Characterisation
Introduction

Jane Grenville *English Heritage Commissioner; Head of Archaeology Department, University of York*
Graham Fairclough *Head of Characterisation Team*

New ways of describing the historic environment are at the heart of local and regional plans for the future.

A new conception of the places where people live and work underlay *Power of Place* (2000), *Force for our Future* (2001) and *People and Places* (2004). We all agree that we need to search for ways of recognising the various personal and communal values and aspirations that have been inspired by England's historic environment. Moreover, we are beginning to understand better the strong connection between people and their heritage, or to put it another way, between perception and reality, between ideas and things.

This issue of *Conservation Bulletin* is about 'characterisation', a highly diverse range of work that has in common an exploration of this link between ideas and things. We can describe only a little of our work in this issue and have focused on our most recent projects. Other work, such as Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), has already been publicised in various places.

'Character' is our attempt to bring together as many aspects of a place as possible, in order to appreciate and understand it better, and to understand the experience of being in it. The many characterisation projects described in this issue do not concern only special places but the everyday places that are the backdrop of ordinary urban and rural life.

Characterisation is a shorthand word. What underlies it is a desire to capture our overall feeling for the totality of a place – not just to collect facts about who built that building, what style it is, whether it is rare, what an archaeological site can tell us about our predecessors or how a designed park reflects 18th-century taste, but about what the place as a whole means to us. (And that word 'us' can mean many things in different contexts.)

Characterisation projects operate at many scales. Some – such as HLC – cover whole counties, giving us a big picture in more detail than before (pages 20–2). Here, place becomes

landscape. Other projects focus on a whole town, such as the Merseyside or Lincoln (pages 11–17), or a part of one, such as the work in Bristol (page 14). Others are based on particular topics, such as farmsteads or seascapes (pages 18–19 and 31–3).

The projects all have common objectives:

- to define context, or 'place', in its other sense of how buildings and monuments relate to each other and to other aspects of the historic and natural environment;
- to understand the past, the trajectory of change and/or continuity, which has brought the environment to the state we have inherited and which provides the springboard for future change;
- to provide a big picture, which can serve as a base for future inclusivity, a frame into which others can add their perceptions and views.

Finally, characterisation is fluid, as dynamic as the landscape, townscape or environment that it tries to portray. We know that characterisation cannot give us the last word. Character is liable to change just as the last GIS map is finished (and sometimes it changes in our minds simply because of new insights from characterisation). For every perspective or expert viewpoint used in a project, there are many more views that could be added. Being provisional, however, can be a strength. Characterisation is an invitation to learn more, to move further forward, to ask questions more than give pat answers. It promotes dialogue and debate, encourages future amendment and forms the basis for a meeting (or perhaps a changing) of minds.

The principal lesson of any historic characterisation is to understand better the complex intertwining roads of past decisions, actions and inactions that have led to the present day's historic environment, to our world, whether we like it or not. We can map the trajectory of a place's evolution and chart possible future directions – not only the 'natural' direction (evolving without deliberate intervention) but also a designed or constructed one (where people, as they always have, decide to build a house, demolish a building, build a road, plant trees, manage a parkland or a plantation). This ability to set out choices – to preserve or manage, to create or leave well alone – is why characterisation is a tool for the future.

This is why English Heritage champions characterisation. It is a research tool: it helps us to understand our world, and it broadens our horizons from a few special monuments to the whole of a community's environment. It is also a tool for participation: it provides a meeting place in which to draw together public and personal opinions as well as specialist values.

Just as importantly, however, characterisation provides information to help everyone affected to discuss the form and implications of proposed changes to the historic environment, and to help shape the future environment. It is a tool of positive spatial planning, and its users – as we hope this issue of *Conservation Bulletin* will show – are not just heritage professionals but planners and developers, politicians and owners, communities and individuals.

Historic landscape in eastern Cheshire (left). The county HLC is now complete, and work is commencing on integrating its results with ecological and visual or scenic analysis to produce a holistic assessment and strategy of the county's landscape. Such integration between the historic, cultural and natural environment is one of the key benefits of the characterisation approach.

Characterisation is primarily a tool for improved and better informed sustainable management. The Herefordshire HLC has increased our understanding of the historic landscape – as in the case of these medieval and post-medieval locally distinctive hedgerow patterns in south-west Herefordshire (right) – which in turn helps to support hedgerow protection and guide the use of agri-environmental farm support grants.

Strategic Development
Sustainable communities

Introduced and compiled by Dave Went *Characterisation Team*

New strategic projects require new applications of historic characterisation to help plan for the future.

Historic characterisation is a practical tool for recognising change in the character of the historic environment. English Heritage's aim in developing this procedure is to help government at all levels, as well as planners, architects, developers and communities, to create future townscapes and landscapes in which the material evidence of the past – and the story it tells – remain visible and legible. Nowhere is this a more practical application than within the 'Sustainable Communities' programme developed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in order to ease dramatically the housing problems in the south-east, midlands and north.

Using characterisation, the historic environment professionals working in these areas are now able to ensure that the old and new are incorporated in plans for the future – plans which may, according to the Government, provide nearly one million new homes in the south and demolish a quarter of this number in the north. The four case studies described here show how characterisation has rapidly developed as a practical tool, informing strategies for change that build on the strength of local identity and preserve links with the past. These issues are crucial to the development of sustainable communities, whether in the 'Growth Areas' of the M11 Corridor (London-Stansted-Cambridge), Milton Keynes and the South Midlands or Thames Gateway, or in the 'Market Renewal' areas within the industrial towns and cities of the midlands and the north.

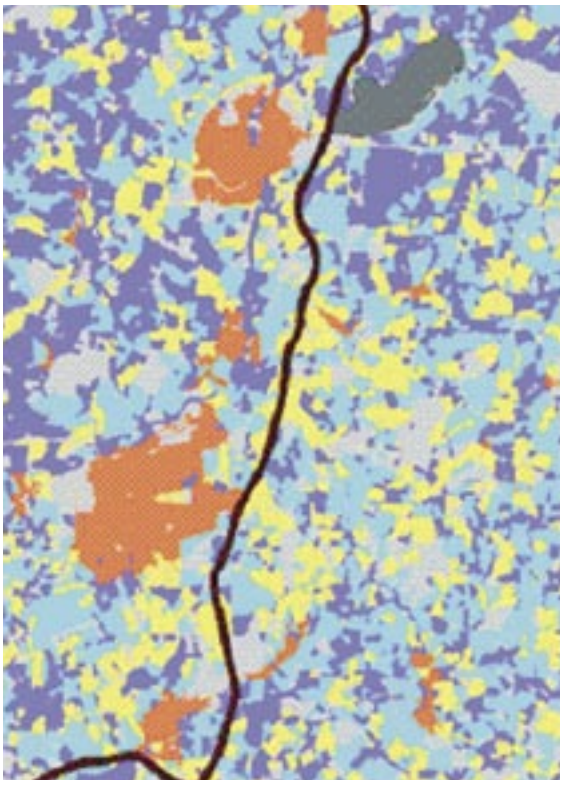
The M11 study focused on historic landscape character, exploring the heritage issues to be considered, together with those arising from other capacity studies, before embarking on significant change. The results show the dominant historic trends, the importance and sensitivity of the time-depth visible in the current landscape, and the vital contribution of these factors to local distinctiveness. The findings act as a guide to the location and design of new housing so that future changes can enhance local character and allow communities to benefit from their common heritage.

While the M11 pilot study focused largely on the rural landscape, more holistic models were developed in the two growth areas around Milton Keynes and the Thames Gateway. These studies included historic landscape characterisation (HLC) but also drew in data for archaeological sites and places, and the built environment. They have gone further still towards replacing the perception of the historic environment as a mere collection of designated monuments to be avoided when planning new development, with the recognition that the historic environment is everywhere and can contribute to building sustainable communities, wherever they are located. The M11 Corridor model is now undergoing enhancement, benefiting from the lessons learned in these other areas.

The regeneration of major northern city centres over the next 10 to 15 years will be

© Essex County Council

The study area landscape contains many fascinating relics from the past, including the remains of Tilty Abbey, Uttlesford, Essex.



The M11 Corridor study area, showing (left) simplified HLC types for field patterns, woodland, parkland and urban areas, and (right) HLC sensitivity zones.

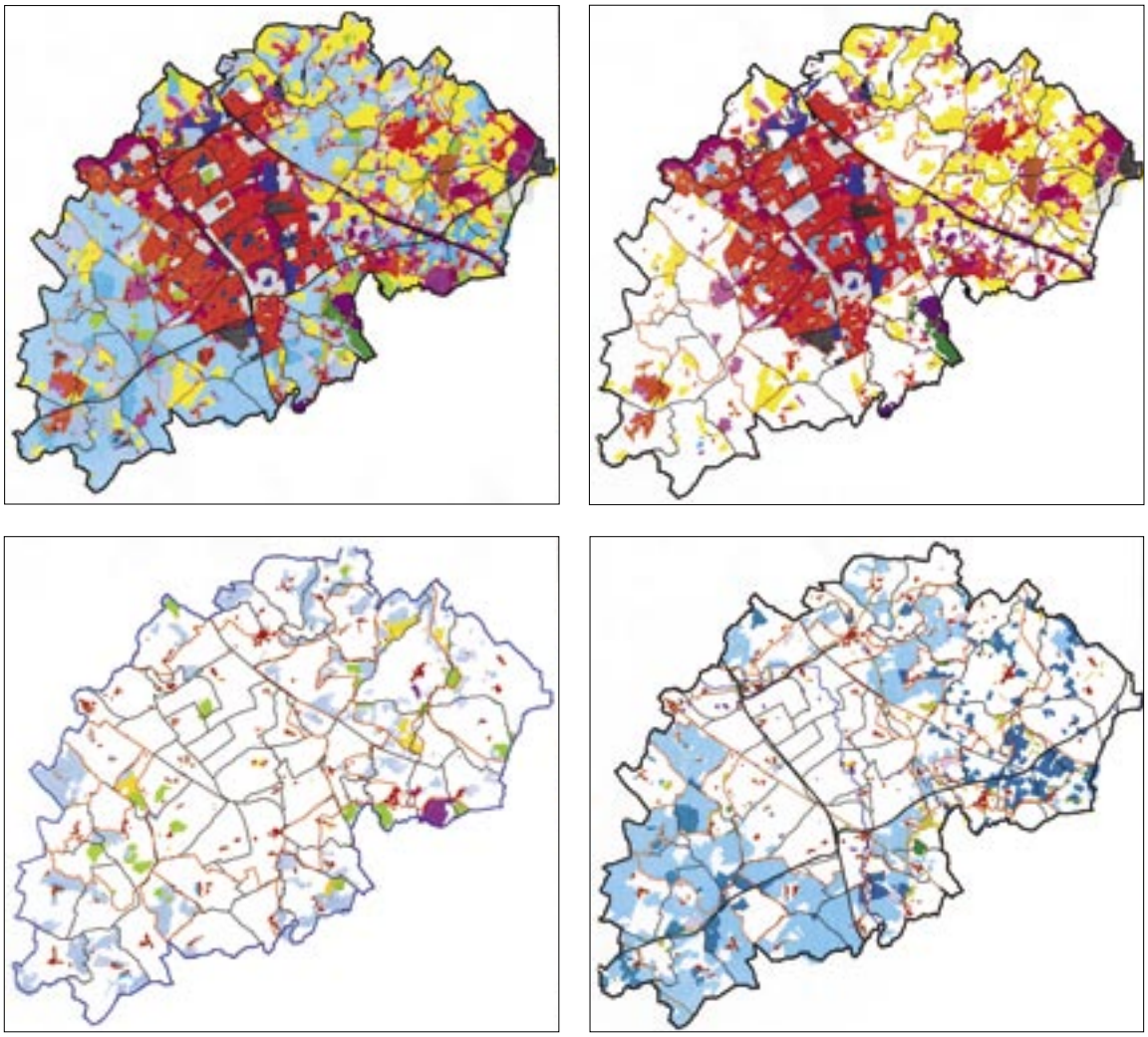
the most radical intervention in the fabric of former industrial towns since the 1960s. In the last five years, major changes have already taken place in Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool, as the commercial and residential cores have been revived. The first years (2003–6) of the Government's housing market renewal programme, if successful, will lead to the transformation of many residential areas around the historic core of major cities and former industrial towns. Characterisation is being used in many ways in these Pathfinder Areas, such as Merseyside, and major HLC projects are covering the whole of the Black Country (beginning last year with a pilot study in Sandwell) and South Yorkshire. The common aim is to assist the Government not only in meeting its numerical targets but also in ensuring that new housing areas provide links with the past.

Finally, all these strands have been brought together in the most complex single project in the Sustainable Communities programme, the Thames Gateway. English Heritage, in partnership with the historic environment teams from Kent and Essex County Councils and from Greater London, commissioned a characterisation project of the whole of this area, plus a buffer zone, to provide a broad, historically sensitive context for the massive urban regeneration and expansion anticipated across this enormous heartland of the South East. The results demonstrate the integrative power of characterisation as clearly as they underline the complexity and richness of the Thames Gateway's historic environment.

The M11 Corridor

The combined HLCs for Essex and Hertfordshire had already captured the major historic landscape components in the study area, a 675-km^2 zone encompassing Harlow, Bishop's Stortford and Stansted. The next step was to assign values to the HLC types in the area. Judgements were based on the elements that represent the time-depth visible in the present landscape or their significance in terms of age, rarity or special interest, and on their sensitivity to change. The latter is of course particularly significant, being more relevant at this strategic scale to decisions about future changes than significance alone. Numerical scoring systems provided a guide to help rationalise the data, but their main purpose was to structure the definition of the issues that apply within the study area.

The results enabled a sensitivity ranking, explained what it applied to and examined the differing capacities of single or grouped landscape components to absorb change. Maps showed the patterns of the historic processes in the study area, such as the dominance of medieval to pre-18th-century enclosures to the north and west, and the intricate patchwork of earlier survivals within the 20th-century arable landscapes to the south and east. These



The landscape of Milton Keynes. Clockwise from top left: the present landscape – a combination of periods; 20th century changes; 18th and 19th century modifications; major survivals from the 15th to 17th century.

patterns were also mapped according to the range of historic asset values, both as individual HLC units of similar origin and character, and in a more aggregated form that had a greater bearing on strategic planning for the envisaged scale of change. (The study is available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation.)

Dave Went, Characterisation Team
Lynn Dyson-Bruce, Essex County Council

Milton Keynes

The Milton Keynes and South Midlands (MKSM) sub-region straddles three government regions and encompasses Bedfordshire, north Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire. The Government has recommended the construction of 370,000 new homes in this area, to be focused on existing urban centres that could accommodate housing and create employment, especially Milton Keynes. Here, proposed alterations to regional planning guidance would allow nearly 34,000 new houses by 2016, of which 14,600 are to be 'sustainable urban extensions' into the surrounding countryside.

The Milton Keynes urban expansion programme provided an opportunity for English Heritage, in partnership with the historic environment services of Buckinghamshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council, not only to assess the impact that proposed expansion would have upon the surrounding historic landscape but also to show how HLC could be used to contribute to future planning strategy. The resulting report was submitted to the Panel Inquiry into the MKSM sub-regional strategy, held in Spring 2004.

Our report was an analysis of the landscape of 38 parishes around Milton Keynes using data from two HLC projects in Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire. From the merged data were produced period-based maps showing the influence of the 20th century on earlier landscapes as well as the survival of earlier medieval landscapes. These maps complemented the statutory designations and local Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), which tend to focus on tightly defined areas and

Historic Landscape Zones in the Milton Keynes area. The Milton Keynes urban area is in red (1), surrounded by areas of historic and modern landscape features: 2. Calverton and north Whaddon; 3. Beachampton Old Enclosures; 4. Whaddon Chase; 5. Winslow / Horwoods Claylands; 6. Salden Manor; 7. Newton Longville Parish; 8. Brickhill and Woburn; 9. Clayland fringe; 10. Duke of Bedford Estate; 11. Bedfordshire Bricklands; 12. Woodland Border; 13. Central Clayland; 14. Sherrington Zone; 15. Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands corridor.

have rather selective coverage of the 18th to the 20th century.

