineering branches now form a multidisciplinary team focusing on building conservation standards and advice within the new Major Projects group.

Science and Conservation Services (SCS): to integrate English Heritage’s different archaeological functions, Environmental Studies, Archaeometry, and Conservation and Technology branches move to Archaeology Division, Conservation Group. Each branch will report directly to Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, the Chief Archaeologist. *Architectural Conservation Branch (RTAS)*: moves to the Deputy Director’s Division, Conservation Group.

Appointments

Anna McPherson, formerly Head of the Conservation Group West Midlands team at English Heritage, has been appointed Head of the Conservation Unit at the Department of National Heritage, succeeding Richard Eckersley.

Dr Philip Whitbourn, former Chief Architect and Southern Regional Director of English Heritage, has been appointed Secretary of ICOMOS UK, the UK branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

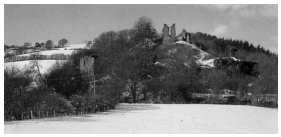
Heritage Grant Fund

The Department of National Heritage (DNH) is seeking applications from voluntary organisations in England whose work relates to the DNH’s objectives for the historic environment, including buildings, monuments, gardens, industrial archaeology, and underwater archaeology.

The DNH is particularly interested in those projects that identify and record the historic environment, promote the understanding and enjoyment of the built heritage, examine issues surrounding access and promote high standards in conservation practice. The DNH

wishes to give preference to projects that can demonstrate the active use of volunteers, and all applicants will need to provide matching funds.
Closing date for applications for 1996/7 is 29 Sept 1995. Details and application forms from Graham Bond or Luella Barker, The Department of National Heritage, 3rd Floor, 24 Cockspur St, London SW1Y 5DH; tel 0171 211 6367/8.

Planning for the future of a medieval castle



Wigmore Castle, scene of sieges and other dramatic events, has stood in a state of neglect since it was dismantled by Parliamentary forces in 1643

English Heritage continues to take into its care new historic sites in need of help. Wigmore Castle is a key monument in the Marches of Wales – we examine how best to ensure the future of this fine fortress and classic romantic border ruin

One of the functions of the former Office of Works was to take into State care a series of decaying ruined castles and abbeys through guardianship. That tradition has been continued by successor Government departments and passed to English Heritage when it was set up in 1984. While we are looking to partners to take over the day-to-day running of those monuments, which will benefit from local management, the rescue of important monuments still seriously at risk remains at the heart of our operations. Wigmore Castle is a key monument in the Marches of Wales whose future we are now tackling.

A romantic ruin

The great medieval Mortimer fortress at Wigmore is one of the largest, most evocative castles in the Welsh Marches. Most of the upstanding masonry dates from the early 14th century, although parts are 12th and 13th century. It has stood in a state of neglect and decay since it was dismantled by Parliamentary forces in 1643. The castle now consists of dramatically sited remains clad in ivy and with trees growing between the upstanding masonry. Although it is a classic romantic ruin, it is as important for its undisturbed archaeological deposits below the debris as for its documented history.
A recent survey of the 249 castles in the Central Marches (Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester) showed Wigmore to be one of the most important border ruins not in public care. Only 33 of the sites have upstanding masonry, and it is the most significant castle still requiring substantial investment to prevent serious deterioration. Under the Monuments Protection Programme criteria for evaluating the importance of a monument, Wigmore has consistently high scores, and is top of the range for six of the eight criteria. It undoubtedly has a top ranking in terms of survival, documented history and archaeological potential.
The present owner, Mr John Gaunt, has been seeking a way to secure the site, which is currently in a dangerous condition, but the costs of conservation are very high. After discussions with the District Council and ourselves, he has agreed to put Wigmore Castle into guardianship. The details of implementation are under discussion among the parties, but progress should be facilitated by a comprehensive report on the castle's condition, prepared by the conservation architect, Robert Tolley of ST Walker & Partners.
The flora and fauna of the castle have also been the subject of an ecological study. This and other preparatory work should enable us to consolidate the ruins in a softer style than was customary in Ministry of Works days, without compromising the ecological integrity of the site or its aesthetic attraction.

Attracting visitors

Wigmore Castle is unlikely to attract large numbers of visitors, despite the historic interest of the site and its great scenic beauty. English Heritage's aim, in discussion with the owner and the local authorities, will be to save Wigmore from further collapse and to present it to visitors in a low-key but informative way. Once the ruins are secured and the site made safe for public access, the castle could be managed on a day-to-day basis by the local authority, under arrangements similar to those at other guardianship monuments. Wigmore Castle has been the scene of sieges and other dramatic events: it would be a tragedy if it were lost to future generations. By taking it into State care, an old tradition of ancient monuments conservation will be maintained, although the latest techniques in archaeological recording, consolidation and nature conservation will be applied. With repairs likely to cost about £1 million, it is clear only English Heritage can take the necessary action to preserve Wigmore Castle.

Paul Hoppen

Conservation Group, West Midlands Team