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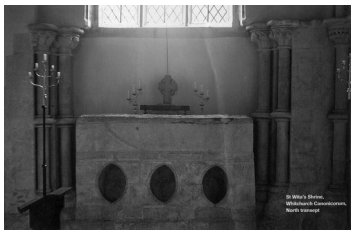
(NB: page numbers are those of the original publication)

Celebrating England's Christian Heritage

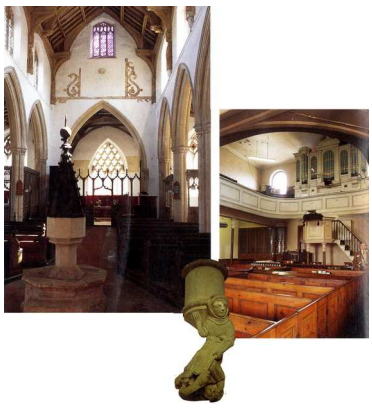


St Wita's Shrine, Whitchurch Canonicorum, North transept

English Heritage is making England's Christian Heritage its theme for 1997 to celebrate the 1,400th anniversaries of the arrival from Rome of St Augustine and the death of St Columba on the Isle of lona, and to draw attention to the work being done to maintain England's buildings, monuments and works of art. Richard Halsey reports

Even if we believe that Joseph of Arimathea came to Glastonbury soon after Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, Christianity has only existed in England for a fraction of the time that we know people have lived here. Yet its impact on the physical topography and institutional organisation of the whole country is immense. The parish, as first established perhaps 1,000 years ago, remains the basic unit of local government, land holdings and boundaries. The present parishes often derive from those created by the nobles of the medieval Church, and ecclesiastical institutions such as the monasteries and hospitals owe their very beginnings to the reverence and protection afforded to particular Christian sites and persons many centuries ago.

English Heritage looks after many mainly unroofed ecclesiastic sites, such as the majestic ruins of Cistercian abbeys, eg Rievaulx, and some roofed chapels, eg Chisbury, Wiltshire, the former parish churches at Barton-on-Humber and Kempsley, and the complete Baptist church at Goodshaw, Lancashire. Moreover, the regional teams of the Conservation Department spend a great deal of time working with others to ensure that the 'living' churches, chapels and cathedrals retain their architectural and historic interest. We do this by grant-aiding fabric repairs and conservation, and by full participation in statutory work involving changes proposed to maintain the buildings in use (see Paula Griffiths' article, this issue).



Above: Beeston Church, Norfolk One of many parish churches to which English Heritage has contributed grant aid for extensive conservation work.
Centre: detail of a pilgrim figure on the stairs of the chapterhouse of Wells Cathedral.
Right: Hope Street Chapel, Rochdale. A 19th-century nonconformist chapel interior

In the beginning

The Christian story in England does not, in fact, begin with St Augustine's arrival in Kent. Three bishops from Roman Britain were recorded as attending a Council at Arles in 314, and Christian burials have been found in many Roman cemeteries. The lives and work of St Columba, St Patrick and St David may be only sketchily known, but the strength of their missions was kept alive by their successors to be recorded centuries later. The post-Roman, pre-Augustinian British Church is most evident in England today in the obscure dedications of many Cornish churches to Celtic saints such as St Veep, St Cuby and St Tudy. Like later missionaries in East Anglia and Northumbria these saints arrived by sea and established minsters and monasteries of holy men and women to which devotees came, and from which priests set out to administer sacraments on a circuit of local settlements.

Many towns and cities owe their origins to such ecclesiastical focal points that provided not just spiritual comfort but also physical protection, employment, education and a health service. The visitors and trade the venerated saints attracted, most especially on their feast-days, may have been more occasional than the constant stream our major tourist honeypots attract today, but there were very many more of them. Most churches could produce a relic of some sort, and the routes to major shrines – such as those at Canterbury, Glastonbury, or Durham – were full of holy distractions for the pilgrim. The relics of saints and the wayside chapels, calvaries and holy wells were primary targets for Protestant reformers, and they may now only be known from field or street names. It is the study of these topographical and landscape elements, as well as archaeological evaluation of development sites, that can help to fill in the huge gaps in our written knowledge.

Places of community focus

The proliferation of parish churches in both town and country in the 10th and 11th centuries can be seen as simply the inevitable consequence of the parcelling out of the country into accountable units in a feudal society. Yet it was the same impetus to create a permanent display of devotion that drove the magnates of the Industrial Revolution to provide the right spiritual input to their employees' lives (usually nonconformist). Even in today's supposedly post-Christian society the provision of a worship-cum-community centre can be incorporated by a developer into the 'planning gain' arrangements offered as part of a major new development.

It seems unlikely that these mixed-use buildings will quickly achieve the reverence achieved by the established heritage of churches and chapels, or even have the architectural value to merit listing in 30 years' time. The demolition of failing concrete inter-

war buildings is not lamented by many, and even today the conversion of 19th-century churches that have served perhaps six generations can raise only muted protest. Yet surely the role of the churches, chapels and cathedrals, as focal points for communities across centuries, means as much to the person in the street as the physical beauty. The passing tourist may know nothing of the architecture or symbolism of a church, but on entering will quickly read the memorials and think of the people they commemorate and then wonder about the people who created the building and everything in it.

It is to this dual heritage value that congregations now appeal in seeking funds, and it would seem that the re-creation of the church and chapel as a focus for community activities will be the saviour of the fabric in the future. In the Middle Ages, parish churches were at the hub of people's non-working lives, and through the education they and the Chantries provided, were the working man's means of improvement.

Later, the various nonconformist denominations founded in the 17th and 18th centuries also promoted the value of the local community, culminating in the enormous 19th-century chapel with its attendant Sunday School and numerous fellowship meetings. It is the philanthropy of churchmen through the ages that has created many of our great educational and caring institutions, from university colleges to almshouses.

Our long-term goal

The new English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund Joint Grants Scheme is able to help heritage buildings ensure their future by contributing not only to the repair of the fabric but also to the creation of new facilities of demonstrable community benefit. This expansion of the existing 20-year-old grant scheme for places of worship in use is the challenge facing many in English Heritage now, bringing out the constant tension between continuing use and preservation.

The proper repair and preservation of England's Christian Heritage is likely to remain a core activity for English Heritage for the foreseeable future, involving all the archaeological, historical, architectural and scientific skills we can command. Whether it is the comfortable stone church apparently unchanged in its rural idyll, the reticent redbrick 18th-century Methodist chapel, the soaring but grimy Victorian Gothic pile in an inner-city wasteland, or the extraordinarily inventive concrete shape floating over a sea of suburban housing, these buildings are the most tangible results of England's Christian Heritage that it is our happy duty to pass on in good heart for future generations to understand and enjoy.

Richard Halsey

Head of Cathedrals Team and Director, Conservation East and South West Region

Determination gains Chunnel concessions

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act finally received Royal Assent on 18 December 1996 and brought to an end the long parliamentary process necessary for the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).

In the article 'All change at St Pancras' (*Conservation Bulletin* **30**, 12–13) an account was given of the work English Heritage has done to safeguard the unique architectural heritage of the area, including the agreements reached to find viable future uses for the spectacular listed gasholders and the unique Gothic steam locomotive waterpoint.

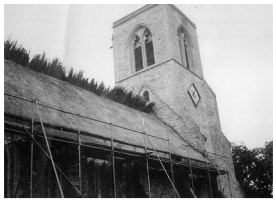
In addition to reaching agreement on these rather difficult issues, and the decision by London and Continental Railways (LCR) to hold a competition to find a beneficial use for St Pancras Chambers, English Heritage was also concerned about the proposed Heritage Deed for Camden. This document sets out the procedures to be followed in place of the conventional listed building consent process, which has been disapplied by the Act.