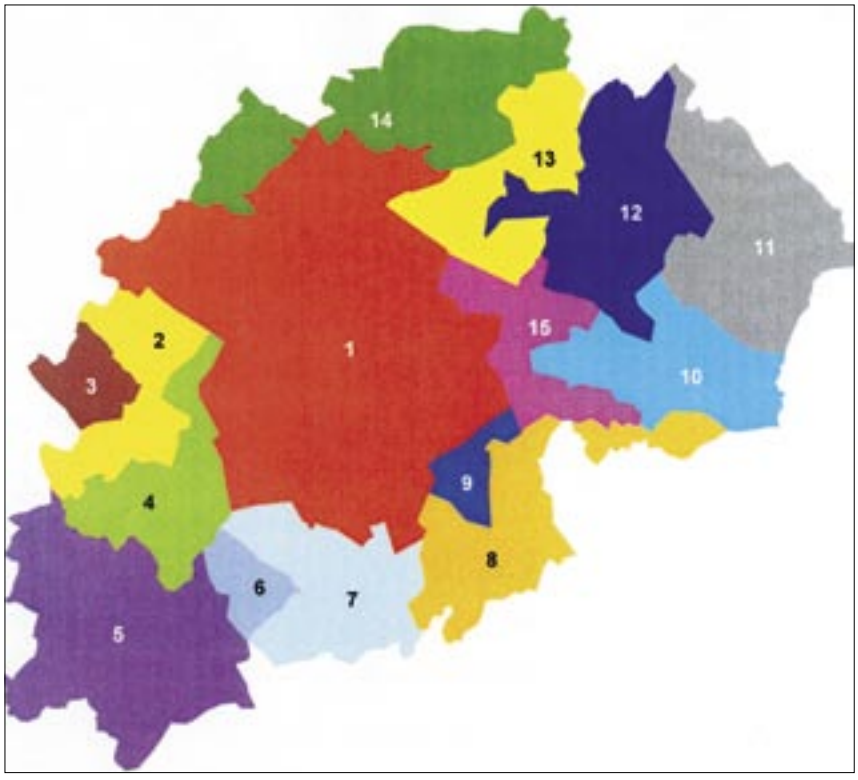
The HLC analysis enabled the identification of 15 historic landscape zones (HLZs): distinct patterns of landscape character that have a broadly common history and visible heritage. They present a concise summary of the historic environment, backed up by short descriptions that can be used easily by consultants and planners to help assess capacity for change at a strategic scale and provide a framework for describing local distinctiveness.

Planning studies had already assessed specific areas on the edge of Milton Keynes that might accommodate growth. In response, our project included a detailed assessment model using HLC, heritage/environmental designation data and selected information from SMRs to make an initial consideration of the impact on the historic environment. Historic landscapes, buildings and archaeological sites were all assessed, and consideration was given to visual setting. A measure of sensitivity was devised, as a first step to understanding the capacity of an HLZ to accommodate development without an unacceptable erosion of character or (conversely) with strengthening of character.

Our study showed that the landscape to the west and south of Milton Keynes was relatively unaffected by 20th-century change but that the landscape to the east was more fragmented, having seen much greater change through the 19th and 20th centuries. On this basis alone, the land to the east could be shown to have more potential to absorb the planned change and development, whereas areas to the west were more vulnerable.

The assessment also made positive recommendations where development could assist in the restoration and enhancement of the historic environment through the creation of what is becoming known as 'green infrastructure' – encompassing both the historic and natural environments. A number of key locations were identified that could benefit, including the former medieval hunting forest of Whaddon Chase on the southern fringe of Milton Keynes, which could be reinstated as a community park and woodland. Within development areas, there is potential for including the historic environment to create a sense of place: retaining traditional buildings and hedgerows, locating open space around archaeological monuments and using historic lanes as public rights of way. Imaginative design can make the historic environment part of the future as well as the past. (The report is available on www.buckscc.gov.uk/archaeology/hlc_and_mksm/index.htm.)

Dave Green and **Sandy Kidd**,
Buckinghamshire County Council



Pathfinders

In 2002, the Deputy Prime Minister announced the establishment of nine Pathfinders to tackle the problem of low demand for certain types of housing, particularly pre-1919 terraced housing and estates built in the 1960s.

Research undertaken by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Birmingham suggested that 900,000 homes in the midlands and north were suffering from or at risk of low demand. The symptoms of low demand, often evident where the economy is weak, are manifested in poor health, high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. This in turn leads to falling house prices, negative equity and abandonment of property. Once such a cycle starts, it can be hard to reverse, and the spiral of decline, in places such as Langworthy in Salford, can be dramatic and devastating to the resident communities. A holistic approach to the regeneration of the housing markets should be taken to create sustainable communities.

A key issue is oversupply in the market. Some estimates suggest that 250,000 homes will need to be demolished over the next 10 to 15 years. Larger numbers of homes will be retained and refurbished, while high quality new build,

public realm and infrastructure improvements will be used to revitalise communities.

Many of the places targeted for significant physical intervention represent the heartlands of England's industrial pre-eminence: the textile towns of Lancashire and Greater Manchester, housing for the coal, steel and ship-building workers of Yorkshire and the North East, and for the potteries of north Staffordshire. Many of these places have distinctive qualities of plan, form, materials and architectural detailing. How should the historic environment sector respond to the level of intervention and change that the Pathfinders will be driving?

The objective must be for market renewal programmes to be informed by an understanding of the historic environment. Local distinctiveness can provide a driver for regeneration and influence the form and design of new build. Some of the 1960s housing now targeted for demolition ignored these factors – hence a need to stitch back together communities shattered by poorly planned programmes of demolition and new build.

This is where characterisation is invaluable. The existing English Heritage / Lancashire County Council HLC characterisation and urban surveys were used by the consultants who prepared the Area Development Framework (ADF – the principal masterplanning framework used by Pathfinders) for Bacup and Stacksteads. The approach adopted in this ADF was for the strong character of the natural and historic environment to be used as a driver for the regeneration of the area.

The ADF for Nelson in Lancashire is currently in preparation. Here too the consultants are finding urban characterisation of real value in gaining an overview of the historic environment. Over 50% of the pre-1919 housing stock has been lost, and only one part of the town, Whitefield (see page 9), retains a substantially intact 19th-century townscape. This is the area where English Heritage, together with local residents, successfully resisted plans for clearance at two public inquiries. The emerging ADF is now taking a predominantly conservation-led approach to the regeneration of Whitefield, while exploring the potential for reduction in the oversupply of terraced housing elsewhere in the town.

The housing market renewal process is being driven forward so rapidly that few ADFs have been significantly influenced by characterisation. However, revisions will take place during implementation, and if the three-year Pathfinder programme is sustained for a further 10 or more years, opportunities to feed character information into the process will arise. English Heritage has also developed a faster methodology ('whirlwind' surveys) for areas at risk of highest clearance. The results of the pilot study in the Anfield / Breckfield area will be layered into the Merseyside HLC currently underway (see page 17).

The most significant element of influencing change in Pathfinder areas, however, will be the active engagement of the affected communities. In Nelson, a predominantly Asian community values the adaptability of the terraced house to meet present day needs. Mapping community perceptions of what is important and incorporating this with other layers of characterisation is a concept that needs to be explored much further. If developed successfully, it would be a powerful tool for creating sustainable communities.

Henry Owen-John,
Director, North West Region

The Thames Gateway

In August 2003, English Heritage, in association with Kent County Council and Essex County Council, commissioned Chris Blandford Associates to undertake a rapid strategic characterisation of the historic environment of the Thames Gateway. This area, the seaward approach to our capital and its hinterland, historically the core of the nation's main links to Europe and the world, contains a fascinating mixture of urban, industrial, military and rural landscapes with a proud and unique heritage. The project marks the first phase of a long-term process to inform the ongoing regeneration of the Thames Gateway. Its first need, however, is a broad and consistent

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Terraced housing in Salford, abandoned as a result of market failure. The area is now the subject of imaginative plans to adapt the housing for modern living being put forward by Salford City Council and Urban Splash.

Aerial view of the Whitefield ward of Nelson, Lancashire (see page 8), showing the distinctive arrangement of housing, laid out to the specifications of the local board, and its relationship to the mills and weaving sheds flanking the Leeds–Liverpool canal.

level of understanding about the character and sensitivity of the environment, including areas beyond the specific Growth Areas, to allow strategic decisions on regeneration proposals and their effects to be taken in a regional context. The English Heritage project provided this understanding for the historic aspects of the environment. Ambitious and far-reaching though it was, the project must still be envisaged as the foundation for further work, at a more local level, to help determine the character, scale and location of new development, and assist the design processes.

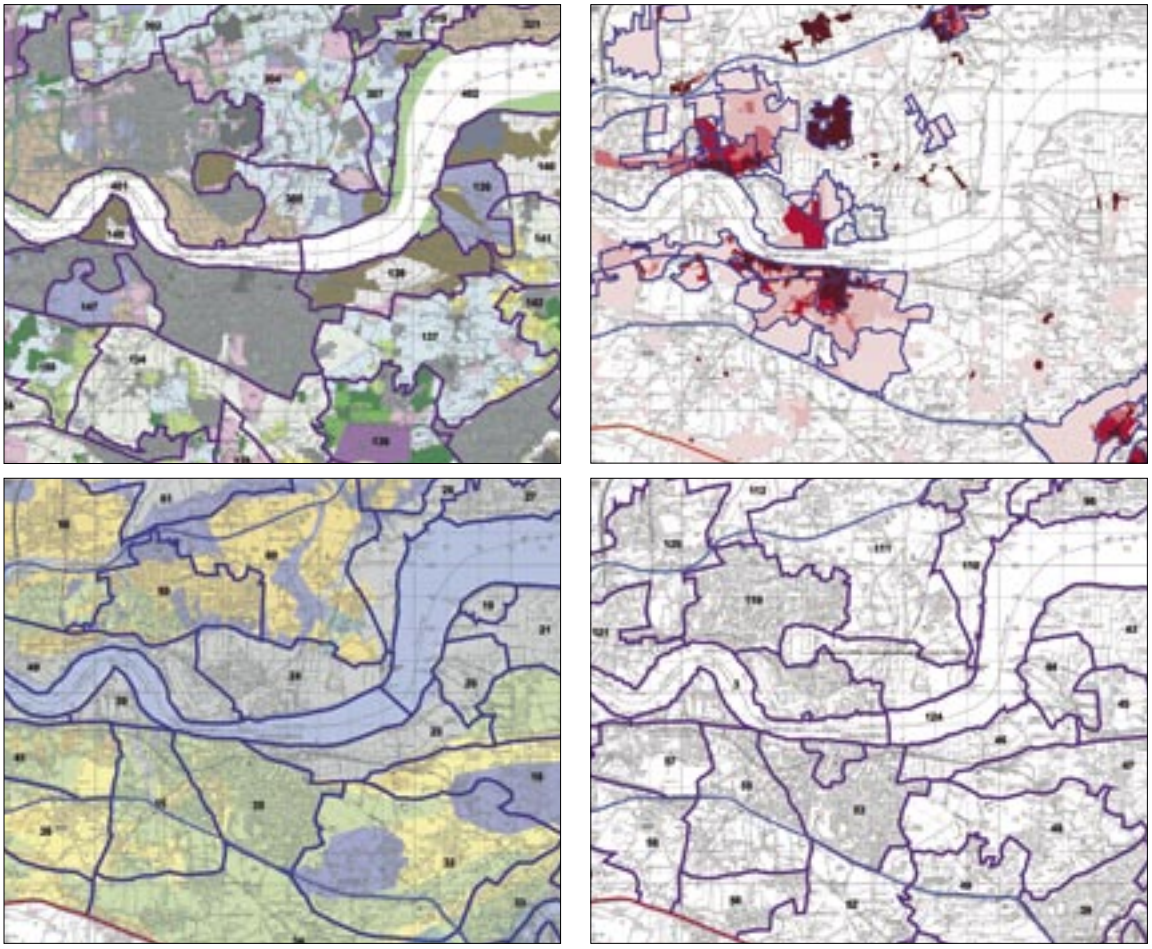
The primary aim of the Thames Gateway project was to supply a broad characterisation of the historic environment. Although the methodology drew on existing approaches, such as HLC and Landscape Character Assessment, it was novel and challenging in terms of its scope, subject and style. The analysis initially prepared three separate characterisations for major dimensions of the historic environment: Historic Landscape, Archaeology and Built Heritage. It drew heavily on the HLCs for Essex and Kent as well as local and national heritage datasets, especially the county SMRs/HERs. These three layers were then also woven together into a fourth layer, a combined Historic Environment Characterisation, although this complements rather than replaces the separate layers.

The case study illustrated on page 10 demonstrates this process. From the top left clockwise, Box 1 shows the HLC types for an area overlain by the Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs). Box 2 portrays the evolution of the principal urban areas from the mid-19th century to the present and is overlain by the Urban Character Areas (UCAs). Box 3 shows the simplified geology of the area overlain by the Archaeological Context Areas (ACAs). Box 4 shows the combined Historic Environment Character Areas (HECAs) developed from the three preceding elements of the characterisation. In all, the study identified 140 HECAs, over 300 UCAs, around 80 ACAs and 80 HLCAs across the Thames Gateway. These areas are each accompanied by brief descriptions, all of which are accessible through a GIS package.

The study demonstrated that it is possible to develop a broad and robust understanding of the historic environment within the context of geographically distinct 'character areas' and present these in an accessible and usable format. The four strands can be used together or as stand-alone elements of future analyses. They paint a generalised picture of the historic environment and can inform the development decision-making process. The creation of combined character areas may also have other applications, for example alongside or within Landscape Character Assessments, first as design guidelines.

The project also experimented with the issue of sensitivity mapping – a challenging subject, especially at a strategic scale. The nature of historic data, especially it being principally point specific, and the complexity of the historic environment, have not traditionally lent themselves towards broad assessments. The study developed techniques, however, that provide a generalised overview of the relative sensitivity of the three elements of the historic environment across the Study Area, using a repeatable and updateable GIS-based methodology.

The methodology assigned numerical values and buffers to historic environment assets, whether historic buildings, archaeological sites or field patterns recognised through HLC. The values reflected a view of the relative sensitivity of different types of assets to major physical change of the types envisaged by Sustainable Communities. Sensitivity in general needs to be assessed against specific types of proposed change, and it is contextual and relative rather than absolute. Through a process of combination within the GIS, these values were expressed as cumulative maps of sensitivity for each of these historic environment themes expressed on a shared scale ranging from Extremely Sensitive to No Sensitivity or Unknown Sensitivity. The result within the



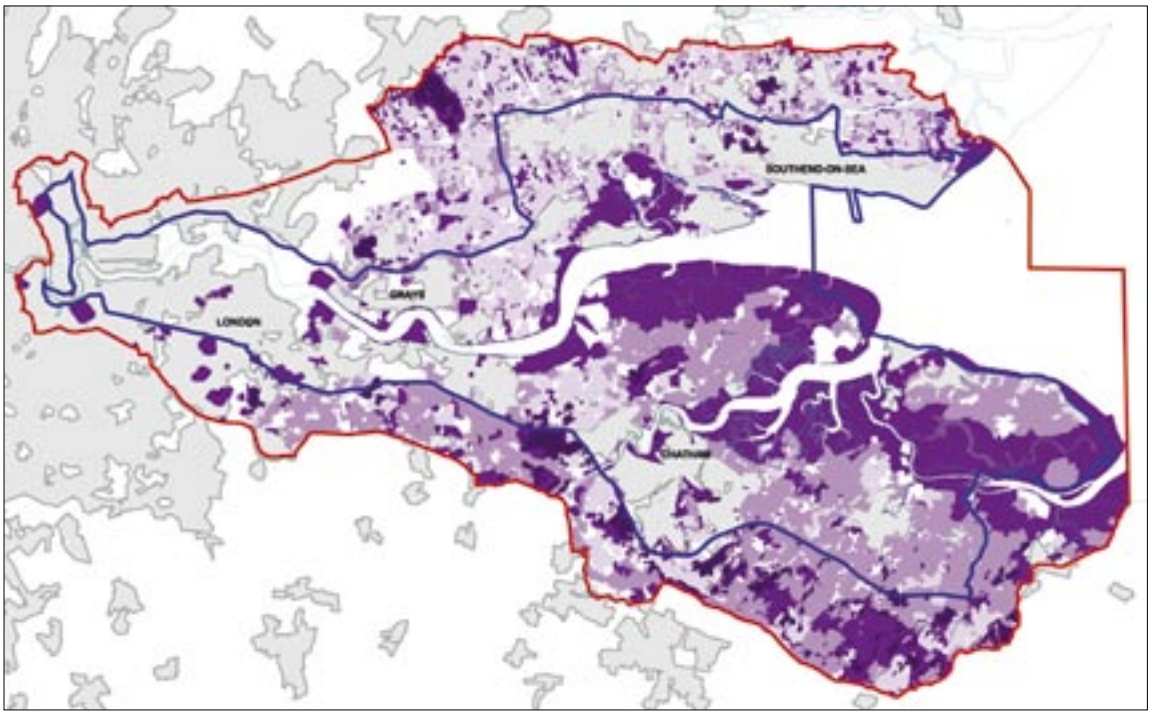
From top left clockwise: Historic Landscape Character Areas overlying HLC types, Urban Character Areas overlying urban evolution data, Archaeological Character Areas overlying simplified geology, Combined Historic Environment Character Areas.

project is clearly experimental, and different input values would lead to different results; the method, however, is considered robust. Like the whole Thames Gateway characterisation, the sensitivity analysis is designed to be a living and updateable resource.

