English Heritage – The First 21 Years
Introduction

Sir Neil Cossons *Chairman*

Protection of the historic environment, the promotion of enjoyment and the achievement of understanding.

I am delighted to introduce this issue of *Conservation Bulletin* celebrating English Heritage's first 21 years. In doing so, I particularly want to acknowledge the achievements of my predecessors. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu steered English Heritage through our first eight years, gave us our name – so much more memorable and appropriate than our official title, the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England – and began, as we have continued, by making quality customer service a priority at all our properties. Jocelyn Stevens made his own distinctive contribution, generating headlines for the historic environment, saving Darwin's home and workplace at Down House, now a candidate World Heritage Site, restoring the Albert Memorial and doing more than anyone to persuade the Government that the condition of Stonehenge was a national disgrace.

Over the years, we have demonstrated our expertise and professionalism in many different ways, not least in the range and quality of our publications. In this, we were greatly strengthened by our merger in 1999 with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, which by then also included the Survey of London, both bodies with long traditions of scholarly publication behind them. We now have a catalogue that boasts hundreds of titles, all them of a high standard, aimed at everyone from general readers of all ages to the most technical, scientific and academic of audiences. We are making information available as widely as possible through the internet, and have developed a major new web resource for local policy-makers, *Historic Environment: Local Management*, www.helm.org.uk.

Looking back over the last 21 years, I am proudest of the way we have played our part in redefining heritage. In our very first Members' newsletter, published in the summer of 1984, we said that we would be joining the national amenity societies in working to protect 'not just a few major monuments, but the whole historic environment', and encouraging people 'to appreciate the full value of their surroundings … and enjoy their heritage in all its subtlety and diversity' (West 1984, 7). These sentiments were reflected 16 years later, when, with the rest of sector, we published *Power of Place*. This has recently been described as 'a seminal moment in the recent development of public policy for the historic environment … everyday experiences of streets, buildings, parks, gardens, places of worship, fields,

Paul Highnam © English Heritage

Stokesay Castle in Shropshire is the best-preserved 13th-century fortified manor house in England. It was amongst the first properties to be acquired and repaired by the new English Heritage.

© John Yates

In 2005 English Heritage acquired Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury, the first iron-framed fireproof building in the world and an icon of the Industrial Revolution, to secure its repair and sustainable reuse.

factories, offices, transport, schools, shops and homes registered as an engagement with heritage just as surely as a visit to a country house or a trip to a museum' (Cowell 2004, 24). As a direct result of the political momentum achieved by *Power of Place*, we are now working closely with Government on a comprehensive reform of the system for protecting and managing the historic environment.

I am proud too that in 1999 we persuaded the Government to identify 15 potential new World Heritage Sites in England, 5 of which have since been inscribed by UNESCO, 3 – Saltaire, the Derwent Valley and the Liverpool waterfront – representing England's unique industrial and commercial heritage. In Liverpool, and in many other great industrial cities such as Newcastle, we have worked closely with local authorities to put the historic environment at the heart of economic and social regeneration. At the same time, we have been able to find £40.8 million to help England's cathedrals, some of our greatest cultural achievements. We established the UK's first register of historic parks and gardens, and since 1987 have been giving grants to support their restoration and repair. We have taken buildings as diverse as Brodsworth Hall and Stokesay, Clun and Wigmore castles into care. We have restored the fire-damaged ruin of Hill Hall in Essex and returned it to residential use. We are currently finding creative solutions that will secure the future of Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire, Chatterley Whitfield colliery in Staffordshire and Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury, the world's first iron-framed building. We have made Stonehenge a priority, and are currently awaiting the Government's decision on the road tunnel, the essential next step in finding a long-term solution for the site.

We may have a wealth of experience behind us, but we are now more fleet of foot than ever, rising to new challenges and seizing every opportunity to further the three objectives that were laid down for us by Parliament in 1983, and which are still our watchwords: the protection of the historic environment, the promotion of enjoyment and the advancement of knowledge.

REFERENCES

Cowell, B 2004. 'Why heritage counts: researching the historic environment', *Cultural Trends* 13 (4), No. 52 (December), 23–39

West, J J 1984. 'The common touch', *English Heritage News* 1 (Summer), 7

© English Heritage

The Creation and Early Days of English Heritage

Some personal recollections

Peter Rumble *Chief Executive 1984–9*

After a smooth birth, the infant English Heritage rapidly embarked on a decade of eventful and exhilarating change.

The decision leading to the creation of English Heritage was taken by Michael Heseltine, the then Secretary of State for the Environment (DoE), when he responded to a proposal by the late Maurice Mendoza, the Director of the Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings Directorate (DAMHB) that much of the directorate's work might be done better if it were hived off to an agency. Maurice retired in 1981 and I was appointed in his place. A short consultation document was issued in November 1981, to which we received more than 300 replies, with many asking for more information. We therefore produced a much fuller document – *The Way Forward* – which was issued in 1982. It reiterated the proposal for an agency that would manage and maintain some 400 monuments – such as castles, abbeys, hillforts and burial mounds – in the care of the Secretary of State; enliven the presentation of those monuments; make grants for the preservation of historic buildings and ancient monuments; co-ordinate rescue archaeology; and advise the Secretary of State on listing historic buildings and scheduling ancient monuments. The Secretary of State would retain responsibility for the broadest aspects of policy, confirmation of decisions on listing and scheduling, the exercise of all planning functions and maintenance of the Royal Palaces and Parks. It argued that the required professional expertise and a more commercial approach could be better exercised by an agency outside direct Government control. An agency could also be expected to use its monuments more intensively for education and public enjoyment. Reservations that had been expressed were also recorded: that those improvements could as readily be made by reorganisation within the DoE; that a more commercial approach would bring vulgarity to the monuments; and that there would be duplication of work between the DoE and the agency. The document concluded with the reassurance that the agency's first priority would be preservation. The rationale for the proposed division of responsibilities was not given; nor can I recall that it emerged during debates on the Bill. Broadly, it seems to have been that if an action benefited an individual or organisation it should be given to the agency; if, however, it could be deemed harmful, particularly in relation to the property rights of an individual, it should rest with a minister directly accountable to Parliament.

The proposals formed the bedrock of the legislation that followed but before a bill could be prepared there had to be further advocacy. It was essential to have the backing of the Secretary of State's two independent statutory advisors – the Ancient Monuments Board (AMB) and the Historic Buildings Council (HBC). Some members of both bodies were sceptical. A conference was held at Leeds Castle in 1982 at which the influence of Mrs, now Dame, Jennifer Jenkins, the chairman of the HBC, supported by the late Sir Arthur Drew, chairman of the AMB, was decisive. I doubt whether the creation of English Heritage would have taken place when it did without her lead.

It was also essential that a large majority of staff working within DAMHB should accept an invitation to serve in the agency on a two-year secondment. After that they could either commit themselves to the agency or return to the DoE. It was always likely that nearly all the professional staff involved would wish to

join the agency. They were dedicated to the conservation cause. For others there were attractions about remaining in a large government department. Discussions with the staff and the relevant trade unions produced a range of reactions, from constructive welcome through resigned acceptance to overt hostility. The cynical view was that the change was all about reducing the number of civil servants. But overall the response was encouraging.

The National Heritage Bill was introduced in the House of Lords and Second Reading took place on 25 November 1982. It was welcomed by all parties. It gave the agency three main duties – to promote conservation, to use monuments in its care for public enjoyment and to promote education. The agency's powers were limited to England. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England was not included, although that was merged with English Heritage later, nor were the non-occupied Royal Palaces. The new body did, however, subsume the AMB and HBC. The passage of the bill was smooth and Royal Assent given on 13 May 1983. And so the new agency, statutorily named the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, was created.

The plan was that the agency should assume its full powers on 1 April 1984 but with immediate limited powers to enable a smooth transfer of responsibilities from DoE. A chairman and a nucleus of commissioners and staff were needed quickly. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu was appointed chairman. His long experience in conservation matters as owner of the Beaulieu estate and founder member and chairman of the Historic Houses Association and his expertise in the presentation of monuments, public relations, advertising and commerce were to prove invaluable. Initially, three commissioners were appointed and in November 1983, after public competition, I was appointed chief executive. More commissioners joined us later. As required by the Act, they were experts in a range of subjects but also brought a fresh eye to accepted policies and practices outside their special fields. In addition, five committees were set up to advise on various policy issues. Work continued on staffing and support functions. The five months from November were ones of intense activity but by 1 April 1984 we were ready to assume our full duties.

The early weeks and months were ones in which relationships, both internal and external, were explored and developed. We had to establish who did what. Broadly, the chairman and commissioners decided policy, the key allocation of resources and issues of public sensitivity. We had, too, to establish the relationship between the Commission and its two statutory advisory bodies on ancient monuments and on historic buildings as well as the other committees that the Commission created. At times the distinction between what was advisory and what was executive seemed to get somewhat foggy. Requests for detailed information and the time taken in preparing for, and attending, meetings put a considerable burden on staff. Happily, most of the tensions that cropped up were creative ones.

Our early relationship with DoE was based on a common interest in success. DoE had neither the staff, time or inclination to get involved in the nitty-gritty of our work. We submitted and discussed annual plans and bids for resources based on a balanced request for information, later to become more onerous. We met annually with the Scots, Welsh, and, later, with the Northern Irish to exchange ideas on policy issues. We also liaised with other quangos to establish guidelines where our responsibilities overlapped.

The conservation bodies had supported our creation but probably wished us to show more aggression publicly on some issues, while commercial organisations pressed on us the need for greater flexibility in considering the need for changes of use in a dynamic society – and, of course, greater speed in taking decisions.

Our relationship with the National Trust was more complex. They welcomed us as fellow conservation workers but seemed cautious about our impact on their activities. They appeared to be concerned about our intention to become more commercial and create a strong membership support base, possibly fearing an effect on their own income. In the event, competition seemed to generate public interest to our mutual benefit. Their second concern seemed to be that we might devote a greater share of resources to our own properties to the detriment of our grant-giving duties or that a larger share of those grants might go to towns schemes and vernacular buildings than to the great houses. The latter point was one shared by the Historic Houses Association.

The numbers of staff coming on secondment meant that work could continue without much of a hiccup. The chairman's impact on us was immediate. We dropped our statutory name and rechristened ourselves English Heritage. We chose a distinctive and memorable logo. The way we presented our

monuments was likewise dramatically affected. There was a need to improve the presentation of nearly all monuments, with Stonehenge at the top of the list. Within a month we set up a study group with the National Trust and local authority representatives and produced a first-rate report, including a recommendation to close the A344. Frustration after frustration followed and 21 years later the saga is still continuing. Other initiatives were far more successful. Colour souvenir guides were produced. The uniform of custodians was changed to give a less institutionalised appearance. Events were arranged, plays performed and the public welcomed. The use of monuments for educational purposes was greatly expanded. Our direct labour force and conservation teams continued to show their expertise and commitment and we were delighted on 1 April 1986 to take on the care of Osborne House and three historic house museums – Kenwood, Rangers House and Marble Hill House – on dissolution of the Greater London Council (GLC).

Policy on our public conservation duties needed a far less radical change than that for monuments in care. On the ancient monuments side, however, the scheduling of monuments had lagged lamentably behind the initiative to list historic buildings. Only 13,000 monuments had been scheduled out of an estimated 635,000 sites that needed to be considered for protection. We therefore instituted a Monuments Protection Programme. The work was complicated and progress much slower than hoped for but at least a start was made. On the historic buildings side we reviewed the grant rules and conditions inherited from DoE. Grant applications far exceeded the resources available and our efforts to balance them between individual owners, including churches, and the other schemes that we operated in partnership with local authorities led to some tension. The demise of the GLC also saw us inheriting the conservation functions of their Historic Buildings Division.

One of the biggest managerial problems was to weld staff coming from different backgrounds into a united body working to the same aims and procedures. Civil servants were well accustomed to Civil Service codes and government accounting rules but one significant change did await them. Working in a body more directly answerable to the public involved a more responsive attitude than some had been used to in the past. Staff coming from local authorities had to adapt to a different set of rules from those to which they were accustomed. The greatest problems, however, were encountered by staff coming from the private sector, especially those from marketing backgrounds. They found the rules arcane, bureaucratic and inhibiting to the urgency urged upon them. The temptation to push on too fast probably led to a critical Internal Audit draft report that was leaked to the national press. Inevitably Ministers were concerned and much time was spent preparing a response tabled in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament. It was time that could have been spent profitably on other issues, but lessons were learned.

The first period in the life of English Heritage came to an end on 1 April 1986. On that date seconded staff committing themselves to English Heritage ceased to be civil servants. It was a relief that the great majority chose to stay. On the same date we took over conservation staff from the GLC's Historic Buildings Division and those at the three historic house museums, some of them coming with a distinct lack of enthusiasm. That same day was also marked by a fundamental reorganisation. For the first two years, we continued with the DoE structure whereby professional staff worked within their own professional groups. After a management review, we worked as interdisciplinary teams. It was a vast improvement and one that was welcomed by the staff.

There were mistakes, frustrations and considerable pressures in the early years but they were massively outweighed by the excitement and enjoyment of creating a new and positive force for the benefit of conservation and the public. I hope that all those involved – and in particular Michael Heseltine, Edward Montagu and Jennifer Jenkins -can look back in pleasure at what was achieved and on what English Heritage has become.

Lord Montagu, the first chairman of English Heritage, and the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, flanked by the first chief executive and commissioners, 1984.

England's Heritage
The changing role of government

Jeff West *Policy Director*

The historic environment enjoys broad cross-party support, but has not always been well served by the machinery of government.

Since its foundation in 1984, English Heritage has been very fortunate that whatever government has been in office, the historic environment has never been a party-political issue. All the main legislation, from the 1882 Ancient Monuments Act to the National Heritage Act 2002, received cross-party support. In her pamphlet *Better Places to Live*, published shortly before the recent election was called, Tessa Jowell reflected a broad political consensus when she wrote that the role of government in relation to the historic environment was to provide 'vision, leadership and support, including public investment as necessary'. English Heritage's first 13 years were spent under a Conservative government and the next 8 years under a Labour one, but one of the most obvious characteristics of the government's attitude to the heritage has been its continuity.

