Our Evolving Countryside

Sir Neil Cossons *Chairman of English Heritage*

England's countryside is changing, but the value of our historic rural landscapes to society is beyond dispute.

In November 2006 the UK government ratified the European Landscape Convention (ELC). The convention, which comes into force on 1 March 2007 as this issue of *Conservation Bulletin* is published, requires Parties to protect, manage and plan their landscapes.

This marks an important recognition by government of the value of landscape to society, at a time when there is increasing discussion on the future trajectory of England's countryside. In July 2006, for example, David Miliband, the incoming Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, wrote to the Prime Minister calling for a 'serious debate about the use of land in England' noting that: 'We are always going to have to make trade-offs in a densely populated country, but we need to be sure that the system we have in place is protecting the right land for the right reasons.'

It is important that, in conducting this debate on how we protect and consume land, government recognises that, as well as providing a repository of fundamentally important natural assets, the landscapes of England are an historical and cultural asset of incalculable value. Although geology may set the scene, today's landscape has been shaped by people living on and off the land and interacting with natural forces over many generations. As Bill Bryson, who is a Commissioner of English Heritage, once succinctly put it, our countryside is 'hand-made'.

It is therefore imperative that those who are making choices about the future of the countryside understand that today's landscape is a legacy of past human choices that need to be understood, respected and responded to if the landscapes of the 21st century are to retain their drama, their diversity and their sense of place.

The historic-environment sector should be a valued and authoritative stakeholder in this discourse – and the ratification of the Landscape Convention provides a timely opportunity for reflection on what we have to offer and how we can maximise our influence.

This issue of *Conservation Bulletin* examines why our rural landscapes matter and assesses, with views from key partners, the challenges facing them in the future. It looks at research designed to illuminate human influences on the land and the work that is taking place to protect and enhance its historic dimension. We hope it will serve to stimulate discussion within the heritage sector about the potential of our contribution and will illustrate to a wider audience the value of what we can deliver.

A landscape of incalculable value: the Iron Age hillforts of Battlesbury and Scratchbury stand sentinel over the arable chalklands of 21st-century Wiltshire.

Why our Rural Landscapes Matter

Today's landscape is the product of human choices and actions. But is this cultural dimension adequately recognised in government policy?

Landscapes of the hand and mind

Stephen Trow
Head of Rural and Environmental Policy, English Heritage

In October 2006 the government launched Natural England, a new agency with responsibility for nature and landscape conservation in England. A month later it ratified the European Landscape Convention and its Heritage White Paper, setting out a new framework for managing the historic environment, is imminent (*Conservation Bulletin* 52, and Oliver in this issue, pp 6–8). The coincidence of these important developments in heritage and landscape policy provides an unparalleled opportunity for the heritage sector to reflect on how effectively its interests are integrated within current arrangements for managing and planning the landscape and to consider what role it might play in delivering a new vision for the future of England's countryside.

Landscapes are cultural phenomena, both in terms of the way they are created and the way they are perceived: they are the result of the human hand and mind. At face value, this is fully recognised by those who make decisions on land use and landscape policy. Nevertheless, the historic dimension of landscape is often neglected in the formulation of policy and guidance. At best, policymakers seem to regard the historic environment as a series of features *within* the landscape, rather than recognising it as the *quintessence* of landscape. Why should this be?

Part of the problem may be that the real-life complexity of the cultural landscape – with its kaleidoscopic mixture of built and planted, manipulated and designed, semi-natural and natural – simply defies the neat departmental geometry of Whitehall, where DCLG are responsible for spatial planning, Defra for landscape and land-use processes, including agriculture and forestry, and the DCMS for the historic environment. But where does this leave ultimate responsibility for the cultural aspects of the rural landscape? Does Defra's inevitable preoccupation with natural resources, the scientific-evidence base and the challenge of climate change sit comfortably alongside championship of the aesthetic values of the countryside? Do inter-departmental arrangements exist which adequately promote the seamless management of an asset quite so fundamental to our quality of life and our sense of personal and national identity?

Are domestic obstacles to a holistic approach to landscape further compounded at the European level? The European Union sees the natural environment as a trans-national issue on which it has competence to deliver substantive legislation and has set in place a raft of European-level designations and powerful directives for nature conservation. In contrast, cultural heritage is seen as central to individual nation states' sense of national identity and as an area in which the Council of Europe, rather than the Union naturally takes the lead. While this reasoning may be impeccable, is its unintended result a distortion of domestic policy which

