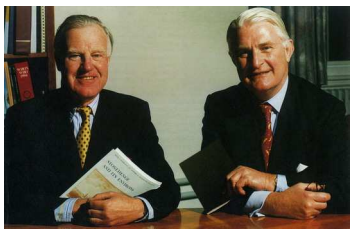
Conservation Bulletin, Issue 35, April 1999

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

Historic merger for the heritage



Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, with the former Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Lord Faringdon, who joined the English Heritage Commission in April when the two organizations were merged

A new lead body for the heritage was created in April with the merger of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England with English Heritage

This has been an important few months for English Heritage and for conservation in England. The results of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review have been announced, including the decision that English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England should be merged to become the single lead body for the identification, documentation and conservation of the historic environment. That this has been successfully achieved in little more than six months is a tribute to the enthusiasm and professionalism of the staff involved. The new English Heritage became fully operational on 1 April 1999.

At the same time we have been establishing a new regional structure, bringing together the advisory, grant-giving and property management aspects of our work and creating integrated regional teams that will be able to work more effectively with our local and regional partners. These new teams have now been set up, and we shall be moving into our new regional offices in each of the nine English regions during the summer. The new teams will be far more accessible, and our processes more transparent. As a single integrated organisation we shall be able to make better use of our own properties as exemplars of good conservation practice.

The editors would like to apologise for the long delay in publishing issue 35 of Conservation Bulletin. As described in the editorial, above, English Heritage and the

RCHME amalgamated on 1 April. Owing to the extra work and planning involved in this reorganisation, several topics planned for the November and March issues were inordinately delayed. We would like to thank our readership for their patience.

Speeding up procedures

At regional level we are looking forward to working closely with local authorities and the other cultural agencies in the proposed new Regional Cultural Consortia, while maintaining the close links we already enjoy with the environmental sector. By identifying common interests and working where possible in partnership with other agencies, we can reinforce the case that environmental and cultural concerns are an essential part of sustainable social and economic regeneration – that the historic environment needs to be seen as an opportunity, not just a constraint.

In addition to the Emergency Works and Advice Scheme (reported on the opposite page), we have announced a new Joint Church Grant Scheme with the Heritage Lottery Fund and a Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS), the successor to the Conservation Area Partnership Scheme (CAPs). We are also working on a new secular grant scheme, to be launched later in the year, covering scheduled ancient monuments and Grade I and II* listed buildings, and registered landscapes. In reviewing our grant processes and drawing up these new schemes we are focusing not only on their effectiveness in delivering results, but on their user-friendliness. Applicants need to know what information will be required from them, why, and when, and what the criteria are that will be used in determining their application. All too often in the past even successful applicants have been baffled and irritated by opaque and time-consuming procedures.

The next few months will see a number of important initiatives that could have a profound effect on the future of the historic environment in England. The Government's new Regional Development Agencies will be drawing up and announcing their strategies; further proposals will be coming forward for changes to the planning system; the Government will be publishing urban and rural White Papers; and we shall see important changes in European structural funds and possibly in the Common Agricultural Policy. The new English Heritage, with its acknowledged lead role and its greatly strengthened regional presence, will be well placed to influence all these debates.

Pam Alexander

Chief Executive

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Regional headquarters: Manchester.
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Grant scheme for worst-case scenario

In November 1998 English Heritage launched a new Emergency Works and Advice Scheme. It will run initially for a one-year pilot period. If successful, it may become a permanent addition to our grant schemes

The Emergency Works and Advice Scheme is targeted at privately-owned occupied buildings and structural scheduled ancient monuments. It is designed to help owners deal with sudden catastrophes and unforeseeable circumstances and to prevent dramatic deterioration in a building or monument's condition: to 'buy time' for it until a permanent solution can be implemented. Such instances may include fire, flood or storm damage,

subsidence, major vehicular impact, vandalism, or other events which have caused significant damage or structural instability, and which may lead to imminent collapse or loss of historic fabric.
English Heritage will consider an application for an emergency work grant in parallel with, or prior to, an application for a grant for long-term repairs under one of our other grant schemes. This will mean that it can be assessed much more quickly, and any necessary emergency work implemented, while we are considering an application for substantive repairs. Grants will not be offered retrospectively for emergency works that have already been carried out.

Seeking advice

The scheme is triggered by contacting English Heritage's regional offices. Callers will quickly be put in touch with one of our professional advisers who will determine how English Heritage can help, and then deliver that help quickly. This might include advice over the telephone on technical issues (eg 'how do I shore up a damaged wall without further damaging the historic features?') or procedural issues (eg 'will I need listed building consent?'). It might include a site visit from a conservation architect or engineer. Advice will in all cases be tailored to the nature of the emergency and the immediate needs of the building. In many cases the cost of emergency works will be covered by insurance, but in some cases, our advice will lead on to an emergency works grant. To be eligible for a grant under the pilot scheme, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

Listed buildings
the building must be listed Grade I or II*, or Grade II and in a conservation area. In Greater London, in exceptional circumstances we can also consider applications for Grade II buildings outside conservation areas
the building must be occupied (except where temporary vacation of the premises is necessary for health and safety reasons)
the building must be in private ownership.

Scheduled ancient monuments
the monument must be a building or a standing ruin, not an earthwork or a field monument.
there are no conditions related to occupancy or ownership.
some scheduled ancient monuments are also listed buildings. If so, they will be treated as ancient monuments.

Is work needed as a matter of emergency?

The work must be necessary immediately to protect the overall stability or integrity of the building or monument and/or to preserve specific important features or elements, such as a collapsing parapet or decorative ceiling.

Eligible works

The proposed work must be the minimum necessary, using the most cost-effective means to achieve the objective. They should normally be temporary and reversible, but permanent repairs may be considered where this is the most effective way of achieving the desired short term result.
We would expect the work to hold good for at least six months to one year.

Examples might include:
works to prevent structural collapse: eg propping, shoring, scaffolding

works to prevent water ingress caused by major damage to the roof or structural envelope: eg temporary roof covering
where it is not possible to make certain elements or features of the building or monument stable or structurally sound in situ, careful dismantling, for storage and later repair and reinstatement, may need to be considered. (This work may require statutory consent.)
emergency archaeological recording may be required as a condition of a grant offer. This may apply where historic fabric is to be dismantled, or where the work (eg shoring) involves ground disturbance to a scheduled ancient monument.
English Heritage will consider the payment of professional fees up to a maximum of 10% of the cost of the work or £200, whichever is the greater.

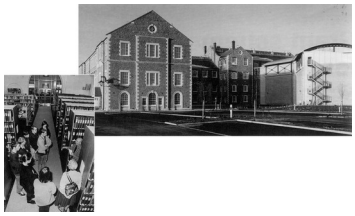
David Fraser

Regional Director, Yorkshire and the Humber

Detail from the leaflet published by English Heritage advertising the new scheme

Shaping up for the 21st century

The conclusions of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Spending Review issued in December 1998 will shape England's heritage sector in the 21st century and are already bringing English Heritage wider responsibilities for the historic environment. Kate Anderton of Central Planning reports



The National Monuments Record Centre in Swindon, exterior and interior showing the Public Search Rooms

Battle Abbey, Sussex, in addition to being a site in our care, is both an important battlefield site and a habitat requiring environmental monitoring

In December the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issued *A new cultural framework*, a paper containing the principal conclusions of its Comprehensive Spending Review. The Review had involved an extensive reassessment of the functioning and priorities of the DCMS and its sponsored bodies and had included a consultation exercise in the second half of 1998 which attracted more than 1,000 responses.
This major undertaking by the DCMS formed part of a wider review taking place across Government since New Labour's election in May 1997. Of the many documents to come out of Whitehall as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review, *A new cultural framework* is by far the most significant in terms of shaping the English Heritage of the 21st century. It contains dozens of decisions, many of them far-reaching, that affect all the DCMS sectors (museums and galleries, libraries, arts, sport, the built heritage, architecture, tourism and film).

At the core of the paper is the aim that the DCMS itself should evolve into a more streamlined, strategic body providing a clear operational framework for its sponsored bodies and focusing its policies on a set of themes:
the promotion of access for the many not just the few
the pursuit of excellence and innovation the nurturing of educational opportunity
the fostering of the creative industries

Tough new watchdog

Streamlining and strategic thinking at the centre are being accompanied by a series of bold structural changes to rationalise the landscape of quangos inherited by the DCMS. To ensure value for money and accountability a new watchdog is being established to monitor and report on the performance of DCMS-sponsored bodies, to improve standards of financial management and to promote best practice.
Three-year funding settlements that have taken effect from 1 April 1999 will allow sponsored bodies greater flexibility in their planning, while three-year funding agreements now commit them to the DCMS's objectives through tangible outputs and outcome-based targets. Also welcome is the commitment that Lottery distributors, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, will receive a stable 16.66% share of the Lottery after 2001.

New responsibilities

The principal heritage sector recommendation in *A new cultural framework* is well on the way to implementation. As of 1 April, English Heritage and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England have effectively amalgamated to form one 'lead body' for this sector. English Heritage has already taken from the DCMS responsibility for determining the annual grant of the Architectural Heritage Fund and management of Marble Arch, Wellington Arch, and a number of important London statues. Additional responsibilities, including underwater archaeology and the operation of the Heritage Grant Fund, which supports the National Amenity Societies and Heritage Open Days, will be transferred to English Heritage over time. Moves to enable us to use our skills and experience overseas are also under consideration.
These additional responsibilities are an encouraging vote of confidence for English Heritage and the great opportunities inherent in the EH/RCHME merger have been warmly welcomed by both organisations. The Royal Commission has a rich 90-year history of collecting, curating, and disseminating information about England's ancient monuments and historic buildings. That expertise, combined with English Heritage's experience in the identification, recording, and management of the historic environment will create a formidable organisation whose knowledge and skills reach into every corner of the heritage field. The result will be greater public enjoyment and understanding of the historic environment and an even stronger advocate for the heritage at national, regional, and local levels.
Formal amalgamation will require legislation but effective merger, entailing the creation of a shared set of corporate governance arrangements, an integrated senior management structure, and one corporate plan and budget was achieved within the tight deadline of 1 April 1999. The RCHME Chairman, Lord Faringdon, and Commissioner, Amanda Arrowsmith, both joined the English Heritage Commission in October last year, and now serve alongside Professor Eric Fernie who was already a Commissioner of both organisations. Over the coming months staff will be working hard to bring the two organisations together on every level and to maximise the potential of the amalgamation.

Regional representation

These exciting changes are not the only ones to have far-reaching implications for English Heritage. *A new cultural framework* also outlines the DCMS's decision that the Department

should be represented in the regional Government Offices and that a new strategic body should be established in each region to provide a strong voice for the cultural sector. It will be the job of the new Regional Cultural Consortia to represent the whole spectrum of cultural and creative interests in the regions; to draw up a cultural strategy for the region; and to advise the Regional Development Agencies and Regional Chambers. The Regional Cultural Consortia will evolve from the existing Regional Cultural Forums, in which we already play an active part, and are due to be up and running in the autumn. English Heritage will be represented on the new bodies by Regional Commissioners assisted by Regional Directors.

With regional government on the horizon, Regional Chambers emerging, and Regional Development Agencies already active in devising economic strategies for their regions, EH strongly supports the DCMS's moves to give the cultural sector a strong voice at a regional level. We have been in the vanguard of regionalisation, setting up nine integrated regional teams that will be located in regional offices by September 1999. As English Heritage's decisions affect the everyday lives and surroundings of so many, it is important and sensible that those decisions are taken as close to, and in partnership with, those affected. Integrated regional offices will make us more responsive to local needs and priorities and will strengthen the two-way dialogue between the centre and the regions, enabling national policy to be better informed by regional realities. Regional Cultural Consortia will help representatives of the cultural sector, including English Heritage, to work together, identifying links between programmes, agreeing common regional priorities and giving clear expression of those priorities to the other key decision makers in the regions.

Champion for architecture

A new cultural framework tackled the subject of contemporary architecture, which is also of great importance and concern to us. We recognise high-quality architectural design as both the heritage of the future and a vital ingredient in the enhancement of all that is of value in our built and historic environment. We are committed to campaigning for the highest standards of excellence in new and old alike and are delighted that the DCMS has chosen to establish a new independent body charged with championing good new architecture. The precise structure and role of the body is currently being considered but we know that it will combine the design review role of the Royal Fine Arts Commission with an enhanced regional dimension and grant-giving powers.

Culture and environment

While we are sponsored by the DCMS, English Heritage's role has always extended beyond the cultural sector. We perform a very broad range of grant-giving, advisory, regulatory, curatorial, education, and property management functions and our statutory casework in particular puts us at the heart of the planning system with strong links with the DETR, the Government Offices in the Regions, and the other environmental agencies. Because of the breadth of our work and our concerns, it is crucial that English Heritage influences the development of Government policy in all its fields of interest.