The Thames Gateway Characterisation, the most ambitious project of its type ever undertaken in response to a development framework, has provided a solid foundation for these future projects, and many will draw upon the results and the approaches it pioneered.

This report is available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation.

Andrew Croft, formerly Chris Blandford Associates, now Atkins Heritage



Initial Historic Landscape Sensitivity Analysis (darker colours indicate higher sensitivity). The study area is outlined in red, the development area in blue.

Urban Characterisation
Improving methodologies

Introduced and compiled by Roger M Thomas *Characterisation Team; Head of Urban Archaeology*

Historic urban character is increasingly taken into account in planning urban renewal.

The concept of character is well established for urban areas and was central to the 1967 Conservation Area legislation: see *Conservation Area Appraisals: Defining the special architectural or historic interest of Conservation Areas* (London: English Heritage, 1997).

English Heritage's current work on urban characterisation, however, has its roots in our urban archaeological strategies programme launched in 1992 as part of English Heritage's response to PPG16, *Archaeology and Planning* (1990). It was clear from the outset that in historic towns and cities, with their combination of extremely important archaeological remains and continuing development pressure, PPG16 would pose a particular challenge for planning authorities and developers. More recently, the urban programme has been modified in the light of approaches developed in English Heritage's Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) programme (see pages 20–2) initiated a few years later.

The English Heritage urban archaeological programme was designed to produce archaeological databases, assessments and strategies for historic towns and cities throughout England. Thirty-five major historic urban centres were to be the subject of individual intensive studies, while all smaller towns were to be dealt with through a series of county-wide extensive urban surveys (EUS). These projects were to be funded by English Heritage and undertaken by or through the local authorities concerned. Members of the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) have played a key role in the programme.

As originally conceived, the programme focused primarily on buried archaeological remains and historic topography, generally from pre-18th-century periods. As a result, the towns and cities of the industrial period tended to be neglected in favour of market towns and cathedral cities of medieval or earlier origin.

The *Power of Place* agenda, and the need to respond to regeneration initiatives in former industrial areas (especially involving brownfield land), have led to important developments in the scope of the programme. New projects (described below) deal with the totality of the historic environment and urban areas of the 19th and 20th century. The results are being used to protect historic character and promote sympathetic regeneration in what is, increasingly, an urban nation.

This article illustrates the range of urban characterisation projects which English heritage is currently supporting, and shows how these are being used to protect historic character and promote sympathetic regeneration in an increasingly urban nation.

Four projects described here (Bath, Lincoln, Worcester and Bristol) focus on buried archaeological remains in historic cities. Most characterisation projects have been concerned with the visible historic character of the present day landscape. The principles of characterisation are, however, equally applicable to the buried landscape (or townscape) of archaeological remains. There is a strong need for such characterisation. If archaeology is really to influence urban planning, a generalising approach is needed that defines distinct archaeological zones (as opposed to individual monuments or findspots) in the urban landscape.

Some 600 small towns (about half the national total) have been covered by the EUS programme. This work has made a major contribution to defining the character of small towns, largely by analysing the historic topography of each one, and its evolution, through a series of period-based plan components. Typically, these might be a block of burgage plots, a monastic precinct or a market place. These components (as well as giving an indication of buried archaeological potential) define the spatial structure or grain

of the town and indicate how it has developed. This structure is further reflected in the patterns of buildings occupying different plan components.

An understanding of this structure, and of its evolution, is an essential prerequisite for the planning of future change in a town. Some recent developments – such as a supermarket in Reigate, Surrey, that swept away the long, narrow, medieval plot boundaries behind a main street frontage to make way for a car park – show how destructive of character a failure to acknowledge the historic topography can be. The most recent EUS projects, such as that for Sussex, have adapted the traditional EUS model to take full account of characterisation and the *Power of Place* agenda.

Characterisation attempts to define what makes a place special. This allows an estimate to be made of how much change, and of what sorts, a place can absorb without losing its distinctive qualities. This has led a number of agencies to promote historic characterisation as part of wider regeneration strategies. Projects in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and in Gloucester, are examples.

Earlier EUS projects concentrated on rural 'shire' counties. When an EUS for Lancashire was proposed, it was clear that a new approach was needed to deal with the towns of the Industrial Revolution. The Lancashire EUS pioneered the extension of the programme to towns of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Some of the greatest contemporary challenges for both regeneration agencies and the heritage are presented by England's great conurbations, notably Greater London, the former metropolitan counties such as Merseyside, the West Midlands and South Yorkshire, and areas such as Thames Gateway. The intended pace and scale of regeneration in these areas has made it imperative to begin the task of characterisation. An amalgam of HLC and EUS approaches is being used for this.

Map of counties carrying out or having completed extensive urban surveys.

The projects described below indicate graphically the range of approaches and achievements employed in English Heritage's urban programme, and the skill and innovation of our local authority partners.

The various projects have key themes in common. GIS and mapped information are central and help to define areas or zones on maps that include both historical details and policy recommendations. This approach is avowedly generalising: it goes beyond the detail of particular buildings or archaeological remains to create wider models of urban character. Its comprehensibility opens the way to a more equal dialogue between heritage professionals and non-specialists: the planner, the elected member, the developer (who is increasingly conscious of the economic value of the historic environment) and – most important of all – the ordinary person in whose interests we are, we hope, acting.

Bath

An archaeological characterisation project for Bath – a World Heritage Site since 1987 – has focused on the buried remains beneath the historic core of the modern city. This followed the compilation of an Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) for Bath and a draft Urban Archaeological Assessment. Development control planners and conservation officers in Bath indicated that what they most needed were unambiguous maps showing the exact locations of archaeological remains and clear statements explaining what they should do about them.

The project was undertaken as part of a wider Bath Urban Archaeological Strategy project still in progress. The characterisation model is based on two concepts: archaeological potential and the distribution of monument groups. A series of top-level character zones has been defined, beneath which more detailed deposit modelling can be slotted.

Each zone is mapped and recorded in the authority's GIS-based Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Each includes the following elements:

- boundary description (making it clear that boundaries are liable to change as further archaeological work is undertaken);

- character description (both buried archaeological and built attributes): Zone 8, for instance, covers the registered Victoria Park and also the archaeological remains, such as Roman burials, beneath it; some zones are based on geology and archaeological potential: Zone 36 covers the ill-defined archaeology of the outlying areas;
- assessment of threats (threats to the physical survival and analyses of the ability of a zone to absorb change);
- assessment of opportunities (the contribution that archaeology makes to the experience of Bath for visitors and residents);
- research potential (based on local and national archaeological frameworks).

The characterisation has now been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Bob Sydes, Bath and North East Somerset Council

Lincoln

The Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment (LARA) project has characterised archaeological value across the Lincoln local authority area. LARA aims to advance our understanding of the archaeology and to explain what further work the archaeological community would like to see undertaken.

LARA followed the creation of a UAD for Lincoln and an English Heritage-funded programme to publish the results of excavations carried out in the 1970s and 1980s.

The LARA methodology defined seven eras – from the Neolithic period to 1945 – that represent discrete phases in the city's development. For each era, the Lincoln City Council was divided into a series of Research Agenda Zones (RAZs). Each RAZ includes a definition of archaeological character and importance, and of future archaeological research topics. Some RAZs correspond to conventional archaeological monuments, such as Lincoln Castle, but others encompass areas of what was once diverse agricultural landscape. More than 550 RAZs have been defined, mapped and described in a GIS with a text database.

LARA has now been published in *The City by the Pool* (Oxford: Oxbow Books, 2003) that contains, in addition to a conventional account of Lincoln's archaeology, a CD-ROM with the RAZ database and an integral GIS.

LARA makes archaeological understanding directly available to the development control and strategic planning processes. It can be used by the Planning Committee to justify the imposition of archaeological requirements on new developments in the city. It can also allow the people of Lincoln to see how each location, not just the major monuments, has contributed to the city's history – a truly public archaeology.

David Stocker, Characterisation Team

Worcester

An historic townscape characterisation of the city centre of Worcester has been undertaken as part of the Worcester Urban Archaeological Strategy project. It is part of a comprehensive approach to the city's total archaeological resource – below ground, via an archaeological deposit model, and above, including the present day landscape.

Methodologically, the townscape characterisation combines the generalised descriptive approach of current rural HLC work with detailed models of urban developmental trajectories, in particular, the burgage cycle developed by urban historical geographers. The urban landscape has, therefore, been analysed in three ways: first,

Worcester Historic Townscape Characterisation. Character areas in the city centre, including historic precincts and open spaces, 19th-century terraced housing, 19th- and 20th-century municipal schemes, post-1960s development, and late 19th- and 21st-century in-fill developments.

Extract from Jacobus Millerd's plan (second edition, 1673) showing the extent of medieval Bristol.

in terms of its framework of streets and plots, and the degree to which different historical periods have contributed to aspects of the present townscape; second, in terms of the buildings within that framework, as well as how much and where different historical periods are represented; and third, in terms of different areas of distinct character.

This complex approach is essential for an ancient city centre with many components of medieval or earlier date. For the built-up area outside the walled city and historic suburbs, a simpler approach is being used, based on 18th-century and later cartographic sources. This will be more detailed than a rural HLC but designed to sit within that framework.

Our work on the historic centre has revealed relationships between townscape character areas, the survival and formation of underlying archaeological deposits, and the provenance and character of the data now contained on the city's Historic Environment Record. This work will provide evidence for Local Development Framework documents and Conservation Area character appraisals.

Nigel Baker, Archaeological Consultant
James Dinn and **Sheena Payne**, Worcester City Council

Bristol

The Bristol Urban Archaeological Strategy project has been carried out alongside the City Council's development of Neighbourhood Statements to provide an historical context for sympathetic regeneration.

Bristol's history spans a thousand years from its foundation as a port around AD 1000. The city developed organically until the late-13th century, subsuming its suburbs and reclaiming marshland from the surrounding alluvial floodplains. The extent of the medieval town is shown in the extract from Jacobus Millerd's plan of 1673.

The next expansion, in the more settled political climate following the Restoration, was based on new trade links with the New World. New squares and suburbs such as Clifton and Kingsdown, built on the hills overlooking the historic centre, are now incorporated within the extensive central urban core.

Bristol suffered huge damage in air raids during World War II. These losses, together with pre- and post-war planning decisions, severed the links between the historic parts of the city. In order to avoid the mistakes of the past, it is vital that current regeneration schemes acknowledge context as well as economic and financial targets. According to the Government's Urban White Paper, 'the way forward needs to be grounded in an understanding of the past, the present and the pressures for future change.'

To gain a full understanding of Bristol's historic landscape, English Heritage grant-aided Bristol City Council to produce a UAD for central Bristol. The database now includes over 5000 records of archaeological events and monuments, from formal excavations, watching briefs and casual finds to the past images of the city captured by artists and early photographers. The UAD is operated in tandem with the SMR, which covers the rest of the Bristol City Council area.

A comprehensive Urban Archaeological Assessment, based on defined character areas, has been drafted. In many respects, these areas mirror City Centre Neighbourhoods, which have been produced to guide sympathetic regeneration. When published, this UAA will be the first synopsis of Bristol's history and archaeology, based on over 200 years of antiquarian and archaeological research. For more information, please see www.bristollegiblecity.info.

Bob Jones, Bristol City Council

The study area for Bristol's Urban Archaeological Database: (dotted line) areas of intensive study; (red) city walls; (green) assumed line of Civil War defenses (after McGrath, 1981).

Sussex

The EUS for the historic county of Sussex (East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove unitary authority) retains the focus on small towns of earlier EUS projects but takes a wider view. The work complements an HLC for the same area, and the combined result will be

Steyning, Sussex. Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs), showing internal boundaries of Historic Character Type (HTC) areas.

a comprehensive historic characterisation of the rural and urban landscapes of a large area of southern England.

The project covers 41 towns across the county, ranging from the late-Saxon town of Steyning to the 20th-century new town of Crawley. The US covers the full extent of the modern built-up area of the county. It therefore fits seamlessly with the Sussex HLC, and meets the need to understand 19th- and 20th-century heritage as well as the remains of earlier periods.

Reports summarise archaeological and historic information and the historical and topographical development of each town under consideration. Generic county-wide Historic Character Types (HCTs) have been defined, and are used to identify individual Historic Urban Character Areas (HUCAs) for each town.

Historic Urban Character Areas combine components of different history and antiquity, and several HCTs are usually included in a single HUCA. The Historic Environment Value (HEV) of each HUCA is assessed on a scale from 1 to 5, using criteria such as townscape rarity and completeness. A Historic Environment Research Framework then sets out research topics for further archaeological work.

The Sussex EUS is still at an early stage, but it promises to advance characterisation methodology as well as knowledge of Sussex towns and their conservation.

Bob Connell, West Sussex County Council

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

In 1999, Cornwall was accorded European Objective One status, attracting some £300 million for regeneration projects from 2000–7, to be spent mostly in 19 Cornish towns that are centres of population and employment. Expenditure on this scale could easily threaten the regional distinctiveness of these towns and harm the historic environment. It could, if well used, equally strengthen and protect these assets.

The Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey (CSUS) project was established to ensure that regeneration in these towns would respect, draw upon and enhance their historic character. The £410,000 cost of CSUS is jointly being met by English Heritage and Objective One funds administered by the Government Office for the South West.

Cornwall's towns are small (none larger than 28,000 inhabitants) but diverse in origin and present day character. They include market towns, ports, holiday resorts and industrial towns. CSUS set out to define the distinctive characters of these towns, using techniques of map study, fieldwork and topographical analysis to define the growth, historic topography and buried archaeological potential of each town.

Character Areas are defined, based on a common history and physical components, and refined through a critical appraisal of present day character, including tranquillity, sense of enclosure and views.

The results have challenged some perceptions (aided by wide dissemination via www.historic-cornwall.org.uk). St Austell, for example, often thought of as a drab and damaged town, is noted for its qualities and architectural diversity. Regeneration projects should play to those strengths. The Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey has demonstrated how the historic environment can contribute to regeneration, even in areas often perceived as having little heritage merit.

Peter Herring, Cornwall County Council

Gloucester

Gloucester is a major historic city in need of economic regeneration. To this end, the South-West Regional Development Agency established the Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (URC). Alan Baxter and Associates (ABA) was commissioned to carry out a Rapid Characterisation Study of the historic core of Gloucester, as the first stage in a process that

Gloucester Cathedral from the docks: two of the city's principal historic assets.

will lead to an Urban Framework for the city's regeneration.

Gloucester is a Roman, Saxon, medieval and industrial port city, with a rich archaeological, architectural and townscape heritage that has suffered badly from radical post-war planning. The ABA study aimed to interpret existing heritage evidence to plan the city's future.

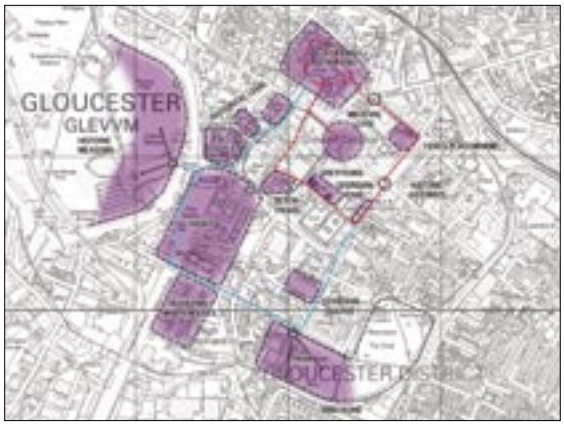
The project identified the city's broad historical development and the legacies of each period of its past. Most influences have been positive, such as the cross plan which originated in the Roman period. Some have been negative, such as the post-war redevelopment that interrupted the Saxon street grid and isolated the 11th-century Norman castle.

The study suggests how new developments can harness the positive aspects of the city's historic character and put right those things which contribute to its current state of decline. What is clear, above all, is the depth of Gloucester's past and its influence on the city's form today. The regeneration of Gloucester must exploit the strength of what is there and use the best contemporary urban design and architecture to knit currently fragmented elements into a coherent whole. The ABA study shows that historic character can make a real contribution to economic regeneration and future prosperity.

William Filmer-Sankey, Alan Baxter and Associates

Lancashire

Lancashire County Council has, through the EUS programme, pioneered the extension of HLC-type approaches into urban areas. Lancashire is characterised by very extensive areas of 19th-century urbanisation: workers' housing, mill, chapels, pubs and other institutions. Now, large areas are proposed for clearance. In East Lancashire, under the Housing Market Renewal programme (page 8),



Framework for regeneration (near right): identifying areas of historic character to knit the city of Gloucester back together. Gloucester historic assets today (far right): pockets of survival, fragmented and isolated by post-war redevelopment.

some 25,000 houses (many of them Victorian terraces) may be demolished in the next few years.