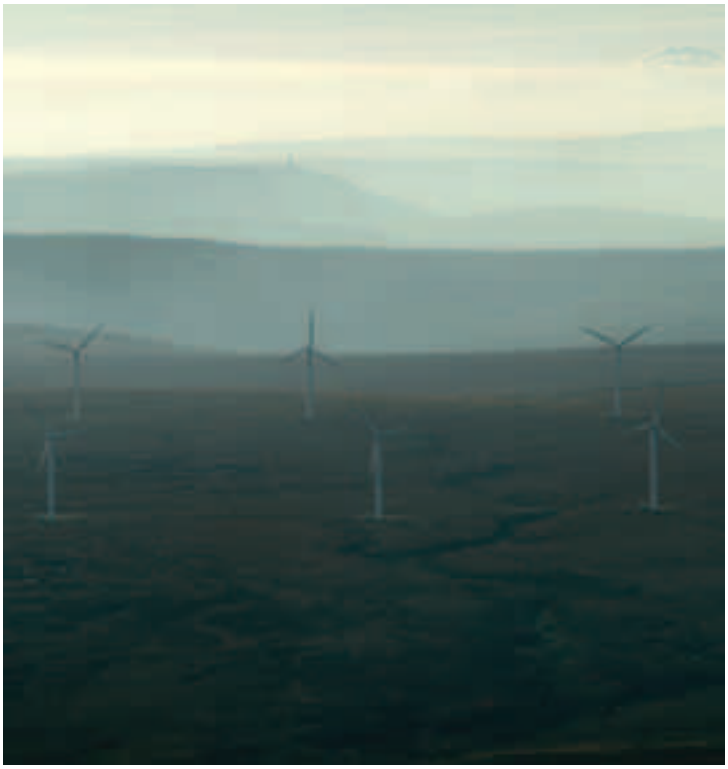
Dispersed settlement on the border of Devon and Cornwall. Can planning, agricultural and rural development policy sustain an historic settlement pattern which defines the distinctive character of much of the rural South-West?

reinforces, rather than reduces, the impediments to effective integration of the cultural and natural aspects of landscape? If so, can the European Landscape Convention (see Fairclough in this issue, pp 8–9) help to break down these barriers?

Or do the principal challenges lie within the heritage sector? The need to manage change is a central message in the Convention, which concerns itself with the creation of new landscapes as well as the conservation of existing valued places. While archaeological evidence demonstrates unequivocally that all landscapes are dynamic rather than static, with change driven both by human and natural forces, how effective has the heritage sector been in translating this message into its conservation practices in the past and how adept will it be in the future?

Does the heritage sector have the right tools at its disposal to help it engage effectively with managing change in the countryside? In the past, the sector has tended to focus on the Town and Country Planning system as the principal means of managing change in the landscape. While spatial planning will continue to be an important part of the tool-kit, most agriculture and forestry operations lie outside the detailed controls of the Town and Country Planning system. It may be these drivers which will have the greatest impact on the character of the UK's landscapes over the next few decades, particularly as the land-based industries respond to global economic pressures and the challenges of climate change (this issue, Butterworth, pp 31–3 and Riddle, pp 10–12). This being the case, how fit-for-purpose are the heritage sector's links with the land-based industries? How close are we, for example, to developing robust mechanisms for integrating our interest in landscape with those of other environmental partners? And can our objectives be reconciled with the economic realities and pressures for change faced by the land-based industries (this issue, Fursdon, pp 5–6 and Lake, pp 12–14)?

Just how radically do we need to re-think our approach if we are to play an effective role in the management of the landscape of the future? Historically, the sector has tended to focus on the minutiae of change to individual buildings and sites, rather than engaging with change at the macro-scale. New work on landscape characterisation (see *Conservation Bulletin* 47 and Went and Horne in this issue, pp 22–3) has provided us with a potentially powerful tool for delivering area-based management initiatives, but its deployment in the development of new strategies for landscapes management is still in its infancy. Will implementation of the Heritage White Paper facilitate further progress in this direction?



A wind farm at Ovenden Moor, West Yorkshire. Climate change will inevitably impact on today's countryside.

Above all, the heritage sector should reflect on how clearly it communicates its priorities to the key partners who can help it deliver them (see Butterworth, pp 31–3, Hunns, pp 35–7, Knight, pp 29–31 and Taylor, pp 33–5, this issue). Our nature conservation colleagues have made great progress in this area, with Biodiversity Action Plans that can be readily grasped and, most importantly, acted upon by a wide range of partners. The task for cultural heritage managers is arguably more complex, but no less compelling if we wish our interests to be fully represented in the dialogue on landscape futures.

Our sector is now presented with a series of opportunities to secure a place in the discourse which will shape the landscape of the 21st century and beyond. Natural England provides us with a powerful new partner who can champion the cause of truly integrated land management; the European Landscape Convention offers a mechanism for enhancing the co-ordination of different departmental interests in landscape; and the Heritage White Paper will direct us toward a modernised management of the cultural heritage, potentially better suited to delivery at the landscape scale. Responsibility for success rests squarely with us.