When I worked in a government finance division in the 1980s I found that my desk instructions began with a Treasury minute issued by Gladstone and it is no surprise that one of the continuities of public administration has been the concern, for which Gladstone was famed, for economy and efficiency. In the early 1990s, there was a major drive for privatisation, which saw the transfer of English Heritage's direct labour force to the private sector and the closure of its specialist craft studios. In the wider sector, the introduction of compulsory competitive tendering in local authorities led to the contracting out of parks departments and the loss of one the main entry routes into horti-culture. The sector skills council, with help from English Heritage, is only now beginning to address the resulting skills shortage.

More recently, the introduction of resource accounting has led to increasing pressure on departments to divest themselves of property with a high capital value. DCMS has supported the work of English Heritage's Government Historic Estates Unit in advising on disposals, while departments' overall stewardship responsibilities towards the historic sites and buildings in their care are enshrined in the Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate issued by DCMS in 2003, which has now been adopted as part of the government's Framework for Sustainable Development.

A related and equally ever-present issue has been the government's concern to keep to a minimum the burden of regulation on the economy. Successive attempts have been made to make the planning and listed building systems as simple and consensual as possible. There is a fair case to be made that English Heritage, by providing authoritative advice with the minimum of delay (it now turns round between 93 per cent and 98 per cent of consultations within 21 days) has done more than most to oil the regulatory wheels of the planning system, the generic problems of which are usually the result of the need to ensure that all the necessary checks and balances are in place when people's property rights are involved.

Another common strand is the need for democratic accountability and community participation. English Heritage derives its own legitimacy by being accountable through ministers to Parliament, and by being transparent in its operations; it chose to anticipate the demands of the Freedom of Information Act several years before they were imposed by law. One of its original functions, which it retains, was to alert ministers to cases where the wider public interest would be best served by calling listed building consent applications in for national decision. In recent years, the need to find

new and more effective ways of engaging people in the management of their local environment has led to the development of Local Strategic Partnerships and community plans, and the introduction of Statements of Community Involvement as part of the planning process. English Heritage's most recent contribution to this debate was the publication earlier this year of our guidance on *Local Strategic Partnerships and the Historic Environment*, but five years ago the sector led the way (and anticipated the Planning Green Paper) by emphasising the importance of community participation in *Power of Place*. In many ways this was a defining moment. Criticised by some for being too politically correct, and by others for not saying anything new or interesting, the final report emerged from a wide consultative process that introduced ministers and civil servants to ideas that had been gaining ground in the academic world over the previous two decades, in particular the concept of multiple significance and the necessity of mediating contested values.

The other main issue with which *Power of Place* began to grapple, and which is now bearing important fruit through the work of the Heritage Protection Review, was the essential unity of the historic environment, and the pointlessness of some of the traditional subdivisions into which the heritage sector has been divided. These divisions had been exacerbated by the way in which government was organised and legislation enacted. The first Ancient Monuments Act gave guardianship powers to the Office of Works, and its successor Departments retained responsibility for archaeology and archaeological monuments for nearly 90 years. The 1947 Planning Act nevertheless made the Ministry of Town and Country Planning responsible for listed buildings, and the ghosts of this cultural divide (which allowed historic designed landscape to fall between the stools) persisted into the early years of English Heritage. The abolition of the old Ancient Monuments Board and Historic Buildings Council when English Heritage was set up was sweetened by requiring the new body to establish 'at least one committee' to advise it on ancient monuments and at least one on historic buildings. English Heritage subsequently decided that it made more sense – given that the historic environment does not naturally divide along statutory lines – for it to be one and the same committee. In the meantime, the government's Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 on *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16, published in 1990) and Note 15 on *Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG15, published in 1994) perpetuated the idea that (in some minds at least) archaeology stopped at ground level, or possibly at some time in the first millennium CE. The language in *Power of Place* was therefore deliberately inclusive, talking about the environment as a whole rather than making a distinction between sites and buildings. Since then, the government has adopted a similarly inclusive approach, both in its 2001 policy statement, *A Force for Our Future*, and subsequently in its review of heritage protection.

Over the past 21 years this joining up of the historic environment has been paralleled by a similar joining up of the some of the bodies dealing with it. English Heritage itself has been merged, first in 1986 with the Historic Buildings Division of the former Greater London Council, and then in 1999 with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. This has meant that the several of the most powerful traditions of public-sector engagement with the historic environment – the Office of Works, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, the London County Council, the Royal Commission, the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division, the Survey of London and the National Buildings Record – all began to flow in the same direction for perhaps the first time. Meanwhile, the government departments responsible for the historic environment have continued to evolve. The Department of National Heritage emerged from the Office of Arts and Libraries and the Department of the Environment, and changed its name to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport when 'heritage' no longer seemed the appropriate word to cover sport, broadcasting and the creative industries. The department responsible for the planning system first lost its responsibility for transport, and then in 2001 its responsibility for the environment. Given the cross-cutting nature of the historic environment, which has never been easy to keep within simple administrative boundaries, it was therefore particularly encouraging when in 2003 ODPM and Defra joined DCMS as joint signatories of English Heritage's funding agreement. It is was probably this, rather than the mere passing of years, that marked the historic environment's real coming of age as a proper concern for government.

English Heritage
The view from a Commissioner

Richard Morris *English Heritage Commissioner 1996–2005*

New holistic ways of thinking are transforming the way in which we approach conservation and research.

A year or two before English Heritage was created, I was invited to join a group of advisers connected with one of the Countryside Commission's demonstration farms. The idea of this scheme was that practitioners from different branches of environmental conservation should come together on a number of farms, and suggest practical, low-cost ways of improving their care. We started by compiling theme-specific plans – nature conservation, amenity, archaeology and so on – and then combined them into a plan for the farm as a whole. Once there were results to see, the farmer would invite other farmers from the region to visit. In this way, the thinking went, good practice would spread.

One day, a land-use consultant (from a then-famous firm) mentioned another of the farms where he'd been a few days before. 'The archaeologists down there', he confided, 'have gone bananas.' I asked him why.

Al Oswald © English Heritage

Dunstanburgh, Northumberland. A Second World War pillbox, to repel invasion from the European mainland, lies beside a castle built six centuries before to defend against domestic unrest. Recent field survey has in turn revealed that the medieval castle was constructed on the site of an Iron Age hillfort.

'There's a concrete pillbox on the farm,' – his laugh had a hint of hysteria – 'and they're saying that we should keep it!'

No one would be scandalised by that suggestion today. If anything, the opposite, for apart from the nature conservation value of pillboxes (which make excellent bat roosts), the UK's anti-invasion defences have emerged as designed landscapes in their own right. That is, instead of being seen as extraneous to the historic environment, they are now accepted as part of it – as of course (being sited with the closest regard for terrain and human geography) they always were.

Does this contrast of attitudes tell us much about the evolution of conservation, or indeed research, during the intervening quarter century? Arguably, it does, in four respects.

First, it is significant that while the Highly Respected Environmental Consultant saw no connection between a 1940s pillbox and archaeology, the archaeological adviser at the other demonstration farm certainly did. This reminds us that a number of the developments we retrospectively attribute to the 1980s and 1990s were drawn from ideas that were already gaining currency outside the state sector. The first edition of James Semple Kerr's *The Conservation Plan*, for instance, was in print before English Heritage was formed, while the move from a reductionist to a holistic approach towards landscape was taking place at least from the 1960s. This was partly because of what had been going on in the field, both on a broad front and in specific areas since the 1950s (Professor Maurice Beresford, W G Hoskins, Dartmoor as a 'demonstration landscape') and through work which afforded particular insights (the building of motorways, aggregate extraction, aerial reconnaissance). By the time English Heritage arrived on the scene, the consequences of such work were already

being factored into more general thinking. Late in the 1970s, the Council for British Archaeology's Countryside Committee preached the death of the concept of 'site', and urged an approach to conservation that was 'ecologically conceived' – a phrase that provoked amusement at the time, but turns out to have been a bellwether for what has happened since: the transfer of ideas and practice from the natural environment.

Arguably, the 1970s interest in landscape was one reason why the 'archaeological areas' provided for under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 turned out to be such a disappointment, since they provided only for access to record sites threatened by development in lieu of the more systematic stewardship that has since been provided for by PPG16. Even PPG16 falls short of where landscape thinkers had got to by the time of English Heritage's birth, since its prime concern is with point-specific sites rather than surroundings, neighbourhoods or character.

Thus far, then, English Heritage's achievement looks to have been evolutionary rather than revolutionary, building out from and beyond the 19th-century monument-based tradition not by replacing it but by assimilating newer approaches to it. In another respect, however, PPG16 reflects a third issue that arises from the pillbox on the demonstration farm –the advance of the claims of community and individual on the past.

Much of the early interest in PPG16 turned on its success in shifting responsibility for the commissioning of rescue archaeology. In 1991 the government told developers that in future they themselves should make provision for the archaeological consequences of their schemes. There were several motives for this. One was that whereas government funding would never be sufficient for all there is to do, a 'polluter pays' approach is more directly proportional to the extent and impact of what there is to be paid for. Another was based in a morality of safekeeping, in part borrowed from Charles Rothschild's* dictum of nature conservation, that 'the only effective method of protecting nature is to interfere with it as little as possible'. Archaeologists had no more right to go about annihilating archaeological deposits than zoologists were licensed to destroy wildlife.

Such views had further roots in a widened sense of community, whereby archaeology was coming to be regarded as a resource for everyone to use, in their own ways. Hence, the fact that one group had an academic interest in archaeological evidence (that is, one sort of understanding, out of many possible kinds) should not confer pre-eminence in decisions about what should happen to it. If academics wished to destroy sites by digging them up, they now had to take the public with them.

Of course, in one way this is just what the planning system is for – a mechanism to make publicly reasoned choices between competing claims on land. Significantly, the areas where the planning system is weakest, or where for legal reasons it does not touch, tend also to be those that have produced the greatest controversies (like Seahenge) or problematics (like plough damage).

A corollary has still to be faced. The planning system, local authorities, the contract sector and elements within English Heritage itself all still refer to 'preservation by record' – a phrase founded in the notion (lately advanced in another context by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) that a record may be sufficient proxy for a thing destroyed. Yet Darwin himself warned of the fallacy of value-free recording. Looking back at the intellectual condition of geology in the 1830s he recalled a school of thought that said that a geologist's job was not to theorise but to observe:

> I well remember someone saying that at this rate a man might as well go into a gravel-pit and count the pebbles and describe the colours. How odd it is that anyone should not see that all observation must be for or against some view if it is to be of any service.

The point here is that an archive relates not primarily to the thing itself, but to the questions asked of it. The 'data' beloved of archaeologists and keepers of HERs (Historic Environment Records) arguably do not exist in any useful sense independently of the questions that call them into being. Greater than the need for new methods or systems of data gathering and manipulation, therefore, is the need for a continuing flow of new and more interesting questions. The facilitation of that flow, at base, is what English Heritage should be about.

If this be accepted, it brings an extra dynamic to what conservation is, and who it is for. Traditionally, conservation has been

* 1877–1923. Rothschild was an amateur naturalist who founded the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves (now the Royal Society for Nature Conservation) in 1912.

thought of as the selective cherishing of things on behalf of posterity, in the long term, and for public recreation and education in the short. It might better be visualised as an extension of ourselves (just as it was, indeed, in the thinking of Ruskin or the Sierra Club a hundred years and more ago), the cherishing being less for the supply of research than being supplied by it. Moreover, the last 10 years have seen an expanding definition of who 'we' are, from a fairly tight academic circle whose members told government and public alike what they should find interesting, a cultural counterpart to the fluoridation of water, to anyone who wishes to take part. To say this is not to concede any of the rigour that is required for exercising such interest.

A final thought: that pillbox. Two of archaeology's largest recent steps have been its extension into the marine environment, and the breaking down of the idea (once hard-wired into the Royal Commission's warrant) that architectural history and archaeology were concerned only with a more distant past. (The phenomenal advance of family history may have had something to do with this, for millions have seen for themselves their own connectedness with more recently historical people and events.) Both call for adjustment to archaeology's relationships with other disciplines. The material legacy of the recent (as of the drowned) past is of course enormous, but so too are the written and graphical sources for its study that lie preserved in our national and local archives. When we choose to conserve the physical remains of that past in the landscape it is thus no longer necessarily for traditional scientific question-asking reasons, but for broader social and cultural purposes, as tokens of historical events in which many fellow citizens took part.

NMR 23801/005 © English Heritage

A Dorset tractor driver encroaches on a Bronze Age round barrow – an island of history preserved uncomfortably in a sea of intensive arable cultivation.

The View from Our Partners

Working in a common cause

Today the historic environment has become a shared task for the voluntary, private and public sectors.

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Can it really be 21 years since that day in April 1984, when those former civil servants donned the t-shirt with the shiny new red corporate logo and started to grapple with what independence from Government would mean in practice? What follows is a personal view from one who jumped ship before the Millennium to join another national heritage body – the National Heritage Memorial Fund – itself celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

So much of what we take for granted today was in 1984 not yet in place. English Heritage had to address the need for massive changes both in the way it operated and in its relationships with the outside world. And then in 1994 just as things were settling down along came lottery money. For English Heritage, only 10 years old, dealing with the disappointment of not being given this largesse, and then having to manage the unruly and seemingly ill-prepared Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) into ways which would be beneficial, was yet another complexity. Attitudes to the lottery were at first ambivalent. How much money would there be? Would it be a potential source of funding for English Heritage's own projects? How would the vexed question of additionality be answered?