Having failed to secure amendments from the House of Lords Select Committee, the issue was raised at the committee stage of the bill, and then again at Third Reading by Lord Cavendish of Furness, a Commissioner of English Heritage.
As a result of our determination, and following meetings with Lord Goschen, the Transport Minister, and also directly with LCR, some concessions were secured at the last moment. LCR agreed to define in a letter of intent the stages of consultation, which will enable English Heritage to identify outstanding problems at any stage; and there is also a limited arbitration procedure in the case of any disagreement over which aspects of the development come under which clauses of the Deed.
Notwithstanding this concession, this case has pushed the limits of disapplication further than under any other railway bill. Lord Cavendish stressed to the House of Lords that this must not be regarded as a precedent. Although far from ideal, we have achieved a lot against concerted opposition.
To end on a more positive note, discussions are now well advanced with LCR and their architects, Sir Norman Foster and Partners, on the development of the emerging proposals for St Pancras and the surrounding area. A constructive dialogue is currently developing which means that English Heritage is very well placed to ensure that the final scheme will take full account of the many outstanding qualities of St Pancras, arguably the most magnificent building of the railway age.

Philip Davies

Conservation, Head of North and East London Team

Grants to cathedrals and churches



St John the Evangelist, Rushford, Norfolk: rethatching the roof in 1994 with the help of an English Heritage grant

For English Christianity, 1997 is a key year as we celebrate 1,400 years since St Augustine arrived in Kent. It also marks 20 years since State Aid for Places of Worship began in 1977. Paula Griffiths reviews the history of grants to churches

Although government grants for outstanding buildings in need of repair was introduced by legislation in 1953, churches were originally excluded from the grant scheme on the grounds that they were not subject to state controls. By 1977, however, overall need for repair of churches was convincing and the churches themselves had agreed that the ecclesiastical exemption from listed building control should be reviewed (see *Conservation Bulletin* **22**, 10–11; **24**, 9; **25**, 16–17; **26**, 10; **28**, 18–19; **30**, 14).
Grants to cathedrals are more recent: originally the Church of England thought that they could manage because of their ability to raise large sums by public appeals, but it became apparent that they too needed considerable work and from 1991 the Government agreed to make extra money available to English Heritage, which was ring-fenced for the first five years.
Church grants were administered by the Department of the Environment until English Heritage was set up in 1984. By the end of 1995–6 we had offered over £90m to churches in use, and by the end of 1996–7 the total offers will exceed £100m. A further £19m had

been offered to 54 cathedrals by the end of 1995–6, many cathedrals receiving grant for several different phases of work.
Although these sums sound high, demand has consistently exceeded supply and careful prioritisation has always had to take place.
In accordance with the best conservation philosophy, we have avoided interfering with historic fabric that is not in urgent need of repair. We have concentrated on repair schemes that are beyond the ability of individual congregations themselves to fund, rather than on straightforward maintenance which ought to be carried out by any prudent building owner, whether ecclesiastical or secular. In addition, we have stressed constantly that thoughtful maintenance, adequately carried out, will minimise future repair needs. For example, roofing materials will eventually come to the end of their natural life but keeping gutters clear can avoid considerable grief in future.
All buildings, including churches, must be 'outstanding' to qualify for an English Heritage grant; this reflects the wording of the legislation. In the early years of the scheme this meant deciding, for each grant application, whether the building concerned was outstanding in its own right.
In 1991 we simplified this by equating outstandingness with a listing at Grade I or II*. However, we realise that this restriction has debarred help to many Victorian churches, particularly in large urban centres which although important and well worthy of listing do not qualify for the higher grades. We are not restricted by denomination: historical factors mean that the majority of grants have gone to Church of England churches, but significant numbers of Roman Catholic and nonconformist buildings have also received grants.

Variation

Grants vary considerably in the amount awarded, the percentage of the total cost represented and the types of churches helped. While a typical grant may be, for example, £25,000, and represent 40 per cent of costs, the range will vary from about £1,000 to six-figure sums. The single largest individual grant – of £435,359 in 1994–5 – currently remains that to Hawksmoor's Christchurch Spitalfields, in London, but many churches have benefited from repeated phases of grant over the years. For example the church of St Margaret's, Kings Lynn, has been offered nearly £400,000 since 1985, and All Saint's, Hereford, over £579,000 in two phases. Each of these three large town churches has also benefited from Lottery grants.
Cathedral grants have also varied enormously: Leicester Cathedral received a total of some £20,000 while Salisbury was offered more than £2m.

Self-help

Each church, whether large or small, has been assessed according to the needs of the building and the financial resources of the congregation. Although many are struggling to deal with extra demands on their own resources in recent years, we do and must expect congregations to seek to contribute towards the repairs themselves.
We have constantly been heartened to see the efforts made by many small congregations to raise the funds to repair their buildings. Many seek grants from other outside bodies, such as the Historic Churches Preservation Trust or a county Historic Churches Trust, but also raise funds through their own efforts, including jumble sales, fêtes and literary evenings and even writing to all the couples married in the church in the recent past, and so on.
Friends organisations can be very successful, tapping into the goodwill of the people in the community who appreciate the building but do not regularly attend church, and stimulate local pride in the building.
It is the congregation's commitment which makes the repairs happen. Our grant, however large, is powerless without that.

A never-ending task

For some churches, repairs may seem to be a never-ending task; but work over the past 20 years has not only improved the state of the fabric of many of our churches and cathedrals but has also introduced a sense of partnership in the care of the buildings. English Heritage firmly believes that the best use for a historic building is that for which it was designed, and this is especially true of churches.

While some congregations may see their historic church as a problem rather than an opportunity, we very much hope that our grants have helped many more recognise the special qualities of these superb buildings and see the building itself as a positive enhancement of their worship.

For the future, English Heritage will be working with the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Joint Scheme for Churches and Other Places of Worship which was launched last October. As readers of *Conservation Bulletin* will know, this scheme will make possible grants to a wider range of buildings and also for new facilities to benefit the wider community or help keep the church itself in use. We are confident that this more extensive scheme will extend the undoubted benefits of the grants of the last 20 years, to the mutual benefit of congregations and our precious heritage of ecclesiastical buildings.

Ely Cathedral, Cambridgeshire, has been offered nearly £2m since the Cathedral Grants scheme began

Paula Griffiths

Secretary, Cathedrals and Churches Advisory Committee

Day schools on heritage management

Discussions from the day schools will be published jointly by English Heritage and Routledge

As we near the end of the 20th century, society is showing an almost unprecedented interest in the physical remains of the past. The years leading up to the Millennium may well be looked back upon as a time of unprecedented threat to the preservation of these remains. The English Heritage Education Service is therefore cooperating with Routledge, a major publisher in this field, to host a series of day schools to discuss a number of issues surrounding the preservation of this heritage and to publish the discussions in a new joint series entitled *Issues in heritage management*.

The first three day schools will discuss ‘Traffic and the historic environment’ (Saturday 15 March 1997); ‘The management of the rural landscape’ (Saturday 26 April 1997) and ‘Preservation and presentation: conservation choices in managing historic sites and buildings’ (Saturday 10 May 1997).

Contributors to each day school and publication will include some of the country’s leading experts in their fields, and discussions are bound to be both stimulating and of real value in mapping options for decision making.

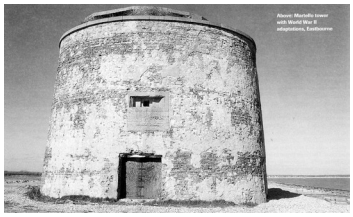
The day schools will be of interest to those people directly involved with the issues under discussion, interested members of the general public and students following a variety of undergraduate and further education courses.

All of the day schools will be held in London in the Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre, Savile Row.
For details, including special rates for English Heritage members, please write to: Issues, English Heritage Education Services, 429 Oxford St, London W1R 2HD; tel 0171 973 3442; fax 0171 973 3443.

Peter Stone

Education Service

Securing a future for Martello towers



Martello tower with World War II adaptations, Eastbourne

Recognising the historic importance of the south coast's Martello towers, built to resist Napoleonic invasion, English Heritage has commissioned a review to provide the basis of a management strategy for their conservation

War with the France of Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 1800s left England's south coast vulnerable to invasion. In response, impressive systems of fixed defences were built to resist an attacker. This integrated system comprised major engineering projects, such as the Royal Military Canal, and a multitude of fortified camps, artillery batteries and redoubts. Another major component was a chain of 74 Martello towers built between Folkestone and Seaford.
A Martello tower is a gun tower built solidly in brick and sited either on the beach itself or on the higher ground behind it, positioned to bombard an invader. They are named after an earlier tower at Mortella Point, Corsica, at which fierce resistance to a British invasion so impressed the army that similar towers were used to defend our own shores.
The south coast Martello tower form is of two storeys, with a single door at first-floor level leading to living accommodation for troops. The ground floor was the magazine. The armament, a single 24-pounder cannon capable of traversing through 360 degrees, was mounted on the roof. Some towers had moats and drawbridges.
As with so many military schemes, that for the south coast was not completed until the invasion threat had largely receded and thankfully the towers were never put to the test. They were soon considered redundant and a process of decline started. Some were sold off and demolished for the vast number of bricks they contained, others were bombarded to test the new high-powered artillery of the 19th century, and still more were lost to the sea. Some surviving towers found a new lease of life in 1939–45, when invasion once more became a threat, but today only 26 towers survive in any recognisable form. One of these has been reduced to a ruin by the sea and few of the remaining 25 have escaped dereliction or conversion to a new use.