In a year that will see the publication of the Urban Task Force Report and the drafting of an Urban and a Rural White Paper, it is especially important that we communicate the message that the historic environment has a key role to play in the achievement of the Government's primary objective of sustainable regeneration. Many recognise the contribution made by historic buildings, landscapes, and monuments to the quality of our surroundings, to our sense of identity, and to the good health of England's tourism industry. However, far too few acknowledge that the conservation of the historic environment can make an enormous contribution to balanced and sustainable regeneration of our cities and countryside. The Government estimates that 4.4 million additional homes are needed by 2016 and is calling for more 'brown field' development

and ‘urban renaissance’ to reduce pressure on the countryside. Disused historic buildings provide exactly the kind of brown field development sites that can create the characterful, attractive, and well-scaled environments capable of drawing people back into our cities and alleviating the problem of relentless green field development. Likewise, the conservation and re-use of historic buildings in market towns and rural areas can provide homes without wasting precious fresh resources, and form environments that attract tourism, create employment, and stimulate inward investment. These important messages about the strengths of conservation-led regeneration need to reach a wider audience – we will be using the opportunities presented by the development of Government policy in this area during 1999 to make sure it happens.

Marble Arch. London, one of several key London monuments that became the responsibility of English Heritage from April 1999

Kenwood, The Iveagh Bequest. In addition to the house and immediate grounds in the care of English Heritage, Kenwood includes an SSSI woodland

Fort Brockhurst, Hampshire, one of several 18th-century forts built to defend Portsmouth Harbour. Its moat and banks are also habitats in need of care

Kate Anderton

Planning and Policy Assistant, Central Planning

English Heritage’s response and the former RCHME’s response to the DCMS Comprehensive Spending Review are available on the EH website at www.english-heritage.org.uk.
Copies of EH’s responses to the Comprehensive Spending Review and other Government consultation documents are available from Kate Anderton, Central Planning, Room 416, 23 Savile Row, tel 0171 973 3253.

Managing the maritime glories of Greenwich

Maritime Greenwich, England’s most recent World Heritage Site, comprises one of the finest and most dramatically sited architectural and landscape ensembles in the British Isles.
Alan Byrne, former Management Plan Project Officer, describes procedures put in place for its protection and management

The Baroque palace and park form the architectural centrepiece of the World Heritage Site.

Intimate, medieval-like Turnpin Lane and architectural gems like Hawksmoor's St Alphege's church add to the historic character of Greenwich, but need to be better integrated into the visitor experience

The World Heritage Site of Greenwich is a geographically small area, the whole of which can be seen from a number of viewpoints within and around it. Estimates in 1995 put annual visitor numbers at 2.75 million, with an anticipated increase in Millennium year to 12 million and a future annual rate of more than 5 million. That is a rapid increase in a very short time and, within the confines of the historic area, will put tremendous additional pressure on its cultural assets. Severe traffic congestion and environmental degradation (highlighted in the English Heritage report *Time for action*, see *Conservation Bulletin* **20**, 16-17), and the management of visitor numbers are the three key issues identified as threats to the site's unique qualities.

Historic Greenwich has long been recognised as one of the most important cultural sites in the country. It is London's premier tourist location beyond the central area itself, and one of the most visited historic sites in Britain. It is home to the internationally important National Maritime Museum and Old Royal Observatory, as well as smaller specialist collections, notably the Fan Museum. Inigo Jones's ground-breaking Queen's House and the Ranger's House (an English Heritage property) provide insights into the royal and aristocratic lifestyles and patronage that have been essential to the historic development of the area.

The stunning and remarkable Royal Naval College, originally conceived as a royal palace, combines the work of some of England's greatest Restoration and Georgian designers in one fantastic grand master plan by Christopher Wren. Contributions also came from John Webb, Nicholas Hawksmoor, James 'Athenian' Stuart, and James Thornhill, among others. Laid out to the south is the dramatic landscape of the Royal Park, originally a hunting enclosure but transformed in the late 17th century, by André Le Nôtre (his only English work) and others, into a Baroque park in the French style. All this is set against a sweep of the Thames which allows a spectacular view of the whole ensemble, famously captured by Canaletto in a painting of 1755. The masts and rigging that dominated that view are now echoed in those of the *Cutty Sark* and *Gypsy Moth*, which stand as visible reminders of the town's long and glorious association with the sea.

Nearby is the busy town of Greenwich, which developed from a riverside Saxon fishing village, through wealthy aristocratic suburb and maritime industrial centre, to a modern tourist honeypot. While the surface appearance is one of genteel, if somewhat faded, grandeur, the veneer disguises a deep-rooted deprivation in the surrounding communities suffering from long-term decline in the traditional riverside industries of the area. The town centre provides only limited services to the local population, while supporting a range of visitor-related leisure and specialist retail facilities that both strengthen its unique character and distance it functionally from the host community. At the heart of the commercial life of the town centre is the historic market, dating from the comprehensive re-planning of the town ïn the early 19th century, which is itself a major visitor attraction.

Underlying the whole site is important archaeology covering the gamut of remains from prehistoric to early industrial. There are visible remains of Roman (temple) and Saxon (burial mounds) activity, and hidden remains of all other subsequent historical periods. Most extensive is the Tudor palace of *Placentia*, birthplace of Henry VIII and of Elizabeth I, and earlier medieval structures, such as Greenwich Castle on the site of the present Royal Observatory.

The historical palimpsest that is encapsulated in Maritime Greenwich is further layered by the less tangible reminders of the site's fundamental role in the history of time and distance measurement. These intellectual developments underpinned Britain's mastery of the sea and dominance of world maritime trade for more than 300 years. Greenwich's

world renown is undoubtedly closely related to its status as the Prime Meridian from which both the world's time zones and longitudinal distance are derived.

World Heritage Site status

Given its significance, it is somewhat surprising that Greenwich was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list only in December 1997. Despite its inclusion on the Government's Tentative List in 1985, the nomination was made in June 1996, with a submission prepared jointly by English Heritage, the (then) Department of National Heritage, and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. Early in 1997 these bodies joined Greenwich Council, the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich Hospital (responsible for the Royal Naval College), the Royal Parks Agency, ICOMOS, and others to form a working group to oversee the preparation of a management plan, as required by UNESCO. Delays in appointing a Project Officer, however, meant that the work did not start until the summer.

The process of preparing the management plan was similar to that for Avebury, described in *Conservation Bulletin* **34**, 4-5, and Hadrian's Wall (*Conservation Bulletin* **29**, 1-3). Common features are the establishment of a managing body of local interests, the appointment of a dedicated project officer (in Greenwich funded by English Heritage, Greenwich Council and DCMS), and a programme based on the UNESCO/ICOMOS guidance on cultural world heritage sites. In Greenwich, for the first time, the management plan was being prepared in advance of inscription and in support of the nomination. This produced additional pressure on time, which, fortunately, worked in favour of the project by seriously concentrating the minds of those involved.

The commitment and hard work of the working group meant that it was possible to produce an agreed draft of the management plan within seven months of the appointment of the Project Officer, in time for the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in December 1997. This undoubtedly had implications for the depth and quality of the final document presented to UNESCO, but represented round-table agreement on key issues and formed an excellent platform on which to build structures necessary for the future management of the site.

The exercise was seen by all involved as being as much about consensus-building among disparate organisations as the production of the management plan. Agreement was achieved as a result of a clear appreciation of both the importance of the site and of the key issues affecting it. Thus a common focus was established, able to inform future policies and actions by the stakeholders and key interests in the area, against the background of a range of concerns, attitudes, and priorities that had militated against coherent action for the site's preservation up to that time.

The missing ingredient

Nevertheless, there was an evident gap in the process, resulting from a lack of local community involvement in drawing up the management plan, the dangers of which had been demonstrated at Hadrian's Wall. It was agreed that the management plan should be subject to public consultation, undertaken by the Project Officer between January and March 1998. The limited response that resulted was generally favourable, but one significant area of concern became clear. Local people felt excluded from the process and there was a danger that this would result in some resentment of and alienation from World Heritage Site status, rendering it locally valueless.

This concern was addressed in two key areas. Firstly, two representatives from the local residential and business communities were coopted from the well established local Community and Business Forums to a newly reconstituted Management Steering Group. Secondly, there would be an annual open public meeting at which local people could be updated on the management plan, informed of current initiatives, and given the opportunity

to ask questions of members of the Steering Group. The Management Steering Group operated for almost a year with real benefits to all concerned. The annual open public meetings were scheduled to take place after the first annual review of the management plan in March 1999.

Management today and tomorrow

A key early objective of the management plan was the appointment of a manager for the World Heritage Site who would be responsible for implementing the aims and objectives of the management plan and making periodic reviews. Following the return to English Heritage of the Project Officer in April 1998, a locally based Coordinator was appointed by Greenwich Council. The cooperative nature of the process has been continued, with funding for this new post coming from six parties.

The Coordinator, supported by the Steering Group partners, has successfully pursued many of the priority objectives of the management plan, keeping in mind the imminent Millennium celebrations (the Dome is just a mile from the Site). Development pressures have been particularly strong with a certain amount of cashing-in on the prime position of Greenwich. The indications are that the structures now in place are robust and will stand up to both the immediate exceptional pressures on the site and the future requirements of good management of the underlying issues of environment, traffic, and visitors.

The first annual review of the plan will be in 1999 and an action plan established for the Millennium period. It is likely that the plan will react to the overwhelming priorities thrown up by the Millennium, many of which will be harnessed to the long-term benefit of Greenwich. Beyond this, it is intended that the management of the site, while not being prescriptive, will establish a firm framework for coordination of actions of all those with a role in the area, reinforcing a coherent and holistic approach to its preservation and enhancement.

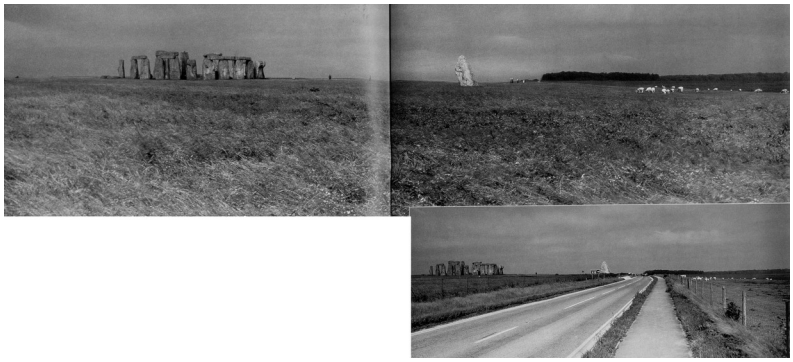
Poor environmental quality in parts of the site are addressed by the management plan, with major streetscape improvements, funded by English Heritage, being carried out before the Millennium

Traffic is a dominant feature of the historic town centre, despite a recent ban, supported by English Heritage, on heavy lorries

Alan Byrne

Historic Areas Adviser, London Region

The future for World Heritage Sites



Secretary of State Chris Smith said improvements planned for Stonehenge World Heritage Site were a great achievement in 1998. Right: how the A303 impinges on Stonehenge today. Above: computer-generated image with the road removed

A groundbreaking conference enabled representatives of a variety of World Heritage Sites in countries around Northern Europe to learn how problems and opportunities were dealt with elsewhere. Christopher Young reports

In October 1997 English Heritage held a conference to celebrate 25 years of the World Heritage Convention (*Conservation Bulletin* **33**, 2-7). Almost a year later, the first Northern European Regional Conference of the Organisation of World Heritage Cities proved to be another landmark in the increased public awareness of World Heritage. Held in the Assembly Rooms at Bath and organised by Bath and North-East Somerset Council, the conference provided an opportunity for local authorities and others managing a wide range of urban World Heritage Sites in northern Europe to exchange views and learn from one another's experience. The keynote speakers on the first day were the Rt Hon Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport, and Pam Alexander, Chief Executive of English Heritage.

Fostering collaboration

The Organisation of World Heritage Sites is a comparative newcomer to the ranks of international organisations concerned with World Heritage. Founded only seven years ago, its purpose is to support the management of World Heritage cities with respect to their preservation and development. It does so by fostering collaboration and encouraging exchange of information between those cities and their partners through conferences world-wide and regional, a regular newsletter, and a website (http://www.oupm.org). The creation of regions enables more frequent exchange between nearer neighbours with similar cultural backgrounds.

The Secretary of State's view

The North European Region covers the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Germany, France, Holland, Austria, and Switzerland. Its secretariat is administered and funded by the City of Bergen. This regional conference, its first, enabled representatives of a variety of World Heritage Sites to learn how problems and opportunities were dealt with elsewhere. Focused on financial and legal systems, it has laid a very solid foundation for future cooperation between a wide variety of cities in northern Europe.

Both keynote speakers reviewed progress over the last year within England as well as looking to the future. In his speech, Chris Smith emphasised the significance of World Heritage in achieving his Department's overall objectives of access, excellence, education, and the generation of employment opportunities. The Secretary of State recognised the pressures facing World Heritage Sites, particularly in urban contexts. While tourism is

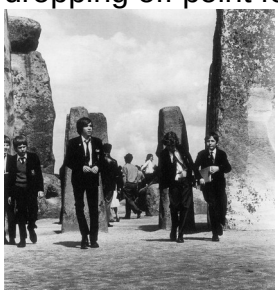
clearly important, the very popularity of our Heritage Sites means that they need careful management. There was a palpable tension between the need to foster tourism on the one hand, and the need to safeguard the best and often most fragile aspects of our historic towns and cities on the other. This concept of a sustainable approach to the historic environment, the natural environment and to tourism, went right to the heart of the Management Plan process.