At first, the relationship between English Heritage and HLF was wary. HLF was very reliant on the wisdom of some 20 other agencies, including English Heritage, and had yet to develop its special role as a grant-giving body. But as HLF has gained a greater sense of purpose, through two strategic plans and the widening of its role and ambitions, so its own perceptions about, and reliance on English Heritage has changed. The partnership now operates on a number of levels – strategic, research and policy, operational and advisory – where English Heritage and HLF are clearer about each other's requirements and strengths. HLF have been able to award a number of key grants that have solved some large-scale conservation problems (for example, the Anderton Boat lift, Stowe House and All Saints Hereford) as well as several awards to English Heritage itself, from which its visitors have benefited (Eltham Palace, Chiswick House, Whitby Abbey, Witley Court and Down House), and there is currently a commitment from HLF to make a substantial grant available to resolve the problems at Stonehenge. We have cooperated for more than eight years now on grants for places of worship in England, and received advice from English Heritage on many

Paul Highnam © English Heritage

The 1875 Anderton Boat Lift at Northwich, Cheshire, whose £7m restoration to working order was supported with a £3.3m grant from HLF and much careful advice from EH about its conservation.

thousands of individual building projects scattered throughout the country. There have also been joint innovations – the introduction of conservation management planning for example, and the two-stage process – both of which are about making better decisions on projects. It is a sign of HLF's growing maturity and a sense of its own priorities that English Heritage's advice is not always acted on: HLF has become a more demanding client with a clear view of the issues on which we need advice.

HLF's relationship with English Heritage over the years has thus become ever more complex, more multi-faceted. There is much still to be done on joint advocacy for the historic environment, research on the needs of the sector and devising the most appropriate and productive ways of dealing with the heritage problems and opportunities that remain. Lottery money has been a massive force for good for the UK's heritage for the last 10 years, and English Heritage's wise counsels and patient advice have played a major part in that success. We could not have done it without you. Many happy returns!

Stephen Johnson
Director of Operations, Heritage Lottery Fund

Historic Houses Association

When people think 'stately homes', they tend to think National Trust and English Heritage. In fact, there are more privately owned houses open to the public than those owned by all the national bodies combined. Moreover, it is not simply the large houses that are in this ownership: it is generally estimated that two-thirds of Britain's built and national heritage is owned, cared for and above all financially maintained by private individuals.

For these owners their relationship with English Heritage is important and falls into the following categories: grants, regulatory and advisory.

GRANTS: Through the 1980s, historic houses were among the principal recipients of grant aid, in recognition of both their national importance and their perilous state. This aid not only saved a threatened sector but also subsequently enabled impressive economic and social delivery – not unlike the Heritage Dividend derived from English Heritage's work in the urban environment.

More recently, given the Government's refusal to provide fiscal relief for maintenance, grant aid has become the only support for the private owner and indeed is the route advocated by Government to assist this sector. However, the aid available is now much reduced and funds are spread more widely. The ring-fenced scheme for historic houses has ended. In addition, the devolution of grant decisions to regions, attended by social conditions, makes it harder for private owners to benefit. The situation is serious in the longer term and needs to be addressed.

REGULATION: Protection is certainly welcomed by owners, as is English Heritage's professional and informed input into designation arrangements. English Heritage's efforts to establish a more client-friendly philosophy are appreciated by owners and seem to be recognised within English Heritage's hierarchy – with whom the Historic Houses Association (HHA) enjoys positive relations both in London and in the Regions. But owners still report isolated instances of inflexible response, agenda-driven reaction and bureaucratic delay.

ADVISORY: In the past, a situation existed where English Heritage officials were involved both as advisers and with the arbitrators on planning appeals. Less so now. Owners find English Heritage advice to be professional and informed, that it recognises realities and is generally helpful and supportive of major projects, particularly when owners face uninformed, biased and locally driven situations.

English Heritage's marked success in developing and promoting their own

James Davies © English Heritage

A group from Black Environment Network is welcomed to Tissington Hall, Derbyshire, by its owner, Sir Richard Fitzherbert.

properties has created competition in a crowded heritage-attraction market. Good for English Heritage. But this competition, funded with Government money, actually disadvantages a sector English Heritage exists to support.

These comments are those of an old and supportive friend of English Heritage. None of them lessens HHA's regard for the organisation and its recognition of English Heritage's essential function, dedicated staff and leadership role in promoting the existence and importance of the historic built environment in England. The private sector is well represented in the strategic councils that English Heritage over the last few years has so helpfully orchestrated on behalf of the sector as a whole.

The HHA urges Government to back English Heritage politically and financially so that English Heritage can fulfil its role in support of the privately owned heritage, an important element of its constituency.

Richard Wilkin
Director-General, Historic Houses Association

The voluntary movement and English Heritage

Michael Heseltine's decision to set up English Heritage came with the unanimous blessing of the National Amenity Societies, and the sense of partnership remains. English Heritage's grant regimes and its casework policy have always subscribed to the philosophy expounded by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). It was the Twentieth Century Society that gave passion to the campaign to list post-Second World War buildings. And English Heritage and the societies together continue to fight the corner on VAT.

The societies, however, can afford to be more overtly passionate, less 'reasonable'. And yet English Heritage is big enough to overlook intermittent outbursts of dissent. Indeed one of the prize exhibits of the Joint Committee is a letter from Sir Jocelyn Stevens saying that however independent minded we might be, the grant we all receive to sustain our work each year from English Heritage would never be jeopardised.

Richard Morris and Jane Grenville are only the most lofty examples of constant cross-fertilisation of personnel between English Heritage and the societies. It was the societies which gave their first jobs to the present Head of the North-East Region,

© Matthew Saunders

Temple Bar in its new location adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral. Originally rescued from demolition in 1877–8 by the Meux family, who moved it to their country estate, it was finally re-erected in London as a result of a private charitable initiative supported by English Heritage and the National Amenity Societies.

Carole Pyrah, and a good smattering of inspectors such as Trevor Mitchell, Andrew Derrick, John Neale and Rory O'Donnell.

In its 21 years English Heritage has always recognised the importance of tapping voluntary effort. Increasingly in the Transforming Casework agenda, the defence of Grade II-listed buildings is left largely to the societies. The most explicit deference on Grade IIs is in the regime for the protection of historic planned landscapes: English Heritage's partnership with the Garden History Society quite expressly provides for the latter to deal with Grade II-registered sites alone.

The Friends of War Memorials (recently rechristened the War Memorial Trust) are even partners in a discrete grant regime – is this the first time that a society rather than a sister quango has been chosen to distribute English Heritage grant aid?

None of us can match, or aim to match, English Heritage's portfolio of 400 vested properties but, with English Heritage's help, the Victorian Society now runs its own museum at Linley Sambourne House in Kensington. The Ancient Monuments Society funds the administrative expenses of its sister organisation, the Friends of Friendless Churches, which owns 34 disused but historic places of worship, and educational partnerships will no doubt come increasingly to the fore. English Heritage sponsored the SPAB's first National Maintenance Week, and its Barns Campaign of some years ago.

English Heritage and the societies are

partners and like all chums will occasionally snap at each other. But in a role reversal worthy of 'Absolutely Fabulous' we are wont to embarrass our child albeit by episodic irreverence and a passion that will not compromise.

Matthew Saunders
Secretary of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies (until February 2005), Secretary of the Ancient Monuments Society

Church repair grants

English Heritage grants for places of worship are now so well established that it is surprising to remember that state aid for churches only began in 1977. The Church of England's parallel agreement to review its own controls led to the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991, bringing increased collaboration with other partners, including English Heritage, to the operation of the faculty jurisdiction system.

Since 1984, English Heritage has offered some £180m in total, benefiting around 400 churches a year. Grant offers started at £4.87m in 1984/5, peaked at £14m in 1994/5, and since then have usually hovered around £10m per year.

The scheme has evolved considerably. Originally, English Heritage assessed whether each individual church was 'outstanding' (and so fitted within its legal remit) before grant could even be considered. In 1991 'outstandingness' became tied to listing grade. This made all Grade I or II* churches theoretically eligible, but excluded all Grade II buildings – thereby restricting the scope for grant-aiding many 19th-century urban churches and denominations without many highly graded churches. Demand for grants has always been greater than the money available, and in some years the annual budget was offered very early in the financial year, leaving great pent-up demand from other applicants. Over time, the criteria for eligible works have become considerably tighter, and assessment of parishes' financial need increasingly rigorous. Applicants must always find some match funding – a challenge both energising and daunting.

The greatest change, however, was the introduction of a joint scheme with the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1996. This introduced welcome new money, doubling or more the amounts available, and widened the scheme to include Grade II buildings, although not all places of worship wish to accept lottery money.

© Paula Griffiths

Repair work from the scheme's middle years – Rushford church, Norfolk, 1995.

While procedures are now more complex for applicants than in 1984, the current system of batching applications enables relative priorities to be assessed together. 'Stage 1' grants for development work also support applicants in working up their scheme to tender stage, and enable firmer assessment of the actual contract costs.

What of the future? Welcome as the grants are, they are still insufficient to meet the needs. Outstanding repairs in two Church of England dioceses alone, Norwich and Chelmsford, could sweep up all the £25m available from the joint scheme for the last financial year. The Archbishops' Council is working with English Heritage to quantify more clearly these outstanding repair needs; we need firm facts to make a case to Government for greater funding. Our historic churches play a major part in our landscapes and communities: we believe they deserve even greater support. But meanwhile, we should celebrate the real contribution the scheme has made to the good state of repair of so many of our churches.

Paula Griffiths
Head of Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Archbishops' Council

© Paula Griffiths

St Botolph's, Hardham, Sussex, 1995. English Heritage supported conservation and monitoring of these early medieval wallpaintings.

A local authority perspective

In 21 years English Heritage's partner local authorities have also been subject to challenge, reorganisation and review. We are now expected to enable the delivery of customer-orientated services, to effectively measure our performance and to deliver joined-up community leadership. We aim to sustainably regenerate our communities accounting for environmental, social and economic factors and incorporating them into spatial strategies. Has English Heritage enabled, supported and contributed to this new local agenda?

In the early years local authorities were recipients of advice, decisions and grants relating to historic buildings and areas. These were essentially decisions taken at the centre following national agendas and then implanted into local authorities.

Over time this has rebalanced, giving greater weight to regional and local agendas. There has also been recognition that to secure local ownership of policy or process there has to be understanding of its evolution and relevance. The key to this change was the concept of 'significance', recognised in Lincoln in several ways.

The Lincoln Archaeological Research Assessment 2003 (LARA) is an outstanding piece of academic archaeological work. It is also visually appealing and readable. It has enabled successful community-based work within some of the country's most deprived wards. It has led directly to agreement with English Heritage to test this approach in developing an innovative Lincoln Townscape Assessment, which will use characterisation and significance as cornerstones.

In parallel the City Council and local partners have seized with enthusiasm the requirement to produce academically literate but readable conservation plans. This started with a suite of plans for the cathedral and close, castle and medieval palace and has been followed by other building-specific plans and also an area-based Roman Monuments Conservation Plan. This has enabled local community support for monuments in their midst. The City Council was subsequently lobbied by these same communities for greater funding for the care and display of their monuments.

At a wider level the city was an early beneficiary of a visit by the joint English Heritage / Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) Urban Panel. The city's prime regeneration areas were subject to scrutiny and a commitment to the master-planning of the Brayford and Flaxengate area was agreed by the City Council and its national partners.

Great Central Warehouse Library, University of Lincoln. In May 2005 the restoration of this fine industrial building at risk received a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors gold award for building conservation and a silver award for regeneration.

The prime driver for change in the Brayford area has been the city's new university. A master-plan was commissioned from Rick Mather and is now being implemented. Each project, whether new build or conservation led, is carefully considered against the principles of the master-plan.

In the Flaxengate English Heritage has participated as a founding member of the Lindum Hillside Partnership, which was instrumental in the delivery of conservation plans, master-planning and characterisation. A new museum will be opening in summer 2005 as a centrepiece for the regeneration of this area. English Heritage as well as CABE have played major roles in evolving the design by Panter Hudspith for this important addition to the historic environment.

The City Council has a strapline – 'Historic City; Contemporary City'. This aptly describes our approach to our understanding and ownership of our community asset. English Heritage can be said to have played, and be playing, a proactive role to ensure that our historic environment is truly at the heart of our city's regeneration.

Keith Laidler
Director of Development and Environmental Services, City of Lincoln Council

The developer's perspective

The development industry's relationship with the historic environment and its champion, English Heritage, is, like the 'curate's egg', good in parts. On the one hand we have the well-publicised conflicts such as the car-park ramp in Soho, Bishopsgate Goods Yard and the Heron Tower. On the other, there are the less newsworthy developments such as Regent Street, the Bullring in Birmingham and Woolwich Arsenal, where the historic environment has been preserved and harnessed to increase development potential and community participation.

Conflict, even if it affects only a relatively small number of planned developments, is wasteful and time-consuming for both sides. We have made considerable progress over the last few years in arriving at a *modus operandi* that allows economic development needs to be reconciled with the preservation of our heritage. But there is still more to do to achieve harmonious cooperation for *all* development projects.

Early consultation, an improved understanding of the other's point of view and a willingness on both sides to compromise are the essential ingredients. The development industry understands the need for buildings of historic importance to be preserved. But there will come a point in many projects when the benefits to be gained in heritage terms are outweighed by the economic degradation imposed on the scheme. Balanced, well-informed and early consultation should allow for those trade-offs to be made at a time in the project's life when there is still room for manoeuvre on both sides.

Many of the changes that are being made to English Heritage's method of operation are to be welcomed. Indeed it seems inconceivable that a property owner should not be given prior notice of an intention to list nor have the opportunity to appeal against that decision. Equally it is entirely right that buildings that are being considered for listing should be protected from the rogue owner who decides to get in quickly with the demolition ball. None of us want another Firestone Factory!

We also welcome English Heritage's new focus on management agreements to look after historic assets. Provided these are sympathetic both to the needs of preservation and the need for modernisation and economic sustainability, then property owners, conservationists and the community will all benefit.

But I believe there are further changes that could be made to reinforce the culture of cooperation and consultation. First, English Heritage should be more ready to embrace broader economic issues when considering development plans that involve heritage assets. Secondly, historic building specialists should receive some broad-based economic and regeneration training so that they understand the cost implications of developments involving listed buildings. Thirdly, English Heritage should take a more flexible approach to alterations and modernisation of historic assets to fit them for a modern usage, preferably as an integral part of a community, even when that means some historic features might be irrevocably altered or lost. After all, most historic buildings have already undergone substantial change over the centuries to fit them for the most appropriate usage of the time. And lastly, the property development and investment industry should work with English Heritage to devise a simple memorandum of understanding between the development and heritage communities for the handling of all projects that include historic assets.