Scheduling and conservation

The historic importance of the surviving towers is recognised. Most are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and a few are listed. The challenge now being faced is to manage the towers so as to secure their survival for the appreciation of future generations. English Heritage

commissioned The Conservation Practice to undertake a review of the surviving 26 towers to provide a basis for a management strategy.
The Martello towers survive in varying states of completeness and repair. Some are derelict and others have been heavily altered to convert them into houses. The review has therefore sought to provide basic data on all surviving examples, including completeness and physical condition. It includes outline schedules of work and indicative repair costs for the 12 towers most in need of repair and/or a new use. In addition, the report gives design advice on the issues to be faced in using the towers for domestic accommodation. In fact, the towers do not make good houses and conversion inevitably means some compromise to their historic form and fabric. We do not promote conversion to houses but the needs of those towers which have already been converted must be considered, and also any others which cannot be secured without re-use.

Collaboration with owners

Our intention is to develop a strategy for the future of the individual towers, working in collaboration with the owners and local authorities. This will involve combinations of retaining existing uses of some towers, including monuments and house conversions, and of seeking appropriate new uses for towers that are currently empty or derelict. Not all of the towers will be converted to new uses and some, by virtue of their isolated location, will be best repaired as shells and left as monuments in the countryside and a reminder of this episode in British history.

Towers 1–9

At the eastern end of the system, in Kent, Martello towers Nos 1–9 form an important group. This part of the chain is unbroken and includes some of the most intact examples. The towers stand alongside other major defensive structures of the Napoleonic period and thus illustrate how the coast was to have been defended. Tower No 5 is in good condition and has many original features, including its interior. No 4 is also relatively complete, despite its poor condition. With their owners, the local authority and others we plan to secure the future of these towers.
The Ministry of Defence is important to future plans for the Kent towers as it owns five of them. Two are within active rifle ranges and essential repairs need to be carried out. The other three are surplus to MoD requirements and are proposed for disposal. They are not suitable for residential conversion so more imaginative uses are required. A charitable trust has been formed to promote the preservation of Martello towers and this hopes to take on some of the examples that are currently without a use. For such plans to succeed there needs to be great cooperation between all the parties involved and the Heritage Lottery Fund which has been approached for funds.

East Sussex towers

Most of the East Sussex towers have been lost, but those at Pevensey Bay are important as examples in their original beach setting. The future of these is likely to involve a residential element and the guidance on acceptable means of conversion will be important to assist the owners, the local authority and ourselves in taking forward such work.
At Seaford the local museum is housed in a tower and it is hoped to refurbish this. At Rye Harbour a currently derelict tower might be used as a visitor centre for the adjacent nature reserve. Both proposals are likely to involve applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
The south coast Martello tower study has provided a good understanding of this group of monuments. It provides a basis for a strategy for their conservation as a group, which will guide our response to proposals for any particular tower. Studies such as this lend themselves very well to closely defined groups of similar monuments in a limited geographic location. They have already been carried out for the Plymouth and Portsmouth

defences, and English Heritage hopes to undertake reviews of other historic defence monuments, starting in 1997 with the historic fortifications to the dockyards at Chatham and Sheerness.

First floor interior of troops' living quarters, Folkestone.

A sensitive conversion of a Martello tower in Shorncliffe.

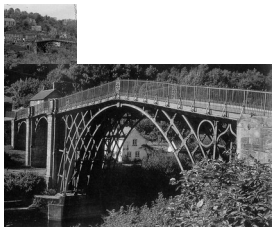
An early, less successful conversion in Hythe.

On the beach in the MoD ranges at Hythe

CP Kendall

Conservation, East Sussex and Kent

Sharing experience and expertise on countryside issues



Ironbridge, a World Heritage Site, was one of the cases studied by members on a North American/UK exchange programme

On both sides of the Atlantic the term 'countryside' is evocative and conjures up many different images. In densely populated Britain, especially, a whole series of inter-related issues – agricultural, social, economic, environmental, recreational – combine to make the future of the countryside a contentious and widely debated subject

One problem in building a consensus on what our countryside should look like, and how it should be managed, is the diversity of interest groups and specialisms. During the early 1980s an American, Dr Henry Jordan, became increasingly concerned that many of these groups were interested only in their own specialism, be it economic development or nature conservation. If they failed to look at the broader context, individuals were often unaware of the legitimate interests of other parties and unable to recognise common themes within separate issues, thus missing opportunities for actions of general benefit.
Dr Jordan was instrumental in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 1986, between the US National Park Service and the Countryside Commission. The objective of the memorandum was to bring together countryside professionals from

both sides of the Atlantic to work on common issues and problems and to share experience and expertise. To ensure that such meetings of minds were anchored in the real world, the principal mechanism chosen was an Exchange Programme in which local organisers in Britain and North America invite a multidisciplinary team to tackle particular issues in a well-defined geographical area.

The teams are usually eight-strong, comprising four representatives from Canada/USA and four from Britain, with a range of specialisms most relevant to the particular case study (eg agriculture, rural development, nature conservation, cultural heritage, or water quality). The teams spend about five days in the study area gathering information from different interest groups, synthesizing it and presenting conclusions and recommendations to a public meeting and in a report completed within the week.

Set out in such dry terms, it is difficult to convey to the uninitiate the sheer intensity of team work, the steep learning curves, the professional development value and the way in which many reports have made recommendations which crack open problems that were thought to be insoluble. ‘Simply the hardest and most rewarding professional development event I’ve ever been on’ was the reaction of Nick Holliday, the director of Countryside Commission’s Corporate Affairs and Sponsorship team, on his return from Pennsylvania in 1995. All this is hard work for the organisers, too, who act as hosts for the exchange teams, provide limitless stores of local knowledge, introductions and information, as well as logistical (and at times moral) support.

The Ironbridge Gorge study

Six exchange case studies took place in the United Kingdom in the autumn of 1996 (one each in Scotland and Wales and four in England). Of particular interest to English Heritage was the exchange based on the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site (WHS), where the team was asked to take an independent overview of the issues relevant to the management of the WHS. Five principal issues were defined: natural resources, interpretation and education, community involvement, visitor management, and management mechanisms and partnerships. The report’s recommendations are backed by almost 90 tasks to secure implementation, ranging from footpath establishment through development of a community involvement and participation policy to the sustainable exploitation of the woodlands, all integrally linked to the management of the industrial archaeological remains – the ‘six square miles which changed the world’.

Other case studies were based in the Clwydian Hills, the Chilterns, the West Midlands, Dumfries and Galloway, and the Fenland, tackling issues as diverse as river valley management, economy and tourism. A small number of English Heritage staff (currently two per year) have been able to benefit from the exchange programme as active participants, both in the UK and North America.

UK sponsors

English Heritage is one of the UK sponsors of the Exchange Programme, together with the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature and the Rural Development Commission. The Countryside Commission remains the lead agency for the programme in the UK, while in North America the Countryside Institute runs the programme. The latter is a not-for-profit organisation founded in 1990 to help communities deal effectively with change and to work towards sustainable futures based on caring for the land, the people who live and work there and their cultural heritage. Organising the exchanges in the UK is carried out by the Centre for Environmental Interpretation, part of Manchester Metropolitan University.

From an employer’s point of view the exchange offers excellent value for money. All that is needed is the cost of transporting the participant to the exchange location and a £50 registration fee. Thereafter the local case study organiser structures the event and covers

costs. Although exhausting for the organiser, eight professionals often working 15–18 hours a day can provide a good return on the time invested. Welcome and review events allow members of different teams to meet and compare notes. While the principal benefit is undoubtedly to the participants and the case study host community, the spin-off to the employer is almost always evident as the individual subsequently applies the knowledge gained in his or her everyday work, while the organiser moves on to implementing recommendations.