Success for Stonehenge

In reviewing the achievement of the last year, he singled out the inscription of Greenwich as the United Kingdom's 17th World Heritage Site in December 1997 and the completion of Management Plans for Greenwich and for Avebury. Orkney had now been nominated as the United Kingdom's 18th World Heritage Site.

A major achievement during the year had been finding a way forward at Stonehenge, by securing agreement with his ministerial colleagues in the Department of the Environment, Transport, and the Regions, that an improvement scheme for the Stonehenge section of the A303 road – the road that currently bisects the Stonehenge landscape – could be included in the Government's Roads Programme. This entails making a dual carriageway of the A303 and changing 2km of the road nearest the Stones into a cut and cover tunnel. He had agreed that a third of the £125 million cost will be met from heritage sources.

That agreement marked a giant step forward towards achieving our goal of improving the presentation of this monument. There was now a marvellous, once in a lifetime opportunity to remove the sight, sound, and smell of traffic from the Stonehenge landscape, which would be returned to its original appearance of chalk downland. Coupled with the proposed changes to the road, the current unsightly visitor facilities would also be removed. Instead, new, international-quality facilities for visitors would be created at a site off the World Heritage Site, at Countess East. The new centre would be linked to a dropping off point for visitors by a free park and ride scheme.



The way it was – and will be again: schoolchildren among the Stones in the 1960s

Achieving agreement on a viable scheme for Stonehenge had depended on a shared recognition that World Heritage Sites really do represent something special. Essential to the whole process was partnership between owners, site managers, Government departments and agencies, and local authorities.

Looking ahead

Lastly, the Secretary of State looked forward to the future, singling out the Government's intention to seek election next autumn to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and the preparation of a new Tentative List for the United Kingdom.

An expert committee, led by English Heritage, had identified themes that were under-represented on the UK's current World Heritage List. Examples likely to meet UNESCO's stringent criteria had been selected within those themes. In particular, those conducting the review were mindful of UNESCO's concerns about the current under-representation on the World Heritage List of natural sites, and the over-representation of sites focusing on palaces, cathedrals, and historic towns in western Europe. They felt, rightly in his view, that emphasis should be given to the UK's industrial heritage and global influence. In all 32

sites, spanning the whole of the UK and its dependent territories, were recommended for inclusion in the new Tentative List. These recommendations were put out to public consultation at the end of August 1998.
The consultation document had provoked much debate about the selection of future possible sites in both the natural and cultural fields. As soon as the consultation period had ended he would be asking English Heritage's expert committee, and his ministerial colleagues in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the final recommendations for the List. The announcement of the final selection was made on 7 April 1999.

English Heritage's view

Pam Alexander, Chief Executive of English Heritage, emphasised that English Heritage's work on World Heritage grows out of its work on all aspects of England's historic environment: managing 409 historic properties; offering grants of some £35 million each year to conservation projects, and providing statutory advice on more than 20,000 applications each year for planning, listed building, and scheduled monuments consent.
Managing World Heritage Sites in cities raised particular problems and opportunities. Cities are a vital part of human culture, and of our heritage. Because, by definition, cities bring people together at high density, all our activities as citizens run the risk of affecting our neighbours. Modern communications, the problems of traffic and transport, and the development of mass tourism have added new and complex dimensions to the problem. Add to this the fact that people have a legitimate concern for the presence of familiar landmarks, for the reassurance given by their common history, and about the appearance of the places where they live and work, and it is clear that the management of change in our cities is one of the most important political and intellectual challenges facing us at the end of the 20th century.

Management of change

Managing the historic environment of cities – their cultural landscape – necessarily forms part of this wider debate. It is something that has to be done with great sensitivity, and in a sustainable way, to meet today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. This will only be possible with widespread support and understanding. Legislation alone, even with funding to support it, will not be sufficient. What must come first, and is more powerful, is a shared understanding of what is interesting or important about a city, what gives it its identity, its cultural significance. World Heritage Cities offer the opportunity to provide examples for the successful management of changes to the historic fabric of our whole urban environments. The Chief Executive emphasised the significance of Management Plans for all World Heritage Sites as a means of reconciling differences and resolving future policies on a basis of partnership. Plans were not an outcome in themselves but a part of the overall process, requiring implementation by partners to be effective. In essence they were about the management of change in a sustainable way.
A good example of such change was the Bath Spa Project, with which English Heritage had been closely involved, helping the local authority to test ideas that are coming forward to address a whole range of questions affecting the historic city, and carrying out its statutory responsibilities to ensure that the complex of Grade I and II* buildings are brought back into use and are given a viable and sustainable future. At the same time they had been working with the City Council to ensure that the archaeology of the site is fully evaluated. If, as seems likely, preservation proves impossible, English Heritage would make sure that the site is fully excavated and recorded. The results of this work will provide a new model of how to manage change in a historic environment, an example that other cities can follow.

The English Heritage agenda

The Chief Executive concluded her speech by outlining English Heritage's broad agenda for taking forward work on World Heritage Sites:

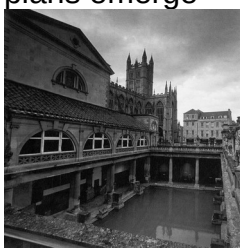
English Heritage would work with the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), with ICOMOS-UK, and with the Local Authority World Heritage Forum to achieve an integrated strategy to understand, protect, enhance, and make accessible our World Heritage Sites; to achieve for each site the appropriate balance between conservation, access, the interests of the local community, and economic growth; and to raise general awareness of World Heritage Sites and their significance. It would be important to keep planning guidance under review and we will work to strengthen the planning guidance on World Heritage Sites

English Heritage had been working closely with the DCMS and others on the preparation of the new Tentative List and would continue to do so, since its composition would set our agenda for some years to come

English Heritage would maintain and expand educational work on World Heritage Sites, based on the Teachers Handbook produced last year, and we will seek other ways of raising awareness of them

Another important area of work, required by UNESCO, is the monitoring on a regular basis of the condition of World Heritage Sites. A baseline study was carried out by ICOMOS-UK in 1994 and English Heritage would explore with them and with the DCMS how this can be developed in the future

At regional level, English Heritage would work with local authorities and the Government Regional Offices to ensure that structure, local, and unitary plans contain adequate references to the protection of World Heritage Sites. This is an unglamorous but vital area of work since these plans establish the basic policies controlling development in their areas e English Heritage would follow this through in its statutory and advisory work, and make sure that the interests of each World Heritage Site are carefully assessed as new plans emerge



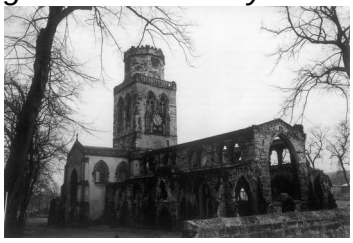
The Great Bath, Bath. One of the many cultural heritage features of this World Heritage City

Dr Christopher Young

Director, Hadrian's Wall Team

£16. 2 million offered in new repair grants

Grant aid from English Heritage continues to provide effective assistance for buildings at greatest risk. Judy Hawkins reports



All Saints, Pontefract: this dramatic, partly ruined church has strong Civil War associations. Grant aid will help the parish to undertake the full repair of the tower together with other masonry and roofing works

The provision of grant aid towards fabric repair remains an essential conservation tool. Despite a continuing decline in the real value of Government funding for English Heritage, we have sought to maintain our major programmes for the repair of outstanding buildings and monuments, targeting assistance on those at greatest risk, and, wherever possible, working with others to identify projects that generate significant community benefit.

In 1997/8 English Heritage offered new grants totalling £7.7 million for secular buildings and monuments and £8.5 million for churches, a total for the year of £16.2 million. Seventy per cent of monuments grants, and 64% of secular buildings grants, were determined within six months.

These figures reflected a budget fully committed by December 1997 and the retention of the remaining offers 'on ice' until 1998/9. Turnround times for church grants were also affected by external factors, in this case an unprecedented demand for help under the Joint Scheme for Churches and Other Places of Worship operated by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. In the first 18 months of the Scheme it attracted more than 1,400 applications with combined project costs in excess of £200 million! In May 1998 the Scheme was suspended to allow all current cases to be cleared before its relaunch in 1999.

Historic buildings and monuments grants

The 160 new secular offers in 1997/8 included 15 grants of more than £100,000. Two of the largest grants, £500,000 and £466,000 respectively, went to contrasting examples of the industrial heritage – the Ouse Valley Viaduct at Balcombe, East Sussex and the Dalton Pumping Station at Cold Hesledon, County Durham. The pavilioned 37-arch span of the Balcombe viaduct, built in 1839–41 for the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, is one of the most impressive of its kind and is still in daily use. The pumping station, a fine example of 'waterworks gothic', was built by Thomas Hawksley in 1866–80 for the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company. Unoccupied and 'at risk', the station's structural repair will pave the way for its sympathetic conversion and re-use as a restaurant and function centre.

Other major grants included two more buildings at risk – £180,625 to the Landmark Trust for general repairs to Astley Castle, Warwickshire, prior to partial conversion for holiday letting, and £150,000 to the Great Dunmow Building Preservation Trust in Essex towards the repairs needed to save and adapt Boyes Croft Maltings, an early and intact example of a threatened building type, for community use. Assistance was also given to the latest phases of a number of long-term repair programmes, including those at Capesthorne Hall, Cheshire (£400,000), Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire (£128,000) and Stowe Landscape Gardens, Buckinghamshire (£90,000), as well as to many other smaller projects.

Church grants

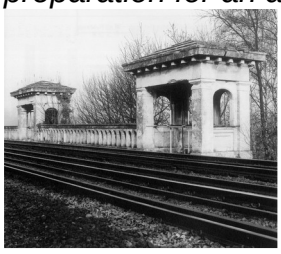
The 195 new church offers in 1997/8 included 13 grants of more than £100,000 each. The largest grant, £360,000, was offered towards the repair of the tower stonework and other masonry at All Saints, Pontefract, W Yorks. This large and unusual church, close to Pontefract Castle, suffered severe damage in the Civil War siege of 1644, but was left unrepaired until 1838 when its ruined transepts were converted by R D Chantrell into a usable church with a new chancel. Other major grants included St Mary and St Barlok, Norbury, Derbyshire (£216,000), St Bartholomew, Corton, Suffolk (£186,290), St Thomas, Stockport, Greater Manchester (£150,300), The Collegiate Church of St Peter and St Paul, Howden, East Riding of Yorkshire (£138,000), St Andrew and St Mary, Watton-at-Stone,

Hertfordshire (£134,300), Corpus Christi, Brixton Hill, London (£131,300), St George the Martyr, Preston, Lancs (£129,000), and St Nicholas, Canewdon, Essex (£116,494).

Public access

All historic buildings grants are conditional upon public access. Grant-aided churches must be open eight hours a day or display a notice indicating where a key can be obtained. For secular buildings the requirement varies according to the size and function of the property and the nature of its historic interest. Since 1984 the access condition attached to each secular grant has been recorded in a published annual list of grants offered by English Heritage. These lists are not readily usable by would-be visitors, however, who must check opening arrangements in one of the directories in which grant recipients are currently required to advertise. We feel that this arrangement is inherently unsatisfactory given the significant sums of public money invested in building repair. From 1999, therefore, we intend to publish a definitive guide to access arrangements at grant-aided properties and shall shortly be contacting all grant recipients to explain the project in greater detail and to seek their cooperation.

Dalton Pumping Station: this Grade II complex was one of a series designed by Thomas Hawksley to supply drinking water from the Durham aquifers to the towns of Tyneside and Wearside. The massive engine house in brick and stone with its grand entrance, arched windows, and wall buttresses, still retains much of its original – if now, non-functioning – machinery. Grant aid will return the building and its fittings to a stable condition in preparation for an appropriate new use*



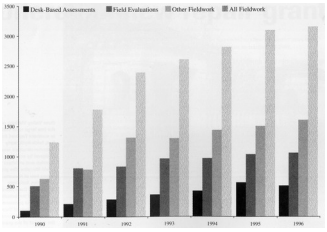
Ouse Valley Viaduct: one of the few large rural viaducts in southern England this fine, brick-built, early Victorian structure was designed by engineer John Rastrick and architect David Mocatta. The picture shows two of Mocatta's decorative Italianate pavilions in Caen stone and a section of the balustrade that lines the permanent way. The repair of these non-beneficial elements is the subject of the grant-aided programme

Judy Hawkins

Conservation

PPG16 has quickened the pace of archaeological investigation

This decade has seen a huge expansion of archaeological work in England as a result of the successful implementation of PPG16 'Archaeology and Development'. English Heritage decided that the work should be catalogued in annual gazetteers and commissioned the University of Bournemouth to do this. Tim Darvill and Alex Hunt examine some of the patterns being revealed by the analysis of data collected between 1990 and 1996*

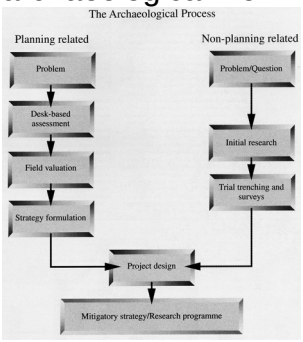


Graph 1: an analysis of archaeological investigations undertaken in England, 1990–96

From the tea-huts on excavations to the bar-rooms of archaeological conferences there seems to be a widely held view that today there is less archaeology being done than, say, 20 years ago. This view can now be seen as fictitious as the results of recent research into the nature and extent of archaeological work in England becomes available. In fact, the number, diversity, and distribution of excavations have all increased over the last decade; what has changed is the character of the work and the context in which it is carried out.