The Lancashire Historic Towns Project aims to characterise the 33 most important towns of the county. It builds on the Lancashire HLC, mapping and defining historic urban character types. The use of generic types means that comparisons can be made between towns: for instance, all the survivals of 'byelaw' housing in the county can be mapped and identified.

An important part of the project is to produce Historic Town Management Guidance for each town: a summary of the historical development and management strategies for the historic environment. Strategies are grouped under three headings: townscape, below-ground archaeological remains, and historic buildings and structures. Each section includes both generic and asset- or area-specific recommendations.

This guidance has been welcomed by Lancashire local authorities. The approach is comprehensive, flexible, positive and focused on the historic dimension of the present day. It is being adopted for a range of purposes, including development plans and Supplementary Planning Guidance. Further potential uses include community strategies, conservation area appraisals and the emerging local development frameworks.

John Darlington National Trust (formerly LCC) **Lesley Mitchell**, (Lancashire County Council)

An example of an historic map (right) used to generate a map of historic character types (left) in the Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project.

Merseyside

The Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project aims to characterise the whole of the Merseyside conurbation, including Liverpool, recently designated European Capital of Culture 2008 and nominated for World Heritage Site status. The project forms part of the Historic Environment of Liverpool Project (HELP), led by Liverpool City Council and English Heritage. The Merseyside project is being undertaken by the Merseyside Archaeological Service (National Museums Liverpool), with funding from English Heritage and assistance from the five Merseyside unitary authorities.

Merseyside includes a diverse mixture of urban, rural and industrial landscapes. The project is merging HLC and EUS approaches to develop a GIS-based methodology for the rapid characterisation of large conurbations. The project method needs to deal with both the rapid change in towns during the industrial period and at the same time the broad sweep of rural landscapes.

The analysis is based on digitised First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey mapping, aerial photographs and modern Ordnance Survey mapping to establish the present day character and historical development of the landscape. Character types will be defined and mapped, for example, 19th-century terraced housing where the street grid mirrors earlier field boundaries. The results will be accessible to all through the Merseyside SMR.

The completed characterisation will underpin improved advice for planning, regeneration and land management. It will provide a context for more detailed local studies (pages 24–5) and raise awareness of the local historic environment.

Sarah-Jane Farr and **Neil Wearing**, Merseyside Archaeological Service

Courtesy of Rob Philpott

View of the Tate Liverpool across the Albert Dock. Historic warehouses on Merseyside have undergone regeneration for tourism and leisure activities.

Historic Farmsteads
New approaches

Introduced and compiled by Jeremy Lake *Characterisation Team*
and Stephen Trow *Head of Rural and Environmental Policy*

Measures are underway to manage change in historic farm buildings while maintaining local character.

Historic farmsteads are closely related to the richly varied patterns of land use and settlement in England. Those patterns have been analysed using the method of HLC, but it has so far not been possible to carry out similar studies of farmsteads, which in the coming years will play an increasingly important role in the diversification of farm incomes, rural regeneration, and the maintenance and enhancement of a high quality rural environment.

Audit and Evaluation Project

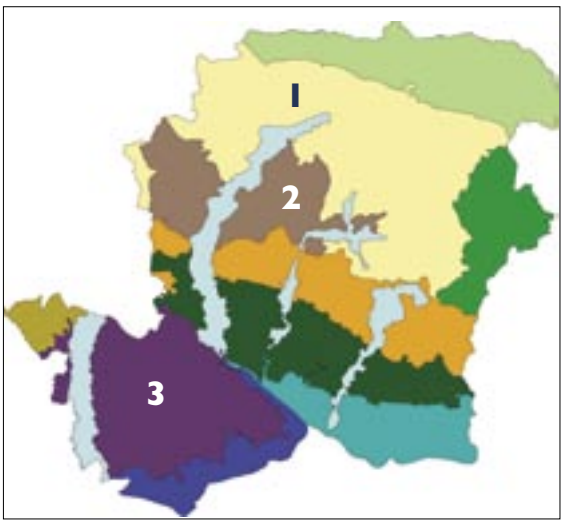
The rural issue of *Conservation Bulletin* (March 2002) outlined English Heritage's approach to traditional farm buildings, summarised the threats to that finite resource and described the Historic Farmsteads Audit and Evaluation Project, carried out jointly by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency.

Since then, extensive consultation with groups that have included the Government, farm advisers, and representatives of landowners and farmers has confirmed that there needs to be a positive engagement with the value of the whole resource, its relationship to landscape, sensitivity to change and broader context, in order to guide future decision-making and the targeting of resources and priorities. Above all, it is essential to avoid standard solutions that take no account of the diversity of regional and local character and circumstance.

The first step in this process will be a series of regional character and policy statements – containing a new policy on traditional farm buildings – jointly published by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency. These will be published as leaflets aimed at raising awareness among policy- and decision-makers in the government regions, in order to develop policies that take into account the importance, diversity and character of historic farm buildings. The leaflets will be supported by web-based documents that relate each region's character and development to a national framework and can serve as an information base for owners and their agents. In addition, we are working at rapid and succinct definitions of the resource within the framework of the 159 Joint Character Areas now used for the Countryside Quality Counts project and as a targeting framework for the roll-out of the new agri-environment schemes.

A pilot project in Hampshire has also explored how farmsteads can be mapped as a layer in GIS, and is already providing fresh insights into the relation between farmsteads, land use and landscape. In 2005, the project will be piloted in other areas of the country, and its applications to planning strategies, Whole Farm Plans and agri-environment schemes explored.

It will also serve as a basis for further work, such as a study of the impact of residential conversion not only on the fabric of the building but on the historic character of the landscape.



Historic Landscape Characterisation of Hampshire (left), for a pilot project on the local character and circumstances of traditional farmsteads.

Traditional farm buildings in the Hampshire landscape (right).
1. Hampshire Downs Character Area. Two large-aisled straw-thatched barns arranged around a courtyard with stables and granary, reflecting the importance of corn production in this area. No buildings for cattle are present within this farmstead.
2. Mid Hampshire Downs Character Area. A large 19th-century timber-framed barn on a planned farmstead within a regular landscape created through Parliamentary enclosure.
3. New Forest Lowland and Heath Character Area. A small cob animal shed of a New Forest commoner. The small-scale buildings of commoners practicing subsistence farming are rarely recognised by designation and are thus a vulnerable element of the historic farm building resource and landscape character.

Measuring change and the impact of policy

The completion of the Historic Farmsteads Audit and Evaluation Project (available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation), commissioned from the University of Gloucestershire, has provided a valuable insight into the character of the listed resource, the pressures upon it and the effectiveness of current policy.

Pressure for conversion to non-agricultural use varies according to region (the East Midlands is under the most pressure, and the North East the least) and degree (pressure being greatest in the most accessible rural areas). Despite policies designed to resist residential conversion in favour of commercial and economic use, a preference that appears in 84% of development plans, the overwhelming majority of listed building consents are for conversion to permanent residential buildings (71%). Half of all agricultural listed entries have been subject to planning applications since 1980, and (using the CBA database for the period 1998–2000) there is clearly much greater pressure on the unlisted resource. Nine out of ten Listed Building Consent applications affecting domestic listed entries – farmhouses and farm cottages – were for works to curtilage buildings, invariably farm buildings.

These statistics are matched by direct observation. Comparison of two photographic surveys in the late 1980s and 2001 demonstrates that 24% of working listed farm buildings have been converted to a new use – primarily domestic – during that period. This has been confirmed by other independent work and will by Spring 2005 provide statistics relating to each of the Joint Character Areas.

The way forward will be an emphasis on better design and a development of locally sensitive policy and guidance. The majority of regional planning guidance, structure plans and local plans, however, are largely dependent on national PPG notes and reveal a limited knowledge of local or regional character. There is clearly a need for regional and local characterisation to provide more nuanced understanding.

Peter Gaskell, Countryside and Community Research Unit, University of Gloucestershire

Historic Landscape Characterisation
A national programme

Jo Clark *Cheshire County Council (formerly Lancashire County Council)*

HLC and its principles are at the heart of English Heritage's historic characterisation work, integrating with other sectors and with European policy.

HLC is now ten years old. It has established itself solidly as an important tool for helping to manage change in the historic environment. It does not replace detailed procedures such as PPG16-based archaeological evaluation and mitigation measures within development control, but it supports them. As intended from the outset, it provides information to inform a wide range of decision-making processes.

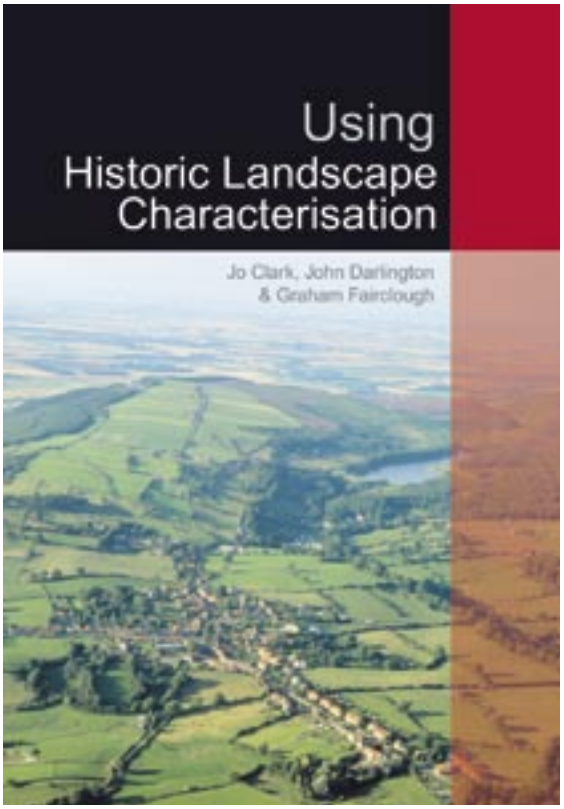
Many uses of HLC are discussed in this issue of *Conservation Bulletin*, such as its role in setting the scene for strategic development (pages 4–10). Though the full range and diversity of HLC uses is much greater than can be shown in this issue, something of the range is illustrated in English Heritage's *Using Historic Landscape Characterisation* (2004). This is the report of a review of national experience coordinated for English Heritage by Lancashire County Council.

The review collected examples of how Historic Landscape Characterisation is being made use of, in over a dozen county councils where HLC has been in active use for a few years. The applications fall into four main categories, some of which are illustrated elsewhere in this issue:

- landscape management and agri-environmental policy;
- integration into landscape assessments and strategies;
- spatial planning;
- research and outreach.

Historic Landscape Characterisation has broader value too as an important building block in the construction of a holistic appreciation of landscape. When aligned with landscape character assessments sponsored by the Countryside Agency and with English Nature's landscape-scale work, it provides an integrated way of working with the historic environment. The concept of landscape is critically important as an integrating force. To be successful, however, we need to find better ways to connect specialist views of landscape such as HLC to public and community views. The development of practical and more widely used tools for public participation should be a main goal for the next few years.

HLC also offers a sound vehicle for the UK to fulfil the ambitions of the European Landscape Convention (ELC). The ELC propounds many of the same principles and goals. It is already in force in 14 countries in



The report of a national review of how HLC is being successfully used in a wide variety of ways for managing the historic landscape. The cover image shows the rich, multi-period tapestry of the English landscape at Osmotherly, North Yorkshire, a county for which a major new HLC project is commencing in 2005.

the Council of Europe, and although the UK is not yet a signatory, its recommendations and advice are already shaping attitudes and policies through landscape, conservation and planning work.

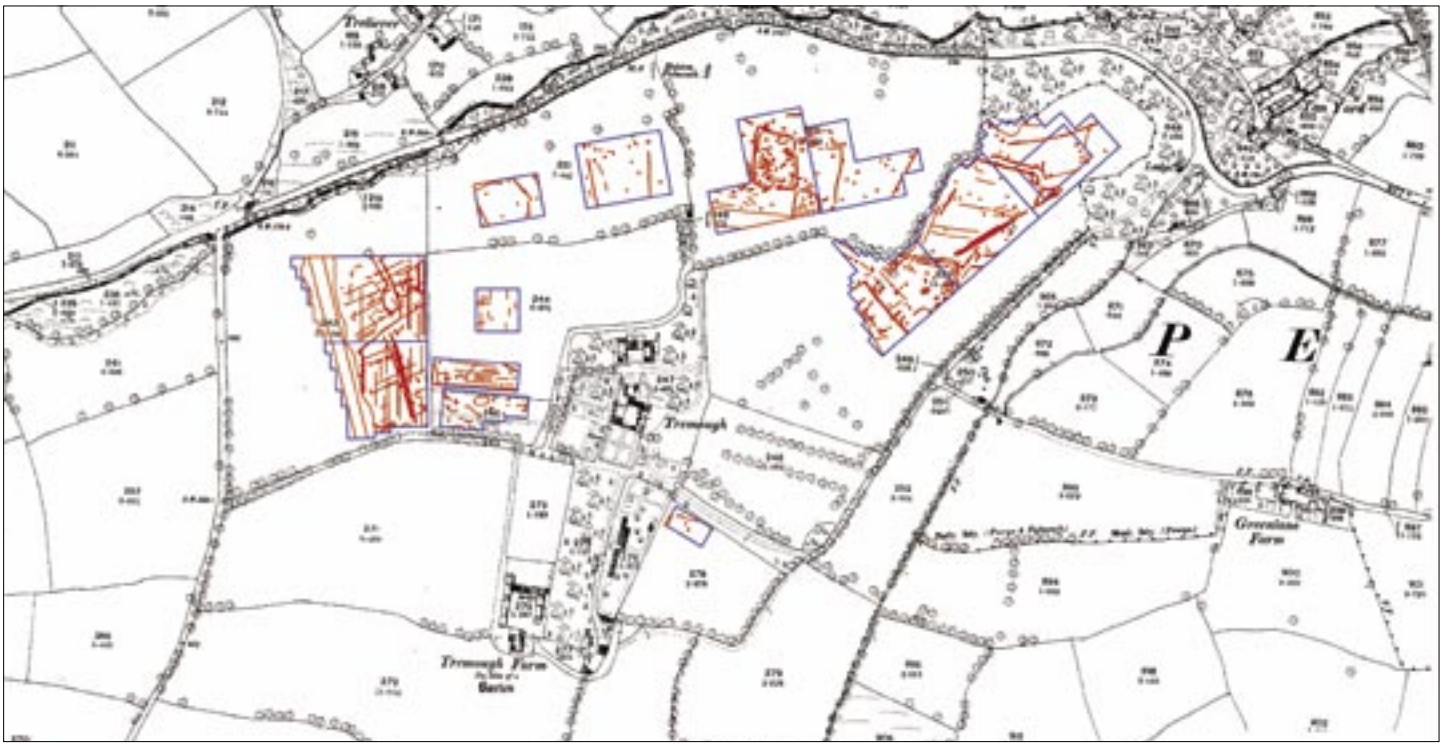
Using Historic Landscape Characterisation is available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation, or as a free publication from michelle.davis@english-heritage.org.uk.

Landscape character assessment

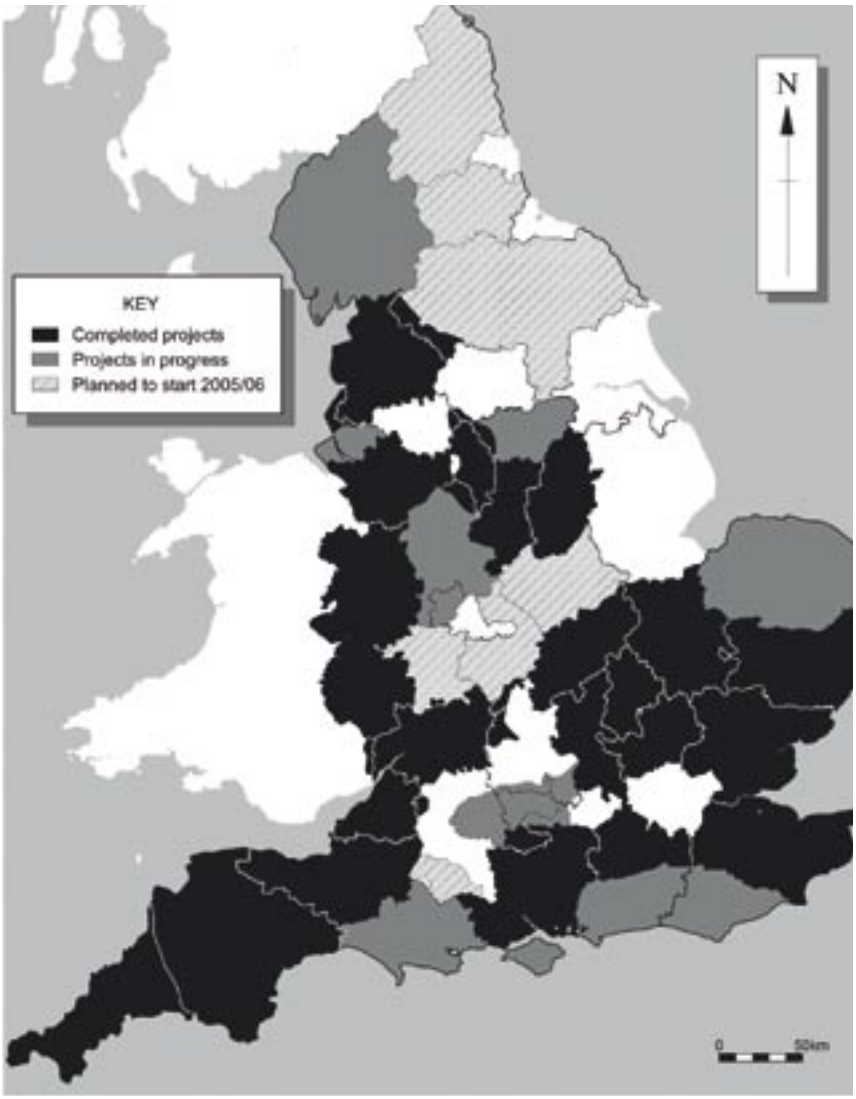
HLC is English Heritage's contribution to holistic landscape character assessment, designed to create an appreciation of the time-depth of landscape to align alongside scenic or ecological perspectives. It was designed to expand our knowledge and management of the historic environment in two directions: first, beyond the traditional site- or building-based approach, and second, to the semi-natural and recent, as well as the archaeological, architectural and ancient aspects of the environment. It is the area in which English Heritage first developed – in the context of sustainability and integrated conservation – the character-based approach to managing change in the historic environment. Its precepts underlie the ideas promoted in the publications *Power of Place* (2000) and *Force for our Future* (2001).