The view from the CLA

David Fursdon
President, Country Land and Business Association

Each year millions of tourists – both foreign and domestic – are drawn to England's historic landscape, scattered with quaint villages, market towns, gardens, and ancient monuments. According to Visit Britain, their visits generate £16 billion a year, a quarter of the benefit delivered by tourism to the UK economy as a whole, but rural landscape and heritage not only contribute on a material or economic level, they also foster national and local identity and a feeling of continuity, through local food as well as building styles, and rambling across Devon countryside or Lake District hills provides millions of people with physical and visual access and enjoyment.

At the Country Land and Business Association (CLA; www.cla.org.uk/heritage) we represent 38,000 members who manage or own more than half of rural England and Wales, and significantly more than half of rural heritage. We see seven key challenges that rural heritage faces today:

• While access to much rural heritage is free, maintaining it is hugely, and increasingly, expensive. Government willingness to fund it through grants is much reduced: allowing for rising construction industry costs, the value of English Heritage's already small grant budget has been reduced by nearly a third in five years. Heritage must – wherever possible – earn its keep if it is not to decay. This requires a heritage consent system that allows change.

• The evidence suggests that the heritage consent system is not working as well as it could. A significant problem is conservation provision in local authorities (which decide 95 per cent of listed-building applications). The surveys carried out by English Heritage and the Institute for Historic Building Conservation in 2003 (*Local Authority Conservation Provision*) and in 2006 by the CLA (*Who Pays for Heritage?*, see www.cla.org.uk/heritage) show that many local authorities have no conservation staff, or have staff who are demoralised by low pay and lack of status, have little or no experience or training, or are overworked. Pre-application advice is therefore often not available and applications can become adversarial rather than collaborative. English Heritage initiatives like HELM (www.helm.org.uk) have helped, but across hundreds of local authorities a much-cut English Heritage faces a challenge if it is to make a real difference.

> 'Our farm buildings are expensive to maintain, of no economic benefit, and the planners are very reluctant to consider any sort of alternative use.'
> *A CLA member*

• A fundamental and linked problem is conservation philosophy. There are many good conservation officers who proactively seek solutions that, while safeguarding what is significant about a building, also ensure that it has an economically viable future. But the CLA believes that, in practice, too many of those involved in regulation feel that their job is to protect the historic environment against change, so that redundant buildings decay because they cannot be reused. Some seem to lack an understanding of relative significance, so that controls that would be appropriate for a Grade I building – the top 3 per cent of listed buildings – are applied without discrimination to a Grade II building in the bottom 3 per cent; or they do not fully understand the economic background, demanding that redundant agricultural buildings remain in agricultural use when they no longer have any agricultural purpose, or loading extra costs into an economically marginal conversion so that it has to be abandoned.

• The solution is not a weakening of heritage protection; instead it is to make the system as efficient, certain and proportionate as possible. The Heritage Protection Review (HPR) needs to focus on consents as well as designation if it is to tackle these key problems. Fortunately, English Heritage already has the potential solution – the 'Constructive Conservation' philosophy, which is the main item in its 2005–10 Strategic Plan. This is a 'new philosophy of conservation to ensure sensible, consistent decisions' which seeks to get everyone working together to manage change of the historic environment in a pragmatic way. It has great potential to do good, but it needs to be fleshed out in

Redundant historic farm buildings may be an asset to the landscape, but their repair can be a significant drain on the resources of their owners.

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The adaptive re-use of traditional farm buildings provides important economic and regeneration benefits and high-quality conversions conserve the historic character of the landscape. This renovation of a group of redundant Grade II farm buildings in Taunton, Somerset, provides six office /business suites as an economically viable farm diversification. The scheme was shortlisted for the Building Conservation category of the RICS awards in 2005.

clear and concise English, linked to the current statutory guidance in *Planning Policy Guidance* 15/16. English Heritage's *Conservation Principles*, still forthcoming as I write, is supposed to do this, and much will depend on how well it achieves this.

• While legal protection of heritage is necessary, it is also part of the problem, because it can demotivate owners. Generations of farmers and landowners have made sacrifices to look after historic buildings and ancient trees because of pride of ownership; that has certainly been the case on my small family estate in Devon. Love is a stronger motivator than fear, and being told you must do something takes some of the incentive away, especially if it carries attendant baggage of application forms, demands for management plans, method statements, full archaeological surveys and accredited consultants, often even for minor work. With little grant funding, the listing of buildings has become largely negative for owners. Heritage Partnership Agreements – a concept proposed in the HPR – may be a sensible way of trying to address this issue.