One of the problems facing any attempt to understand what is being done in archaeology in England today is the lack of a systematic, comprehensive, and up-to-date national index of investigations and archaeological interventions. It is true that some of the period societies publish annual digests of work relevant to their own fields of interest, some county societies include lists of local projects in their publications, and the RCHME has created an ‘Excavations Index’. But all these have restricted coverage and are not available ‘off the shelf for easy reference. In Scotland and Wales the old regional CBA Groups and their modern successors established national listings in 1955 and 1961 respectively; but nothing like this exists for England.

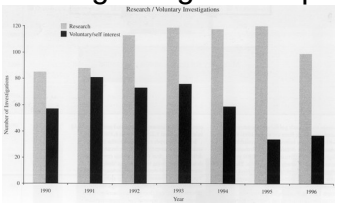
In 1991 English Heritage felt that the balance needed redressing and established a research programme called ‘The Assessment of Assessments’. One of the outputs from this was a gazetteer of desk-based assessments, field evaluations, and environmental assessments carried out between 1983 and 1991. This was published in 1994 as a Supplement to the *British Archaeological Bibliography*. The gazetteer was found to be so useful that the project was expanded to cover all archaeological investigations in England. It has been running for four years and recently published gazetteers cover archaeological work from the period 1991–94, the post-PPG16 era. As before, they are available as supplements to the *British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography*, running to more than 3,000 printed pages and detailing nearly 10,000 events. These gazetteers, and the research that lies behind them, provide a unique insight into the changing pattern of archaeological work in England.



Graph 1 shows the changing pattern of investigations over the period 1990–96. The impact of PPG16 is clear. First, the implementation of PPG16 has resulted in a substantial increase in the number of archaeological investigations being undertaken in England – the total number of investigations completed per annum has increased nearly three-fold in six years, from 1,228 in 1990 to 3,210 in 1996.

Second, the types and characteristics of archaeological investigations have become more definable and a clear vocabulary has emerged to describe these, using terms such as ‘desk-based assessment’, ‘field evaluation’, ‘watching brief’, and ‘open-area excavation’. In this way archaeological fieldwork, whether prompted through the planning process or

initiated directly by archaeologists to answer particular research questions, comprises a similar set of discrete steps, as shown in the Flow Chart above. In both development- and research-prompted work, the process is one of reduction and refinement, so that each stage moves the archaeological process closer to answering or solving the problem set at the beginning of that process.



Graph 2: an analysis of research-prompted and voluntary sector investigations undertaken in England, 1990-96

An important question is, who is carrying out archaeological work and for what reason? As Graph 2 shows, the number of research investigations not prompted by the planning process remained fairly static between 1990 and 1996, apparently peaking in the period 1993–95. Investigations by the voluntary sector also show a quite different pattern to that found in other sectors. Here the peak of activity appears to have been in 1991, with a steady decline in ensuing years.

Research investigations and those within the voluntary sector (and there is considerable overlap here) represent a small fraction of the total endeavour. Planning and development prompted investigations account for 92% of all archaeological interventions.

The widely perceived downside to this skew towards development-prompted archaeology is that archaeologists themselves are not choosing where to focus their efforts. Looked at another way, however, constantly returning to familiar sites and well researched regions in search of more information has its drawbacks too. Consider, for example, the widespread criticism that the long tradition of investigating sites in Wessex and central-southern England has provided inappropriate models for other parts of the country. The development process introduces a randomizing element to the gathering of archaeological data, resulting in investigation and discoveries that would probably not have been arrived at through a purely research-driven strategy. Work is now being carried out in all parts of the country, as illustrated on the Map, which shows the distribution of field evaluations undertaken in England during 1994.

Fact file

Approximately five times as many desk-based assessments were completed in 1996 than in 1990

Approximately twice as many field evaluations were completed in 1996 as in 1990

Investigations prompted by planning and development account for 92% of all archaeological interventions

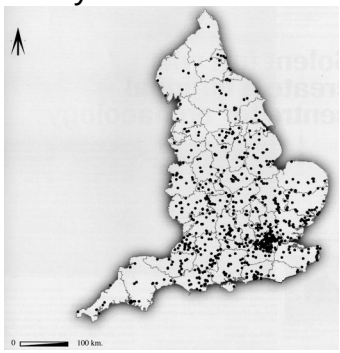
The total number of investigations increased by a factor of 2.6 between 1990 and 1996

Nevertheless, if the discipline of archaeology is to benefit from the colossal data set created through this boom in development-prompted archaeology, then it needs to innovate in the ways in which it makes use of such data. Synthesis, whether on a geographical or thematic basis, will be the key to accomplishing this goal. English Heritage, in recognition of such a need for synthesis, have already commissioned the production of a series of ‘Urban Archaeological Databases’ and ‘Extensive and Intensive Urban Surveys’.

In the background are the strengthening roles for the many sectors of archaeology. Each has an important part to play: curators, contractors, consultants, universities, and local archaeological societies. What unites them is not only an interest in archaeology and the

past in general, but also the participation in an archaeological process that extends beyond the particular research interests of any one individual. Increasingly, it is the process rather than the institutions that welds effort together: thus farm grants, development programmes, planting schemes, etc, involve contributions from different sectors of the discipline. The dialectic that is produced must be good for the development of archaeology if the work is done in a positive way.

The scale of archaeological endeavour is greater than ever. It is a multi-million pound business employing many more archaeologists now than it did even 20 years ago. Without doubt, the amount of work is increasing, resources are increasing, and it is up to archaeologists themselves to ensure that the quantity and quality of what is known about the past is increasing too. The academic community needs to innovate in the utilisation of data derived from commercially funded work; the gazetteers produced to date help that process by providing an index to what is available and what has been done. Equally, academic models have yet to be widely used and applied in the commercial or curatorial sectors. Perhaps the advent of a new generation of regional research frameworks will help rectify this situation.



Distribution of field evaluations undertaken in England during 1994

Tim Darvill and Alex Hunt

University of Bournemouth

* *The Archaeological Investigations Project was funded by English Heritage. Tim Darvill is Professor of Archaeology in the School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University; Alex Hunt was the Director of the Archaeological Investigations Project 1995-96. The research team included Jeffery Spencer, Lesley Mitchell, Gareth Talbot, Bronwen Russell, and Linda Fransen.*

Solent fort will create a national centre for archaeology

English Heritage's restructuring plans include the relocation of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory in order to facilitate and promote our current research programmes and to foster new links and collaborations with the scientific and university communities. Mike Corfield reports

The exterior of the storehouse/hospital has been restored

The planned relocation of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (AML) to Fort Cumberland, its integration with the Central Archaeology Service and the overall development of the site present exciting opportunities for expanding our role. In London the laboratories, which were designed in 1972, have been squeezed for space; Fort Cumberland offers us the opportunity to bring them up to the standard required by the work we do now, and to provide space for collaboration with other researchers, while at the same time making beneficial use of redundant buildings in a scheduled ancient monument.

Since 1976, the Central Archaeology Service of English Heritage has occupied a number of the interior buildings of the fort; their principal accommodation is in one of the former blocks of officers' accommodation, houses 1 and 2. A former billet is used as a laying out shed, and the former motor transport shed and garage are used as stores. The remaining buildings on the site have been maintained at the minimum level necessary to assure their safety, but over the past few years the former storehouse/hospital has been restored externally, following damage during the storms of 1987 and 1991.

The fort's history

Fort Cumberland was part of a wider strategy for defending the naval establishments of Portsmouth Harbour. It was built in 1747 to guard the entrance to Langstone Harbour. Between 1785 and 1812 the original fort was rebuilt in its present form, and it is one of the finest examples of a bastion trace fort of pentagonal plan. In 1964 the fort was scheduled and it was taken into guardianship in 1975, following the departure of the Royal Marines. The site has since been maintained at a minimum level.

The fort defences incorporate 67 casemates, and within the defences on the parade ground there are six significant buildings: the guardhouse, planned as a single storey building but built in 1747 to include a second storey with accommodation for the gunners; the storehouse, which stands roughly central in the fort, also built in 1747, extended in the mid-19th century and converted into a hospital; a cookhouse, *circa* 1860, and a mid-1930s garage built in front of it with a small annex abutting; two blocks of officers' quarters built in the 1860s, each comprising two houses; and a motor transport shed built in the 1920s or 1930s to service the new military vehicle fleet. One further surviving building is the last of a row of billets probably built during the Second World War.

A design has now been agreed that will bring most of the interior buildings back into beneficial use. The accommodation to be used for AML will be:

second block of officers' quarters to accommodate offices and laboratories for the Archaeometry Team, the records centre, and the Information Technology Team

the motor transport building to accommodate the main laboratories for the Environmental Studies, Technology, and Conservation teams

the hospital to be the communal centre for the fort accommodating the library and common room and the reception

the garage and cookhouse to be the main storage facility

Closer integration

Houses 1 and 2 will continue to be used by the Central Archaeology Service, but the aim will be to integrate their activities and those of the AML and to this end we will accommodate the team leaders from the two areas together. We will also integrate functions such as administration, information technology, records, and stores, but mainly we will be encouraging a closer integration of our operations to create a truly national archaeological service in which the archaeological science team and our field team stand alongside each other as equal partners.

The guardhouse is not included in the current programme, but it is an important element in the overall development of the fort. Its particular function is to be the centre from which we promote the fort, and the work now being carried out in it, to professional visitors and the general public. The lower floor might accommodate an information centre and displays, as well as possible demonstration areas, while the upper floor will become a lecture theatre in which professional conferences, seminars, and public lectures can be held. The lecture theatre will be of great value in the new regionalised structure for English Heritage as a place where regional staff can come together with the national team to develop and promote standards of archaeological practice and to formulate and integrate national and regional policies.

Aerial view of Fort Cumberland showing the storehouse/hospital in the centre and houses 1 and 2 just above/right

Future developments

Beyond the immediately planned developments there are wider opportunities for using the casemates, which offer enormous potential as offices and working space, not only for English Heritage, but also for other cognate bodies.

The Nautical Archaeology Society has already moved its offices to the fort, into temporary accommodation at present, but will transfer soon into some of the converted and refurbished casemates. The site of the fort beside the sea, and close to the Solent and the country's greatest naval base makes it an ideal centre for Nautical Archaeology, particularly when English Heritage eventually becomes responsible for archaeology below the low water mark.

We are developing and extending our links with local universities and heritage bodies to maximise our opportunities. In particular we are planning a formal link with the University of Southampton, through which we are planning a number of priority areas for collaboration, including maritime archaeology, ancient technology, and conservation. The link with the university will create in the Portsmouth/Southampton area one of the largest groups engaged in archaeology in the country, and will offer huge potential for cooperation in research, education, and training. We will encourage colleagues to visit us, particularly through the range of professional development activities we will offer. The real benefit of the fort is the space it offers for development so that it can become in reality England's national centre for archaeology.

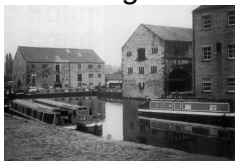
Oblique aerial view of the pentagonal fort, showing coastal position

Mike Corfield

Head of tbc Ancient Monuments Laboratory

Heritage industrial buildings: catalysts for regeneration

Britain's legacy of industrial buildings is an enormously important asset. Many stand, silent icons of a past age, in areas facing economic and social problems. The Director of Regeneration Through Heritage, Fred Taggart, explains how they can be used to stimulate urban regeneration



The Salt Warehouse, far left, and Warehouse No 4, centre, are among the buildings being refurbished as part of a scheme to regenerate the whole of the canal basin at Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire

In Wakefield, W Yorks, birthplace of sculptor Barbara Hepworth, a gallery showing many of her works is being created in the Navigation Warehouse, and will be a catalyst for regeneration of the entire waterfront area

The flair and foresight of brilliant entrepreneurs such as Sir Ernest Hall at Dean Clough Mill, Halifax, and the late Jonathan Silver, at Salt's Mill, Saltaire, have shown that great Victorian industrial buildings can be successfully transformed for contemporary use, bringing bring new life to economically depressed urban areas.

There remain, however, hundreds of mills, warehouses, and factories of heritage importance where, for reasons of location, cost, or local conditions, the private sector has no interest and which local communities want to see back in use. Funding agencies, particularly the Heritage Lottery Fund, have been inundated with applications from communities to restore the bricks and mortar of such buildings but many applications lack achievable proposals for the sustainable economic uses needed to generate income to maintain them.

Royal initiative

The Prince of Wales has been associated with a number of successful community-based projects to regenerate industrial buildings and recognised that such groups needed help to put together realistic packages of proposals for the appropriate adaptation of the buildings and the uses to which they would be put. On his suggestion, Business in the Community, the organisation funded by Britain's largest companies to promote private sector involvement in community regeneration, established Regeneration Through Heritage (RTH). Its mission is to help bring support, particularly business sector skills, to community partnerships and it is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a number of fully worked-up proposals.