The principles and ideas of HLC were developed in the early 1990s, some derived from traditional landscape assessment methods, in order to create a common, unifying

When an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the new Combined University for Cornwall was carried out in Tremough, Penryn, no SMR information was held for the affected area; but the proposed development site lay in the HLC Zone 'Anciently Enclosed Land', and there was obviously a potential for medieval and prehistoric buried remains to be found. This diagnosis from the HLC triggered various archaeological interventions. A geophysical survey showed a later prehistoric enclosed settlement with ditched field system. Fieldwalking produced Mesolithic and Neolithic flints (and a greenstone axe) as well as Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval finds. Watching briefs during topsoil strips revealed finds and features from three main prehistoric settlement phases: Early Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age and Later Iron Age. HLC therefore led directly to the identification of one of Cornwall's most complex settlement sites. Had the EIA simply carried out a traditional SMR search, this archaeology would probably not have been discovered until it was too late for any form of recording to have taken place, or without serious and costly disruption to the developer.



Prehistoric fields and settlement remains discovered below 'anciently enclosed fields' through geophysical survey in Tremough, Penryn, Cornwall, after using the HLC as a predictive tool in Environmental Impact Assessment.



English counties having completed or in the process of carrying out HLC projects.

language. The HLC methods in use today were first tested fully in Cornwall in 1993–4 and have since been extensively developed into sophisticated, highly flexible and multi-purpose GIS-based systems. These are created and managed, with English Heritage support, in county council archaeological departments alongside the conventional SMRs / HERs that these authorities maintain.

At present, the majority of English counties (and some Areas of Natural Beauty and National Parks) have completed or are carrying out HLC projects, and national coverage is expected to be completed over the next few years. County-based HLCs will also be a starting point for regional summaries, in order to provide the emerging regional government with a clear appreciation of the most distinctive identifying aspect of their historic landscape. At the same time, practical uses are being developed for HLC in a wide variety of fields from research to regeneration.

HLC is essentially simple – an entire county's area is divided into areas of land that share enough similarity in terms of the overall historic character of their landscape to be categorised as a specific HLC Type. The use of GIS and digitised historic OS maps, of course, allow much greater complexity to be introduced, notably the ability to increase the level of time-depth evident in the HLC Types, to produce thematic or analytical versions of the maps, and to use attributes allocated to HLC Type areas to produce other versions of the HLC classification. This flexibility of method and outputs give it much of its practical value.

The Countryside Character Network

The recent Countryside Character Network (CCN) paper 'Understanding Historic Landscape Character' (LCA Topic Paper 6: available from www.ccnetwork.org.uk) highlights the importance of integrating HLC and Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) wherever possible: the two approaches complement and enrich each other, helping stakeholders to understand and manage change in the landscape.

CCN, set up by the Countryside Agency, is a focal point for information and discussion about LCA. Membership is free and open to all. Members have access to a diverse and regularly updated variety of online resources and downloads concerning Landscape Character Assessment. The CCN supports an online discussion forum and a quarterly electronic newsletter. The network also organises a series of well-attended topical workshops.

More information on HLC, including the results of a review in 2002 of HLC methodologies, and links to some county council web pages, can be found at www.english-heritage.org.uk/characterisation.

Local Character
Village, neighbourhood and green space

Introduced and compiled by Dave Hooley *Characterisation Team*

Characterisation enables local communities to manage change in an informed way.

Much historic characterisation covers large areas such as cities, counties and sub-regions. This indeed was the starting point for characterisation: the search for the big picture, the context that was often overlooked when dealing with monuments and buildings in isolation.

Circumstances, however, may often require more detailed examination of particular areas, especially when they are subject to redevelopment pressures. There is no reason why the rewards of characterisation – its emphasis on the commonplace as well as the special, and its focus on place and landscape – cannot equally be won at a more local level. Indeed, it is at this local level that characterisation should be able most effectively to express the views of the local community.

This section presents a few examples of work in this new area: community involvement in Greater York, new methods of assessment in Liverpool, a study of the dedicated settlement at Bletchley Park, as well as a report on the contribution to local character of public open spaces.

Greater York

In the mid 1990s, the Countryside Commission (now the Countryside Agency) encouraged local communities to produce Village Design Statements (VDSs). Residents described the cherished aspects of their local environment and how new development should be designed to maintain and enhance them. Since 1997, VDSs have been recognised as Supplementary Planning Guidance. In 2000, the Countryside Agency shifted its focus to the Vital Villages initiative, and it now encourages communities to engage more widely with the planning process by drawing up Parish Plans. Not only do such documents relate to entire parishes, rather than to the main settlement within them, but they also go beyond design to consider issues such as employment prospects, the need for affordable housing and land management. Drafts of Planning Policy Statements 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas) and 12 (Local Development Frameworks) indicate that both VDSs and Parish Plans are expected to continue into the future.

Take-up of both schemes has been patchy, however, and there has never been a complete audit either of the VDSs completed or of the kinds of guidance available to local communities. In 2003, English Heritage commissioned the York Archaeological Trust to undertake research into how the rural and semi-rural communities in the outer area of the York Unitary Authority are approaching the task. The reason for selecting York was partly that it is an area where the process had only recently started in earnest, and partly that it offered opportunities to see whether VDSs might be applicable in areas now within the main built-up area that still retain a strong local character and sense of community.

The early findings of this project indicate that the historic environment is generally perceived in terms of listed buildings and conservation areas (mostly, in Greater York, after 1700). While the importance of open spaces, field patterns and ancient footpaths is appreciated, communities do not always recognise the significance of the earlier phases of the places where they live, and they find the formative impact of those earlier phases more difficult to understand than that of more recent development.

Archaeological remains are generally not considered as relevant to design considerations unless they are prominently visible. In addition,

while both the historic and the natural environment are considered important in forming the character of places, the relationship between them is poorly understood. During the later stages of the project, consideration will be given to the appropriate form of advice on these and other matters, and the agency or agencies best suited to creating and disseminating it.

Paul Barnwell,
Head of Rural Research Programmes

Liverpool

The ODPM Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) proposes large-scale intervention – indeed, wholesale renewal – of a series of northern and midland English towns where low property values are symptomatic of a wider economic malaise (see pages 7–8). English Heritage is providing guidance on how the character of the historic environment can be assessed, so that renewal can take advantage of, not destroy, its value and regenerative potential. The guidance takes the form of two types of assessment, offering templates for further work that HMRI partnerships or local planning authorities may wish to commission from others. Both types fit within the broader pattern of HLC (see pages 20–2) and provide strategic information promptly to ensure that historical understanding informs management of change.

The first model – whirlwind assessment – is designed to cope with the sheer magnitude and urgency of the Initiative. Developed in Liverpool, it provides a quick overview of the areas where the most drastic intervention is proposed, and its purpose is to give a first view of the character, significance and survival of the historic townscape. The methodology is simplified: brief field examination (perhaps half a day for an area of one or two square kilometres) and documentary research limited to historic Ordnance Survey maps. This simplicity, however, can be deceptive: distinguishing what is genuinely unusual, significant or well-preserved requires judgement and breadth of knowledge.

© English Heritage. Drawing by Tony Berry

Architectural analysis, supported by map and trade directory sources, can build a revealing picture of functional and social variations within an area. A simplified classification of house size reveals the persistence of villa enclaves, buttressed by the more substantial terraced houses, while the plotting of shops and pubs illustrates the infrastructural developments that accompanied the spread of mass housing.

The second model – rapid area assessment – addresses areas of demonstrable historical and architectural interest (which sometimes will have been identified already by a 'whirlwind assessment'). Again the approach is streamlined, though visual inspection is more detailed, and the range of documentary sources consulted is greater. The additional depth allows chronology to be refined, historical narrative to be amplified and the social basis of architectural expression to be explored in ways that a purely map-based analysis cannot emulate. The purpose is to present a reasoned and concise account of an area's evolution, together with observations on its current state and future value. An area-based, or street-by-street, narrative approach, emphasising the

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Anfield Stadium, home of Liverpool Football Club, is internationally renowned, but its setting – a diverse late-19th-century urban landscape now scarred by dereliction – is on the brink of major change. A rapid assessment of the area has provided a framework for its historical development, highlighted features of particular quality and interest and will help to shape plans for renewal.

main lines of development that give meaning to individual buildings and streets, is preferred to the building-by-building accumulation of data. It draws attention to individual buildings of distinction and important groupings of buildings representing the character of the historic environment, and to the building types, styles, materials and features that contribute to an area's character. Finally, it identifies smaller 'character areas' unified by a range of historical, architectural and morphological characteristics, so that policies can be tailored to the fine grain of the historic environment.

The model has been trialled in an area of Liverpool straddling the modern districts of Anfield and Breckfield.[1] Once vibrant, diverse and, in some quarters, affluent, this area now suffers from intractable economic and social problems. The character of the area is primarily residential, but although most surviving buildings date from the second half of the 19th century, they are far from homogeneous. The earliest houses were substantial, semi-rural villas built for wealthy merchants quitting the cramped, unhealthy centre of Liverpool. By the 1850s, more modest paired villas, often in regimented rows, became more common. From the 1860s, terraces were built on a huge scale, ranging from substantial three-storeyed examples to small four-roomed houses, filling nearly all the available land by 1900. The terraces were occupied by lesser merchants and officials at one extreme, labourers and craftsmen at the other, but the dominant group was Liverpool's growing army of clerks. With mass housing came essential infrastructure development: shops and pubs on the main thoroughfares, schools, churches and chapels, and dairies established by cowkeepers to supply neighbourhoods with milk. Some earlier buildings were swept away by the new grid of terraced streets, but others survived in genteel villa enclaves. This mixture of building types and dates is characteristic of suburban development across much of 19th-century England, but it also reflects factors peculiar to Liverpool, such as the proliferation of churches and chapels representing both English and Welsh denominations.

The pressing economic and social difficulties mean that heritage issues will seldom be paramount in weighing alternative solutions. The purpose of both types of historic assessment, however, is to help those implementing change. The assessments deal with qualitative issues, since these are fundamental to the health and vitality of communities, now and in the future. It is important to know which parts of an area may be lost without too much detriment or with positive benefit, but it is even more important to know which parts or facets of an area have the power to engage hearts and minds, and which are important visual assets, underpinning the overall character and rendering it historically intelligible.

Buildings of architectural quality, such as the Anfield Road Board Schools of 1886, particularly where they are the focus for wider survivals of historic integrity, can be powerful beacons, helping to consolidate the fragile early stages of regeneration and underpin the long-term vitality of communities.

Adam Menuge, Senior Investigator, Buildings and Landscapes Survey and Investigation

1. Adam Menuge and Simon Taylor, 'Anfield and Breckfield, Liverpool: A rapid area assessment of the built environment', English Heritage Architectural Investigation Reports and Papers, B/006/2004.

Bletchley Park

Bletchley Park is globally renowned for the contribution of its codebreakers to the outcome of World War II, the birth of the Information Age and advances in a wide range of subjects from mathematics to linguistics. Its evolution from a small cryptographic research centre into a global communications and intelligence hub, in addition to underpinning its wartime success, shaped the development of signals intelligence as a vital contributor to the global mission of Britain and its allies in the Cold War period and beyond. Finding ways to maintain the site and its significance, however, is beset with problems. Both English Heritage and English Partnerships, the government's regeneration agency, are working closely to ensure that an informed understanding of character can contribute positively to a sustainable future.

A considerable body of documentary and survey work recently completed by English

Heritage's Research and Standards Team now provides a much clearer idea of how significance, and its historical development, is reflected in the surviving fabric and landscape of the site. Home at its peak to nearly 10,000 people, and now located midway along the Oxford–Cambridge technology arc, it has rich potential to build on its past to inspire new technologies and innovations. It could thereby contribute to the economic and social well-being not just of the Bletchley area but also of the wider Milton Keynes conurbation, one of the ODPM's main Growth Areas (pages 6–7).

The development of a constantly evolving character-based approach has been underpinned by a Values paper, which, through distribution on the Internet and at public meetings, has been used as a focus for discussion by the site's diverse stakeholders, including the Bletchley Park Trust, the local community and those throughout the world with an interest in the site. This distils the complexity of the site into its broadest possible context, including its cultural values, context and historic character, and outlines the extent to which its landscape and fabric provides a tangible reflection of its major historic themes. The Values paper has contributed to a Conservation Management Plan and a Masterplan, commissioned by English Partnerships and funded through the ODPM's Sustainable Communities programme, to provide the basis for the sustainable future development of the site.

The Values methodology has the potential to act as a preliminary step in the management of complex historic areas and sites, and can be developed at different degrees and levels. It contributes to an understanding of how research can inform development proposals, and it provides the link between cultural and economic values, the key to sustainable development.

It also stands at the core of a close working relationship between the South East Team, Characterisation Team and Historic Buildings and Areas Research Department, and between English Heritage, English Partnerships and other key players in both the Masterplan process and the inclusion of Bletchley Park as a fitting subject for Designation Review.

Jeremy Lake, Characterisation Team
Graham Steaggles, Historic Areas Advisor
Alan Bates, English Partnerships

Bletchley Park, with the late Victorian mansion above centre. The wartime huts, including the famous huts built for the decryption and evaluation of Enigma, are located close to the mansion. Clear from this aerial view is the extent of the post-1942 building phase, with its flat-roofed blocks. The parkland setting of the late-Victorian and early 18th-century planting within the grounds of the medieval manor is still traceable in the lake set in front of the mansion and the deer park extending to the north.

Planning urban green spaces

The ODPM's Sustainable Communities plan and PPG17 (Sport, Open Space and Recreation) both call for a reversal of the decline of our urban green spaces. CABESpace has published guidance on preparing green space strategies (www.cabespace.org.uk). The emphasis is on an integrated approach to all aspects of green space provision and management; cross-departmental support from preparation to delivery is seen as the key to a successful strategy. The development and character of the historic environment should be the basis for planning. Urban green spaces have often influenced the character of a place and provided important areas for nature conservation.

Our green spaces suffer from split responsibilities at national and local government levels. There is also growing pressure on them as development increases. Understanding the significance of green spaces is a necessary first step in protection and management, but the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce found that a lack of information about parks and other urban spaces had contributed to their decline. HLC and land-use assessment are useful tools in developing an understanding of the green space character, and they can help to identify the most sensitive areas as well as those where opportunities exist to enhance local character.

In the last ten years, there have been a number of urban landscape characterisation studies exploring the townscape and its landscape setting. Studies such as those in Hampshire (Gosport, Fareham and Winchester) and the Thames Landscape Strategy were intended to help develop planning policies linking the local and the strategic landscape, and to understand the sensitivities and capacity for change.

In 2002, those principles of landscape character assessment were applied to the historic city of Oxford in the Countryside Agency's research project with Oxford City Council. In looking at the quality of the whole of Oxford's landscape, Land Use Consultants divided the city and its immediate hinterland into 52 character areas, describing each in terms of landscape quality, biodiversity value, historic integrity, inter-visibility, presence or absence of open space, re-creatability of the landscape/townscape, and sensitivity. The city's small open spaces – playing fields, allotments and recreation grounds – were identified as one of the most sensitive areas.