Both sides have more work to do to ensure that they understand and appreciate where the other is coming from. The development industry has felt at times over the last 21 years that the odds have been stacked against it where historic assets are concerned. The aspiration for the next 21 years should be to make the developer view his historic assets not as a huge disadvantage to be overcome in

Developers and English Heritage need to work together to achieve more of this . . .

. . . and less of this.

a battle against the forces of preservation but as an asset that, with the support of the heritage specialists, he can turn to the advantage of himself and the community.

We look forward to working with English Heritage to turn that aspiration into a reality.

Liz Peace
Chief Executive, British Property Federation

The holistic landscape approach to wildlife conservation

The English landscape is a cultural landscape developed through the rich history of man's interaction with the land and wildlife. Consequently, the habitats and species that are highly valued today are intimately interwoven with the historic environment. The most important places for wildlife, the Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves, should safeguard the diversity and geographical range of the best of England's habitats, species, geological and physiographic features. When small and isolated, however, these sites cannot sustain their biodiversity indefinitely and they need to be linked into a wider network by suitable habitats through which species can move and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Work to restore wildlife has traditionally focused on individual habitats and species separately. This has not always taken account of how habitats fit together in the landscape, and has allowed us to miss opportunities to work with others, both to restore and enhance wildlife habitats and landscapes and to reduce the impacts on them. Fundamentally this process is about achieving end results that are both environmentally and economically sustainable. Over the last few years, landscape-scale schemes addressing wildlife, landscape, cultural and historic issues have been developed. These link to local character, community values and needs, and enhance the potential for sustainable economic benefit.

The policy statement supporting the forthcoming Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill stresses the need to continue this approach and address 'both historic buildings and landscape in an integrated manner. Better partnership working … will … ensure a more holistic approach to managing the natural and historic environment…forming a lasting foundation on which to build sustainable communities.'

There is already a well-established partnership between English Nature, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency to carry out projects and produce joint publications and guidance. At a landscape scale, these have included Natural Areas/Countryside Character work, the Parkland and Wood-Pasture Habitat Action Plan and individual landscape visions.

The holistic landscape approach can help us to understand the totality of the past, set a sustainable vision for the future and enhance enjoyment and appreciation. Bringing the historic, cultural and natural environments together improves the targeting of agri-environment schemes, and through the Rural Delivery Frameworks, increases the contribution that the historic and natural environment make to social (community) and economic development. It links the targets to the planning system and ensures that the next England Rural Development Programme

Peveril Castle in the Peak District National Park lies within the Castleton Site of Special Scientific Interest, noted for its limestone geology and species-rich limestone grassland and rock-ledge plants.

Peter Wakeley © English Nature

embeds the natural, cultural and historic environment both as a core objective and as a core contribution to wider economic and social well-being.

Rachel Thomas
Relationship Manager, English Nature
Tracey Slaven
Director, Countryside Agency, Landscape, Access and Recreation

English Heritage and Black Environment Network

The historic environment can enrich everyone's lives. Black Environment Network (BEN) is proud to work with English Heritage to develop the BEN Historic Environment Programme for England to make the historic environment accessible to everyone, something with which the whole of society can identify and engage. Our partnership is a journey through policy development into practical action. It grew out of our membership of the DCMS Steering Group for the Review of Policies relating to the Historic Environment of England, and our present work within the Historic Environment Executive Committee.

Our partnership with English Heritage is about the coming together of our distinctive strengths and expertise to develop new experiences of the historic environment that are appropriate and relevant to ethnic communities. This is against a background of disconnection, with concerns that what is significant to *them* is overlooked or neglected.

English Heritage is leading by example. It has put into place an internal framework which underpins partnership with organisations such as ourselves to involve people and broaden access. One of its directors, Deborah Lamb, is designated its Diversity Champion. There is a Head of Social Inclusion, Nyla Naseer, and an Outreach Team, headed by Miriam Levin. These are courageous strategic moves, within an extensive organisation with strongly traditional ways of working. There is now a growing awareness and commitment that forms a basis for developing a programme of initiatives together across the many linked themes that enable the delivery of social inclusion. These initiatives include training modules for front-line staff and volunteers in the skills needed to appropriately welcome ethnic-minority visitors and involving ethnic-community groups in designing guided tours with an accent on the holistic multicultural interpretation of the history of particular objects originating from different cultures.

Suzanne Carter © English Heritage

Reinterpreting Witley Court. In this consultation project members of different ethnic communities visited the site and advised English Heritage on how to make their experience more accessible and culturally relevant.

The facilitation of a working relationship between members of ethnic-community groups and the expert staff of English Heritage and other heritage organisations is one of our key roles within the BEN Historic Environment Programme for England. On the one hand, we may be supporting members of ethnic groups to have a voice in identifying meaningful project themes, making decisions or evaluating the success of the endeavour. On the other hand, we may be working with English Heritage or other heritage organisations in supporting a range of properties for an introductory programme of enjoyable destinations for ethnic groups, as in the 'People and Historic Places Project' with the Historic Houses Association. Partnership work is framed within the recognition that members of ethnic communities are British citizens – aspects of history relating to their cultural origins are set within a holistic history of Britain.

We look forward to a continued fruitful partnership with English Heritage.

Judy Ling Wong OBE, FRSA, Hon FCIWEM
UK Director, Black Environment Network

Developing the professionals: English Heritage and the institutes

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) is the professional institute concerned with promoting best practice in archaeology, and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) is the multi-disciplinary body for conservation professionals and specialists. Over the last 20 years conservation of the historic environment has changed enormously. The messages of 'Power of Place'

© Oxford Archaeology

Professionals working together. Oxford Castle shows the full range of professional skills needed today for regeneration of the historic environment.

– history is everywhere, and it's everybody's – are still slowly percolating through politics and the professions. We have seen a massive increase in developer funding for archaeology, a broadening of the archaeological remit and a concomitant increase in specialisation. Meanwhile conservation of historic places, urban and rural, has been increasingly linked to economic and social regeneration.

Such huge changes have emphasised the need for mechanisms to validate the competence of both individuals and organisations. Our members are committed to Codes of Conduct, bound by various standards and guidance and subject to processes of enforcement and discipline. As professional bodies it is our role to regulate, promote and enforce good practice on our members, and while English Heritage's role is different, if complementary, we recognise that most of our achievements have been significantly facilitated by its partnership and support.

At its most visible level, six honorary chairs of the institutes have come from English Heritage, and it is the largest employer of our collective membership. In addition to constant encouragement, English Heritage has provided steady financial support for projects and funded publications, conferences and the development of good practice guidance to other non-heritage sectors. Furthermore, we continue to work with English Heritage on one of our major areas for sectoral improvement – the development of training programmes and a vocational qualification that will create a more coherent career structure.

As ever, the historic environment sector is beset by the Chinese curse of living in interesting times and it is axiomatic that over the next 21 years we will witness equally seismic shifts in the way in which we are required to work. In that context, the increasing emphasis on English Heritage as a fulcrum for national policy, strategic advice and advocacy is something that we welcome, providing it is resourced to research and deliver the best.

IFA looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with English Heritage to create and support dynamic, effective and well-funded private and public archaeological sectors, and IHBC to collaborating on a holistic approach to understanding, protecting and conserving historic places, with particular emphasis on education, training and outreach. Clearly there will be many challenges in the future to fully realise these goals – not least the establishment of sufficient and stable government funding. However, reflection on the experience of the last 21 years does not give credence to the often-heard notion of a fragmented sector with divergent interests – rather it demonstrates a fair distance travelled in a spirit of common accord. Such a spirit of partnership should remain the key aspect of the professional institutes' relationship with English Heritage.

David Jennings *Chair IFA*
John Yates *Chair IHBC*

The universities

It remains most unusual for a state archaeological service to encompass the range of tasks we see within the English Heritage Research & Standards Group. That range is expansive, not just in expertise, but also in engagement. We may find the same group advising planning officers in remote rural regions on the virtues of soggy digging on one day, and submitting an article to *Nature* the next. That range of

engagement is one of the jewels in English Heritage's crown, and one that has fostered a most productive interaction with the university sector over the last 21 years. Looking back over those years serves to highlight what has been achieved, what needs fostering, and what opportunities lie ahead.

In 1984, the fledgling commission inherited from the Department of the Environment something of a quirky gem in the form of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, a group of able specialists applying some very innovative techniques to the conservation and rescue excavation of sites. The AM Lab had grown up in a world with a quite different conception of central state responsibility for our heritage. Its successor within English Heritage needed to adapt fast to a new world of devolved responsibility, interacting with a quite different planning process and direct developer funding. It was absolutely critical that the whole community was persuaded that heritage protection and sustenance involved scientific analysis and cutting-edge research; it was not simply a clean-up job. Both the scientists at the core and the science advisors in the regions have made considerable strides in achieving that.

In the partnership between English Heritage and the universities in achieving that goal, I believe both sides have benefited immeasurably. Many of English Heritage's scientific staff have conducted their research within university laboratories, and have engaged in teaching programmes. There has been a very healthy movement of employment between the two sectors, with a number of former English Heritage scientists now holding readerships and professorships within the university sector. In turn, some of the best science used in teaching heritage-related subjects was sponsored and carried out by English Heritage.

In terms of the future, it is salutary to compare ourselves with other state archaeological services around the world. There are some with a considerably greater volume of sites in their charge, and some in which the contribution of heritage-related industries to the economy is even higher than in the UK. In many countries, the protection of the fabric of buildings and the excavation of threatened sites proceeds in an efficient manner. It is hard, however, to find a state service in which the scientific quality of research and innovation rivals what we see under the auspices of English Heritage. That is an achievement that needs protection and nourishment – the key for which must be continuing partnership between a strong research division and a world-class university sector.

Martin Jones,
George Pitt-Rivers Professor of Archaeological Science, University of Cambridge

Robert Howard of Nottingham University uses a microscope to measure tree rings to date a sample of historic timber.

The View From English Heritage

Where have we made a difference?

Oliver Pearcey *Special Project Director*

Working with many partners, English Heritage is transforming the way it manages and promotes the historic environment.

During the Second Reading debate on the 1983 National Heritage Bill, the Minister summarised the role of English Heritage as being:

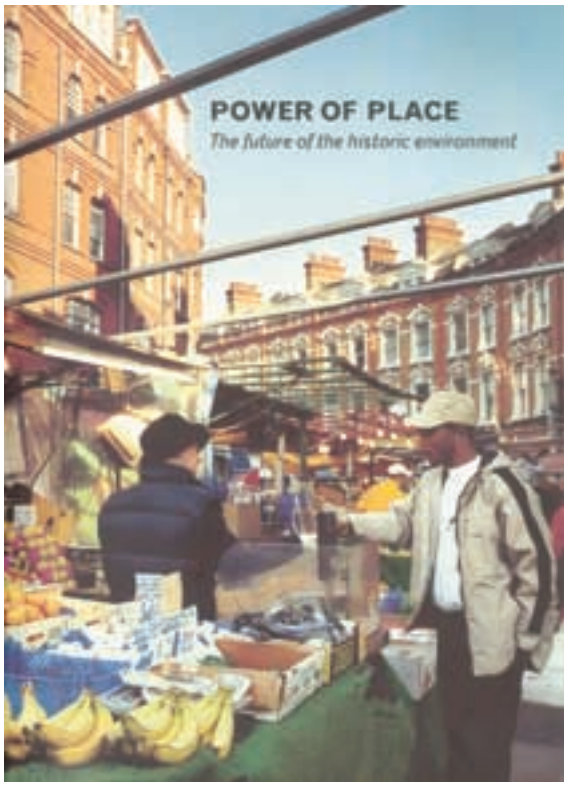
- to manage, maintain and present in a lively and imaginative way the monuments in the care of the Secretary of State;
- to make grants for the preservation of historic buildings and ancient monuments;
- to co-ordinate rescue archaeology work; and
- to advise the Secretary of State on listing, scheduling and guardianship.

It is significant that the top priority was given to monuments in the care of the Secretary of State, undoubtedly reflecting the view of the government of the time that there was scope for much more commercial presentation; this was also emphasised by the choice of the first chairman, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu. Archaeology was seen solely in the context of rescue work on development sites; English Heritage's role in the management of change through advice on statutory consents is not mentioned at all.

Compare this with the wording used 17 years later in *Power of Place* and the successor documents produced by the Government, and the change is dramatic. The roles identified in 1983 are still there. But they are set in the context of a new holistic approach that values the historic environment not just for its historic or architectural significance, but also for its wider contribution to a sense of place and to social and economic regeneration. There is also a new acceptance of the need to manage change rather than oppose it, and to recognise the right of participants to appropriate treatment and levels of service. English Heritage has contributed to this sea-change in a number of ways.

Policies for the historic environment

Two key documents were published in the early 1990s. Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16), *Archaeology and Planning*, implemented a significant English Heritage-inspired shift from rescue excavation to archaeological assessment and mitigation within the planning process. This in turn led to a major influx of developer funding into archaeology, together with the reorganisation of the profession into contractors and curators. English Heritage also helped to instigate and drafted much of the subsequent PPG 15, *Planning and the Historic Environment*.



At the turn of the 21st century, *Power of Place* provided a new vision of the contribution of the historic environment to contemporary life. It also demonstrated how the public, private and voluntary sectors need to work in partnership to turn that vision into reality.

These generic documents have since been amplified by a range of more detailed English Heritage guidance on topics ranging from agriculture, enabling development and church alterations to retail development in the historic environment. Quantitative and qualitative surveys include the *Heritage Counts* series – an annual assessment of various indicators of the state of the historic environment – and more detailed surveys into themes ranging from the commercial values of listed properties to the economic return from the regeneration of historic areas.