Anyone interested in taking part in the exchange programme, as a participant or as a case study organiser, should obtain further details and an application form from: The Centre for Environmental Interpretation, Manchester Metropolitan University, St Augustine's, Lower Chatham Street, Manchester M15 6BY; telephone 0161 247 1067.

Participants in the 1996 exchange considered the contribution to Ironbridge made by the natural and ecological assets of the area and the means of maximising the potential of its legacy of industrial archaeology

Pennsylvania, 1995: exchange members visit the Roebling Aqueduct. Built in 1848–49 by John Roebling (who designed New York's Brooklyn Bridge) it now carries a minor road across the Delaware River.

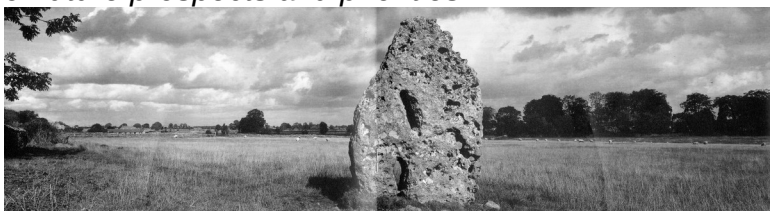
Milford, Pennsylvania, 1995: exchange members debate the merits of this county capital as a historic district

Henry Owen-John

Conservation, West Midlands and North Region

Ten years on – the Monuments Protection Programme

One of English Heritage's earliest initiatives, the Monuments Protection Programme is 10 years old. The time is therefore ripe for a review of past achievements and a consideration of future prospects and priorities



The Long Stone at Minchinhampton, Glos. Such megaliths were believed to have healing powers: mothers would pass their babies through the holes to cure ailments or as a rite of passage

The Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) was created in 1986 after a 1984 report estimated that there were over 600,000 recorded archaeological sites in England of which fewer than 13,000 – an inadequate sample – were scheduled. There was thus a need to protect more nationally important sites by scheduling, although the primary aim of the

Programme is broader: to complete a full-scale review of the known and recorded archaeological resource of England in order to identify the most important sites and thereby help to inform national and local protection policies.

Evaluating the resource

The early years of the Programme were spent developing principles, procedures and systems to allow assessment of the whole archaeological resource in the most efficient manner. With assistance from County Archaeologists and Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) staff throughout the country we began the process of evaluating records held by each SMR using standard guidance, in particular a suite of around 225 specially commissioned monument class descriptions.

This exercise focused on the well known and better-recorded monument types, which represent around half of the known resource. The aim of this work was to provide an initial assessment of the importance of individual sites. One element of the process was an appraisal of each site in the light of the non-statutory criteria for scheduling.

The procedures developed were important in ensuring consistency across region, period and monument class. Thus medieval moated sites or prehistoric hillforts from Cornwall to Northumberland could be evaluated within the same broad parameters. Overall the evaluation exercise, which was finally only completed for the whole country in 1993, provided us with a detailed assessment of a significant part of the archaeological resource and allowed us to begin the process of discriminating between sites in order to identify those meriting consideration for scheduling.

The scale and importance of this initial evaluation programme cannot be underestimated as its results underpin much of our work. A detailed national review of this type had not been achieved before and we are indebted to the many individuals who helped contribute to the success of the exercise.

Fieldwork in action

The backbone of the MPP is provided by our stalwart team of 18 regionally based archaeologists. They take on the immense task of picking up the results of the SMR evaluation exercise and, in close liaison with SMR and other county-based staff, begin the process of visiting sites provisionally identified to be of national importance. Site visits are obviously necessary to check the nature of surviving remains and to confirm our desk-based assessment of them, but are perhaps even more important for allowing us to meet site owners to discuss their needs, explain what we think is important about the sites and describe the effects of the legislation which might be used to protect them.

Following the site visit our archaeologists draft scheduling proposals for sites identified to merit such protection. In due course these are prepared for submission to the Department of National Heritage by our scheduling section with the assistance of expert mapping and computer staff. Our major concern has been to produce significantly improved written and mapped descriptions to provide owners with a much clearer indication of where their monument is and why it is important. We hope that this will help with future management of protected sites and ensure their preservation for the future.

To complement the work of our own archaeologists we have, over the past few years, worked in partnership with other archaeologists outside English Heritage, often with local authority or county staff. This collaboration has become increasingly important to our scheduling work, and extends understanding of the MPP philosophy at the same time.

Our archaeologists require considerable field skills to help them identify, assess and record the wide range of site types on their lists. Additionally, they require a well-developed understanding of wider conservation legislation and philosophies to assist their decision-making. We are committed to helping them develop and enhance these skills

through an on-going training programme not least because we are aware that we are now employing some of the most highly skilled and experienced field interpreters in the country.

Progress with the schedule

Since 1990, when MPP scheduling began in earnest after four years of planning and preparation, the number of scheduled monuments has risen to nearly 17,000, a figure which accounts for between 25,000 and 35,000 sites. Over 3,100 are 'new' monuments, added to the Schedule for the first time, but we have also reconsidered the importance of over 3,600 pre-MPP scheduled monuments and brought their descriptions and mapped depictions up to current standards. Current estimates indicate that a Schedule of *c* 32,000 monuments should cover the 45,000 to 50,000 sites which fit the Secretary of State's criteria for national importance.

National projects

It will be clear from the above that MPP work is progressing well on several fronts. However it was realised early on that currently recorded information, and indeed understanding of many parts of the archaeological resource, was inadequate for our purposes. To remedy this we have commissioned a series of strategic projects at national level, the aim of which is to understand the archaeological resource sufficiently well to ensure that appropriate decisions are made about its protection and management. We found, for example, that there were no organised overarching databases on industrial sites, which were also poorly recorded in many SMRs (*Conservation Bulletin* **27**, 8–9; 20).

The map shows how the MPP has enlarged the Schedule: per cent increase in size of scheduled monuments since 1989–90

Work has now begun on 20 of the 51 industries identified for MPP consideration, while others are being considered by our colleagues in Listing. Work on the lead industry has progressed the furthest and we have visited the majority of the 160 sites identified to merit scheduling. Work on coal sites is also progressing and in 1997 we hope to move on to deal with brass, gunpowder and alum sites among others. The important tin, arsenic and copper industries are not far behind and work also proceeds on evaluating the glass, stone quarrying and iron and steel industries.

Medieval and later settlement remains will also require a more sophisticated approach, particularly to ensure that selection takes account of the regional diversity of settlements in England (*Conservation Bulletin* **26**, 17–19). Work has progressed well on this and our archaeologists have begun field visiting. Overall we have about 2,000 sites to consider, of which relatively few are already scheduled.

One of two 79th century lead smeltmill chimneys at Allendale, Northumberland, proposed for scheduling as a result of the MPP work on industrial sites.

Training – national staff gather at Dartmoor to consider the importance of medieval longhouses on the moor.

MPP archaeologist assessing the importance of a prehistoric round barrow in woodland

The recent defence heritage, including remains of World War I, World War II and the Cold War, is also being tackled at national level (*Conservation Bulletin* **27**, 12–13). These remains present a significant challenge, as relatively little interest has previously been shown in them and consequently our understanding of them is comparatively poor.

In collaboration with our Listing Branch we have commissioned the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) to review defence sites using documentary sources, in particular those in the Public Record Office. The project is providing basic location and typological information on sites, as well as their historical context. This will help guide the CBA's own field survey (the Defence of Britain project) and in due course will help us make sensible decisions on managing and protecting the best examples.

It is important to note that the work of the MPP is not geared solely to scheduling. Increasingly, as we move on to deal with more complex site types, we are involved in considering all practical options for future management and protection. These can include listing or recommending that sites are managed through the planning process, where we feel that such controls will offer a more appropriate form of protection. The project on small towns (*Conservation Bulletin* **30**, 18–19) is another example demonstrating that a wider understanding will enable us to generate strategies for future management. The acknowledged need to manage continued and intensive land-use within towns means that scheduling will have only a limited role to play.