This assessment can be used by Oxford City Council to develop strategies and programmes of work as well as planning briefs and urban design studies. It categorises green spaces by type, contribution to local character, accessibility, and by management issues and recommendations. The assessment also considers the contribution to local character of public and private trees, characteristic species and landmark trees, and it identifies opportunities for new planting.

Typology suitable for planning purposes and open space strategies		More detailed classification for open space audits and academic research
Green spaces	Parks and gardens	Urban parks • Country parks • Formal gardens (including designed landscapes)
	Provision for children and teenagers	Play areas (including LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs) • Skateboard parks • Outdoor baseball goals • Hanging out areas (including teenage shelters)
	Amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not necessarily) in housing areas	Informal recreational spaces • Housing green spaces • Domestic gardens • Village greens • Other incidental space
	Outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces)	Tennis courts • Bowling greens • Sports pitches (including artificial surfaces) • Golf courses • Athletics tracks • School playing fields • Other institutional playing fields • Other outdoor sports areas
	Allotments, community gardens and urban farms	Allotments • Community gardens • City (urban) farms
	Cemeteries and churchyards	Churchyards • Cemeteries
	Natural and semi-natural urban greenspaces, including woodland or urban forestry	Woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub • Grassland (downland, meadow) • Heath or moor • Wetlands (marsh, fen) • Open and running water • Wastelands (including disturbed ground) • Bare rock habitats (cliffs, quarries, pits)
	Green corridors	River and canal banks • Road and rail corridors • Cycling routes within towns and cities • Pedestrian paths within towns and cities • Rights of way and permissive paths
Civic spaces	Civic spaces	Sea fronts (including promenades) • Civic squares (including plazas) • Market squares • Pedestrian streets • Other hard-surfaced pedestrian areas

Urban open spaces typology, from *Green Spaces, Better Places: Final Report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce.*

Jenifer White, Senior Landscape Advisor

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CABESpace (2004) *Green Space Strategies: A Good Practice Guide*. www.cabespace.org.uk.

See also the Countryside Character network for guidance and papers at www.ccnetwork.org.uk.

New Directions
Taking characterisation into new fields

Introduced and compiled by John Schofield *Characterisation Team*

Interdisciplinary approaches and new topics are broadening the focus of research projects.

Characterisation is now widely recognised as central in managing the historic environment. Numerous examples in the previous articles illustrate its use in rural and urban settings, and in local, regional and national strategic planning. This final contribution includes examples of new techniques for extending the use of characterisation in the future.

A person's sense of place and belonging is intensely personal. Characterisation methods encourage people to create their own perceptions of places, rather than to respond to those that are 'expert-led'. During a recent student placement within our Characterisation Team, Kate McSweeney carried out research for an MA in Cultural Heritage at University College London by reviewing examples of public participation in Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC), urban characterisation and character assessment projects. The research revealed how characterisation could promote awareness of local character, generate support for planning policies and proposed regeneration, establish future partnerships and, most importantly, involve the community in management and policy decisions.

Recent projects have extended this participation to new ethnic groups, such as Jim Gard'ner's study of the Bengalee community in east London (*Conservation Bulletin* **43**, October 2002, 36–7). A proposed project on popular music and definitions of urban character will seek to include young people in Liverpool in defining their own identities and sense of place.

Experiencing place

People experience places in different ways. It is said that 80% of our sensory experience is visual, with significant input from our other senses. Geographers and ecologists have recently made progress in documenting the acoustic qualities of place. In England, CPRE's Tranquillity Map was a comparable development, measuring quality of life considerations. A further development of this work aims to characterise the auditory qualities of places such as woodland, coastal areas and the urban fringe in Cornwall, assessing the potential for auditory archaeology in understanding Cornwall's post-industrial landscape, specifically the relation between auditory character and HLC.

Also in Cornwall, HLC has been used to help define the boundaries of the Cornish tin mining areas in a bid for recognition as a World Heritage Site. If the bid is successful, HLC will have contributed to defining the significance of the area and its future management needs.

Managing change

English Heritage's new statutory responsibility for coastal and marine archaeology offers a challenge for HLC, the methodology of which will be applied to create new datasets, in addition to traditional maps and lists of shipwrecks, to help manage change (for example, aggregate extraction) on the seabed and along the coast.

Characterisation in relation to landscape is also helping to change people's perceptions of the past. A new English Heritage project to assess the impact of change during the period from 1950 to 2000 will record the important contribution to the historic environment of those decades.

Archaeologists have long recognised the benefits of collaborative ventures with other disciplines. This is increasingly true of characterisation, with its varied cultural, social, economic and political aspects, and these

collaborative liaisons are a central aspect of the projects described below. Characterisation – and the GIS with which it operates – can bring these varied aspects together for the benefit of all.

Liverpool and music

Music plays a significant part in people's everyday lives. Popular music can tell us much about how urban locations and landscapes are lived in and made meaningful, and about how and why they matter to people. A project is being developed to explore the role and significance of popular music in the characterisation of urban landscape and the construction of a sense of place.

Jointly supported by English Heritage and the Institute of Popular Music at the University of Liverpool, the pilot study will link the current regeneration initiatives in Liverpool, its new World Heritage Site status and its Capital of Culture activity. Liverpool has experienced rapid and dramatic changes brought about by severe economic decline and successive and intensive programmes of regeneration. Music has for long been associated with the city's identity.

Ethnographic research will be carried out on specific music 'scenes', defined mainly by genre, in Liverpool; the shifting geography, landscape and soundscape of those scenes will be mapped. Local participants will be interviewed and observed to determine how their musical activities influence their interpretation of the urban landscape. Finally, the music itself will be analysed to see if it is influenced by the urban landscape.

We hope this pilot study and other research will help to inform planners and policy-makers involved in urban regeneration.

Sara Cohen, Institute of Popular Music, University of Liverpool

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For current projects in Germany, the USA, Manchester and Liverpool, visit www.shrinkingcities.com.

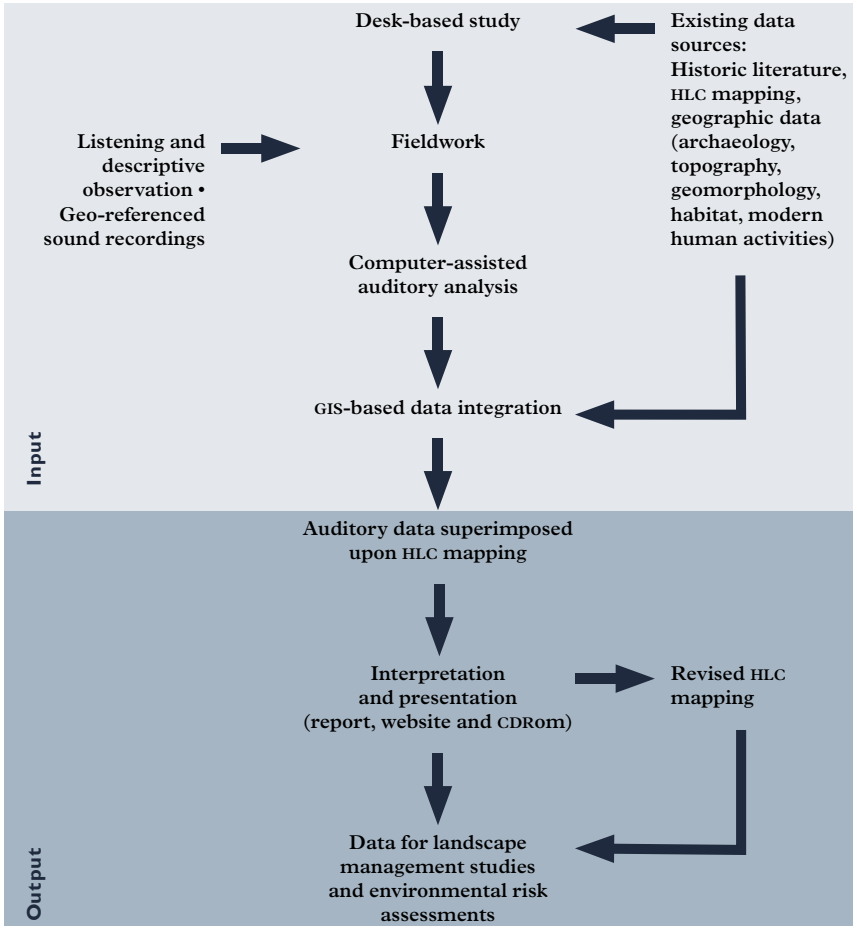
Auditory Archaeology

Sound is a dynamic source of information about people, animals and places. Drawing on recent acoustic research, auditory archaeology aims to acknowledge the influence and significance of the heard environment in past daily life.

Auditory archaeology was developed as a set of techniques and principles during AHRB-funded doctoral research in southern Romania. Sound recordings were collected at former Neolithic sites, taking into account topography, geomorphology, vegetation and modern human activity. The recordings were analysed within a GIS alongside other datasets.

The association of sounds with former Neolithic settlements is a significant component in understanding their use and location in the landscape, and in reconstructing Neolithic life. Furthermore, research indicates that particular sounds, such as those associated with animals, allow previously unavailable understandings of the past. The potential for applying this auditory archaeology to HLC is an exciting new dimension, providing a new layer of information, not only for understanding past and contemporary changes in landscape, but also for influencing future landscape and management strategies.

A new auditory archaeology project will explore a post-medieval (1750–1900) mining landscape in Cornwall. It aims to relate auditory attributes to material aspects of landscape character and poses a number of



Linking auditory archaeology to HLC in a pilot study of a post-medieval Cornish mining landscape.

questions. Do places have distinctive auditory characteristics, and how closely do these characteristics conform to areas defined by conventional HLC methods? The project will investigate the potential of sound to refine and broaden our understanding of the past as well as the present day sense of place.

This approach could also be applied to urban areas (assisting in the definition of urban character areas and guiding heritage-led regeneration) and to local studies of cultural and ethnic distinctiveness.

Stephen Mills, University of Cardiff

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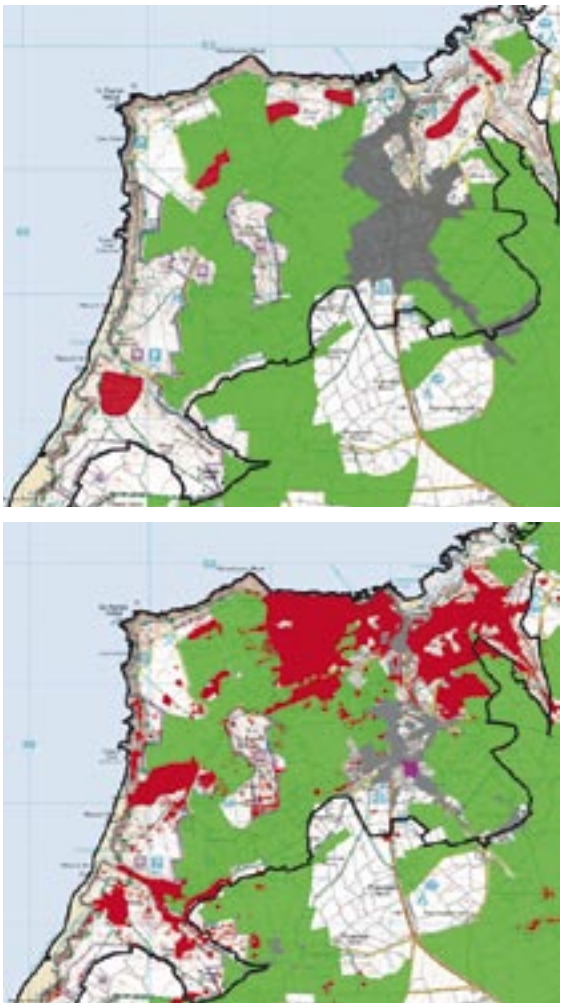
Cornish mining

in 2005, the UK will recommend to UNESCO that the Cornwall and West Devon mining landscape (Cornish mining) should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site (WHS).

Although difficult to imagine, the beautiful rural holiday area of Cornwall was once one of the most advanced industrial regions on earth. Britain became the world's first industrial nation in the late-18th and early-19th centuries because of its abundance of industrial metals. Cornwall and West Devon made up Britain's most important and diverse non-ferrous metal mining region, producing all its tin and the majority of its copper and arsenic.

In terms of production, capitalisation and employment, early Cornish copper mines surpassed in size all other commercial enterprises in Europe. To support the mines, Cornwall's engineering foundries, moreover, produced the largest steam pumping engines ever built; there were more mine engines in Cornwall in the 1830s than in the rest of the world.

The transformation of Cornwall from a rural backwater in 1700 to a pioneering industrial landscape by 1800 is evident in the landscape today. The effects of 1,000 mines were dramatic, but once they had closed, little replaced them, and the land reverted to heather and scrub. The mining landscape today comprises mineral districts made up of distinctive and recurring patterns of buildings, monuments, sites and areas that together create a unified cultural landscape.



St Agnes Mining District (above), as shown on the 1994 Cornwall HLC map. Only those land use types relevant to the World Heritage Site Bid have been included: historic mining (red); farmland recently enclosed (green); urban (grey); parks and gardens (pink). This was drawn at 1:50,000 scale using the current OS map. To refine the precise boundaries of this Bid Area, more detailed mapping of historic land use was necessary. The 2004 map (below) shows the same Area, mapped from both the OS 1st and 2nd edition 25 inch maps and the National Mapping Programme photogrammetric examination of all air photos. The recently enclosed land has been refined to include only those areas believed to be miners' smallholdings, and the urban area has been confined to the OS 2nd edition boundary of *c* 1907. HLC has been crucial in defining the Bid Area.

For over a decade, the Cornwall and Devon landscape has been the subject of extensive research and fieldwork to map initial classifications of historic character and time-depth. HLC forms the primary mapping base onto which has been plotted the secondary larger-scale mapping of industrial monuments and sites (components). Together, these two layers define the characteristic elements of the wider mining landscape, as part of the WHS bid. These elements include: mines sites; the transport infrastructure and ancillary industries such as foundries, gunpowder and fuse works; the settlements and social infrastructure associated with mining (housing expansion through both new settlements and expanding existing ones to accommodate this new concentration of population) and miners' smallholdings (over 50,000 hectares in the 18th and early-19th centuries, amid former unenclosed heathland); and, finally, the great houses, estates and gardens that were financed largely by the extraction and sale of mineral wealth.

HLC maps were used to define those areas of relict mining, recently enclosed land (miners' smallholdings), ornamental landscapes (parks

The Trafford Centre, Manchester (right), a 20th-century interpretation of shopping and entertainment, reflecting a way of life dependent largely on private transport.

and gardens) and historic urban settlement (to *c* 1907) that are the defining land use components of the bid. The ten areas so defined were then remapped in detail to produce area boundaries.

HLC has been crucial in defining the areas for the WHS bid, and in time it will be possible to regress the HLC to produce maps showing the gradual effects on the landscape of industrialisation in chronological time slices.

Nicholas Johnson,
Cornwall County Council

Change and creation

There have been important changes in approach to our cultural heritage in recent years, both in Britain and abroad. One is an acceptance of the idea of 20th-century heritage and the value of its legacy. In addition, we have come to understand that change as well as creation is a natural process and that we should no longer view the 20th century simply as a period of destruction. It is change itself that has created the places where we live and work today.

A better framework is needed to understand, discuss and manage change to the 20th-century landscape. English Heritage's Characterisation Team is studying the influence of the late-20th century on our urban and rural landscape. The programme will reflect the affection many feel for the buildings and features of their times, but it may challenge other views. The first stage was a research audit undertaken by Charlotte Frearson for English Heritage. The second – in partnership with WS Atkins, the University of Bristol and University College London – was the recent publication of *Change and Creation: historic landscape character 1950-2000* to promote debate and attract potential partners and collaborators. It can be obtained from the Characterisation Team or downloaded at www.changeandcreation.org.

The next stage of the programme, based on HLC principles, will be the provision of a national GIS-based overview of the 20th-century landscape, if possible while also finding ways for archaeologists and heritage professionals to work with the general public. The objective is to increase our understanding of recent landscape change, to improve existing landscape assessments and spatial planning, and to contribute to the creation of new landscapes and townscapes in the 21st century.

Andrea Bradley and **Janet Miller**,
Atkins Heritage

England's historic seascapes

The past five years have seen rapid development in the policy frameworks, organisational structures and pressures affecting England's inter-tidal and marine environment. Its historic dimension is no exception. In 2002, the National Heritage Act extended English Heritage's remit across England's share of UK Territorial Waters; an initial policy statement, *Taking to the Water,* was issued for England's maritime archaeology, and English Heritage's Maritime Archaeology Team was created to administer the newly transferred responsibilities.