Understanding the historic environment

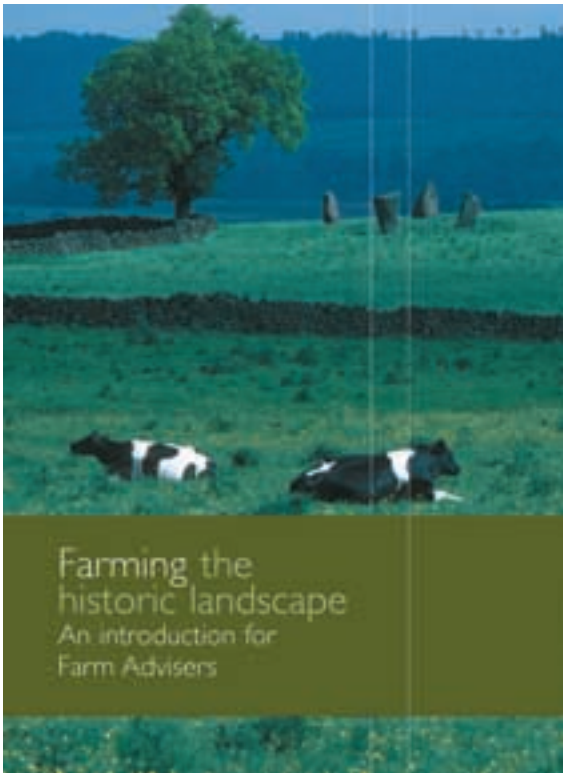
The last 20 years have been characterised by a shift from reactive rescue responses to more coherent management of archaeological interests within the planning framework. The successful development of this approach was aided by vital pump-priming support from English Heritage that allowed counties to build up the capacity to manage archaeological issues and to provide the information base needed through sites and monuments records.

Proper understanding of the historic environment and its significance was further supported by English Heritage's direct expenditure on commissioned archaeological work, which gradually moved from the investigation of individual sites to more synthetic assessment of whole areas under threat, such as wetlands and the intertidal zone. The amalgamation of English Heritage with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England in 1999 provided the opportunity to extend this approach, both through thematic surveys such as those of Second World War defences and Cold War sites, and more generic work such as the National Mapping Programme, which employs the resources of the National Monuments Record (NMR) to document England's archaeological landscapes from air photographs. All this was coupled with a major programme of academic publication addressing both backlog research inherited by English Heritage and archaeological survey and historic buildings recording work carried out since 1984. In parallel, we have developed the role of science in archaeology, for example through our work on dendrochronological dating methods.

Conserving and managing the historic environment

Although research and the management of our own properties have tended to have a higher public profile, conservation casework has always been at the heart of English Heritage's work. Casework begins with the need to understand the special significance of places. English Heritage got off to a good start with the accelerated re-survey of listed buildings, which became fully operational in 1984/5, and the compilation of the first-ever register of historic parks and gardens, which was given statutory authority in 1983. These were followed by the Monuments Protection Programme, which was established in 1988 to do for scheduled monuments what the re-survey was doing for buildings. Subsequent programmes of designation have dealt with battlefields, maritime sites and proposals for new world heritage sites. At the same time, the process of designation was extended into new fields, such as the listing of post-Second World War buildings and the survey of nationally important buildings and monuments at risk.

Alongside the evaluation of individual sites and buildings, English Heritage has developed new methods for assessing the significance of the historic environment as a whole, both on a large scale through historic landscape characterisation and intensive urban study,



The Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) project provides accessible advice to local authorities and others whose decisions affect the historic environment, in this case professional farm advisers (see page 39).

and at a site level through the development of conservation statements and plans.

English Heritage's role in statutory casework is changing from that of the reactive adviser (the so-called 'heritage policeman') to the proactive enabler. Along the way we have seen changes to our powers, particularly following our takeover in 1986 of the role of the Greater London Council's Historic Buildings Division, which gave us much more direct authority to intervene in historic environment issues in the capital. The process of self-renewal is not yet complete but increasingly we are acting on our belief that we are meant to be managing change in the historic environment, not preventing it. The need to protect significance must be balanced against the right of people to enjoy the benefits of change. This does not mean that we will not fight where a fight is necessary. It does mean, however, that we will try to be move further upstream through earlier involvement in development proposals, by building up the capacity of our partners, by providing them with better technical advice, and by making our casework processes quicker and more customer friendly.

We have made similar changes to our grants programmes, which have moved from reactive support of repairs to programmes that target elements of the historic environment at risk. One example is the scheme for gardens introduced after the great storms of 1987 and 1991; another is the support for social and economic regeneration provided through Conservation Area Partnerships and Heritage Economic Regeneration schemes. These and other schemes increasingly seek to meet funding needs not addressed by other grant-giving bodies, especially the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). They are further underpinned by our work to help raise the standards of practical conservation work through technical research, professional and craft training, and support for accreditation schemes. On occasion we have also acted as a building preservation trust to repair and then either sell on or keep in hand buildings which are too expensive or otherwise too risky for any other private or public sector partner to take on. Recent examples include Danson House, which has been passed on to a trust for management following the completion of repairs, and Apethorpe, which has just been acquired compulsorily for repair and selling on.

Casework interventions are inevitably controversial and at times unsuccessful. This has been particularly true in London, where intense development pressures have led to major policy debates over the issue of tall buildings as well as a number of specific *causes célèbres* such as the Baltic Exchange and the Gherkin. Our resources have always been limited but even the much greater funds of the HLF have been insufficient to secure the future of every nationally important building at risk, and some such as Brighton West Pier have been lost.

NMR AA70/3223 © Crown copyright. NMR

West Pier, Brighton. In 2004, English Heritage and its partners had to acknowledge that there was little chance of saving this famous Grade I pier from the ravages of fire and the sea.

Enjoying the historic environment

From the very beginning English Heritage was under an obligation to present its properties in new and exciting ways, as well as significantly increasing the income generated from them. As government support for English Heritage has declined in real terms this has become a much more significant element in our total funding. Our membership scheme has been a huge success with more than half a million members already recruited and more on the way. We have acquired a number of major new properties such as Clun and Wigmore castles, Brodsworth, Eltham Palace, and Apsley House, which will always require public support to survive with their historic significance intact. At the same time, we have set up local management agreements that allow local people and knowledge to inform the presentation and management of many of our smaller properties. We have also hugely increased our event programmes, from the large-scale Festival of History to smaller events at our individual sites.

As well as paying greater concern to the needs of our visitors we have significantly changed the way we treat our sites. The most significant elements of this are a less ruthless approach to conservation that allows greater respect for historic fabric of all ages, more emphasis on documentary research and

Jonathan Bailey © English Heritage

The dining room, Eltham Palace, London. This remarkable combination of medieval royal palace and 1930s art deco pleasure house was opened to the public in 1999 following an intensive programme of conservation and restoration.

recording, the adoption of new techniques such as garden archaeology, a greater understanding of monuments and buildings in their setting and a willingness to countenance reversible non-destructive restoration of gardens and interiors.

We are also making much greater efforts to increase understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment as a whole. Our education and outreach schemes, ranging from Blue Plaques to site-based projects involving specific groups of people, are extending appreciation of the historic environment into excluded communities and groups. We are publishing and disseminating more information, both through our popular publishing programme and newer electronic media. One example is our support for immensely popular television programmes such as Restoration; another our hosting of internet projects such as Images of England, which by its completion will have photographed every accessible listed building in England, and *ViewFinder*, which makes images from the NMR available for schools and other users. We have also worked with the Civic Trust to put extra resources into Heritage Open Days, increasing both the number of properties taking part and the number of people visiting them.

© English Heritage

Festival of History, Stoneleigh, August 2004. A company of amateur performers re-enacts a scene from the English Civil War.

Conclusion

While its core responsibilities remain unaltered, English Heritage itself has changed dramatically over the last 21 years – and has led many equally profound changes in the heritage sector as a whole. It is clear that yet more change is inevitable, starting with Heritage Protection Reform, which will radically alter the whole statutory structure of regulation. Amidst all of these changes, the one fixed certainty is that English Heritage will in the future, as in the past, be unable to do its job without the support and partnership of all those interested and involved in the historic environment.

Into the Future
Our strategy for 2005–2010

Simon Thurley *Chief Executive*

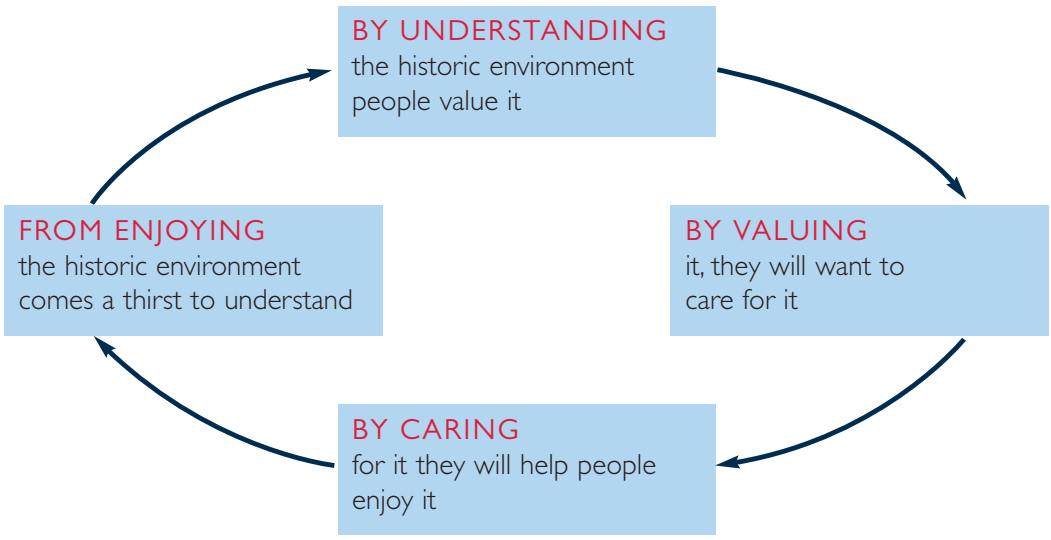
21 years after its foundation, English Heritage is committed to *Making the Past Part of our Future*.

Like that unlikely heritage hero Baldrick (Tony Robinson), English Heritage can now say with confidence that we 'have a cunning plan'. Indeed a five-year plan to take us into the future. Such plans are commonplace for large organisations, but for English Heritage this presents us with some very real and tough challenges. It will mean that we have to continue to work in new ways relying more on partnership and strategic engagement, speed and flexibility, clarity and consistency of advice, commercial awareness and customer service.

The strategy is called *Making the Past Part of our Future*, which also describes what English Heritage's mission is. Our aim is to create a heritage cycle where an increasing understanding of the historic environment leads to people valuing it more and as a consequence caring for it better. An environment cared for will be enjoyed, and enjoyment normally brings a thirst to learn more, thus completing the cycle.

OUR STRATEGY FOR 2005–2010

English Heritage exists to make the past part of our future. Our strategy is to create a cycle of understanding, valuing, caring and enjoying. For each part of the cycle we have adopted strategic aims. These are underpinned by a further aim – to make the most effective use of the assets in our care.



For each of the elements in the cycle we have adopted high-level strategic aims. The first is *to help people develop their understanding of the historic environment*. We regard this as an essential prerequisite to dealing with our built heritage, on the macro level as well as the micro. English Heritage will continue to make its own expert contribution to this, but will increasingly help others to do it for themselves. The second aim is *to get the historic environment onto other people's agendas.* We need to foster the recognition that the historic environment is a cross-cutting issue that affects many areas of policy and activity, not just a small box called heritage. Thirdly we need *to enable and promote sustainable change to England's historic environment*. Too often in the past conservation has been about stopping things from happening. We now see it as a process to enable change to take place that will give all parts of the historic environment a sustainable future. We need to practise this ourselves and help other people to do likewise.

Our fourth aim is *to help local communities to care for their historic environment*. Local authorities have the responsibility and powers to protect and enhance our national heritage. Many do it well; many also need the help and advice of a specialist organisation like English Heritage. We need to make sure our help and advice is available, appropriate and consistent. From the fourth part of the heritage cycle, enjoying, comes our fifth aim: *to stimulate and harness enthusiasm for England's historic environment*. The historic environment is one of the nation's favourite pastimes. We need to harness this enthusiasm for good, and stimulate it where possible amongst those who currently do not have access to it.

We also have a sixth aim, which is *to make the most effective use of the assets in our care.* English Heritage has considerable assets, not only £150m a year of taxpayers' money, but the sites and collections which are entrusted to us, our staff and our reputation for expertise. All these we need to use efficiently and effectively for the public good.

If I were to highlight any parts of the plan in terms of specific programmes there would be three that I would identify as being particularly important. The Heritage Protection Review, which will lead to a White Paper in 2006, will fundamentally change the way protection is managed in this country. The pilot projects we are currently running will inform a new system that will be fairer, faster, more transparent and closer tuned to the needs of today. This system will be complemented by a suite of new conservation principles that English Heritage will adopt later this year and will start to promote and promulgate the year after. These will make it much easier for non-specialists to understand what conservationists are trying to bring about and easier to achieve consistency in recommendations and decisions across the country. Both of these major changes will influence our property development programme, a five-year multimillion-pound investment programme in our sites. The sites will become exemplars of these new ways of looking at heritage and managing it.

Plans and strategies need to be flexible and responsive and over the next five years we will be constantly reviewing progress and updating our strategy to make sure that it is the most effective response to the challenges facing England's historic environment. I am looking forward to working with staff and commissioners and leading English Heritage through the challenge of *Making the Past Part of our Future.*

Making a Difference
Case histories

Over 21 years, English Heritage has helped the historic environment in many different ways.

Seahenge

When the sea stripped away a bed of peat on the north Norfolk coast, at Holme-next-the Sea, it exposed more than a unique Bronze Age timber circle. The discovery started a debate which has been one of the most contentious in recent British archaeology. Should the timber circle be left to its fate or excavated? Should it be conserved and displayed or reburied; treated as an archaeological object or a place of contemporary religious meaning? How could the needs of archaeology, nature conservation and public interest be reconciled?