Another national project is also pioneering new approaches to analysis of the archaeological resource with a view to focusing research as well as protection policies. This is work on the flint scatter sites which represent the main source of evidence for domestic settlement and associated land use in England between the Lower Palaeolithic and Early Bronze Age *(Conservation Bulletin* **25**, 9–11).

These sites are frequently poorly recorded and cannot readily be compared one with another. With the Central Archaeology Service we have begun to develop a strategy which will allow a national overview of such sites. This should improve academic understanding of this important resource, but will also provide a firm basis for curatorial decision-making. At present flint scatter sites cannot be protected by scheduling as they are not 'works' (or the remains of 'works') as defined in the 1979 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, but legislative changes have been discussed; in any event we need a robust strategy for assessment of lithic scatters even if they are not to be scheduled.

Future directions

The preceding discussion has outlined the many and various achievements of the MPP over the last decade. Looking forward we also have many plans for the future. Our fieldwork programme will continue as we work through the results of both existing and future evaluations. Our own archaeologists will be fully occupied by this work in addition to which we remain committed to the idea of training others in the required skills by funding partnerships with other bodies.

Further topics need to be tackled at national level. One example is the need for a consistent approach to aerial photograph cropmark sites and we have started to do this in collaboration with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. Additionally a new national project to assess Roman rural settlement will begin shortly.

We are also particularly aware that we need to spread our ideas and approaches more widely and to publicise their results. To help with this we hope to start our second decade with a publication

programme, including improved leaflets for owners and other members of our lay audience and 'technical' handbooks for professional colleagues.

A leaflet providing a more detailed overview of the first 10 years of the Programme will appear shortly. We also wish to keep up with other new communication highways and as a start we are exploring how to place abridged versions of our standard monument descriptions on the Internet.
Overall we have covered much ground during our first 10 years. We hope that our second decade will prove as stimulating!

Margaret R Nieke

Inspector, Monuments Protection Programme

Surveying 20th century fortifications

The remains of Britain's defences in two world wars are being surveyed by the Council for British Archaeology. Report by John Schofield

In December 1994 the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) was commissioned by English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme (MPP) to undertake a national survey of documentary records for several classes of 20th century defence sites. This work has been undertaken for us by Dr Colin Dobinson and some preliminary results were presented by John Schofield and Jeremy Lake in *Conservation Bulletin* **27**, 12–13.
By systematic scanning of material held in the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew, the purpose of this work is to establish as far as possible the original populations, distributions, design principles and context of the works constructed. Eleven major classes of monument will have been studied in this way by the end of 1998 and the resulting information will form a major element of the MPP's national review and evaluation of the archaeological resource (see Margaret Nieke's feature).
The first five classes of monument to have been studied are:
Anti-aircraft defences, 1914–46
Anti-invasion defences of WWII
Bombing decoys of WWII
Diver anti-aircraft sites (defence against the flying bomb), 1944–5
Embarkation works provided for *Operation Overlord*
The remaining reports will cover airfields, coast artillery, air defence radar, civil defence, acoustic early warning and structures of the Cold War. Each report consists of an historical survey, which sets the site type in its context, studies of layout and structure types, gazetteers of locations and compendia of sources which, in some cases (notably AA and *Diver* installations), provide apparatus by which the original documentation pertaining to specific sites may be traced in the PRO. The reports also provide a summary of information on each site type currently logged by English SMRs (Scheduled Monuments Records) the enhancement of which we hope will be one of the first outcomes.
The five reports listed above have been released and are available for consultation at various libraries and other locations. Most notably, copies have been deposited with the National Monument Record (NMR) in Swindon, at the Society of Antiquaries Library, with each of the English SMRs, with a handful of University Departments (Southampton, Reading, Bournemouth, York and Durham), and at the military training schools at Sandhurst, Dartmouth and Cranwell. Although the coverage of these reports is confined to England, copies can also be found at RCHMS, RCHMW, Cadw, Historic Scotland, DoE (Northern Ireland), as well as with national and international bodies such as the Fortress Studies Group and the Defence of Britain Project.
At the time of writing these papers exclude the gazetteers for WWII anti-invasion defences and a large sample of searchlight batteries which, for practical reasons, will be distributed later as a series of supporting papers. The remaining six reports will become available at

intervals before December 1998, while additional work to extend coverage to include Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland is currently under negotiation.
In the light of the growing national interest in the defence heritage, it is hoped that this information proves useful. Further information about the survey, its findings and implications may be obtained from Colin Dobinson at the CBA (Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 2UA). Alternatively, please contact either Jeremy Lake or John Schofield at English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London WIX 1AB.

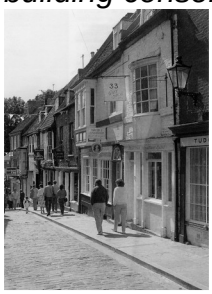
Location of defensive lines planned in V Corps, July 1940: arrows show the direction which the position was intended to face; open circles indicate nodal points (from the report, Anti-invation measures of World War Two*)*

John Schofield

Inspector, Monuments Protection Programme

LBC streamlining proposals approved

Paul Drury reports on the response to English Heritage's proposals for streamlining listed building consent procedures



Steep Hill, Lincoln.

In *Conservation Bulletin* **29**, (July 1996, p12), we summarised our proposals for streamlining Listed Building Consent (LBC) procedures. The response to our consultation paper on this issue was overwhelmingly favourable. The Royal Town Planning Institute, for example, said that 'The proposal to end "double handling" of applications by English Heritage and Government Regional Offices is long overdue. The current system has lost its rationale, and gives an impression of unnecessary bureaucracy to applicants and the general public'. As well as establishing general support for the principle of our proposals, the responses raised some important practical points and concerns, which have been incorporated into the final version of our proposals. This version has been submitted, with a summary of the responses, to the Departments of National Heritage and Environment. (Copies of the proposal are available to readers. To obtain a copy, please telephone 0171 973 3430.)
Although not central to the subject of the consultation, respondents supported our general sentiment of trying to secure adequate conservation competence and resources at local authority level, while expressing concern about how it could be funded. This, indeed, reflects a general concern among conservation and property interests about the wide variation in the resources, expertise and interpretation of national policies of local planning authorities. This concern led us to consider how these crucial issues might be addressed, against a background of continuing pressure on local government resources.

Funding local conservation

We have long expressed the view that the heritage responsibilities of all local authorities (which are not necessarily proportionate to size, population, or other conventional measures) should be considered in the Government's assessment of their financial needs – the Standard Spending Assessment. Planning itself, however, is a very small part of the calculation, and weighting the figures to allow for heritage factors such as conservation would probably cause so little change that it would be lost in rounding. Moreover, there is no direct link between the method of assessment and how each local authority chooses to use its resources within the CAP.

A more straightforward method would be to introduce charges for LBC and conservation area consent. This would have the considerable advantage of being directly related to the heritage responsibilities of each planning authority and the provision of a service. The cost would be the responsibility of those who wish to make changes, which is an arrangement very much in line with current thinking about public services. Recently, the Secretary of State for the Environment, in raising planning application fees, stated that he now expects the fees to cover the cost of development control.

The reasons traditionally advanced for not charging for LBC are that it would tend to discourage applications, particularly by householders, for works that are not development or are permitted development in planning terms, and so not the subject of parallel planning applications; and that the burdens imposed by listing are already onerous. On the other hand, the lack of a charge is a disincentive to planning authorities to be assiduous in ensuring that applications are made for works that require LBC. We are aware that some openly regard it as a 'burden'.

The burden argument in relation to householders might be countered by the VAT concessions, but acceptance of works with LBC exempted by Customs and Excise is not consistent. It would in any case be undesirable to base the imposition of charges on a concession to which English Heritage is opposed on the grounds that it encourages unnecessary alteration.

Nonetheless, the climate has changed since planning fees were introduced. Charges for specific services or consents are now the norm, and commercial concerns in particular are much more concerned about the quality, consistency and speed of service than about a modest charge.

The least contentious approach would be to charge only where the work constituted development, and so normally involving a gain for the applicant, by increasing planning application fees where the proposals were accompanied by a parallel LBC or conservation area consent application (or, possibly, for any planning application in a conservation area). Such an approach seems a very attractive way of contributing towards the cost of providing conservation expertise in local authorities, since it would closely mirror the responsibilities of each authority. Because, in effect, it would amount to no more than an amendment to the scale of charges of an existing system, the cost of collection would, in fact, be minimal. Such an approach would do much to foster a climate of expectation of a professional and prompt service in dealing with conservation matters, and would also encourage the proper provision of appropriate expertise. Additionally, services linked to income inevitably have a higher priority, and this might well have the effect of raising the status of conservation staff. However, to ensure that the income really did bring about a sustained improvement in provision of conservation expertise, it would need to be coupled with effective monitoring.