English Heritage's new responsibilities sensibly reflect the continuum of the historic environment from land to marine contexts, but legislative and administrative frameworks bearing on coastal and marine heritage management differ radically from those on land and are typically fragmented into sectoral interests and poorly coordinated. Historic environment benefits often appear as by-products of regulations designed with other primary objectives, for example through salvage law or the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. Coverage by research and record in this zone is also inconsistent

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One of the many modern pressures on the marine environment: wind turbines off Blyth, Northumberland, August 2001. By 2010, 10% of the energy used in Britain should be generated by renewable sources. Currently, Britain's only commercial offshore wind-powered generator is about 1km from Blyth. At least another 18 sites are to be built over the next decade.

and incomplete, as highlighted in the DCMS consultation document *Protecting our Marine Historic Environment*: 'there is currently no comprehensive marine heritage data collection, nor are there any mature management frameworks and procedures' (page 9).

To address this dearth of contextualising frameworks, English Heritage has commissioned Wessex Archaeology to pilot the extension of HLC to England's inter-tidal and marine zones to the Territorial Waters limit. The area selected for this initial pilot covers Liverpool Bay and the coast and waters off the Fylde. Entitled 'England's Historic Seascapes', the pilot will seek to characterise the historic cultural dimension of the present landscape through desk-based GIS mapping and analysis. It will not develop in a vacuum: an immediate management test-bed will comprise the contextualisation of marine aggregates extraction applications and operations. As for terrestrial HLCs, the scale of analysis will be the landscape itself, transcending and contextualising the uneven, predominantly point-data records of the coastal and marine archaeological resource.

Inevitably there will be variation from most terrestrial HLCs while retaining compatibility at a broad level: within their overall parameters, characterisations should reflect differences relevant to the circumstances of their project areas and the applications they need to inform. The historic environment extends continuously from dry land into marine contexts; but the qualities associated with it, the modern pressures upon it, and available and appropriate responses to those pressures often differ markedly between dry land and submerged situations, affecting our perceptions of the historic landscape.

For terrestrial contexts, landscape perceptions and the primary concerns of the planning system are dominated by the surface veneer of our present environment. Accordingly, terrestrial HLCs place emphasis on characterising historical depth in the *present* visible landscape veneer. For the marine environment, the analogous veneer, the sea-floor surface, holds less of a 'special place' in creating landscape perceptions or the regulation of future marine activity. That visible surface does not generally display a cultural palimpsest whose chronological depth can usefully inform future conservation strategies. Sea-floor deposits hold a significant proportion of material remains from the marine historic environment – derived from activity in, on or above the water column – but their often dynamic surface may produce arbitrary and transient exposure of those remains and their contexts, with little direct cultural relationship to features stratified beneath.

For marine HLC to provide meaningful frameworks to guide our responses to growing pressures in this environment, its 'relevant landscape' must encompass greater three-dimensionality than is normal for terrestrial HLC. Its attribute-range needs to integrate aspects of the present sea-floor surface and of deposits stratified beneath it, arising from human activity at the same location and in its deposit catchment during the post-glacial or in previous glacial cycles.

The characterisation will require extensive archaeological understanding of non-archaeologically gathered data to elucidate the human dimension in the landscape. As highlighted in the Guidance Note *Marine Dredging and the Historic Environment*, geophysical data gathered to inform mineral and aggregate extraction may indicate old land surface survivals in Pleistocene and early

© English Heritage / Dave Hooley

Prehistoric field walls exposed in Green Bay, Bryher, part of the extensive survival of submerged and inter-tidal early landscape features around the Isles of Scilly.

Holocene deposits, their 'human dimension' lying in their critical evidence for the earliest and subsequent human colonisations of the present British Isles and developing cultural relationships with Europe. Similarly, the cultural dimension of the massive estuarine silting forming the 'natural environment' of many rivers in south-west England derives from its origin in debris from medieval and later tin streaming along higher watercourses.

Developing a methodology to characterise the distinctive complexities of the inter-tidal and marine historic resource will provide a sound basis for building the much-needed strategic-level frameworks for the marine cultural resource. It will complement the HLC now applied across most of England's land area, promoting management of the inter-tidal and marine cultural resource by the same principles applicable to that on land.

Establishing a marine HLC methodology also contributes to wider agendas. Since the 1990s, EU and UK Government policies have fostered strategic-level coastal and marine environmental planning, requiring more effective understanding and integration of sectoral databases. In 2002, the first UK Marine Stewardship Report, *Safeguarding our Seas*, committed the Government to develop the role of marine spatial planning and to promoting integrated marine mapping. A project to simulate a marine spatial plan for the Irish Sea began in late 2004. The growing momentum towards greater compatibility of sectoral datasets and the clear emphases on map-based data retrieval to inform a rapidly increasing role for spatial planning in the marine environment provide a highly receptive context for this characterisation project.

Dave Hooley, Characterisation Team

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Footprints dating to *c* 5000 BP in laminated silts exposed in the inter-tidal zone at Formby Point near Liverpool. The footprints here include those of a child (upper left) and an adolescent (upper right and lower left), together with a red deer hoofprint (lower right).

The National Monuments Record

News and events

ENGLISH HERITAGE

NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

The NMR is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes over 7 million archive items (photographs, drawings, reports and digital data) relating to England's historic environment.

The following information gives details of web resources, new collections (catalogues are available in the NMR search room in Swindon) and outreach programmes.

The Military Oblique Aerial Photograph Collection

Photographs taken by the military form a major part of the NMR aerial photograph collections. As well as the 1.1 million vertical air photographs flown by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) that have been available to users of the NMR for many years, 80,000 RAF and USAAF oblique photographs are now catalogued.

In contrast with the plan view provided by vertical aerial photography, these oblique photographs provide the user with a more familiar view of the landscape.

Subject matter includes bomb damage assessment, airfield construction, camouflaged sites, post-war town planning, industrial sites and the coastline of England. The coastal photography shows World War II defences and the aftermath of the 1953 east coast floods.

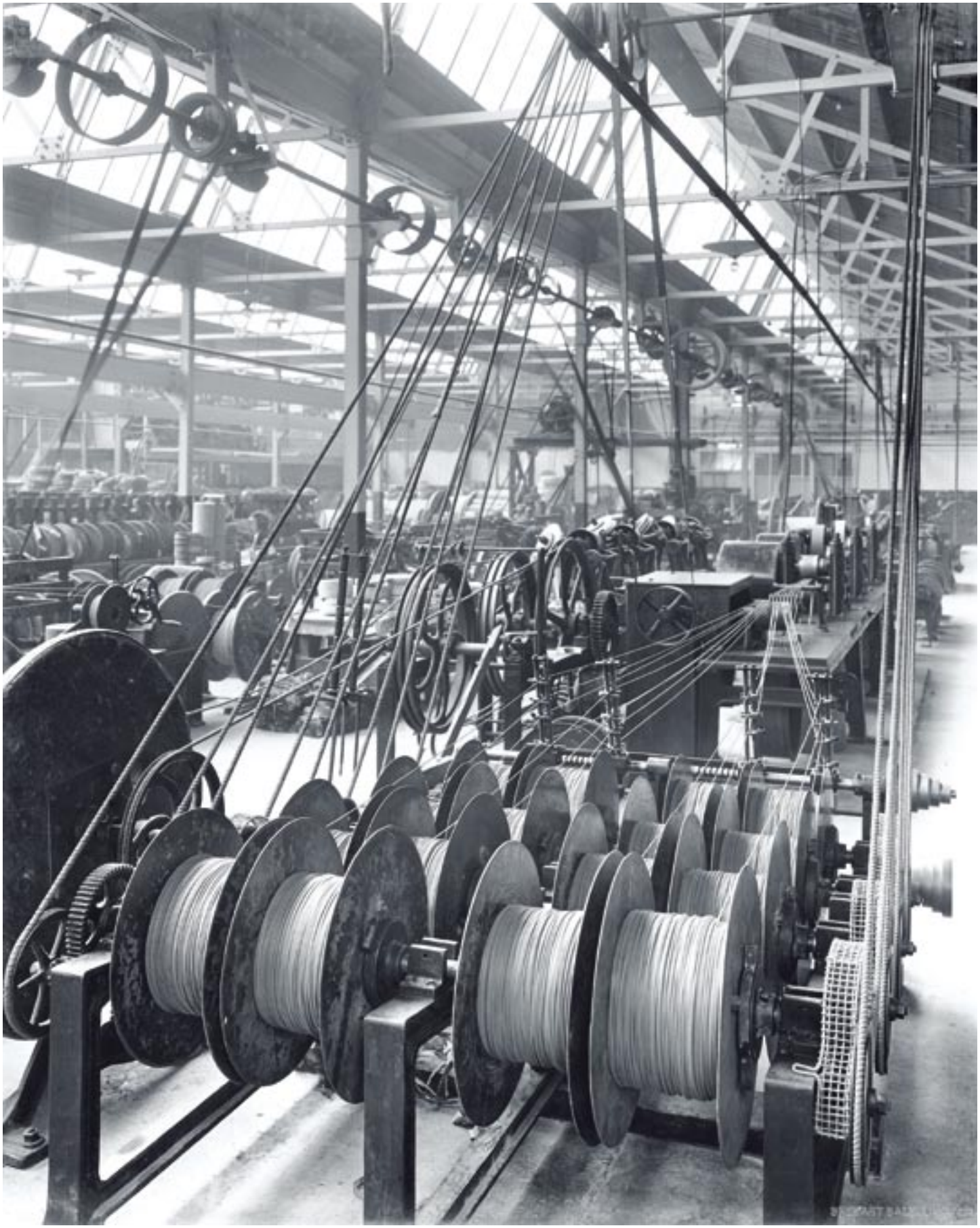
Durham, flown on 20 July 1948 by the RAF. Most of the military oblique photos were taken using a fixed camera taking exposures at set intervals as the aircraft flew over the target area. This is an example of a fortuitously well-framed photograph.

A motor car parked outside shops at 17 High Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire. The building carries a date of '1665' on the gable. Photographed by a staff member of the RCHME, 1909–10.

Approximately 13,000 wartime photographs taken by the RAF and the USAAF and 66,000 post-war RAF photographs have been catalogued. As this collection is not on open access to the public, anyone wishing to see it should contact NMR Enquiry and Research Services on 01793 414600 or nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk.

RCHME Hertfordshire Photograph Album

In October 1997, the NMR acquired an album of photographs of Hertfordshire taken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) between 1909 and 1910. The album was presented



A view of the interior of the Liverpool Electric Cable Company, Bootle. Photographed by Stewart Bale Ltd, 1920–9.

to the Chelsea Public Libraries in March 1912 by Emslie J Horniman Esq JP and subsequently passed into private hands. Emslie Horniman, who had lobbied in Parliament for the founding of the RCHME, was one of its first Commissioners. The son of Frederick Horniman, founder of the Horniman Museum in London, he was a philanthropist and believer in the benefits of education.

The RCHME was established in October 1908 with a brief to '…make an inventory of the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions …'. In consultation with local archaeological societies, the County

Council, and the schoolmasters and clergy of each parish, the first survey undertaken was of the county of Hertfordshire, resulting in the publication in 1910 of *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Hertfordshire*.

In addition to the investigator's hand-written record of each monument, a photographic record was made. The RCHME Hertfordshire Photograph Album (Ref. AL1826) has 113 pages containing 499 black and white photographic prints arranged alphabetically by parish. Each photograph has a printed caption. The NMR, as the former archive of the RCHME, has a full set of negatives.

Comparable to the NMR's *Images of England* project, the album provides a defining snapshot of architecturally important buildings in Hertfordshire at the turn of the last century. It is interesting to note that at this time only buildings constructed before 1700 were thought to be of merit.

The album includes photographs of most parish churches, many country houses, inns, Jacobean grammar schools and almshouses, and numerous timber-framed manor houses, farmhouses and cottages in town and country. Images also include a number of worried householders keeping an eye on the photographer. More than a few of these buildings have since been lost.

Liverpool Electric Cable Company

An insight into the early 20th-century industrial history of Merseyside is provided in this album of 37 high quality photographs documenting The Electric Cable Company works in Linacre Lane, Bootle. Dating from the early 1920s, the photographs provide a fascinating exploration of the specialised industrial processes involved in electrical cable manufacture and the people who spent their working lives engaged in it.

They are the work of the highly regarded Liverpool-based company Stewart Bale Limited, specialist in industrial, commercial and architectural photography. The company, founded by Herbert Stewart Bale in 1911, earned a reputation for high quality photographs taken using large format cameras, a practice it continued long after such technology had been abandoned by most of its rivals.

Images of England

The number of listed structures photographed for the *Images of England* photographic survey is steadily increasing. Over 90,000 images already feature on the prototype website, with more added on a regular basis. We are still looking for volunteer photographers in selected areas across the country. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Meaker on 01793 414779 or ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk. For more information about *Images of England*, please see www.imagesofengland.org.uk.

Fletcher Moss

Fletcher Moss (1843–1919) was an Alderman of the City of Manchester and the President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society. The 273 original photographic prints making up the collection were taken to illustrate a series of seven books, *Pilgrimages to Old Homes*, privately published by Fletcher Moss from his home at the Old Parsonage, Didsbury, between 1901 and 1920.

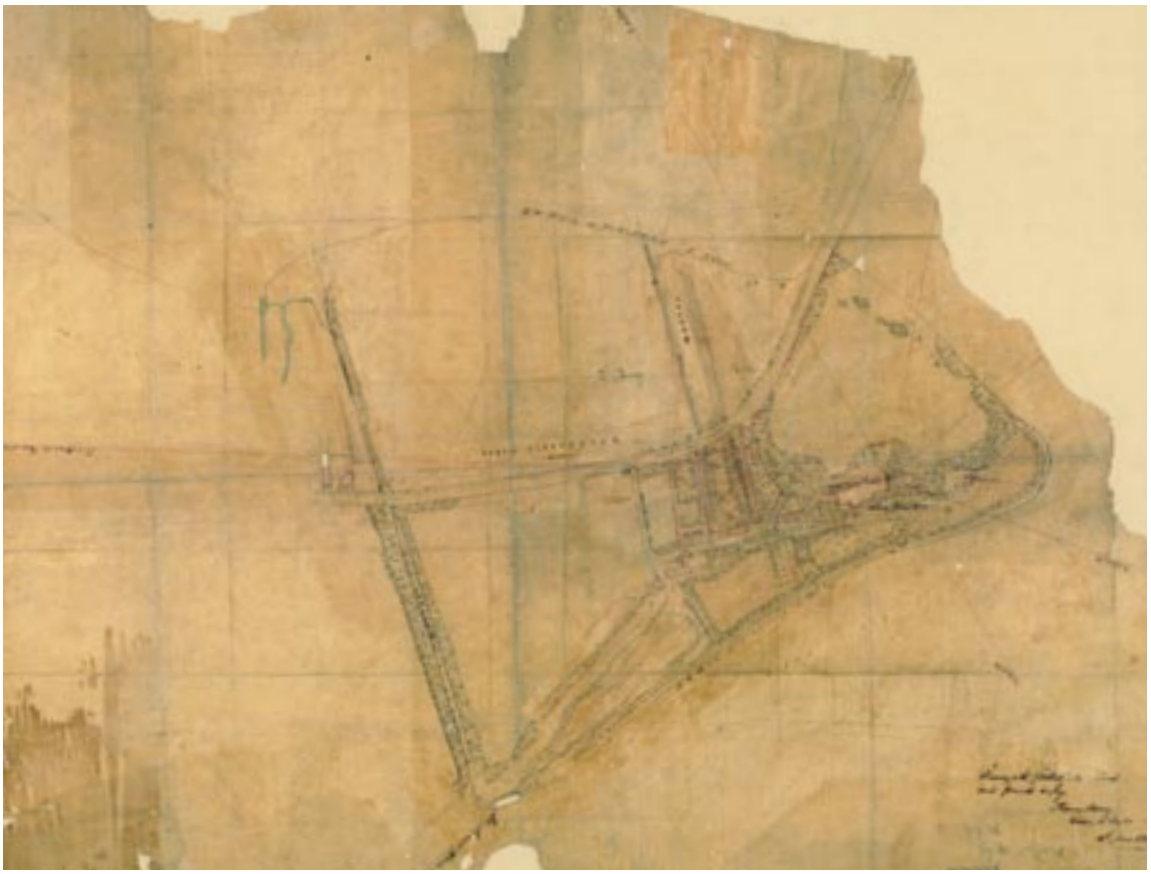
The books are his chronicles of travels undertaken with his friend (referred to only as 'X', who was James Watts of S & J Watts and Company, and who took the photographs) and include descriptions of historic houses and buildings, landscapes and people they met on their journeys. Their wanderings took them around the country but were concentrated on Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the Welsh borders, with particularly good coverage of traditional, domestic timber-framed buildings.

© Mr E M Trendell ARPS (IoE 386170)

The Market Cross, Wymondham, Norfolk (Grade I), 1617–18, photographed as part of the *Images of England* project.