The world's attention was drawn to the timber circle in January 1999 when the *Independent* newspaper ran a front-page story with the by-line 'Shifting sands yield Stonehenge of the Sea' accompanied by an evocative photograph of the timber circle and its remarkable upside-down oak bole rising from the centre. The name 'Seahenge' instantly caught on and attracted thousands of visitors to the relatively remote beach. To some local people the visitors were a financial opportunity; to others, who appreciated solitude and space, they were an unwelcome nuisance. To this mix were added neo-pagans who believed the site should be left alone. To some of them archaeologists were insensitive, putting science before feelings and emotions. But archaeologists saw Seahenge as a unique, vulnerable discovery, an opportunity to shed new light on prehistoric Britain.

Surveys confirmed that the sea was rising relative to the land, causing increased erosion of the Norfolk coast. The blanket of peat, which had covered and protected the Seahenge timbers for centuries, had been almost completely stripped away in the past decade, exposing the timbers to the elements and to wood-boring snails. The timbers looked solid but they were becoming increasingly fragile and sponge-like. English Heritage, with Norfolk County Council,

Seahenge, Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. In 1999 the decision to save this extraordinary Bronze Age timber circle from the sea raised challenging issues of principle for English Heritage and the wider archaeological community.

the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the owner of the site (unusually the intertidal zone for this section of coast did not belong to the Crown) decided that the timbers should be excavated and removed for analysis before they could be destroyed by the sea.

As a result the neo-pagans occupied the site and only a High Court judgment removed them. The results clearly justified the archaeological excavation. Remarkably precise dating showed that the oak bole had been cut down (or had fallen over) in the spring of 2050 BC and the outer oak timbers cut exactly a year later. The 'finger-prints' of bronze axes on the surfaces of the wood provided the most detailed information for the construction of any Bronze Age monument in Europe. Subsequent surveys of the beach revealed that this coastal zone was rich in prehistoric and later monuments and artefacts, which continue to erode into the sea.

The ring timbers are currently being conserved at the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth and the massive bole is being prepared for freeze-drying as a single piece. Arrangements are now in place ultimately to display the timber circle in a new gallery at King's Lynn Museum.

Seahenge has taught us a lot about early Bronze Age society and our own. Every day rare and unusual remains of our past are disappearing into the sea, especially on the soft and vulnerable east coast. And local people want to be engaged, to help, and to argue about their historic environment. Nowhere has demonstrated the power of place more than these shifting sands at Holme-next-the-Sea.

David Miles
Archaeological Advisor

Wigmore Castle: new approaches to conservation

Wigmore Castle in Herefordshire was one of the last great castles to remain in its natural state when it was taken into guardianship in 1995 after protracted negotiations with its owner for more than eight years. The ruin, set in woodland pasture on a high spur, threatened imminent collapse. Indeed, a large part of the curtain wall had fallen in 1988 and small collapses were a regular occurrence.

The assumption was that English Heritage would treat the site like any other guardianship monument, stripping it of fallen debris and capping the walls to ensure their long-term stability, and provide a shop, toilets and car park. The reality was that English Heritage carried out the sort of repair that it regularly advised private owners to do, relying on minimum intervention and paying the same respect to the natural and historic environment to protect both the monument and its setting. The techniques were not new, it was the scale on which they were applied that was remarkable.

The philosophy of repair was to leave the site as close to how it was found as was compatible with long-term stability and public safety; to make a detailed survey of the site before and after repair, and to keep disturbance of the site's deep archaeological deposits to a minimum. Instability was caused by tree-root disturbance, water penetration, and the local tradition of undermining walls to bring them down. Parts of the site were concealed by ivy, well rooted into the wall top and starting to cause damage. However, the greater part of the ruin was stable below a naturally developed grass cap that was providing excellent protection. It also provided a habitat for rare plants, a remarkable natural resource. At the outset it was thought that this capping would have to be taken off and reinstated – with experience it proved possible to leave much of it undisturbed.

The first phase of conservation was a trial area on the curtain wall that established methods of recording and repair, enabling the production of a specification for the whole repair contract at a time when it was impossible to get close to the problem areas across the site. Delivery of the project depended on the project team's ability to take decisions quickly and consistently. It also required a contractor who was willing to adapt to unfamiliar repair techniques.

Public presentation was low key, preserving the special nature of the site. The bulk of it was provided in the village where existing car parks were used. Effectively, this gave back the castle to the local community, and provided a boost to the local economy. On the site, it is the management of the natural

Glyn Coppack © English Heritage

Wigmore Castle. The south tower nearing the end of its repair, with its soft capping replaced and some new masonry introduced to strengthen the structure.

ground cover that directs the visitor, not fences or barriers. Steps to the higher areas were constructed in existing erosion scars, and you have to look very hard ten years on to see that the site has been substantially repaired. It is still a site where a real sense of discovery is possible.

Glyn Coppack
Planning and Development

Acton Court

Situated near the village of Iron Acton, north of Bristol, this remarkable survival of the Renaissance in England has seen many vicissitudes since it was built for a visit of Henry VIII and Ann Boleyn.

The first known house was built in the 13th century, though the site itself is older still. In the ownership of the Poyntz family from 1364, it was of only local significance until the last quarter of the 15th century, when Sir Robert Poyntz became a successful courtier. His grandson, Sir Nicholas Poyntz, built the east range of the surviving house to accommodate a progress of Henry VIII in 1535. It was designed in the very latest style architecturally and decorated and furnished to a royal standard. The wallpaintings are of a quality unparalleled in any surviving 16th-century house in England. Until his death in 1556, Sir Nicholas rebuilt the remainder of the house in an outwardly regular courtyard form with symmetrical elevations incorporating classical architectural detail.

The subsequent history is one of gradual decline. In 1680 the estate was split up and sold. Acton Court was greatly reduced in size and converted to a farmhouse.

After slumbering quietly in its rural setting for over 300 years, interrupted only by the occasional attentions of scholars, Acton Court sprang to prominence again in 1984, when the 'Acton Court estate' was offered for sale. The associated farmland and part of the buildings were sold to a local farmer; the Bristol Visual and Environmental Buildings Trust bought the house itself, by then in very poor condition and at risk of collapse, to try and secure its preservation. The huge costs of doing so, and the lack of viability of the house as a single dwelling without its surrounding land, led to the initial involvement of English Heritage both as a statutory adviser on listed building consent and as a possible grant giver.

English Heritage rapidly realised the unique importance of the house, and the significance of the associated gardens and earthworks. After urgent scheduling of the house and its environs in 1985, English Heritage resolved to acquire, repair and sell on Acton Court as a

Nigel Corrie © English Heritage

Acton Court. The vyse and internal courtyard looking north east after restoration.

revolving project. This was a radical new departure for the organisation, but recognised the scale of expenditure needed on survey and repair, and the importance of avoiding enabling development which would have been very damaging to the house and its setting.

It took a further 12 years to acquire the remaining parts of the historic site previously sold off, to carry out the archaeological investigation of the site and the recording of the standing buildings, and to complete the repair of the house. The sale secured public access and the house and its grounds are now opened on a pleasant low-key basis by the new owner.

Oliver Pearcey
Project Manager 1985–97

REFERENCE
Rodwell, Kirsty and Bell, Robert 2004. *Acton Court: The Evolution of an Early Tudor Courtier's House.* London: English Heritage

Brodsworth Hall

Brodsworth Hall, near Doncaster, was built by the Thellusson family between 1861 and 1863 in the grounds of their previous house. It was built in an italianate style to the designs of a little-known London architect, Philip Wilkinson, and furnished opulently by Lapworths of London. The house remained in the ownership of the family until it was given to English Heritage in 1990, while its contents were purchased for us by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The house and garden were opened to the public in 1995 after the necessary conservation work and the provision of visitor facilities.

The house was acquired because it was an exceptional and little-altered survival of a Victorian country house with most of its contents and original decoration. Its values could not be expected to survive any form of adaptive re-use. The house had seen few structural alterations since its construction although each generation had left its mark on the interiors, and the servants wing had fallen into disrepair in the 20th century. Because little maintenance had been carried out for many decades – one of the reasons for the unusual degree of survival – the contents and decoration of the house were extremely fragile.

The appropriate treatment for this so-called time capsule was a matter of vigorous debate both inside and outside English Heritage. Should we conserve the house as far as possible as we found it, with minimum intervention, or should we go for a full-blooded restoration of its Victorian grandeur? During this debate, the house, its contents and its grounds were extensively documented as the basis for the fullest possible understanding of its values, which is the essential underpinning to effective conservation.

This work supported the eventual decision to do as little as possible to the main part of the house since it revealed the interest of how the house had been used by the Thellusson family from its completion onwards. It was also decided to put many of the visitor facilities into the servants wing to avoid intrusion into the landscape.

Even a programme of minimal intervention took several years. After initial documentation, the contents were treated for insect infestation and removed to storage or for stabilisation. In the house, the roof was renewed, decayed stonework replaced, new services (including environmental control) provided and other parts of the structure, such as the windows, refurbished so that they worked. The decoration of the house was gently cleaned to remove the accumulation of surface dirt from 120 years of coal fires.

The gardens of Brodsworth are also of considerable significance both as a Victorian adaptation of the grounds of the previous house and because they made skilful use of an old quarry. Here, the same approach was not possible, since plants and trees cannot be kept in stasis and their growth had obscured the

West Hall, Brodsworth Hall, Yorkshire. In 1990 a partnership between English Heritage and the National Heritage Memorial Fund allowed this remarkable time capsule of a Victorian country house and its contents to be saved for the nation.

John Critchley © English Heritage

historic design of the gardens. They have therefore been restored as far as possible to their appearance at the last period of full maintenance.

The approach to the conservation of Brodsworth was distinctive, though building on the same respect for the whole history of the house and the values of the original fabric as practised by the National Trust at Calke Abbey. The success of this approach owes much to the skill, dedication and team-working of the English Heritage staff, consultants and contractors who worked on this project. The house and gardens as they are now are much enjoyed by the public, while remaining true to their historic values which we tried to protect and preserve.

Christopher Young
Regional Director, Historic Properties, North Region 1986–95

The post-war listing programme

In 1987 there were no listed post-Second World War buildings in England; now there are well over 400 ranging from Clifton Cathedral to pre-fabs in Birmingham (Harwood 2003). Once considered highly contentious, listing post-war buildings now seldom raises an eyebrow. In 2000, MORI found that 75 per cent of people felt it was important to protect England's best modern architecture, a figure that rose to an astonishing 95 per cent among those aged between 16 and 24. How did we get there?

English Heritage's post-war listing programme had a lot to do with it. A little 'pre-history' is in order. It is now difficult to believe that buildings as spectacular as the 1920s art deco Firestone Factory on London's Great West Road could be demolished quite legally over a bank holiday weekend as recently as 1980. Public outrage led to a government re-think and a number of mainly Modernist inter-war buildings were listed. It was logical to extend the principle to post-war buildings, especially since some buildings of the 1950s and 1960s – exciting years for British architecture – were coming up for refurbishment and the future of others looked bleak. Although it had been possible to list post-war buildings since 1987, it took some high-level canvassing of ministers who were prepared to listen before the process was put on a secure and funded footing: the post-war listing programme was born in 1992. Three factors mark the programme out from earlier listing exercises. First, it was based on systematic and rigorous research. Secondly, the whole exercise was overseen by an independent panel of experts (chaired first by Ron Brunskill, later by Bridget Cherry). Thirdly, recommendations for listing became subject to public consultation for the first time ever.

The decision to open up this part of the listing process to public consultation was warmly supported by English Heritage. Recommendations were put forward on the basis of published research and selection criteria. It was more than just a procedural reform: it was a major step towards dispelling the mystique that surrounded listing, the idea that only experts knew best and no other stakeholders were involved. In many respects, the post-war listing programme (and the principle was quickly extended to other listing programmes) was something of a prototype for the current Heritage Protection Reform, testing the impact and effectiveness of greater openness.

Consultation took a number of forms: exhibitions across the country, meeting people face to face in the buildings themselves, especially the big public housing schemes such as Park Hill in Sheffield, and, most importantly, engaging the media and thereby creating public interest that proved to be high and sustained. It was a two-way process. It subjected expert views to public scrutiny but also helped the public find a voice to show it cared.

During the course of the post-war listing programme it became increasingly clear that the listing legislation did not always help achieve the most appropriate outcomes for the buildings. Complex buildings demanded bespoke solutions. Many sat within designed settings of equal importance. It was difficult, sometimes, to assess historic complexes holistically because the various components were liable to be subject to different designation regimes. Major changes in official thinking about listing developed at this time, including the idea of management guidelines and conservation plans. These in turn have fed in to the principles underpinning the current Heritage Protection Reform. But, above all, the programme helped ensure that the best of England's modern heritage can stand safely alongside the best of the very old.

Martin Cherry
Director of Research

REFERENCE

Harwood, Elain 2003. *England: A Guide to Post-war Listed Buildings*. London: Batsford

Elain Harwood © English Heritage

Gas Council Research Building, Killingworth, by Ryder & Yates, 1966–8. Playful treatment of the roof ventilators makes the point that much post-war architecture was meant to be fun.

Twenty-one years conserving parks, gardens and designed landscapes

Dame Jennifer Jenkins as chair of the Historic Buildings Council (HBC) was instrumental in ensuring that the legislation that formed English Heritage in 1983 enabled the new authority to compile 'a register of gardens and other land which appears to be of special historic significance'. The 1990 Town and Country Planning Act gave statutory weight to policies for the conservation of historic parks and gardens and in 1995, the Department of Environment introduced in the General Development Order Consolidation, a statutory duty on planning authorities to consult Garden History Society on applications affecting sites on the register and English Heritage on registered Grade I and II* sites.

Initially, entries in Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest were made on the recommendation of a sub-committee of the HBC established by Dame Jennifer, with descriptions based on published sources compiled by Dr Christopher Thacker. The first lists consisted of 1,085 gardens and landscapes categorised in the same way as listed buildings – Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II. Dr David Jacques was subsequently employed in 1989 to review the register and produce a complete set of boundary maps; by the end of 1992 a further 115 sites had been added. It was a remarkable achievement, but the limited resources available for research into individual entries inevitably attracted criticism, while sites that had remained unnoticed in print also tended to escape the register. In 1996 work began on its complete revision, led by Dr Harriet Jordan with a small team of dedicated inspectors and support staff making site visits and studying unpublished primary material before redrafting much-enlarged register entries – typically up from a half-page to four or five pages. This summer will see the new register – now containing 1,600 sites including Victorian town parks and cemeteries as well as landscape parks, allotments and town squares – launched on the web as an element of the new Heritage Protection regime.