Practical help

The initiative is about vacant heritage industrial buildings but, more importantly, about regenerating the communities in which they are situated. With a mission to put heart back into communities, RTH projects involve more than the creation of jobs – they involve the whole range of social and cultural activities that give life its meaning and colour.

Regeneration Through Heritage pilot projects contain proposals for housing, cultural industries, commercial and public sector offices, higher education teaching space, restaurants, hi-tech jobs including businesses for internet services and video production, low-cost workshops, and a range of social and community facilities. All aspire to be more than 'nine-to-five' locations, seeking to create a 16-hour building as a social, as well as economic, focus for the community. Regeneration Through Heritage aims to:

help local partnerships develop realistic visions for the end use of their building

develop proposals for the appropriate repair and renovation of the building

facilitate pro bono business support on development, architecture, conservation, finance, and valuation

mobilise business resources to help create new enterprises and sustain them with advice, mentoring, investment, and support

help local partnerships create the sound business plans needed for funding applications

get business executives involved in local regeneration partnerships

The initiative is steered by a group of business leaders and people with expertise in the fields of conservation, architecture, and the regeneration of industrial buildings. It is

chaired by Bill Castell, Group Chief Executive of the health sciences group Nycomed Amersham plc.
Regeneration Through Heritage has adopted several pilots. Some are led by community groups brought together by a wish to create new uses in a much-loved local landmark, while others are local-authority-led partnerships seeking to tackle very large vacant mills and warehouses. All seek to use an industrial building as a catalyst for the regeneration of a wider area and to give confidence to their local community.
The organisation is now established as a national source of advice and expertise and, with a small budget to facilitate groups, has proved invaluable. Communities often find it difficult to agree a common agenda for their project, so external experts and facilitators can help broker the essential compromises. There is an amazing lack of awareness of what others have achieved, so RTH arranges visits by community groups to other exemplar projects to see what has been done. These have been successful in raising expectations about the range of possible uses and the quality of the conservation work needed. Regeneration Through Heritage has also recently opened a website with more than 200 examples, in the UK and abroad, of the successful regeneration of heritage industrial buildings. A users' handbook for community groups is also in preparation. To date RTH pilots have secured almost £1 million revenue for feasibility work and almost £11 million for capital works. The total value of current pilots will exceed £50 million.

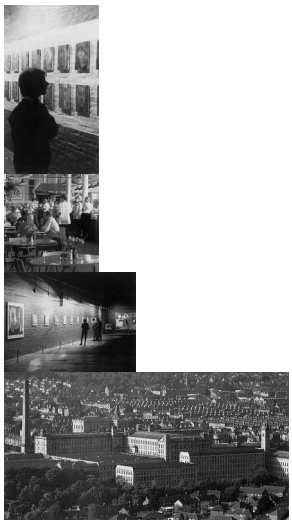
Renaissance in Wakefield and Sowerby

The RTH pilot project at Wakefield, West Yorkshire, is typical. The Grade II vacant Navigation Warehouse, built in 1790, which fronts the River Calder at its junction with the Calder Hebble Navigation canal in the city's industrial core, is being used as the catalyst for the regeneration of the entire waterfront area. The Trustees of Barbara Hepworth, the Wakefield-born sculptor, have gifted many of her works and workshop tools to a new Trust, which will refurbish the Warehouse as the centrepiece of a new Hepworth Gallery. The City Council will also donate its own collection, which includes works by Hepworth and Henry Moore, who was born in nearby Castleford, to form a new gallery of national significance.
The RTH-inspired Waterfront Partnership, which brings together all the players, has agreed a strategy using the gallery as the engine to regenerate the wider area to create a new Wakefield Waterfront Quarter. Swift action by English Heritage in upgrading the Warehouse to Grade II* and listing the adjoining unlisted Victorian mills, and by the City Council in declaring the Waterfront a Conservation Area, has fended off speculation. A strategy is now in place for new canal-based recreation facilities, a quality hotel, new retail, office, craft, and entertainment facilities, as well as new studios for Wakefield's existing, vibrant artistic community. By finding the appropriate re-use for a redundant heritage industrial building, putting together a partnership and defining a strategy RTH has enabled Wakefield to save an old industrial area from continued gentle decline and to create a new quarter which is a heartbeat for the city.
Their project at Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, has its roots in the community in the Canal Basin. Two largely vacant Grade II 18th-century warehouses sit in the centre of this unique remnant of the canal age. Regeneration Through Heritage created a local partnership to develop a regeneration strategy for the whole basin that aims to avoid gentrification and, rather, to create a hub of new activities reflecting its potential for canal-based recreation, architectural heritage, and intrinsic attractiveness as a location for companies.
Sensitive proposals were developed for the refurbishment of the two buildings to implement these objectives. The necessary business plan has been prepared to support applications to the funding bodies and the partnership has identified a number of potential tenants from the hi-tech and cultural industries sectors who are looking for quality

production and office space. Already the market is expressing interest in the development potential of all the other under-used or vacant canal buildings that surround the basin. The catalytic effect of the refurbished warehouses is already evident.
The regeneration of communities has been declared a priority by the Government and, with the emphasis on ‘brown field’ development, a place has emerged for the regeneration of heritage industrial buildings. Regeneration Through Heritage has proved that it is possible to build a bridge between those who are interested in the conservation of heritage industrial buildings and the communities that want to see them used for contemporary economic and social purposes. As such it sits comfortably within existing government policy and, more importantly, is very popular with the communities where it is working.

Fred Taggart

Director, Regeneration Through Heritage



The success of Salt’s Mill, at Saltaire, W Yorks, above, where the late Jonathan Silver started the David Hockney art gallery and a restaurant, above, as a focus for regeneration, is the inspiration for the scheme to establish the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield

New help for churches and other places of worship

After the success of its launch in 1996, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund are revising the Joint Scheme, explains Sally Embree, to help meet the essential repair needs of the ecclesiastical built heritage

Holy Innocents Church, Adisham, Kent, which received an offer of £31,500 in 1998 for repairs to the roof, windows and the interior of the chancel

The response to the Joint Grant Scheme for Churches and Other Places of Worship after its launch in 1996 was overwhelming and eventually led to the suspension of the scheme for new applications in May 1998. Since then English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund have been working together to revise the Joint Scheme so that it is better able to meet the essential repair needs of the ecclesiastical built heritage, within the resources available and the overall requirements being placed on both organisations by government. These requirements have much common ground – the safeguarding of the heritage and the promotion of greater access to, and enjoyment of, the heritage for all. English Heritage is charged with the protection of the historic environment through its role in the statutory processes and with the promotion of public understanding and enjoyment of the heritage

throughout England. The Heritage Lottery Fund seeks, through its work for the heritage, to provide additional public and community benefits and is required specifically to consider the scope for reducing deprivation in awarding grants. The Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund have therefore decided that all lottery funding under the Joint Scheme should be targeted to specific areas of England and that this will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Focus on urgent repairs

The main focus of the scheme for both organisations will be to support urgent repair works. Most of these are likely to be high-level works to roofs, towers, spires, and associated masonry or other repairs, but we will also consider other urgent repair work, if there is a threat of imminent loss of historic fabric. While we are keen to see the provision of appropriate new facilities to encourage wider community use of a church or place of worship, such projects will only be considered once any necessary urgent repairs have been completed. The provision of appropriate access to the church or place of worship will be a high priority whatever the project for which grant is sought.

Our experience, and that of many congregations, has been that it is preferable to concentrate on those works which are urgently required in the next one to two years, rather than to attempt to complete at one time all works required over a five-year period. We therefore propose to concentrate our grants on separate programmes of work with a single aim – for example either urgent repairs or the provision of better facilities, but not both. It will, of course, be possible to re-apply once an initial phase of grant-aided work has been completed.

Although only one in six applications submitted under the Joint Scheme was for a project of more than £250,000, these accounted for more than 60% of the demand in terms of cost. To be equitable, the revised scheme must seek to reach as many churches and other places of worship as possible and this will mean that we have to limit the number of large projects we are able to assist. The revised criteria are designed to ensure that, so far as possible, we assist modest schemes to the maximum number of churches and other places of worship while achieving the national and representative coverage we seek.

The Commissioners of English Heritage and the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund have committed themselves to funding the revised Joint Scheme at £10 million per annum for each of the next three years, making £60 million available between us, and we are anxious to ensure that the revised Scheme gives continuity and confidence to the congregations who work so hard to maintain the ecclesiastical heritage.

Essential dates

The closing date each year for applications for all large projects with a total cost of £250,000 or more is 30 June. For all other standard projects, ie those seeking funding for projects costing £10,000 to £250,000, the closing date each year is 30 September. The only exception to these deadlines is where there is a real fabric emergency, in which case a grant application can only be made for the work necessary to meet this emergency. All applications for grants will continue to be processed by English Heritage either in its own right or on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Sally Embree

Head of Support Team, Conservation

For further details and copies of the revised guidance notes and application form, please contact the Joint Scheme Focal Point, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. Telephone 0171 973 3266

BOOKS

Tread with care

Historic floors: their history and conservation*, edited by Jane Fawcett, 1998, Butterworth-Heinemann in association with ICOMOS-UK, £60 [ISBN 0 7506 2765 4]*

The conservation community has eagerly awaited the publication of this excellent and much-heralded book. But I had not realised for how long, until I spotted the remarkably dated photograph of the then youthful editor on the dust jacket! Jane Fawcett is known to many as a redoubtable champion of conservation from her days with the Victorian Society, as a tutor for the conservation course at the Architectural Association, and in the UK office of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The award of an MBE and her honorary fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects testify to her determination and hard work over a life time of unstinting service to the cause.

Jane's great strength, as exemplified by previous excursions into art-historical and technical compilations such as Seven Victorian architects and A future for the past, has been to marshal busy experts into sharing their knowledge in print. Not including Sir Bernard Feilden's statutory foreword, the current project has 18 contributors, including Jane's own introduction and three out of 20 chapters, within a prodigiously well illustrated book (147 black and white diagrams and photographs and 80 colour plates, supported by grants from the Manifold Trust and from Historic Scotland).

As Jane Fawcett's introduction makes clear, little has been written in English on the study and protection of historic floors, although what exists is brought together in five pages of references, a six-page reading list, and a useful glossary. Her particular interest has been medieval and later ecclesiastical flooring, its wear, and conservation, and her own contributions to this theme identify the origins, development, and welfare of tiles, mosaic, marble, and stone pavements, and the ledger stones and brasses that adorn them. Eminent archaeologists Warwick Rodwell, Tim Talton-Brown, and Kevin Blockley describe the complex layering of such floors and give model standards of analysis and interpretation. Ross Dallas, Robert Skingle, and Christopher Brooke explain techniques of survey and recording, and architects Charles Brown and Peter Bird share their conservation strategies for stone and tile work.

Half of the book relates to more recent secular flooring and to similar problems of management, wear, and protection. Studies of Victorian tile pavements at the Palace of Westminster and St George's Hall, Liverpool are featured, with advice on visitor control. The emphasis throughout, of course, is focused on very high-style buildings and their 'permanent' horizontal surfaces, whether currently remaining in use, or revered as ruined features in excavations. By contrast, vernacular earthen floors and temporary covers such as matting, oil cloths, and carpets receive rudimentary attention. The book does draw attention to the very important nature of historic floors; to their long neglect, abuse, and current over-use. It highlights the pioneering work on damage mapping, wear monitoring, and risk assessment for which the UK can be proud. But on the difficult area of careful treatment and maintenance there is little new to show.

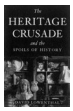
There are the usual gleanings on techniques and supplies for the maintenance and protection of historic floors from The National Trust manual of housekeeping. There are also references to the US National Trust's book on sources for reproduction materials in cases of loss. But the book curiously avoids summarising the international library of knowledge on the conservation of mosaics. Generally, the papers reflect the national blind spot concerning the development of techniques for the maintenance, repair, and

conservation of pavements, with one notable exception. A detailed exposition is given of the cleaning and repair of the medieval encaustic tile pavement at Winchester Cathedral, in which the conservators receive due credit.
Jane Fawcett's book goes a long way towards redressing the balance of interest and concern in matters affecting the conservation of historic floors. A close reading will reveal the understandable gaps remaining to be filled, it is hoped, by similarly determined, energetic, and youthful authors and editors.