Monitoring local conservation

At present, the Secretary of State for National Heritage 'may, from time to time, direct a district planning authority to submit' to her for her approval, within a specified period, the arrangements which the authority proposes to make to obtain specialist advice necessary

to their conservation functions (Planning [Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas] Act 1990, Sch 4, para 7). If the Secretary of State is 'not satisfied about any such arrangement' she may direct the authority to enter into an agreement with another authority for the purpose of giving them any such specialist advice. This provision originated in the 1972 Act, in the context of the devolution of responsibility for the determination of listed building consent applications from county to district level. It was extended under the Local Government Act 1985 to those unitary authorities created as a result of the current round of reform and indeed, the Secretary of State has asked these authorities for a statement of the arrangements they propose to make.

We have long realised that significant improvement in the currently patchy provision of conservation expertise, and with it consistency of decision-making, will be dependent upon improved monitoring of local authority performance, with the ability to insist that authorities provide at least a minimum level of resources and expertise in relation to their heritage responsibilities. We believe that the key to this is revision of the existing provisions to include all local planning authorities, and the Secretary of State being prepared to exercise these powers on the advice of English Heritage. There now appears to be widespread support among users of the system for such change, and the parallel introduction of a new source of income to support the conservation role should, we believe, make the total package acceptable to all involved.

Our experience in negotiating 'conservation agreements' in London has shown that agreement between local authorities and English Heritage, on a pragmatic basis, on what is an adequate level of specialist resource in relation to a borough's heritage responsibilities is readily reached without recourse to formulae, which are of limited value, given the wide range of organisational structures and divisions of responsibility in planning departments. Judgement of what constitutes a qualified conservation officer will become much easier from April this year, when the Association of Conservation Officers is due to become the Institute for Historic Building Conservation, with validation of professional skills.

We would be very interested to hear your views on these further proposals.

The Bird's Eye Offices, Walton on Thames. Two representative examples, residential and corporate, 'old' and post-war, of listed buildings for which LBCs are applied

Paul Drury

Director, Conservation, London and South East Region

BOOKS

Lurks, pig's lugs, raggles and skews

Leadwork*, edited by Lynne Carson Rickards, 1996, published by the Glasgow West Conservation Trust, 30 Cranworth Street, Hillhead, Glasgow, G12 8AG*

There have been many publications romanticising building materials such as thatch and stone slates but lead has never quite gripped the imagination. *Leadwork* goes some way towards rectifying this imbalance.
The text is divided into 10 sections covering various topics including the properties of lead and its manufacture. There are numerous relevant drawings and photographs, including historical drawings from earlier texts. The book focuses on the use of lead in Glasgow and the development of the industry in Scotland. It is rich in vernacular terminology: lurks, pig's lugs, raggles and skews being far more expressive than their current equivalents. Only once is there a hint of superiority when 'bossing' is described: 'English and Welsh plumbers *boss* their lead sheet when dressing it into shape, whereas the Scottish plumber will *work* it'.
The technical sections are comprehensive and acknowledgements have been accorded to the Lead Sheet Association for its help. Though some of the information is similar to that given in the Lead Sheet Association Manual, it has been selected to deal with issues relevant to the building types in Glasgow's West End.
One shortcoming is that too much space is devoted to the problems of corrosion risks and their relationship to underlays, ventilation and condensation. English Heritage's research has indicated that avoidance of some corrosion from below can be difficult, particularly where acids from hardwoods, eg oak, are present. Other timbers also produce acids and in damp situations some modern timber panel products can become corrosive.
A rosy view is also taken of ventilation and geo-textile underlays. While they help acids and moisture to disperse, they do not reduce underside corrosion and can actually increase it. Even the modern 'ventilated warm roof, which is recommended, is difficult to accommodate on many historic buildings. These comments should not be seen as criticisms of this highly commendable document. There is a dearth of good material on lead and this will help to fill this void.

Chris Wood

Architectural Conservation

All about stone

Stone conservation: an overview of current research*, by CA Price, 1996, published by the Getty Conservation Institute, $25*

This critical look at research into stone conservation arises out of a feeling among many people in the field that while research papers and journals are prolific, the information provided lacks quality and fails to guide practitioners into the new approaches that are needed for stone conservation. Dr Price's timely and refreshing book will therefore prove invaluable to professionals and practitioners, particularly as it answers many questions about research and practice.
The first chapters consider the mechanisms and measurement of stone decay. Chapter 3 is a must for anyone treating stone. The chapter on conservation policy looks at the responsible use of surface coatings and consolidants and the recording of stone that cannot be preserved. Each of the chapters is dotted with summaries of research papers and the value of each publication is assessed. The final chapter looks at the pitfalls for publications, conferences, conducting research and the applicability of research results to practice, and presents a strategy for putting this right. This chapter will probably draw greatest comment from those involved in conservation research, but most of this should be

positive. An extensive Appendix lists the publications scrutinised during the writing of the book. While this will enable readers to locate easily further information on the papers referred to, many of us will be happy to rely on Dr Price's excellent summaries.
The book demonstrates that significant advances are being made, but nevertheless concludes that some research is poorly focused and that the small resources available are not being used to the hest effect.
Dr Price presents some of the clearest explanations of key conservation practices that I have ever read. I highly commend this book to all specialist professionals and practitioners: it should be read for its excellent advice and its clear setting out of basic principles.

Nicola Ashurst

Technical Consultant to Architectural Conservation, English Heritage

Plymouth's ring of fire

The historic defences of Plymouth*, by Andrew Pye and Freddy Woodward, 1996, published by Cornwall County Council, £17*

Plymouth Sound has one of the most extensive and complete groups of coastal fortifications in the UK. These defences were built primarily to defend the naval dockyard at Devonport, begun in the 1690s, but their history stretches back to the late medieval period.
This publication is the first comprehensive survey of its kind and covers all the defences in the area, from late medieval blockhouses to World War II anti-aircraft sites. There is a brief history of each of the 216 sites surveyed, a description of their main components and plans and photos of almost all of the sites. The text and illustrations show clearly that, in the main, the fortifications were built as part of an interrelated system.
The book includes 122 plans and 174 plates. The plans of the sites are in two colours to indicate underground features and there are numerous historic plans and maps. There are several ground and aerial shots, the latter essential to appreciating the scale and complexity of the larger forts. The photos also indicate the problems associated with the management of the sites, which are sometimes shown engulfed by caravans.
Unfortunately, the contrast on some photographs is not as clear as it might have been. Another criticism is the lack of page numbers in the site index, which is otherwise excellent in cross-referring the reader to period maps and different sections of the book.
The survey is a model of cooperative endeavour, sponsored by English Heritage, Devon and Cornwall County Councils, Caradon District Council and the Fortress Study Group South West. The survey work was carried out by Exeter Archaeology and it was published under the aegis of Cornwall Archaeological Unit.
All six local planning authorities and English Heritage agreed on a future conservation strategy: an outline of which is given here. In addition, proposals are included for increasing public awareness; one of these was for a travelling exhibition – called 'Ring of Fire' – which has been touring the area since last summer.
The publication is designed to appeal to local people as well as to forts buffs, the idea being that conservation depends as much on local interest as on statutory designations. In this regard it has been an outstanding success and is already being reprinted. I wonder how many other archaeological survey publications have sold out that quickly?