The first garden grants were made as a result of the great storms of October 1987 and January 1990, and catapulted garden grants and management plans into the mainstream as a condition of grant. The Government-funded joint English Heritage and Countryside Commission (Task Force Trees) grant programme was set up to help owners repair the many historic parks and gardens devastated by the storm. The 75 per cent grants offered for the cost of preparing restoration plans demonstrated the importance attached to them. As expressed in English Heritage's review of the grant programme 10 years later, 'the opportunity to prepare plans expanded both knowledge of landscape design history and the capacity to tackle conservation problems' (English Heritage 1997). In total some £10 million was spent on clearance, ground preparation, replanting, and restoration as well as repairs to garden buildings and structures. More than 280 locations participated ranging from medieval deer parks to 20th-century gardens, including landscape parks, woodlands, pleasure grounds

Jeremy Richard © English Heritage

Castle Hill, Devon. In the 18th century a garden vista was designed to terminate to the north in a sham castle. In the 19th century trees grew up to obscure the view. Many were lost in the 1990 storm and under restoration a bold decision was made to re-open the vista to the sham castle, as seen here.

and public parks. In all two thirds of registered sites in the storm-damaged counties benefited.

The 2004 edition of *Heritage Counts* (English Heritage 2004) identified that almost half of Grade I sites had been subject to some form of planning permission. This demonstrates that historic parks and gardens continue to be under pressure from change in both the urban and rural environments, and continual effort will be needed to ensure their survival for a further 21 years.

John Watkins
Head of Gardens and Landscape, Conservation Department
Paul Stamper
Heritage Protection Adviser

REFERENCES

English Heritage 1997. *After the Storms. The Achievements of the English Heritage Grant Schemes for Storm Damage Repair in Historic Parks and Gardens.* London: English Heritage

English Heritage 2004. *Heritage Counts. The State of England's Historic Environment*. London: English Heritage

Cathedrals grant scheme

In 1987, a Parliamentary Select Committee heard evidence on the growing difficulties faced by England's cathedrals in maintaining their fabric in good condition; too little had been done since the Second World War and fabric appeals were not raising enough on a regular basis to keep up with necessary repair needs. The November 1990 White Paper, *This Common Inheritance*, announced a new grants scheme and from 1991 to 1994, Government gave English Heritage an extra £11.5 million (later increased to £19.5 million for the period 1991–6) to fund the Cathedral Repair Grants programme. Since then, the scheme has formed part of our grants programme and so far, £40.8 million has been offered for repairs to 57 Church of England and Roman Catholic cathedrals, including St George's Chapel Windsor.

When grants for places of worship had been introduced in 1977, cathedrals excluded themselves, as they recognised the greater need was in the parishes. In 1990, English Heritage commissioned Harry Fairhurst to visit all the English cathedrals to establish their fabric needs and the resources available. His report in 1991 – the most comprehensive since the 1850s – established that £117.3 million needed to be spent over the next 10 years on major repairs, but a further £70 million was needed to create proper facilities for staff and visitors, for fire detection and adequate fabric records and to modernise lighting and sound systems. His second survey in 2001 demonstrated that 86 per cent of those repairs had been completed and many of the new facilities (that were not eligible for our grants) had also been created. Of course, like any other large historic building, works continue to be needed – Church of England cathedrals spent £11 million on repairs in 2003, including £2 million in grants from English Heritage – but the serious backlog of major repairs had been eliminated.

The range of repairs achieved reflects the wide nature of English Heritage's work. Most grants have been spent on renewing the traditional materials of stone and lead, so supporting the craftsmen who continue these trades (in commercial firms as well as the 12 cathedral yards). Many specialist repairs have been funded, including work at Liverpool Metropolitan and Coventry that used modern materials like GRP and copper. A research programme into topics such as underside lead

© Richard Halsey

Wakefield Cathedral. The first grant in 1991 supported repairs to the west tower parapet and further grants enabled masonry repairs to be continued on the nave.

corrosion and the conservation of Purbeck marble has provided essential base information for many projects. Cutting-edge survey and recording techniques have been applied to conservation work at Peterborough and Salisbury. The lessons learnt have a very wide application beyond cathedrals, which continue to be at the forefront of historic building work in England.

Richard Halsey
Places of Worship Strategy, Implementation Manager

ViewFinder: online access to the NMR collection

The National Monuments Record (NMR) holds a major national collection of 7 million archive items, mostly photographs, relating to the historic environment. Online access is part of the NMR's strategy for developing its audiences and it has begun to make this important material available via the internet. Making its services, databases, catalogues and historic photographs available online, suitably packaged and promoted, is helping the NMR to reach new and broader audiences.

ViewFinder takes its place within this approach. In 2003, with the help of a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, the NMR launched an online browsable photograph library named *ViewFinder*, which can be found at www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder. This contains over 25,000 photographs, with a plan to add up to 20,000 more annually for the next three years. Although this is only a small sample of the archive photographs held at the NMR, images already cover the whole of England and range in date from the 1850s to the present day.

ViewFinder is designed for the non-specialist, for lifelong learners and people interested in their local area. At the same time, the archive materials it presents are of direct interest to heritage professionals and academics.

Historic photographs are an invaluable source of evidence for the historic environment, and can provide both a record of change and a sense of place. The sequence below on *ViewFinder* shows the junction of

BB94/07538 Reproduced by permission of English Heritage.NMR

6 May 1863. Junction of Market Street and Bradshawgate, Leigh, Greater Manchester, the day before the demolition of the Old Smithy.

BB94/07540 Reproduced by permission of English Heritage.NMR

c. 1890. Junction of Market Street and Bradshawgate, Leigh, Greater Manchester.

BB91/07539 © Crown copyright.NMR

9 April 1987. Junction of Market Street and Bradshawgate, Leigh, Greater Manchester.

For further information about the NMR contact Enquiry & Research Services, English Heritage, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ;
tel: 01793 414600;
email: nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk

Market Street and Bradshawgate, Leigh (Greater Manchester), at different dates. The first was taken on 6 May 1863, the day before the Old Smithy was demolished. The next image shows an off-licence and the NS&L Railway parcels office on the site of the smithy. The auctioneer and appraiser's office next door still survives, though it has been remodelled. In the 1960s the corner was redeveloped as a row of shops with offices above.

The excitement of a family historian in the USA sums up the potential of *ViewFinder*: 'I was looking for information on Saltaire. My great-great grandparents, great grandparents and most of their children worked there at Salts Mill. *ViewFinder* let me see something that I probably never will be able to see in person.'

Andrew Sargent
Special Projects Officer, NMR

Outreach

In 2003, English Heritage created an Outreach team to actively engage new audiences with the historic environment. During the first year of activity, the team developed 46 projects involving 26,000 new audiences, including young people, ethnic communities, low-income families, and people with disabilities. Each project was developed in partnership with others, including local authorities, regeneration agencies and regional museums. As well as helping us to reach more people, these partnerships also brought in £365,000 funding during the first year.

Projects included engaging local communities in the Housing Market Renewal process in Oldham through an arts project; enhancing access for different cultural communities at Witley Court; developing education and outreach activities to support a community archaeology dig at Groundwell Ridge, Swindon; and revealing the hidden history of Tide Mills, Newhaven, by working with young offenders.

The team is also responsible for broadening participation in Heritage Open Days. To achieve this, they have developed a series of projects in each region aimed at opening up different types of buildings and encouraging a greater range of activities. Thanks to their work, 200 new organisers took part over the Heritage Open Days weekend in 2004, and the number of non-Christian faith buildings that opened their doors increased tenfold.

Let us now look in more detail at one of the first projects to be completed in 2004/5. As part of the regeneration of the South Quay in Great Yarmouth, Sarah James, the East of England Outreach Officer, worked in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Seachange, a local community arts organisation, to re-landscape an area of derelict land between two English Heritage properties – Row 111 and the Old Merchants House – to create a community heritage garden.

South Quay, Great Yarmouth. A local resident waters the sunflowers just after the public launch of the Middlegate Garden.

The project focused on the regeneration of an urban space through the arts and the development of a meaningful relationship with the local community from the neighbouring Middlegate Estate. Local residents were consulted throughout the scheme on the design of the garden, through the Residents Association and public meetings. The garden was soft-landscaped by offenders working on Community Punishment, and site-specific public art and street furniture inspired by the seafaring history of the area were created by the local Youth Offending Team. Over 220 local residents and families attended the launch in June, planting fruit trees around the garden, herb borders and a central spiral.

The regeneration of Great Yarmouth

For more information on English Heritage's outreach work, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/education or contact the Education, Events and Outreach Department on 020 7973 3385.

through arts and heritage is accelerating and English Heritage is an integral part of this, enjoying the full support and confidence of many different local partners. Recently, the Select Committee on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister visited the site as an exemplary case study during its review of the role of heritage in regeneration. A heritage youth club has been established at English Heritage's Row Houses to sustain the value of the project, maintain the garden, and continue to inspire and work with local young people.

Tracy Borman
Education and Outreach Director

The Albert Memorial

The Albert Memorial was declared a Building at Risk in 1993. At the end of the year English Heritage offered £1.0 million, later increased to £2.0 million, towards its repair and conservation, provided the then Department of National Heritage met the majority of the £14.0 million forecast cost. The Albert Memorial Trust was established under the chairmanship of Sir Jocelyn Stevens to raise the shortfall.

English Heritage took responsibility for the project on 1 July 1994 with the intention of completing the work within five years. In the event, work was completed in October 1998 at a cost of £11.2 million, 80 per cent of budget.

Nigel Corrie © English Heritage

The Albert Memorial repaired and conserved.

Jeremy Richards © English Heritage

The bust of the re-gilded statue of the Prince Consort.

The task was of unparalleled philosophical and technical complexity, because of the wide variety of materials and methods used in the original construction and required for its repair. Full restoration was neither technically practical nor realistically affordable.

The objective was not just to preserve the integrity of the fabric for a 60-year return period and to facilitate maintenance meanwhile, but to retain and enhance its aesthetic integrity. A further objective was to recover the legibility of the iconographic programme so that the meaning of the memorial was clear to visitors.

The conservation work was a synthesis of traditional and modern techniques. The iron structure was cleaned of corrosion using a method used for nuclear installations, but then protected with several coats of red lead paint, as it had been originally.

Pulse laser cleaning was used for the first time on a building in England, initially on the glass 'jewels'. This also revealed the extensive survival of the original gilding on the ornamental leadwork, which could then be cleaned without damage and consolidated. This in turn allowed consistency of treatment with the gilding on the stonework, crucial to maintaining the architectural balance of the memorial.

The re-gilded statue of the Prince Consort was unveiled by Her Majesty the Queen on

21 October 1998. The project won awards from Europa Nostra, the Civic Trust and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The new floodlighting scheme won three more awards in its own right and the specially constructed exhibition centre on the site, which attracted 225,000 visitors, won an NPI National Heritage Award. More importantly, the Albert Memorial was restored to its rightful position as one of the chief ornaments of the national capital.

Alasdair Glass
Senior Project Director

Conservation-led regeneration in Nelson

The familiar grid pattern formed by the humble terraced house still dominates the landscape of many northern towns. While the traditional industrial base has largely disappeared, the energy and spirit of the industrial revolution remains locked within its buildings, defining local distinctiveness and character.

Whitefield contains the earliest and best-preserved townscape in Nelson, Lancashire, and represents a virtually intact 19th-century textile settlement, complete with workers' housing, mill, church and school. The multiracial community of Whitefield live in one of the most deprived wards in the country and fall within the government's Housing Pathfinder Programme, designed to address the symptoms of housing market failure (*see Conservation Bulletin* 47, 7).

In January and February 2002 English Heritage supported the residents of Whitefield as principal witness in a lengthy public inquiry, relating to a first phase of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs). Pendle Borough Council had failed to recognise the potential of a conservation-led approach to regenerating the area, instead opting for selective demolition and new development. The public inquiry also demonstrated that the views of the community had not been fully understood. The inquiry reopened in February 2003 to consider further evidence relating to the collapse of the local housing market. In September 2003 the Deputy Prime Minister decided not to confirm the CPOs, concluding that the best interests of community cohesion would be served by an approach which took advantage of the distinctive Victorian townscape.

Since the public inquiry, a constructive multi-agency partnership has been formed based upon understanding and mutual support. In November 2004 following a visit by the Prince of Wales, the Prince's Foundation facilitated a week-long 'Inquiry by Design'. The outcome is a report offering a physical plan and regeneration strategy supported by all sides. The plan envisages the combination of adjoining homes to make larger ones, group repair and some new canal-side residences. The mill and weaving sheds would be converted into business units and loft apartments, while the church would provide offices and community facilities.

Pendle Council has designated a conservation area covering the whole settlement. Housing group repairs are under way and confidence in the neighbourhood is growing. Many of those who had left the area are planning to return to family and friends. The embodied energy of Whitefield and its community is beginning to be unlocked. The process of positive regeneration provides a model for other pathfinder authorities working in areas of historic, architectural or townscape interest.

Darren Ratcliffe
Historic Areas Adviser, North West and Yorkshire Regions

Nelson, Lancashire. View of Whitefield ward, showing housing repair work under way in the context of the wider landscape. Pendle Hill is visible in the distance.