John Fidler

Head of Architectural Conservation Team

A heritage tirade



The heritage crusade and the spoils of history *by David Lowenthal, 1998, Cambridge University Press, £12.95 [ISBN 0 521 63562 4]*

David Lowenthal has written a damning critique of the heritage, something remarkably difficult to review in the English Heritage house journal. I was prepared for an uncomfortable read, which might question the whole basis of what we do at English Heritage. By the end of the book I was no longer worried; I was simply cross – not at the accusations, some of which are fair, but at the academic sloppiness that led the author to ignore the two scholarly disciplines on which much of the care of the heritage is based: architectural history and archaeology. With little mention and no understanding of either of these disciplines, Lowenthal's fundamental charge – that 'heritage' is academically indefensible – falls.
In the new foreword to this paperback edition Lowenthal states that he seeks to achieve three things: to account for the huge growth of the issue of heritage, to raise concerns about the partisan tensions engendered by the misuse of the heritage, and to distinguish heritage from history. He uses 'heritage' in the sense of an activity: the process of making use of the past, whether in writing, in politics, in museums, in civic pride or war, or in disputes over cultural restitution. To Lowenthal the past is anything: events, monuments, memories, genetics, art objects, sacred items. He ranges widely throughout the book, drawing examples from an extraordinary variety of sources. Into this melange he also throws stewardship. This, of course, is the process of caring for the fabric of the past, which is the primary role of English Heritage. It is on this topic that he deserves to be challenged.
His argument is that heritage is not academically defensible, while history is. Heritage, he says, 'apes scholarship... to persuade us that our legacy is grounded in irrefutable evidence'; it is cloaked in authenticity and ignores the 'stubborn and unpredictable past revealed by history'. According to Lowenthal, historians aim to reduce bias, heritage sanctions it.
Chapter 5, 'The purpose and practice of history', has not been followed up by chapters on the purpose and practice of architectural history or of archaeology. Yet had Lowenthal examined these disciplines he would have realised that both are predicated on the role of physical evidence: buildings, landscapes, and buried remains as sources of historical evidence in their own right. By understanding such evidence we can gain insight into the past that cannot be achieved through documents alone. Lowenthal tellingly quotes a historian as saying that we will never know whether Roman apartments had doors or if medieval towns stank, because this was never written down. He does not seem to realise that archaeology can potentially provide evidence for both.

If we accept that the physical remains of the past have the potential to tell us about the past then we must also accept a duty to look after them. Lowenthal ducks the stewardship argument by noting that it has rather gone out of fashion. But stewardship is the very role of English Heritage, the local authorities, and many other bodies who care for the remains of the past, but who are here implicitly ridiculed. One of the planks of his arguments about the rise of 'heritage' is that it is based on spurious ideas of 'loss'. He argues that the loss of the past was ever thus, and that there is no reason to belabour the point. Yet in one of the less vituperative passages in the book, Lowenthal admits to trying to prevent the sale of an important archive at Sotheby's. For an archaeologist the duty to defend the remains of the past is equivalent to a historian's duty to defend his archive.
Lowenthal is a historian and geographer who is able to condemn all heritage as unsound because he has not bothered to examine the architectural and archaeological scholarship that underpins its stewardship. Yet Paul Langford, the Oxford professor of modern history who chairs the newly created Arts and Humanities Research Board, justifies government expenditure on historical research in terms of the contribution it makes to leisure, tourism, and heritage. 'Can you imagine the new Globe Theatre or the Ironbridge Museum without the academic research which went into them?', he asked in *The Guardian* (15 September 1998). Quite.

Kate Clark

Head of Historical Analysis and Research Team

Painted on wood

The structural conservation of panel paintings*, edited by Kathleen Dardes and Andrea Rothe, 1998, The Getty Conservation Institute, £53.50 [ISBN 0 89236 384 3]*

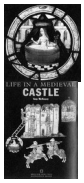
Kathleen Dardes of The Getty Conservation Institute and Andrea Rothe of the J Paul Getty Museum have prepared the proceedings of 'The Structural Conservation of Panel Paintings', an international symposium in April 1995.
An excellent introduction and keynote address by David Bomford of the National Gallery places the symposium in context by drawing together many disparate historical and contemporary branches of theory and practice. The articles are supported by clear diagrams and photographs. For example, the existence of medieval documents commissioning altarpieces, the methodologies of artists and artisans, and the extraordinary shifts in conservation philosophies over the centuries, and especially in recent years, are all clearly described.
The 31 contributions are intelligently divided into four sections, each one dovetailing neatly into its neighbour. Part one, 'Wood science and technology' begins with two articles by R Bruce Hoadley, professor in wood science at the University of Massachusetts. A good introduction to the subject, it describes the chemical and physical properties of wood, and techniques of wood identification. Dendrochronology, wood deterioration caused by micro-organisms and insects, and modern treatments for insect infestation, wood consolidants, and consolidation techniques are also clearly examined.
Before tackling the knotty problems of panel conservation, an historical overview of panel-making techniques is presented in four articles in part two. Between them, Luca Uzielli, Zahira Veliz, and Jorgen Wadum cover methods of construction in central Italy, Spain, and the northern countries. Philip Walker rounds the section off with fascinating insights and illustrations of woodworking tools and their users from the 12th century to the present day.

Part three, a critical and sometimes painful history of panel painting conservation, provides timely warnings as well as deserved praise for our conservationist forebears. Techniques that strike against the grain of modern practice are analysed. With an increase in our knowledge and understanding about the indignities panel paintings have been subjected to – bad cradling, panel splitting and thinning, unnecessary transfers, etc – conservators are having to adapt and rethink their approaches to the same old problems and even, occasionally, think the unthinkable, ie 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'.
The final section, containing nearly half of the book's articles, describes current attitudes and approaches to panel painting conservation. The first, by Andrea Rothe and Giovanni Marussich, tellingly outlines the disastrous effects of the great flood of 1966 in Florence. Important lessons were learned as wooden artefacts, including panel paintings, began the long drying out process. In a later paper Simon Bobak describes a flexible unattached auxiliary support for panel paintings, while Raymond Marchant explains the conditions under which a panel will benefit from a flexible attached auxiliary support. Here again, practices from the past are informing and shaping current methodologies and a renewed emphasis is placed on the need for an open-minded approach to an area of conservation that will always present challenges for the dedicated conservator.
The penultimate article, the second from Jorgen Wadum, deals with the construction of microclimate boxes, a method of stabilisation that has been evolving for over a century. Curators and conservators concerned with loans of panel paintings and their transportation would do well to consult the final contribution.

Adrian Buckley

Head of Easel Painting Conservation

Privilege, luxury, and cruelty...



Royal castle-dwellers bathed in barrel-like tubs, as shown in this 15th-century stained glass window

Life in a Medieval Castle, by Tony McAleavy, 1998, English Heritage, £8.95 [ISBN 1 85074 665 6]

Life in a medieval castle comes vividly to life in this beautifully illustrated book from English Heritage. In their heyday, castles were homes to the wealthiest and most powerful members of society – royalty and the great nobility – but they also housed the highest and lowest members of feudal society, offering privilege and luxury to nobility, but chronic hardship to menial servants and barbaric cruelty to prisoners of war and criminals in their jails.
While the Lord and Lady of the household enjoyed luxurious pursuits, including feasting, hunting, and the tournament, their castles were also the setting for the conduct of medieval politics and the administration of local justice. Prisoners languished in castle jails awaiting trial in an age when punishment for theft was usually hanging. Castles also played a key role in medieval warfare, offering strong protection in times of siege.
The latest in the popular 'Gatekeeper series', this authoritative and highly readable book covers the development of the medieval castle from the explosion of building after the Norman Conquest to the construction of Edward I's magnificent series of castles in north Wales. It also traces the castle's decline and romantic appeal to subsequent generations.

The characters leap off the page, brought to life by contemporary anecdotes and a superb selection of colour illustrations. An invaluable companion to *Life in a medieval abbey*, also in the ‘Gatekeeper series’.
Copies are available from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY. Tel 01604 781163.

BOOKS

Clean concrete lines

Modern movement heritage*, edited by Allen Cunningham, 1998, E and FN Spon, £27.99 [ISBN 0 419 23230 3]*

The buildings of the Modern Movement, their clean lines as seductive as film icons in contemporary photographs, are similarly showing their advancing years. The English corpus of expertise remains limited, but slowly more articles are emerging on the repair techniques appropriate to the particular problems of concrete construction, flat roofs, and lack of protective mouldings.
From the English chapter of DOCOMOMO, an international body founded in 1990 to record and conserve the finest exemplars of the most distinctive and creative idiom of the 20th century, comes this series of essays from around the world, well balanced between case studies of practical repairs, surveys of protection policies, and more theoretical pieces.
Robert Maxwell addresses the paradox that we now seek to preserve an idiom that deliberately challenged history and that sought to be experimental. The subsequent contributors suggest, pragmatically, that the preservation movement should concentrate on the best buildings and combine carefully researched repair techniques with considered interventions to ensure that the buildings have a future: such a policy is analogous to that held by English Heritage. Listing in England may appear to lag behind that of Hungary, if ahead of the Netherlands, but what matters is that when faced with a ‘problem’ building, we can be empowered by the knowledge that there is a global network of information and enthusiasm to which we can turn.

Elain Harwood

Conservation Listing

Thoroughly plastered

Plastering: plain and decorative *by William Millar, with an introduction by Tim Ratcliffe and Jeff Orton, 1998, Donhead, £95 [ISBN 1 873394 30 6]*

If you have an interest in plasterwork, whether as a plasterer working on historic or other buildings or as an historian, this is a book you should know about and preferably own, expensive though the reprint is.
I first came across ‘Millar’ when I was helping sort the detritus left behind by Joseph Rose’s plasterer at Audley End in 1763–71, which had been archaeologically recovered by Paul Drury, then of the Chelmsford Archaeological Service. The book, first printed in 1897, explained the presence of lumps of sulphur among the Neoclassical fragments of Robert

Adam's designs for the improvements to the 17th-century house. The sulphur was mixed with beeswax to produce a slightly flexible mould to cast the ceiling ornament. I do not know whether one would have found such detail so quickly as in 'Millar'. I had occasion to use the book again when researching scagliola, upon which there is a whole chapter giving a good history and splendid details on how to make and polish 'scag', as it was made in 1897.

This is a vast book, written by the Scottish plasterer William Millar, himself descended from a family of plasterers. So he was a man thoroughly steeped in all the mysteries of his trade. The first edition, 1897, was followed by a second in 1899; Millar died in 1903 while preparing a third edition, eventually published in 1905. A radically revised fourth edition, edited by another authority on plasterwork, George P Bankart, appeared in 1927. It is the first edition, however, that remains the 'bible'.

The training of plasterers, indeed any tradesman, has changed so much recently and the traditional way of handing down knowledge has been broken. This book goes a very long way to understanding the nature of plastering in the late 19th century. As Tim Ratcliffe and Jeff Orton say in their introduction, 'this book is possibly more important now than [it was] 100 years ago.'

The book covers every facet of plastering, from an historical background through materials, ceilings, gelatine moulding, fibrous plasterwork to foreign plasterwork, concrete, and the tools required for the job. There are 52 black and white photographs, grainy in nature owing to the re-printing process, and 231 splendid line drawings of how things were done, printed on good quality paper. A specialist book, but one to have for the library.

Treve Rosoman

Curator, Architectural Study Collection

Now in the mainstream

Industrial archaeology: principles and practice *by Marilyn Palmer and Peter Neaverson, 1998, Routledge, hbk £65 [ISBN 0 415 16626 8], pbk £25 [ISBN 0 415 16769 8]*

Industrial Archaeology is dead: long live the archaeology of industrialisation! This phrase might be used to characterise the latest serving from the energetic kitchen of Palmer and Neaverson, which argues strongly that the practice of industrial archaeology should be acknowledged as fully embedded in 'mainstream' archaeology, rather than being viewed by some as a developed form of trainspotting. University departments who exclude the industrial period from their curricula, and old-school industrial archaeologists who resist the inevitability of a changing world, take note!

Eschewing the industry-by-industry plod, the authors infuse into the text thematic and theoretical approaches, and national and international perspectives, which make this book stand out from the crowd. There are exotic flavours, such as agency and contextualism, in a superficial but enthusiastic section on archaeological theory. Landscapes and townscapes are tackled next, before buildings and machines get their turn. But even here the approach is themed not by industry but by families of processes. So far so good; the text is jaunty, the design interesting and the diagrams generally helpful.

The book then undergoes a sudden change of direction. The second half deals with field techniques and documentary research, before offering a case study of the by now familiar Basset mines in Cornwall (here the rich aroma of symbolism wafts all too briefly in the interpretation of material culture; why trilbies?).

Finally, it tackles cultural resource management. This results in a comprehensive coverage of the subject area, but at the expense of the originality and readability of the first half. The message that historical sources require rigorous assessment is hammered home, and the

helpful hints about locating written sources will open up routes for further research where only dead ends seemed in sight. The section on field techniques, however, is strewn with unresolved tensions between research-led data capture and comprehensiveness in recording.
Designation, particularly scheduling and listing, loom large in the discussion of cultural resource management, whereas the role of conservation area status in conserving the character of urban industrial areas is given little space. The reference to a Register of Historic Landscapes is potentially misleading. Nevertheless, there are useful examples of re-use of industrial buildings and landscapes, although here the international perspective used so interestingly in the opening chapter is underplayed.
There is a cornucopia of food for thought here – a tempting invitation to put individual monuments into a wider context. Since this is the self-professed aim of the book, it must be a valuable contribution to the emergence of a modern sub-discipline. For the student seeking to embrace industrial archaeological challenges within a conventional college course, however, the book is less of a cornucopia and perhaps more of a Chinese take-away – lots of flavour at first but half an hour later the academic appetite may need replenishment.