Three photographers capture the picturesque charm of Stokesay Castle, a 13th-century fortified manor house in Shropshire. Photographed by James Watts, 1901–10.

Fletcher Moss's titles appeared over a number of years: *Pilgrimages in Cheshire and Shropshire* (1901); *Pilgrimages to Old Homes* (1903); *Pilgrimages to Old Homes Mostly on the Welsh Borders* (1903); *The Fourth Book of Pilgrimages to Old Homes* (1908); *The Fifth Book of Pilgrimages to Old Homes* (1910); *The Sixth Book of Pilgrimages to Old Homes* (1913); *The Seventh and Last Book of Pilgrimages to Old Homes* (1920).



An original plan in ink on tracing paper at 1:500 scale of Roman Clausentum by Sapper Thomas Barry, dated 15 June 1859. This is possibly the earliest measured plan of the Roman remains and is conserved, repaired and mounted on board.

Ordnance Survey Portfolios

When the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division transferred to the former RCHME in 1983, the NMR inherited a large quantity of associated archives, including 76 portfolios of maps, surveys, excavation plans and sections, and photographs. Compiled over a period of some 60 years, the collection covers the history of archaeology on Ordnance Survey maps. In the words of OGS Crawford, who began the portfolios around 1922, they provide an easily accessible body of sources for the study of problems of topography.

The collection covers the whole of England and also includes some Welsh material. It contains copies of 2-inch and 6-inch scale surveyors' drawings made between 1784 and the 1840s for the 1st Edition 1 inch Ordnance Survey maps (the originals are in the British Library); copies of large-scale estate maps dating from the 16th to the 19th century; field surveys of nationally important archaeological sites; excavation plans and sections including some artefact drawings; site and themed artefact distribution maps; historic road maps; and a variety of photographic prints, including aerial coverage of field-systems and deserted medieval settlements. Of prime importance is the earliest accurate measured survey of Stonehenge (AO0897A) by Sapper W Butler, dated 1873 (see *Antiquaries Journal* **76** (1996), 275–8) and an early survey of the Roman town of Clausentum, modern Bitterne, near Southampton (AO0983A), by Sapper Thomas Barry, dated 15 June 1859.

These Ordnance Survey Portfolios have recently been fully catalogued, upgrading a hand-list compiled in 1992–3.

Outreach

A varied programme of workshops, tours, lectures, weekly classes and events is designed to help participants make the best use of NMR resources for work, research or personal interest.

Short introductory tours to the NMR Centre are available, and for those wishing to explore the resources in more detail, study days are organised on a number of different themes. For further information, please contact Jane Golding: Tel 01793 414735; Fax 01793 414606; jane.golding@english-heritage.org.uk.

The Mother's Union at St Augustine's Church, Even Swindon, *c* 1950. Photograph supplied to the Living Story Project by J Morris.

News
from English Heritage

The Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit

This issue of *Conservation Bulletin* will be launched at a three-day conference, 31 January–2 February 2005, at the G-Mex Centre in Manchester. Hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Prescott, MP, the Summit will be the largest ever gathering in the UK of leaders and professionals engaged with the provision of services and policies that help to create 'sustainable communities' – places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

Coming two years after the launch of the Government's Sustainable Communities Plan and its successful Urban Summit, this Summit will provide an opportunity to show how sustainable communities are being delivered on the ground and provide a forum to discuss the programme ahead.

The Sustainable Communities Plan is a long-term programme of action backed by £22 billion of investment to achieve housing supply and demand goals, and to foster the building of sustainable thriving communities through planning, transport, infrastructure and regeneration policies.

Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment

This position statement, a free publication (Product Code: 50977) published in January 2005, is a contribution to the debate on areas of low-demand housing and the role of the historic environment in the regeneration of these areas. The position statement is of particular relevance to those parts of midland and northern England where the Government has established Pathfinder Partnerships (see pages 7–8) to tackle the problem of housing market failure.

A combination of written evidence and case studies demonstrates the importance of the historic environment in providing sustainable long-term solutions. The undertaking of assessments of the historic environment is highlighted as part of the analysis underlying the masterplan and design process. The document concludes with a 'historic environment checklist' and stresses the need for those preparing strategies for the future of these areas to work with the local community, the local authority conservation officer and archaeologist, and English Heritage.

Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment includes a model brief, which provides guidance on how to commission and undertake work to assess historical significance in areas of low demand housing. The model brief is also available from www.english-heritage.org.uk/regeneration.

HELM: Historic Environment: Local Management

English Heritage's new training initiative has been set up with DCMS, ODPM and Defra funding. Together with a wide range of partners – including the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, the Association of Local Government Archaeologists, the Planning Officers Society and the Local Government Association – English Heritage aims to raise awareness of the historic environment across the range of local authority responsibilities.

HELM will provide the tools for local authorities to manage change in the historic environment with skill and confidence. It is designed to encourage members and officers who have little or no experience of the historic environment to consider it when making decisions. HELM promotes the need for properly resourced and actively consulted conservation departments. A programme of 18 HELM seminars organised by the English Historic Towns Forum begins in late January 2005, with contributions from regional and local conservation staff who are delivering the training.

As part of a related initiative, we are campaigning for Historic Environment Champions at a senior level in all local authorities. With over 120 champions so far, does your council have one? A support network and training events are being set up together with CABE, and a CD based on the website has been mailed to all local authority councillors in England.

The HELM website (www.helm.org.uk) also provides a useful resource for local authority conservation staff, including a library of English Heritage policy and guidance, as well as a list

of advice produced by local authorities on historic environment topics. To keep the website up to date, we rely on the input of heritage professionals. Case studies illustrating good practice in this area are welcomed from both the private and public sector, as are reciprocal web links. For further information, please contact catherine.cavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk.

Save Our Streets

English Heritage's Save Our Streets campaign was launched by Bill Bryson on 14 October 2004 (see also the Places of Worship issue of *Conservation Bulletin* **46**, Autumn 2004, page 45). Along with the Women's Institute, English Heritage joined forces with the Department for Transport to reclaim the beauty and elegance of England's streets. The campaign highlighted the blight caused by the everyday clutter of unnecessary street signs, road markings and bollards. It also asked Women's Institutes, other local groups and members of the public to carry out a Street Audit of redundant local street furniture and send it to their local councillor.

There has been a tremendous response from the public, press and other concerned organisations. The response from local councils has been particularly heartening. Many are keen to acknowledge that something needs to be done and are planning to remove clutter and improve public spaces.

English Heritage will soon publish regional Streets for All manuals, giving practical guidance on managing streets. The manuals will be sent to all highways departments, as well as to conservation and environmental services officers. For further information, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/saveourstreets or contact saveourstreets@english-heritage.org.uk.

Greenside Public Inquiry

'Greenside' was a listed building built in 1937 in the Modern Movement style beside the Wentworth golf course in Surrey. It was completely demolished in 2003 before consent was granted. Rather than allow the local council to decide the consent application, the Deputy Prime Minister determined that a public inquiry should be held to hear the case for and against demolition.

At the inquiry, which ended on 1 December 2004, Runnymede Council argued alongside the owner that his human rights would be contravened if he were not allowed to replace the building with a new, more comfortable and more valuable building. English Heritage, working closely with the Twentieth Century Society, argued that such a decision could jeopardise not only the listed building legislation but also the whole edifice of the planning process.

Modern Movement buildings still have the power to shock, but they illustrate clearly the inter-war ideas about living space, the rejection of historicism and the excitement of new building materials. The best examples are rightly listed for their protection. The outcome of the inquiry will not be known until Spring 2005, but on this decision may hang the future of many other important listed buildings.

The Gorton Project: Learning from and reviving a Pugin masterpiece

The magnificent monastery and church of St Francis of Assisi – one of the finest examples of High Victorian Gothic architecture in Britain – is the theme and joint venue for two inter-related national conferences on 21 and 22 April 2005. Delegates can attend for one or both days, which will include a series of lectures by specialists on education, training and conservation at Manchester Town Hall, and a tour of the church and monastery together with practical demonstrations of conservation and craft skills in action. The two conferences present a unique opportunity to discuss such issues as access, education, training, standards and practical conservation matters:

21 April – Day 1. The Gorton Project: Chapter and Verse. Lessons from Conservation: public access, education and training in building conservation projects.

22 April – Day 2. The Gorton Project: Dedicated to Training: raising professional, technical and craft standards for better building repair and maintenance.

The conference should be of interest to anyone working in the built heritage sector, including clients, specifiers, estate managers, conservation officers, architects, building surveyors, conservators and funding bodies.

Cost: £45 for either of the single days or a special reduced rate of £60 for delegates attending both conferences. For further information and registration details, please contact James Stevens: Tel 020 7973 3212; james.stevens@english-heritage.org.uk.

Unlocking Heritage Information: Review of the NMR

The results of English Heritage's Review of the National Monuments Record (NMR) were published on 15 November 2004. The Review's

recommendations include a major corporate commitment to providing more NMR information online.

The recommendations have been formally endorsed by English Heritage's Commissioners; a series of programmes aimed at delivering them within three years will be launched in Spring 2005, as part of English Heritage's next Corporate Plan. The recommendations include:

- vastly improved access to NMR archives and information on the world wide web;
- a new and vigorous portfolio of digital services and products;
- a drive to develop new audiences and partnerships.

The review also covered the NMR's relationship with local historic environment records. As a result, English Heritage will work with local partners to deliver a 'Heritage Gateway', or portal to historic environment records in England. The NMR's role in the sector will be refocused to ensure that standards continue to be developed and disseminated, inter-operability between records is enhanced, and the capacity for local authorities and others to manage this information is improved.

To support these developments, 10–15% of the NMR's £2.8 million budget will be redirected towards the new initiatives, and a new team will be charged with specific responsibility for driving the changes forward.

To mark these commitments, on 15 November 2004 the NMR also launched PastScape on the world wide web. PastScape contains summary information on every archaeological site in the NMR: around 400,000 sites, buildings, finds and excavations. It is the most complete account of England's archaeology available on the world wide web (www.english-heritage.org.uk/pastscape).

'The National Monuments Record makes a fundamental contribution to every aspect of the work of English Heritage,' writes Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage, in the Review. 'It is vital to our mission to understand, protect and enhance the historic environment.'

The review's conclusions are published in *Unlocking Heritage Information*, available on request from English Heritage Customer Services on 0870 333 1181 or www.nmrreview.org.uk.

New guidelines for the treatment of excavated human remains

Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England was published jointly by English Heritage and the Church of England on 25 January 2005. It is the product of three years' deliberations by a Working Group convened by these two organisations. (See the Places of Worship issue, *Conservation Bulletin* **46**, Autumn 2004, pages 36–7.)

A major practical recommendation is that a standing national advisory committee be set up, which would comprise clergy, archaeologists and other professionals involved with human remains. This committee would offer advice on any aspect of the treatment of human remains from Christian burial sites, particularly in cases that are problematic or controversial: when, for instance, from the scientific point of view it is desirable that a collection of skeletal material should remain accessible for research, while other parties with legitimate interests, such as the Church or local public opinion, desire that the remains be returned to consecrated ground. The guidelines suggest that a possible solution in such cases may be deposition of remains in disused crypts or redundant churches, and recommend that a working party be set up to pursue this option.

Copies of the guidelines are available from English Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk) or the Church of England (www.cofe.anglican.org) websites.

Professional training courses

- Building conservation masterclasses and professional conservators in practice.
  West Dean College, near Chichester, West Sussex.
  A collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, sponsored by the Radcliffe Trust.
  For details, please contact West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester PO18 0QZ; Tel 01243 818294; bcm@westdean.org.uk; pat.jackson@westdean.org.uk; www.westdean.org.uk.
- Professional training in the historic environment 2004/5.
  A wide-ranging programme of one- and two-day courses at the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, in association with the AFT, the IHBC and the IFA.
  For details, please contact Dr Alison MacDonald, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA; Tel 01865 270366; alison.macdonald@conted.ox.ac.uk.

Legal Developments
The extent of listing

When is an object not an object? When it's part of a listed building.

Section 1(5) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 contains one of those deceptively simple phrases. A listed building, it says, includes not just the building itself but any object or structure fixed to it and any object or structure within the curtilage which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948.

However, the questions arising – when is an object or structure fixed to the building or part of the land (which amount to the same thing), and what is the extent of the curtilage – have exercised the courts for a number of years. It is not surprising, then, that these are two of the more frequent problems referred to English Heritage Legal Services.

In this first of a two-part article, I will deal with the question of when objects and structures are included in the listing by being fixed to the building or part of the land. In the second part, to be published in the following issue of *Conservation Bulletin*, I will deal with the vexed question of the extent of a building's curtilage.

There is a body of case law that has largely grown out of what constitutes a fixture for land law purposes, and much of it concerns works of art (not surprisingly, as they tend to be valuable and therefore worth going to court over!). The tests that have emerged are:

- the method and degree of annexation to the building (or land): is it fixed to the building/land?
- the object and purpose of the annexation: is the object there for its enjoyment as an object or for the better use and enjoyment of the land?

It is worth noting that it was held in the case of *Berkeley -v- Poulet Court of Appeal 1977 EGLR 911* that '…the second test is more likely than the first to be decisive…'

It is possible for an object to be quite lightly fixed but still be part of the building, especially if they are part of a 'grand architectural design'. Noseley Hall in Leicestershire is one example. Seven paintings after Pannini, although conventionally hung, were held to be part of the design of the study. There was careful matching of the pictures with the interior architecture of the room. It is important to note that the list description stated that 'this room contains and was designed to take a series of paintings by Pannini'.

A similar case arose at the Midland Hotel in Morecombe. A relief sculpture by Eric Gill, 'Odysseus welcomed from the sea by Nausicaa', was held by the High Court to be fixed to the building as part of the original architectural scheme. The Court appears to have taken particular note of the fact that the architect, Oliver Hill, had specifically commissioned this sculpture as well as other works by Gill – two seahorses for the exterior and a painting on the ceiling – as part of the design.

On the other hand, it is possible for an object to be quite firmly fixed but not be a fixture. The classic case is of 'The Three Graces' by Canova at Woburn Abbey. Although the sculpture had its own tempietto specially designed to take the sculpture, the Secretary of State decided that the purpose of annexation was to display the sculpture for its better enjoyment as a work of art rather than to be part of the design of the building or room.

In conclusion, it seems that the slightest degree of annexation may suffice and that the second test is now the more important of the two noted above. The first test involves an objective assessment of extent of attachment and ease of removal. The second test involves some subjective interpretation: is it intended to be part of the design or is it for the better enjoyment of the object *per se*?

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New Publications
from English Heritage

Storehouses of Empire: Liverpool's Historic Warehouses

by Colum Giles

Some of the world's great cities are linked in the popular mind with their river and, for reasons both ancient and modern, Liverpool and the Mersey are inseparable. The Mersey formed part of the chain that carried the trade of the world, linking large parts of northern and midland England with markets and sources of supply across the globe. For centuries, this traffic passed through Liverpool, the landing point for imports and the port of dispatch for goods sent overseas or around the coast. Liverpool developed to serve a growing national and international trading network and for many decades handled more of the cargoes of Britain's maritime empire even than London. In Liverpool, the warehouse represents the essential function of the city; nowhere else can the evolution of this important building type be studied in such depth from surviving buildings.
PRICE £7.99 (no P&P)
ISBN 1 87359 2809 / PRODUCT CODE 50920
Paperback, 106 pages

Played in Manchester: The Architectural Heritage of a City at Play

by Simon Inglis

Most of the sports played at international level today – including football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis, bowls and snooker – were developed and codified in Britain. This book is the first of a series of titles celebrating sport's architectural heritage. Over the last 200 years, the Manchester area has been a leading centre for archery, athletics, cycling, lacrosse and water polo. Its historic buildings include Britain's first purpose-built ice rink, the first greyhound stadium and the earliest known examples of Lads' Clubs, the forerunners of today's youth centres. The book includes a trail of fascinating locations: a Victorian real tennis club hidden in the backstreets of Salford, an Edwardian billiard room, the training ground where Manchester United's Bobby Charlton and David Beckham honed their skills, a former racecourse grandstand now used as a student union and, not least, the opulent Victoria Baths, winner of last year's BBC Restoration series.
PRICE £9.99 (no P&P)
ISBN 1 87359 2787 / PRODUCT CODE 50945
Paperback, 108 pages

Licensed to Sell: History and Heritage

by Geoff Brandwood

Since the 1960s, major changes have left less than 4% of pub interiors of any historic value. This book focuses on what can still be seen of our once-rich pub heritage. It describes how the long history of the pub, and changing attitudes towards it, are reflected in its design and planning, and how it was organised to serve and entertain the customer. It also deals with the often magnificent embellishment of pubs with ornamental glass, tilework and carved wood in the golden age of pub building around 1900. It contains over 150 photographs of pub interiors as well as plans illustrating the development of the public house through the ages.
PRICE £14.99 + £2.50 P&P
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