Rob Iles

NOTES

New EH publications

The value of conservation? a literature review of the economic and social value of the cultural built heritage, by Gerald Allison, Susan Ball, Paul Cheshire, Alan Evans, and Mike Stabler. £6.50, ISBN 1 85074 658 3, Code XC20000. A review of literature from the UK, Europe and the USA on the value of the cultural built heritage which provides an analysis of the methods used to measure the benefits to society of conserving historic buildings and areas. This is the third stage of research jointly sponsored by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, English Heritage and the Department of National Heritage.
The Monuments Protection Programme 1986–96 in retrospect, by Gill Chitty and Graham Fairclough. Free. Code XH20033. Covering SMR-based evaluation, national evaluations and landscape assessment.
New archaeological monographs include: *The baths basilica, Wroxeter, excavations 1955–90,* by Philip Barker (ISBN 185704 528 5, Code XC10848); *Birdoswald, excavations of a Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall and its successor settlements: 1987–92,* by Tony Wilmott (£45, ISBN 1 85074 646 X, Code XA20000); *England's coastal heritage*, by T Champion (£40, ISBN 1 85074 630 3, Code XC10853); *Mawgan Porth, a settlement of the late Saxon period on the north Cornish coast*, by Rupert Bruce-Mitdford, edited by RJ Taylor (£30, ISBN 1 85074 613 3, Code XA10833); *St Bride's church London, archaeological research 1952–60 and 1992–5*, by Gustav Milne (£30, ISBN 1 85074 627 3, Code XC10850).
The English Heritage directory of building limes, edited by Jeanne Marie Teutonico (published by English Heritage/Donhead Publishers, Shaftesbury, £12.95, ISBN 1 873394 21 7). Building limes and how to use them, plus a list of producers and suppliers of lime-based products; also features a product finder chart, bibliography and glossary.
Modern matters: principles and practice in conserving recent architecture, edited by Susan Macdonald (English Heritage/Donhead Publishers, Shaftesbury, £35, ISBN 1 873394 23 3). Papers from the 1995 conference of the same title, offering solutions to conservation problems.

Fire safety

The Architectural Conservation and the Major Projects Teams have prepared publications on fire safety. From the former comes a series of 'advisory notes', 'Fire safety in cathedrals', which includes *Fire safety management in cathedrals, a general introduction and advisory note*, a co-publication with the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England. This introduces the other titles in the series: *Prevention of loss or damage by fire in cathedrals*; *Smoke detection systems for cathedrals*; *Evacuation of visitors from cathedrals in the event of fire*. From Major Projects come two 'technical guidance note' titles: *Timber panelled doors and fire, upgrading the fire resistance performance of timber panelled doors and frasmes*, and *The use of intumescent products in historic buildings*.

'Framing Opinions' in US conference

The US Historic Windows Conference, 'Windows II', held in Washington, DC in February, featured English Heritage's 'Framing Opinions' campaign and John Fidler, Head of the EH Architectural Conservation Team, delivered one of the keynote opening speeches.
The National Park Service, responsible for building conservation in the USA, sought EH's co-sponsorship and participation in its major international symposium on the repair and maintenance of windows. The event was attended by over 800 delegates.

Readers may be surprised to discover that there are more intact 18th-century buildings in both Annapolis, Maryland, and Charleston, South Carolina, than in Lewes or Rye, and Charleston and the Vieux Carre district of New Orleans had historic areas legislation in the 1930s, long before the Civic Amenities Act began to protect conservation areas in England.
The National Park Service has been impressed by EH's parallel campaign, particularly in regard to the alliances we have built in public, private and voluntary sectors to maximise our resources. By participating in this event we have supported a transatlantic conservation cause.

Other publications

Recent publications include: *Architectural ceramics: their history, manufacture and conservation*, introduction by John Fidler (James and James [Science Publishers]; £25/$40, ISBN 1 873936 44 3). Thirteen papers from a joint English Heritage/UK Institute for Conservation symposium on the use of architectural ceramics and their preservation.
Metal 95, edited by Ian MacLeod (James and James [Science Publishers]; £50/$75, ISBN 1 873936 67 2). The proceedings of the ICOM-CC Metals Working Group conference held in France in 1995.
Journal of Architectural Conservation (Donhead). Now in its third volume (Vol 1, No 1 was reviewed in *Con Bull* **27**) it expands its international coverage. Also by Donhead: *Practical stone masonry*, by P Hill and J David (£32, ISBN 1 873394 14 4); *Processes of urban stone decay*, edited by BJ Smith and PA Warke (£35, ISBN 1 873394 20 9); *Surveying historic buildings*, by D Watt and P Swallow (£35, ISBN 1 873394 16 0).

Architectural Heritage Fund

AHF, founded in 1976, has helped save hundreds of buildings for reuse by making low-interest loans to local buildings preservation trusts. A publication, *The Architectural Heritage Fund: the first twenty years*, *is* available from AHF, 27 John Adams St, London WC2N 6HX; tel 0171 925 0199.

Countryside conservation

Common Ground has published *A manifesto for fields* and *Field days – ideas for investigations and celebrations*. The first presents arguments for a holistic approach to farming and landholding, while *Field days* suggests activities which promote awareness of how important fields are.

Period House Restoration

One-day course for building owners at The Long Room of The String of Horses, Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, on 12 Apr and 13 Sept. Contact David Gresham, 38 Woodlands Rd, Moseley, Birmingham B11 4HE; tel 0121 449 5666.

Traditional skills

Essex County Council has begun a series of courses on repairing and conserving traditional buildings in one of the barns at Cressing Temple, nr Witham. Courses include joinery repair, lime mortar and pointing, lime renders and plasters, rubbed and gauged brickwork, flint walling and wattle and daub in-fill panels. Details from Anne Holden, Essex County Council (Historic Buildings and Design Section), PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX; tel 01245 437666.

Conferences

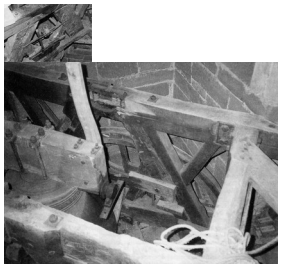
The Heritage Coordination Group's conference, 'Endangered Buildings of Church and State – use them or lose them' is on 19 May at the Museum of London (£20). Details and application forms from the Conference Organiser, 32 Brackendale Rd, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2JR; tel 01276 26208; fax 01276 682602.

'The Health of Our Heritage', the 1997 National Conservation Conference, on 9 May in the Assembly Room, Bath has as its theme 'non-destructive techniques in the diagnosis, analysis and repair of old buildings'. Contact David Cowan, 01342 410242, or Helen Brackley, 01892 515878.

A symposium, 'The Gardens at Chiswick House after Lord Burlington' (£17.50), on 28 May at Chiswick Community School, Burlington Lane, London, considers the changes made by the Devonshires and looks at the current conservation programme. Includes a tour of the grounds, coffee, lunch and tea. For tickets, send a cheque, payable to Chiswick House Friends, and an sae to Anne Hughes, 47 Chiswick Quay, London W4 3UR.

Keeping the church bells ringing

The Conservation Engineering Team has now been advising on the suitability for repair of church bellframes for 10 years and has inspected and reported on more than 200 cases



Above: the 18th-century Powick bellframe, Worcestershire, awaits repair

In November 1986 Paul Drury objected to the demolition of two 17th-century kingposted bellframes in Gloucestershire: one at Ampney Crucis and the other at Toddenham. In both cases, the bellhanger's reports at that time were typical: the frames were badly decayed and of no further use for full circle ringing; they should be replaced by a new cast iron and steel frame. In subsequent correspondence, none of the bellhangers would quote for a repair option and thought that their reputation would be damaged if things went wrong. The sad result was that both frames were removed and only representative sideframes were retained.

Changing attitudes

By the late 1980s, demolition was still the norm. However, by then more proposals were being referred to English Heritage for approval as a condition of a previous grant. Also, bellframe repair became grant eligible as part of the structure and was no longer seen as a church fitting with only limited scope for grant aid. St Mary, in Pakenham, Suffolk, was the first case to benefit under the new rules. Here, a huge bellframe was built in the 15th century for three large bells and later adapted, probably in the 17th century, to take two more. There was no space to rehang the bells lower in the tower and after the Anglia Team rejected an application from the parish to demolish the frame, the Conservation Engineering Team specified and supervised the structural repairs as part of a grant aid package. Work was completed in 1993.

During the work at Pakenham, the Conservation Engineering Team had the opportunity to help draft a new *Code of practice for the conservation and repair of bells and bellframes* and also to chair a small committee of experts in anticipation of a national bellframe survey.

The *Code of practice* was published by the Council for the Care of Churches in 1993; funding for the national survey was not forthcoming but led to support from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and an Essex County survey funded by English Heritage.