Andrew Brown

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

NOTES

New from English Heritage

London suburbs*, introduction by Andrew Saint, May 1999, published by Merrell Holberton Publishers in association with English Heritage, £25*

Regarded by some as idyllic, by others as tormenting, the suburban ideal has impulses steeped in architectural, social, and historical significance. From the Chaucerian vigour of the medieval outskirts, to the Utopian visions of post-war planners, the dynamic outward growth and ingenuity in planning around central London is a unique and trendsetting example of a phenomenon that resonates worldwide.
This definitive history examines the revolutionary development of suburban London from a variety of perspectives and raises questions that will help us to understand the evolving reconciliation between city and countryside. Illustrated with maps, plans, paintings, and photographs, many specially commissioned, it is the first book to examine London's suburban growth in its entirety, and will prove to be of importance to architects, planners, sociologists, historians, and all suburban dwellers.
£25 hardback; ISBN 1 85894 077 X; product code XC20032. (Trade orders: Biblios, PDS, Star Road, Partridge Green, West Sussex RH13 8LD. Tel 01403 710851; fax 01403 711143; e-mail biblios@biblios.co.uk).

The Monuments at Risk Survey

The Monuments at Risk Survey (MARS) is the first census of England's extremely rich and varied archaeological resource. This includes earthworks, buildings, structures, and buried deposits, created from half a million years ago to the present day. The remains of our past are still under pressure from the demands of the present. Striking a balance between what

should be saved and what is allowed to go requires, among other things, an understanding of what there is, how good it is, what has already been lost, what is vulnerable, and where the greatest risks lie.
MARS provides insights into the nature and state of archaeological resources in England. While it is not the role of the project to propose specific solutions, a number of conclusions can be presented to help guide policy development and the formulation of strategic initiatives.
The MARS report (337pp) can be obtained from English Heritage Postal Sales, PO Box 229, Northampton NN6 9RY. Tel 01604 781163. Product code XA20007, price £30.00, including p&p. A free summary report is included.

The archaeology of stone

The identification of stone in archaeology was identified as a problem area in *Exploring our past* (1991). In response to this, an assessment was commissioned from Professor David Peacock of Southampton University, who produced this report.
Considering all types of stone other than flint, which is considered a special case, and using a combination of library work, site visits, and interviews with practitioners, Professor Peacock's report considers retention and processing policies, evaluates the needs of stone identification and provenancing, and examines ways of recording technological traces of stone working or of use.
In addition to stone axes, hones, and querns, a major area of concern is with building materials, where sheer quantities often overwhelm even the most smoothly run operations. Consideration of standing buildings helps to put excavated material into a wider context. Peacock concludes with recommendations that point to areas where more research and evaluation are needed, based firmly on the necessary condition that any changes to current practices must be demonstrably useful, and lead to a substantially better understanding of the past.
'The archaeology of stone' report (64pp) is free, and can be obtained from the Archaeology Division, English Heritage, or from English Heritage Customer Services (product code XH20083), see address below.

The register of parks and gardens – an introduction

Most people know and understand the concept of listing buildings and scheduling ancient monuments for their protection and conservation. It is less widely known that there is a national record of the historic parks and gardens which make such a rich contribution to the landscape. Known as *The register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England*, it was compiled from 1983–84 by English Heritage under the National Heritage Act and now contains about 1,300 sites. Although the inclusion of a site on the Register brings no additional statutory controls, registration is a material planning consideration (PPG Note 15, September 1994).
Most local planning authorities are aware that PPG15 requires them to consult English Heritage (for Grade I and II* sites) and the Garden History Society (on sites of all grades), on planning applications within registered parks and gardens. It is not always clear, however, to either local authorities or to owners and other interested parties, how English Heritage identifies and assesses a site for potential registration – what, in fact, makes a site of special historic interest?
The register of parks and gardens – an introduction is a new, fully illustrated, leaflet which defines 'special historic interest' and explains the concept of the Register; it sets out

clearly the criteria by which sites are selected and the process of registration itself. A guide to proposing a site for registration is also included.
Historic parks and gardens are a fragile and finite resource, easily damaged beyond repair or lost forever. Registering a site is a way of recognising its particular historic importance, and of encouraging those who own or otherwise have a role in its care and protection to value and treat these special places with due care.
'The register of parks and gardens – an introduction' may be obtained free from English Heritage Customer Services, PO Box 9019, London, W1A 0JA. Tel 0171 973 3434. More detailed advice on the Register is also available from The Parks and Gardens Register Office, telephone: 0171 973 3584.

'On the landing grounds... in the fields...'

When Winston Churchill made his famous wartime speech in 1940 declaring that the people of Britain would never surrender, he knew that road blocks, pillboxes, and anti-tank and other obstacles were being built literally as he spoke, to delay and repel German invasion forces. These transformed Britain's landscape into a vast fortress, more extensive than was realised by the population at the time, according to a new English Heritage report.
Monuments of war, the evaluation, recording and management of twentieth century military sites, is the proceedings of a conference reporting a unique specialist study for English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme (MPP). Major coverage is given to Second World War defence heritage remains, but some First World War and Cold War era sites are also included.
Defences were marked by diversity, breadth, intensity of effort, and massive investment in labour and materials. Vulnerable beaches were hardened with concrete and steel anti-tank obstacles, minefields, barbed wire, flame weapons, infantry and artillery fieldworks, and pillboxes. Through the fields and hills, extensive linear systems of defence, termed 'stop-lines,' were created from natural and artificial obstacles to tanks. The streets of many towns and villages were protected by their designation as anti-tank islands, fortified settlements at major road intersections.
The study uses authentic records and papers of the armed forces and their parent ministries to discover what was built, when, and why. Aerial photography provides an indication of what survives and the future of these structures can now be decided on the basis of sound understanding. The report is edited by Dr John Schofield and contributors include Dr Colin Dobinson, who describes the MPP archives-led project, Andrew Saunders on the Defence of Britain Project, Jeremy Lake and Paul Francis on the work of the Listing Team applied to airfields, Roger Thomas on RCHME's Cold War recording programme, and David Uzzell on presenting military sites. Shorter reports embrace National Trust, Ministry of Defence, and other initiatives. This report is a statement of progress, but it also documents some of the conservation dilemmas posed by the subject to the profession and to the wider public.
Copies are available free (product code XH20098), from English Heritage Customer Services, tel 0171 973 3434.

English Heritage Website

Our internet website – www.english-heritage.org.uk – now includes about 1,000 pages and it is constantly being updated with the latest on activities and services. The 'front page' includes click-on 'chapters' for Home, Education, Saving Our Past, Publications, Places to Visit, Things to Buy, Support Us, and Search.

The Home page has details about EH's aims, how to join, and other basic information. There are links to each of the Regions, and other sites, including our Archaeology page (separately accessible at www.eng-h.gov.uk).
Education includes pages on Resources and Services, with entries on various prehistoric and historical periods, Education publications, and videos.
Saving Our Past explains EH conservation policy and aims, programmes, funding, and grants.
Publications carries listings of all general publications, special series, and both free and priced publications. The Catalogue page includes links on how to order books and a complete stock list with prices.
Places to Visit includes a Properties page, plus Special Events, and Concerts, which are regularly updated.
Things to Buy has a list of basic categories, links for separate lists and information on individual items, with images, prices, and product codes.
The Support Us page has details on membership and its benefits, including half-price admission to Historic Scotland, Welsh CADW, and Isle of Man sites.

Academic prize for English Heritage

At the 30th anniversary meeting of the American/Canadian Association for Preservation Technology (APT), in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA, in November, English Heritage was awarded the 'Anne de Fort-Menares Award' for an article by Susan Macdonald on the ethical/technical strategies for conserving 20th-century heritage buildings. The paper was a development of Susan's presentations at the EH conferences on 'Modern Matters' and on 'Conserving 20th-Century Buildings', and was the basis of her talk at APT's previous meeting in Chicago in 1997. The paper took into account and was underpinned by work done collaboratively in England in the Building Conservation and Research Team on various research projects concerning the conservation of reinforced concrete and claddings.

John Fidler

Head of Architectural Conservation Team

The Carpenters' Award 1999

English Heritage is again sponsoring a special category in the Carpenters' Award for the conservation and repair of our built heritage in wood. Past winners are Igtham Mote, Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge in Epping Forest, and 19/20 High Street, Kinver. Entries should be for work on the fabric or fittings of a listed building or scheduled ancient monument. The scale of the work is not a significant criterion but extension or new build is not normally relevant to this category. The qualities of survey, recording, and analysis, and evidence of sensitivity of approach are important criteria. All entries will be on display at Carpenters' Hall in October 1999; all entrants will be invited to the presentations, and to Interbuild at the NEC in Birmingham in May 2000. Winning and highly commended entries will be exhibited at Guildhall and at the Building Centre in London.
Work completed between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 1999 is eligible for entry. Details and entry forms can be obtained from: Margaret Prior, Award Organiser, Carpenters' Company, Carpenters' Hall, London EC2N 2JJ. Tel/fax 0171 727 9474.

The Wellington Arch, London, is a Grade I Listed Building at Risk. It has been agreed that the arch will be one of several monuments to be transferred from the Department of Culture Media and Sport to English Heritage in London. It is English Heritage's intention to carry out repairs and refurbishment in order to secure its future

The thatching years

Water reed, long straw, combed wheat... all are materials used for thatch, which is to be the subject of an English Heritage guidance note appearing in November this year. David Brock, Historic Buildings Inspector, reports on this ancient craft

Water reed thatch at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, showing the exactness with which this material takes up the lines of the roof

Water reed thatching in progress on a new roof structure. Particular care is taken with the eaves, as in all thatching

Thatch is one of the most ancient of roof coverings, and to many the most characteristic of vernacular roofing materials. In recent years, though, its future has given widespread cause for concern and English Heritage has been examining the reasons for this. It appeared to us that the way forward was to commission research and then, when this was made available, to initiate a wide debate on the way in which the industry could be sustained and the aims of conservation met.

Three major studies are about to be published. The first, *Smoke-blackened thatch* by John Letts, will be published by English Heritage and the University of Reading; the other two comprise one publication entitled *Thatch*, by James Moir, John Letts, and Jo Cox, in the English Heritage Research Transactions series, as two volumes. The studies are slightly different in purpose, but together they provide a good picture of the development of thatching in England between the Middle Ages and the present.

Smoke-blackened thatch is an archaeological study stimulated by the unexpected discovery, during the Re-survey of Listed Buildings in the early 1980s, of significant amounts of this material on the undersides of roofs in Devon. Thanks to the continuity of thatching in that area, the evidence goes back to the Middle Ages and has much to tell us about the agriculture as well as about the botany of that period. It is clear that medieval thatchers exploited the qualities of strains of wheat, tougher and longer in the stem, no longer in use in Britain. Whatever the immediate lessons, Letts points out that this important archaeological resource, which has no exact parallel elsewhere in Europe, is at risk from the wholesale destruction of this evidence when roofs are rethatched.

Thatch was commissioned by David Brock and Nicholas Molyneux while the research on soot-blackened thatch was going forward, because it was clear that the more recent history of thatch and thatching was equally obscure and it had become a source of dispute. The period to be examined was set at 1790–1990, with the first 150 years being considered by John Letts and James Moir, and the last 50 by Jo Cox of Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants.

In 1790 the threshing machine was a novelty, but within 20 years corn-growing had undergone a huge expansion, and the process of change is recorded in the Reports to the Board of Agriculture. The next century saw the culmination of this trend, with an increase

in thatching in south-central England. The Great Depression of the 1870s then led to a sharp fall in the numbers of thatched buildings across the country, to add to the virtual extinction of thatch in the North that had come with industrialisation. The break point between the two studies, at the Second World War, marks the shift from an era when the changes in thatching were almost entirely attributable to agricultural change, to one in which there has been substantial outside intervention. The Rural Industries Bureau began this trend, which has continued with the Town and Country Planning Acts through the effects of listing and conservation area controls.