An English Heritage position statement entitled 'Low Demand Housing and the Historic Environment' is available from English Heritage Customer Services Department, tel 0870 333 1181 or email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

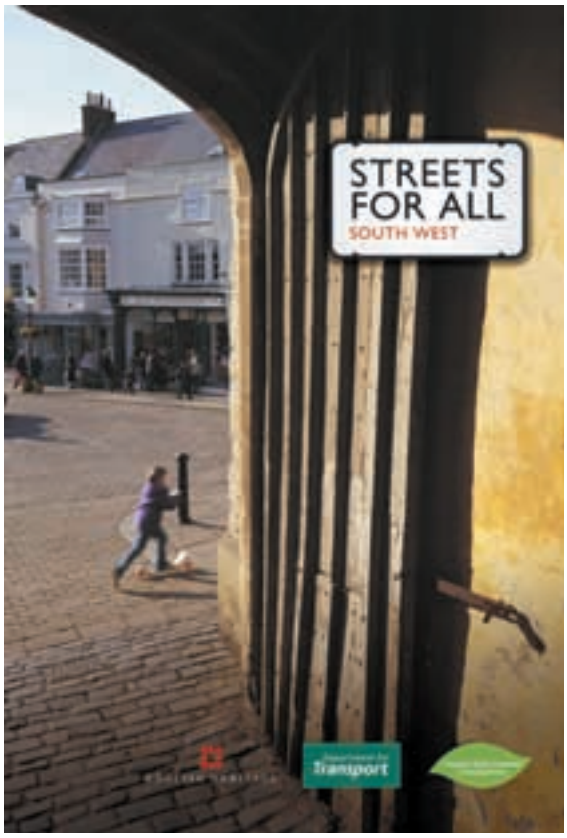
News
from English Heritage

Streets for All

English Heritage has published eight regional *Streets for All* manuals, which should by now have been distributed to relevant staff in local authorities and elsewhere. The manuals are aimed at all those involved in managing, designing and conserving the public realm, including councillors, highway engineers, landscape and urban designers, town planning and conservation staff, amenity societies, contractors and utility companies. *Streets for All* has been endorsed by the Department for Transport, demonstrating that all the proposals are possible within existing legislation.

By focusing on good and bad practice in each region, the manuals emphasise the importance of taking account of local distinctiveness and avoiding standardised solutions. Areas of advice include ground surfaces, street furniture and traffic management. The launch of the manuals will be followed up by events in each region, either workshops or informal visits to local authorities to discuss the principles of Streets for All and how to take them forward.

If you would like a copy of the *Streets for All* manual for your region, please contact your EH regional office or email saveourstreets@english-heritage.org.uk



In conjunction with the Department of Transport, English Heritage has published a suite of eight regional guides to help make our streets safer and more attractive places for everyone.

Farming the Historic Landscape

English Heritage has recently published a series of leaflets, *Farming the Historic Landscape*, which provide guidance on best practice in managing farmland heritage. The guidance has been produced in partnership with Defra, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, with additional contributions from Oxford Archaeology, The Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts. Separate leaflets have been published which deal with historic farm buildings, parkland, archaeological sites and the implications of environmental stewardship, together with a booklet providing a general introduction to the historic environment aimed at professional farm advisers.

Copies of the publications are available from English Heritage Customer Services on 0870 333 1181 or by emailing customers@english-heritage.org.uk. They are also available in PDF format from www.english-heritage.org.uk/farmadvice and the Historic Environment – Local Management website www.helm.org.uk

The National Monuments Record
News and events

ENGLISH HERITAGE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

The National Monuments Record (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. Contact the NMR at:
NMR Enquiry & Research Services, National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ;
tel: 01793 414600; fax: 01793 414606;
email: nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk;
web www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr

Images of England

The *Images of England* project is a ground-breaking initiative funded jointly by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its aim is to create a point-in-time photographic record of England's 400,000 listed buildings. The number of photographs featured on the *Images of England* website continues to grow; more than 150,000 images are currently included with more being added regularly. The website also now has a new look making it more user friendly and improving the functionality of the site.

The *Images of England* 'Learning Zone', launched at the Education Show at the National Exhibition Centre in March, provides content designed especially for teachers. Case studies and image albums all help to apply the fabulous resource of *Images of England* to the National Curriculum, bringing England's built heritage alive for the next generation. The Learning Zone can be accessed at www.imagesofengland.org.uk/education. For more information on the project please visit the website or email ioeenquiry@english-heritage.org.uk

From nuclear bunkers to law courts

The NMR holds material generated by major survey projects undertaken by English Heritage and the former Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME). This archive is wide ranging and includes photographs of historically significant buildings and archaeological and architectural investigation reports.

In the last 12 months, the archive of a major project to study the buildings of the Birmingham Jewellery Quarter, and the 5-year research project on the vast range of sites, monuments and installations from the Cold War, have both been catalogued. Other survey archives catalogued recently include The Law Courts of England, a project initiated by the former RCHME that documented the way in which the form and function of law courts have developed from 1750 to the present day, and the photographic archives from the recent *Buildings of England* publications covering Bath, Birmingham and Bristol.

In addition to reports from archaeological survey staff, transcriptions from the archaeological analysis of aerial photographs created as part of the National Mapping

The home page of the *Images of England* 'Learning Zone' website.

Programme are also catalogued. Recent examples include Lower Wharfedale, Yorkshire, and the Till-Tweed project, Northumberland. For further information contact Phil Daniels on 01793 414468 or email philip.daniels@english-heritage.org.uk

NMR 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.

Study days

NMR resources for local history
We will work with you on a case study to illustrate our key records for local history.
Thursday 29 September 2005

NMR resources for archaeological desk-based assessments
Evaluate a site of proposed development using air photographs, archaeological data and surveys from the NMR. This course will be of interest to heritage professionals and anyone seeking to use the NMR to assess the archaeology of their local area.
Thursday 13 October 2005

Time: all workshops start at 10.30 and finish by 16.30.
Cost: £25 including a sandwich lunch.

For further information, please contact Jane Golding: tel 01793 414735; email jane.golding@english-heritage.org.uk

AA003371 / Peter Williams © English Heritage.NMR

This craftsman at F Marson & Son, Spencer Street, Birmingham, uses techniques that have changed little in two centuries. He solders a piece of jewellery with a blowpipe and Birmingham sidelight.

CC97/01023 Reproduced by permission of English Heritage.NMR

The highly theatrical Swiss Cottage in Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea, London. The gardens were opened in the 1840s but closed in 1877; the photograph is one of 3,700 recently added to the *ViewFinder* website. Photographer: York & Son, 1870–7.

Legal Developments
Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003

At the very end of 2003 a new piece of legislation slipped, apparently unnoticed by the world at large, onto the statute books. The Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003 introduces a new offence of 'dishonestly dealing with a "tainted" cultural object knowing or believing it to be tainted'. A 'cultural object' is 'an object of cultural, architectural or archaeological interest'. Such an object is 'tainted' if it was removed unlawfully after 30 December 2003. This would cover:

- objects which are either fixtures or objects forming part of the land and in the curtilage of a listed building removed without listed building consent
- objects found using a metal detector and removed from a protected place under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

The maximum penalties for the offence are:

- on summary conviction 6 months prison and/or £20,000 fine
- on conviction on indictment 7 years prison and/or unlimited fine.

The implications for architectural theft

Architectural theft is an increasing problem and this Act should provide a useful additional weapon in the armoury of those seeking to prevent it. In particular, it allows dealers in cultural objects to be targeted and provides for penalties that certainly ought to provide a deterrent to anyone tempted to handle such objects!

However, the Act seems to have been little used in its first 18 months of operation with no reported cases I have been able to identify. (If any readers have experience of bringing cases under the 2003 Act I would be very interested to hear from them.)

But there are things local authorities and others can do short of prosecution which might act as a deterrent. For example, it seems to me that local authorities could usefully prepare and circulate to potential dealers lists of tainted items known to have been removed from listed buildings in their area. Should such an object then be offered to the dealer, hopefully the dealer will refuse to handle it given that he is fixed with notice that it is tainted. Perhaps a national list could be organised?

I'm sure practitioners will want to make best use of the opportunity the Act presents to reduce architectural theft.

Nigel Hewitson
Legal Director
nigel.hewitson@english-heritage.org.uk

A vandalised fireplace in Brunswick House, a late 18th-century Grade II* Building at Risk in Lambeth, London SW8, which is now in the process of rescue and repair.

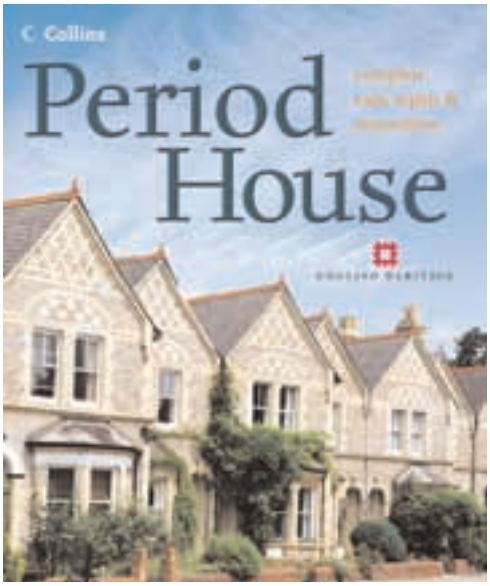
New Publications
from English Heritage

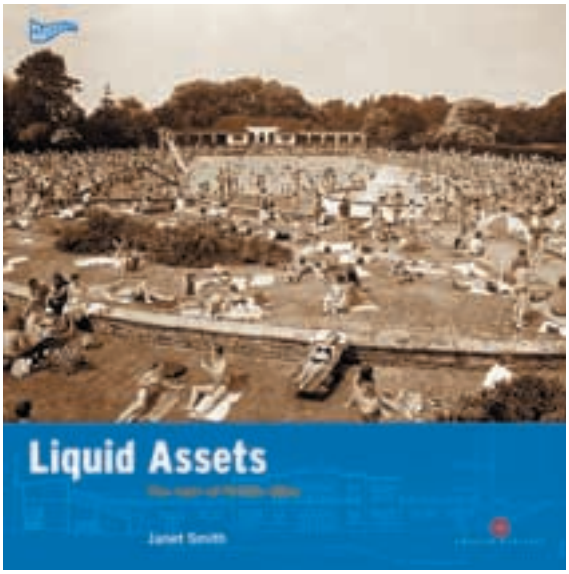
Collins Period House
by Albert Jackson and David Day

In Britain period property is everywhere, and people are increasingly trying to restore and revive the intricate features of their period homes. The revised edition of the best-selling *Collins Period House* is the ultimate homeowner's guide to the styles and features of residential property built between the mid-18th century and the outbreak of the Second World War.

Published in association with English Heritage, *Collins Period House* is an invaluable guide to appreciative restoration and design, aimed at anyone wanting to know more about the architecture, structure and design of their property as well as those who want to undertake cost-effective restoration. Key features include an introduction on the definition of the period concerned; figures for cost-effective restoration in 2005; thatched roofs and energy conservation; and new sections on pre-Georgian style.

Publication date: 1 August 2005
PRICE £20.00 + £2.50 P&P
ISBN 0 00 719275 4 / PRODUCT CODE 50958
Hardback, 240 pages





Liquid Assets
by Janet Smith, with a foreword by Tracey Emin

In *Liquid Assets*, the third book in the much talked-about *Played in Britain* series, journalist Janet Smith, herself a keen swimmer, traces the development of Britain's surprisingly rich stock of lidos, starting with their muddy beginnings in London's parks, through their fashionable heyday in the 1930s, to their battle for survival today.

Lavishly illustrated with archive and contemporary photographs, *Liquid Assets* highlights some of the nation's outstanding architectural examples. But if lidos were once to be found in virtually every town and city, since 1945 many have been closed, often despite the efforts of thousands of vociferous campaigners. *Liquid Assets* charts the best of these lost lidos and provides a unique listing of all lidos still open in Britain, with detailed case studies of the most impressive.

PRICE £14.99 + £2.50 P&P
ISBN 0 9547445 00 / PRODUCT CODE 51093
Hardback, 128 pages

The English Seaside
by Peter Williams

There is something about the seaside that brings out the beating heart of John Bull in the English: doggedly erecting our windbreaks to capture every vestige of a watery sun; wrestling with deckchairs; wrapping up against the determined wind on the verandas of our beach huts; accepting that 'sand' in our 'sandwiches' means just that!

And this is all reflected in the architecture of the seaside, as captured so evocatively in Peter Williams's photographs: brightly decorated beach huts, elaborate promenade benches, strange 1930s' shelters, the façades of ice-cream parlours… There is something about all these buildings and details that tells you exactly where you are, that you couldn't be anywhere other than at one of England's myriad seaside resorts!

Stuffed with hundreds of colour photographs, this wonderful book is a perfect celebration of the spirit of the English seaside.

PRICE £14.99 + £2.50 P&P
ISBN 1 85074 9396 00 / PRODUCT CODE 51096
Hardback, 142 pages

Publications may be ordered from English Heritage Postal Sales, c/o Gillards, Trident Works, March Lane, Temple Cloud, Bristol BS39 5AZ; tel: 01761 452 966; fax: 01761 453 408; email: ehsales@gillards.com. Please make all cheques payable in sterling to English Heritage. Publications may also be ordered from www.english-heritage.org.uk

Seaside Holidays in the Past
by Allan Brodie, Andrew Sargent and Gary Winter

This stunning photography book captures the spirit of the now almost-lost tradition of the English seaside holiday. The photographs – taken from English Heritage's unique collection held in the National Monuments Record – illustrate how we used to take our summer holidays before cheap flights and package deals made foreign holidays affordable to all, leading to the decline of the English seaside resort.

From Victorian bathers to 1950s' beach huts, from 19th-century fishermen to long-destroyed landmarks such as New Brighton's Tower, and from Punch and Judy shows to donkey rides along the beach, this book reminds us how we have changed as a nation and, in some cases, what we have lost forever.

PRICE £17.99 + £2.50 P&P
ISBN 1 85074 931 0 / PRODUCT CODE 51060
Hardback, 184 pages

ISSN 0753–8674
Conservation Bulletin appears three times a year. It is printed on paper made from chlorine-free pulp sourced from sustainable managed forests
Product Code: 51103
Subscription enquiries: tel 020 7973 3253; mailinglist@english-heritage.org.uk
Additional copies: customers@english-heritage.org.uk
Guest editor: Oliver Pearcey
Editorial and project management: Whimster Associates Ltd; tel: 01672 513253; email: r.whimster@eclipse.co.uk
Original design: Boag Associates Ltd
Layout: Libanus Press Ltd
Production: Hawthornes Ltd
Web version: www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is the Government's lead body for the historic environment.
English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2ET