Checks and measurements

The Conservation Engineering Team's work has gained the confidence of the trade, some Diocesan Advisory Committees, and the Committee of the Central Council of Church Bellringers, who now meet English Heritage on a regular basis. We are able to check tower sway by optical plumbing, investigate old tower cracks by strain gauge, measure frame distortion relative to the tower and probe timber decay in a non-destructive way using our timber decay detecting drill.

From a structural viewpoint, we recognise that a bellframe is a machine that needs to carry large dynamic forces with negligible distortion. We also recognise that where a new frame is required, the design is equally important to keep disturbance of the existing fabric to a minimum. Much progress has been made in ensuring that bellframes to be demolished or altered are properly recorded, although there is still some reluctance from the parish to budget for this in the overall scheme.

Additional English Heritage role

Over the past 12 months the team has taken on a new role and has inspected and commented on the heritage merit and technical viability of more than 30 applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund to rehang bells. Under the new joint grant scheme for churches, it is anticipated that there will be many more applications and, with the help of the Council for the Care of Churches and the Central Council of Church Bellringers, bell historians are being approached to help compile specialist reports, particularly on the heritage merit of the bells and bellframes.

Another source of funding has been from the Millennium Fund and although English Heritage is not directly involved, the Fund has produced a rush of schemes where English Heritage approval is required. The award from the Millennium Fund of £3 million to the Central Council of Church Bellringers to repair unringable rings of bells and cast new ones for the Millennium produced more than 400 applications by the closing date on 31 December 1996.

Powick, Worcs

Since Pakenham, there have only been a few cases where English Heritage grant aid has been offered for repair to a bellframe for full circle ringing. One of these is at Powick, in Worcestershire, where an 18th-century frame is set diagonally in the top of the tower and carries a heavy ring of six bells with a 23cwt tenor. With ever increasing demand on scarce resources, it is unlikely that the situation will improve. There have been other repairs attempted, but some of these have not been entirely successful. Repair is not a cheap option and, from experience to date, it is likely to be more expensive than rehanging the bells in a new frame on new steel foundation beams. It is hoped that the Heritage Lottery Fund grant will encourage repair where it is indeed practical. If inspections carried out thus far are any indication, there are already a number of suitable cases.

Graham Pledger

Conservation Engineering, Senior Engineer

New team to advise on historic buildings

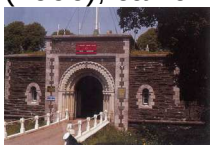
Administrative restructuring will increase our expertise for advising on the care of historic buildings. Paul Drury reports

In October 1996, the Conservation Unit of the Department of National Heritage was transferred to English Heritage. It has been merged with our Central Government and Palaces Team to form a new, national team with unrivalled experience in advising Government departments on the care of their historic buildings. The new unit is now known as the Government Historic Buildings Advisory Unit (GHBAU) and is led by John Thorneycroft (0171 973 3800). We hope that it will be up to strength by March.

The unit's role is primarily to help government departments to manage their historic estates effectively and appropriately, and especially to help them identify opportunities, find the right consultants and contracts, and deal with problems. It is, and will remain, quite separate from our regional conservation teams, which deal primarily with statutory applications and their equivalent for Crown buildings, clearances under DoE Circular 18/84 procedures, but a great advantage of the new arrangements will be more rapid communication between the Unit and those teams.

Among the specific tasks of the Unit are preparing biennial overview reports for the Secretary of State for National Heritage on the extent and condition of the Government's historic estate; helping Government departments secure the future of historic buildings at risk on their estates, either through re-use or disposal; maintaining the central computerised register of the Government's historic estate (for the UK as a whole); organising an annual conservation seminar for departmental conservation officers; and producing published guidance, with the priority to produce a revised edition of *The historic buildings conservation guide for government departments*, published in 1992.

For former Conservation Unit publications, including annual reports on the Government's historic estate for 1993/4 and 1994/5, and *Whitehall: a guide to good conservation practice* (1996), call 0171 973 3434.



Crown Hill Fort Ancient Monument, c1860; sold to the Landmark Trust by the MoD, it has been converted to workshops and office space.

Tower House Ancient Monument, late 16th-century: a garden house converted to judges' lodgings arranged on four floors, with interesting window mouldings

Paul Drury,

Director, Conservation, London and South East Region

Christian Heritage Year

AD 597 marked two important events in the history of Christianity in Britain: the death of St Columba, the leader of the Celtic Christian church which was now, after the Anglo-Saxon invasions, concentrated in the west and north of the country, and the arrival in Kent of St Augustine, the envoy of Pope Gregory, whose mission was to convert the pagan English. In 1997, 1,400 years later, English Heritage is celebrating this twin anniversary by focusing on the immense influence that Christianity has had on the architectural history and heritage of this country.

As is covered elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, English Heritage has perhaps the major role in preserving the architecture of our superb Christian heritage through our large grant-giving programmes for churches, chapels, and cathedrals. Through our dedicated listing and scheduling work, and through our diligent research into procedures for architectural conservation, we ensure that the buildings and monuments of the Christian past and present are preserved for the future. For example, *Conservation Bulletin* **22** (March 1994) included an article on a major grant-giving programme for Liverpool's Catholic cathedral, listed at Grade II* and one of only seven post-war ecclesiastical buildings to have been listed. Although only 30 years old, structural problems mean that this striking and unique building needs our high-quality research and our financial help to survive. Scattered elsewhere through back issues of the *Bulletin* are many more examples of important archaeological and conservation work by English Heritage on Christian architecture.

Added to this, of over 400 historic properties in our care, more than 100 are directly related to our Christian heritage. These range from the magnificent monastic ruins of Rievaulx and Mount Grace in North Yorkshire to small ruined chapels and chantries across the country. Many of the sites are of deep significance to the history of Christianity in England: for example, the Synod held at Whitby Abbey in AD 664 saw the union of the two Christian traditions, while our site at Old Sarum holds the ruins of the only cathedral in our care, which was moved to a new site at Salisbury in the 13th century. And of course St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury is the most important direct link to Augustine himself. We therefore have every reason to celebrate this anniversary.

We launched our programme in February in the great Chapter House of Westminster Abbey when our Chairman, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, announced a grant for the conservation of the medieval glazed tile floor there, which is the oldest and largest in England and has survived seven centuries of use in a remarkable state of preservation. The highlight of the year will be the opening by the Archbishop of Canterbury in May of a new museum within the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury. Exhibits will include relics of St Thomas à Becket on loan from Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, and Becket's mitre from Westminster Cathedral, loaned by Cardinal Hume. Our sites will host concerts, exhibitions, plays, lectures and flower festivals focused on the theme, and our shop at Lindisfarne Priory will soon be stocking a range of the exclusive and collectable Lindisfarne Silver, produced locally using images from the Lindisfarne Gospels and only available at selected jewellers.

Our Education Service and our Publications team are producing new books and videos to support these events. *A teacher's guide to churches, chapels and cathedrals*, a souvenir guide to St Augustine's Abbey, a new book in our Batsford series, *St Augustine's Abbey* by Richard Gem, and a video, *England's Christian heritage – how church buildings evolved* complement titles already in print, eg *Life in a medieval abbey* by Tony McAleavy. In June a pilgrimage from Old Sarum to Salisbury will be supported by a new booklet, *A tale of two cathedrals*, about the move to a medieval 'new town'. Details of all these publications can be found in our 1997/8 catalogue of publications, enclosed with this issue of the *Bulletin*.

This wide range of activities is summed up and detailed in our full-colour Christian Heritage map, which shows a selection of sites that can be visited – some in the care of English Heritage but also a range of other ecclesiastical, multi-denominational buildings – and also gives the route of an ecumenical pilgrimage in May from Rome to Canterbury and then on to Christian sites over the whole of Britain.

Val Horsler

Head of Publications

Free souvenir map!

Augustine and a small group of monks avived in Kent in AD 597, on the order of Pope Gregory I, to convert King Ethelbert. 1,400 years later, we are taking the opportunity to celebrate the immense influence that Christianity has had on our Heritage.

We are pleased to enclose with this issue of Conservation Bulletin our free, souvenir map showing a selection of important churches, cathedrals, chapels, abbeys and events which you can visit and learn more about this heritage.

If you would like further copies of the map please write or telephone our Customer Services team: Room 305, 429 Oxford Street, London WIR 2HD; telephone 0171 973 3000; fax 0171 973 3430.