Thatching today

Although there were once many materials in use in English thatching, and techniques to match, there are now effectively only three materials and their corresponding methods.
water reed (*Phragmites australis*) grows up to 2.5m, and has to be harvested from reed beds that are specially maintained. Today it comes mainly from abroad. The long bundles of reed are stiff, and application is usually taken to require an even roof structure with an outward kick at the eaves. The distortions that historic roofs have often undergone, even though these are usually harmless and longstanding, will often lead to a proposal for the replacement of roof timbers. The bundles are applied in courses, always with the butt end of the reeds facing down, starting at the eaves. They are held down firmly with sways (rods), which are themselves anchored to the rafters by iron hooks called crooks. When the courses have been laid, the reed is pushed or 'beaten up' from the base with a grooved board, which tightens the bundles in their fixings and achieves the characteristic bristling appearance, with only the butts showing. Reed is too inflexible to be bent over the top of the roof, so ridging is done in another material, usually sedge, and this gives rise to the block ridges that are now a feature found in other thatches as well. Only for this element are the fixings visible, and they may be worked into ornamental patterns.
combed wheat reed is, despite its name, straw that has been combed (nowadays by machine) and has not passed through a threshing machine. The comber keeps the straw aligned one way and the bundles so formed are carried on the roof, so that the butts are down, as in water reed. Combed wheat reed, however, does not usually need all the previous thatch to be removed, which accounts for the survival of soot-blackened thatch in the base coats of early roofs, although the upper layer will have been stripped many times. The new coat is sparred onto the existing base, and laid much as water reed. The straw, however, cannot be beaten up so firmly as with water reed, and the final shape is achieved by clipping. The ridge can, in this case, be made of the same material as the main coat, and can therefore be flush with it, though this once universal practice is less often followed today.
long straw, like combed wheat reed, uses one of the wheats grown today specifically for thatching. In this case, however, the straw has been through a threshing machine, and is prepared for use by heaping it at the site without alignment of the stems. The heap has to be wetted evenly, as this improves its workability, and work cannot begin until the water has soaked in. The straw is then 'drawn' or pulled by hand into bundles in which the stems lie both ways, but are once more aligned. These bundles, called 'yealms', are applied to the roof. Again, the underlayers are not usually removed. Long straw is fastened by sways, as in the others two cases, but as a looser material it cannot be beaten up or otherwise dressed into place. For this reason it has to be fastened externally at the eaves and verges as well as at the ridge, although the verges should normally be flush.
The differences in appearance of these types of thatch can be minimised (if that is the intention), but the classic appearance of water reed is flat, with sharp edges and an even texture consisting, on close inspection, of the hollow butt ends of the reeds. Features such as dormer windows tend to be emphasised by this material. It is therefore associated with the general tradition of East Anglian vernacular architecture, which uses steep roof forms

and puts gables even on dormers, although long straw thatching in this region is used successfully on the same roofs and has some of the same characteristics. Generally, the two straw thatches have rounder and softer shapes. Long straw is recognised by its distinctive surface, in which heads and butts both appear, giving it a more open texture, as well as the more rounded appearance that is the concomitant of its bindings.
There is much speculation about the longevity of the three types, but as yet little work has been done in scientific conditions, and the number of factors affecting the outcome on a real roof will always make this question very hard to settle. It is however, clear that in recent decades the practice of repairing a thatched roof (as opposed to re-roofing it) – once very common in the case of straw thatches, and known even in the case of water reed – has been largely confined to re-ridging. This has led to more frequent re-roofing, driven by expectations of neatness that thatch is hard-pressed to satisfy. If the reputation of thatch in general (and of the straw thatches in particular) is to be enhanced, it will be necessary for these practices to be looked at in a different light.

Findings of the studies

Although the studies cover the full range of materials, it is clear that the overwhelming amount of past thatching in England was in straw. Water reed, which is in some ways the best known of thatching materials, was confined to certain wetland regions, particularly in East Anglia. The confusion whereby one of the commonest thatches today is called combed wheat ‘reed’, is an ancient one in the West Country, however, and indicates that straw thatchers in that region understood and were prepared to imitate the techniques for laying water reed thatch. Evidence for this practice outside the West Country is harder to find, and peters out in the 19th century, when straw thatching had abundant material available. The traditional method of straw thatching resembled modern long straw in central England in 1790, and this technique or group of techniques continued, using straw that had been passed through a threshing machine. Meanwhile, the combing of straw – the distinctive practice that produces combed wheat reed – was in its turn mechanised in Devon in the late 19th century.
The steep decline in thatching came about as the result of greater choice in roofing materials, the destruction of much rural housing that was deemed to be sub-standard, and the depopulation of the countryside. By the 1940s, this was causing concern to the Rural Industries Bureau and an attempt was made to modernise the industry. Initially, the chosen route was stimulation of the production of water reed (already almost entirely confined to Norfolk). When this was found not to be feasible on a large scale, the Bureau promoted the use of reed combers outside their native region, and this practice has led to the widespread adoption of combed wheat reed across much of the South and the Midlands.
The market in thatch and choice of methods that the Bureau helped to create has intensified in recent years, partly because of the use of nitrates in straw growing, which caused the life of straw thatches to shorten dramatically in the 1970s. Meanwhile, the widespread adoption of combine harvesting, which favours short-stemmed varieties, drove thatching straw to the margins of cultivation and it is now common for thatchers to grow their own straw. Water reed has been aggressively marketed as a superior product and about 75% of the water reed used in England today is imported from the Continent or even from Turkey.

Combed wheat reed thatching in progress: the ridge roll is being fixed. The tool in view is a leggat, used to firm up the roof by pushing the straw up under its buildings

Long straw thatching. Long straw is the only material that is sometimes applied in vertical strips, as here

A contrast in method and appearance in two Oxfordshire houses. The house on the left has been thatched in long straw, and has the more rounded appearance that characterises this material; that on the right, in combed wheat reed, has a decorated block ridge of imported character

A garden wall capped with long straw, showing the kind of external fixings used in all thatch styles for the ridge of a roof. The use of thatch for ancillary buildings has declined steeply since the 19th century

This long straw roof in Hampshire has had its life extended by a simple repair to its coatwork as well as a new ridge

Conservation issues

As recently as 1970 it was common to hear predictions that thatch would die out entirely except in a few consciously picturesque locations. This has not happened for two main reasons. First, the depopulation of the countryside has been reversed, with buyers coming in who take a keen interest in the traditional appearance of their houses. Secondly, some 24,000 buildings are listed and many more are situated in conservation areas; in these cases, the material has been given basic protection. Moreover, its use chimes in with some modern preoccupations: it is an entirely renewable resource; if it is sourced in this country, negligible energy is consumed in getting it onto the roof; and its insulation properties far outweigh those of any other commercial roofing materials. Some local authorities, such as West Dorset District Council, are now looking actively at the use of thatch on new-build housing and are reassessing their building control policies to make this possible.

English Heritage believes, therefore, that the following general issues should be borne in mind by those operating the legislation:

1 Regional diversity

As the historical surveys amply show, the diversity of thatching materials and styles is not a historical accident or the result of recent changes. The materials and the methods by which they are applied both reflect the broad geographic and economic character of their areas over time. The history of these areas will have marked them in additional ways that conservation policy aims to sustain. The survival of regional diversity in thatching is, therefore, a central aim of conservation policy in those areas where the character can be securely established.

2 Range of materials and techniques

A remarkable abundance of materials and corresponding techniques is found in historic thatch, which teaches us how well traditional building skills are adapted to the solution of specific problems. Although the current range of materials and techniques is much more limited and derives from a gradual process of standardisation, thatchers remain

unparalleled in their ability among building craftsmen to adapt their practice to the exigencies of the task in hand. As a living example of the adaptability of traditional skills, thatching should be sustained in its full variety as far as is practicable.

3 Preservation of character in listed buildings and Conservation Areas
It follows from the recognition of a broad continuity in the main thatching traditions, that the listed buildings and Conservation Areas of a given region have roofs that contribute to their historic character, by exhibiting a particular type, or types, of thatch, and this may extend to the details characteristic of the region or county. The practical expression of a concern for regional or local character is therefore the preservation of listed buildings and Conservation Areas.

4 Survival of archaeological evidence
The studies in soot-blackened thatch, and that in the period 1790–1940, were accompanied by pioneering archaeological sampling. This has revealed the exceptional interest that a thatched roof can hold for the history of botany and agriculture as well as for that of building. It is a paradox not yet sufficiently appreciated, that a thatch roof might have a surface that is younger than most historic roofing materials, but be at base older than any of the inorganic materials, thanks to the universal practice of stripping only the upper layer of decayed material from the thatch before repair. It should be an aim of conservation policy to protect this historic or archaeological material and to ensure, where necessary, that it is adequately recorded.

Thatch and listed building consent

Many thatchers feel that there has always been and must always be continuous evolution in thatching, and that some of the present trends, such as that towards increasing use of water reed, show the operation of this ‘invisible hand’. It is clear from the studies, however, that broad distinctions have always been possible between thatching materials and methods, that these distinctions arise from the materials themselves, and that the different thatches in turn contribute to a wider sense of place in their regions. Unregulated change would, in most areas, bring about the end of this distinctiveness in a comparatively short time.
There should, therefore, be control over re-roofing as over any other building operation, and the usual procedures of listed building consent need to be gone through. While there exists general advice on the subject in PPG15 (including Appendix C, paragraph 29), English Heritage proposes to issue further advice in the form of a guidance note, which is available upon request. It states clearly our belief that listed building consent is required for a change of method or materials. It would, of course, always be open to an owner, thatcher, or other professional to argue the case for an alteration to be made, on technical grounds.
The issue of the availability of materials, to take the most obvious example, would not be solved by a blanket prohibition of change. Alleged technical superiority, however, is not the only consideration in such a case, especially since, as we have seen, water reed thatching may involve much greater loss than straw thatching. We should be clear that unless the regional and local traditions are robustly defended, they will be effaced.

The way forward

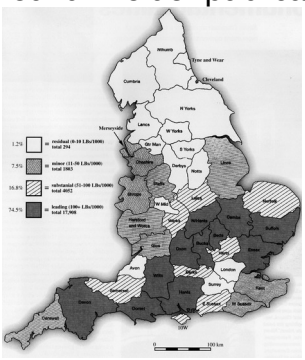
The advice stresses that it is not enough for the national body responsible for historic building conservation to state the case in general terms. Each authority in which thatch is found in significant amounts will need to consider what its thatching tradition, or traditions, might be, and to found its policy on the research it undertakes. English Heritage is happy to offer advice about this process, on which some county councils have already embarked.

In parallel with the restatement of the applicability of controls to thatch, English Heritage hopes to pursue a number of avenues that could alleviate some of the thatching industry's technical problems. In most of these cases, however, there needs to be a partnership with other bodies. A basic difficulty in this regard is the fragmentation of the industry itself. Different bodies claim to represent it, and none have substantial memberships. We shall work to encourage convergence and an overall increase in professional registration, leading ideally to a single body in which the public could have confidence.

With or without such a body, an attempt should be made to investigate the knotty problem of the supply of materials. One of the difficulties with straw is that its supply is very dependent on the success of the harvest in any given year, and price fluctuations also destroy consumer confidence. It should be possible to approach this problem from several directions, including the prospects for propagating and re-using the premodern 'land races' of wheat, which were tougher and longer in the stem than modern varieties.

Scientific and technical research into thatching has been sporadic, but here the picture is encouraging.

Studies in the durability of straw, and the combustibility of roofs, have produced valuable results and the hope is that a more holistic concept of the factors that prolong the life of a thatched roof could be arrived at. Already, the need to provide the underside of a thatched roof with proper ventilation has caused a rethink of the fire safety assumptions that are found in older publications.



There are 24,000 listed thatched buildings in England, mostly in the South and in the Midlands. The distribution is very uneven, with large numbers in the West Country and more modest totals in most other regions, but many of the counties with large numbers of listed buildings overall are also leading thatch counties

David Brock

Historic Buildings Inspector

If you would like a copy of the draft guidance note, which will be finalised in August 1999, please ring Amanda Holgate on 0171 973 3375. Comments on the subject of thatch are welcome; please address them to: amanda.holgate@english-heritage.org.uk

Monumental values

Sasha Chapman reports on a conference of monument conservation specialists in London

Monuments hold a special place in people's hearts as a record of things past. The re-evaluation and regeneration of public spaces planned to mark the coming Millennium will ensure that many previously neglected monuments will be saved. Regarded as constant and enduring features of the built environment, and ranging from the everyday to the spectacular, these objects are of great historic, artistic, and social value.

Monuments and the Millennium, a joint conference between English Heritage and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (UKIC), held in

May 1998 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, brought together international specialists with a common interest in monument conservation. Topics covered in the conference ranged from the philosophical and political to the more practical aspects of conservation and repair.

An appreciation of monuments can lead to a more enlightened approach to their care and maintenance, but good intentions do not always guarantee good practice; archaic and destructive techniques are still regularly employed, sometimes through economic constraints, but also through ignorance of the available skills and materials. Susan Nichols explained how Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS) has successfully raised awareness of monument conservation in the United States through such initiatives as 'adopt a sculpture', whereby members of the public adopt a monument or sculpture and its conservation, much like the scheme at the recently restored Albert Memorial.

On a technical note, Bill Martin, Senior Architectural Conservator at English Heritage, discussed the innovative work at the Inigo Jones Gateway, Chiswick House, where cathodic protection is being used to prolong the onset of decay (see *EH Res Trans* **1**, 1998, 83–94).

The Public Monument and Sculpture Association contributed to the conference by organising several tours around prominent monument sites in London, including a tour led by Alasdair Glass of the then unfinished Albert Memorial and a guided walk through Kensal Green Cemetery. The earliest and grandest of London's cemeteries, Kensal Green has an unsurpassed collection of funerary masonry sculptures and many hidden gems now in critical condition. There was also an opportunity to see the restored Dissenters' Chapel, winner of a recent conservation award.

The conference provoked a wide-ranging discussion and should contribute to a better understanding of monument conservation.

Sasha Chapman

Building Conservation and Research Team

For those who missed the conference, proceedings will be available in the summer of 1999, from English Heritage Postal Sales, tel 01604 781163

Some monuments in London. Far right top: a typically monumental tomb in Kensal Green Cemetery, which also has the Dissenters' Chapel, top.
Inset: re-gilding the head of Prince Albert, Albert Memorial, Kensington.
Right: obelisk commemorating Major John Cartwright, in St Mary at Finchley Churchyard, London Borough of Barnet