• Traditional farm buildings are particularly at risk because agricultural changes are making so many redundant. In many cases, if consent can be obtained without excessive cost or delay, viable and sympathetic new uses can be found; recent new English Heritage policy and guidance on this will help. But some need an injection of capital to make this possible, and other features – especially stone walls – make an equally vital contribution to rural landscape but have only marginal financial benefit. The good news is that agri-environment schemes and rural development funding have in recent years rescued many of these (see Hunns pp 35–7); the bad news is that the funding for these schemes is under threat. It is vital that built heritage remains a priority for these schemes: maximising the number of plant species is good, but loses much of its point if walls and barns are collapsing all around the plants.

• Rural heritage cannot be maintained in isolation: the strength of the rural economy is crucial, and government must work in close partnership with landowners and other rural businesses to enable rural communities and businesses to evolve. Regional Development Agencies still focus on urban rather than rural regeneration, and it is important that Natural England champions rural heritage.

Over the coming months and years, rural landscape and heritage face significant challenges. Listed buildings have to be economically viable, and we need realism, proportionality and shared endeavour if they are to last; I was fortunate to have the opportunity to highlight this in a meeting with the Prime Minister late last year. The imminent Heritage White Paper will be just a beginning: much more is needed.

CPRE calls for deeds not words

Tom Oliver
Head of Rural Policy, Campaign to Protect Rural England

By the end of a weekend on the Shropshire/Worcestershire border recently, I had slept in the same bedroom as Prince Rupert once did, hovered on the doorstep of the house where Stanley Baldwin was born, walked over the world's first iron bridge, travelled along lanes which were so low sunk with many hundreds of years' use that there was often no view and walked through an elaborately carved 900-year-old church doorway into a field where I could clearly see where houses had once been that were last occupied 650 years ago. The pub down the road has been standing since before my most distant traceable ancestors and the line of sweet-chestnut trees that sheltered the place where I stayed was planted after the Battle of Waterloo in commemoration of that great and bloody event.

If I had entertained the thought that I was going to get away from it all, I would have been wildly misguided. The upheavals of plague, civil war, the industrial revolution and international conflict, the development of the role of Prime Minister, the ancient significance of religion and the transcendent influence of farmers,

builders, architects and engineers over countless years, all these were inescapable from dawn until night for 48 hours.

But of course that was exactly what I did want out of my weekend. The evidence of what my species, what my fellow citizens, what their organisations and activities have been up to these last thousand years is about as captivating, moving, puzzling and amusing as you can imagine. My quality of life was seriously boosted for two days by observing and thinking about all the ways the landscapes around me had been influenced by people who had been there before me, whose own quality of life had clearly varied from the palatial to the desperate. These were people who had lived lives of every possible kind, some of whom had died old and happy, others stricken by incurable disease after a life of miserable poverty.

It is patently clear that historic rural landscapes are intensely human. They are certainly not the mute and meaningless leftovers of irrelevant dead people. Few would argue that we are better off without the evidence of how we have got to where we are now, especially on the brink of another, this time carbon neutral, industrial revolution and an escalation of world cultural influences. But the places, features and buildings that make up our historic environment are interspersed by other places and features, where the presence of the past, as it was elegantly described by Penelope Lively, has been eroded or obliterated. The attrition of the years is inescapable and of course if nothing ever changed, the layers of history would not be there to admire and protect. But two processes are constantly at work to weaken or destroy the relevance and interest of our historic surroundings unnecessarily: ignorant neglect and deliberate destruction.

When Abraham Darby constructed his revolutionary iron bridge in 1771–81 the Industrial Revolution had only just begun to transform the traditional countryside of post-medieval Shropshire. On the eve of a new carbon-neutral revolution, it is a potent reminder of the centuries of human endeavour locked within our historic rural landscapes.

Mike Hesketh-Roberts © Crown copyright.NMR

Meanwhile, the extent to which historic features have survived and continue to be understood and appreciated is down to two other processes: the dedication of individuals and communities and the power of government, local or national, to prevent destruction and dereliction and encourage good care. It is not through luck, by and large, that we have the wealth and complexity of historic landscapes that remain, and it has often been through deliberate action that much of historic value has been lost.

We are the architects of the survival of our own historic surroundings just as much as those who fashioned and managed and built them in the first place. If we give up on the obligations, as individuals, as communities or as supporters of government actions and structures in the common interest, what we have now will steadily be lost with little possibility of recall. The sooner those who chafe at rules and policies which protect historic landscapes get this clear in their heads, the better. There is precious little excuse in this country to plead ignorance of the virtues and advantages that accrue from conserving the outward signs of our history. The remarkable and inspiring project to map the historic landscape character of England by English Heritage (see *Conservation Bulletin* 47 and Went and Horne in this issue, pp 22–3) provides anyone who cares to look with all the evidence they need that our history surrounds us in the landscape.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) is profoundly concerned that initiatives derived from the Heritage Protection Review need far greater and more realistic funding if they are to help stem the attrition and encourage good practice. In overall terms, the sums needed to ensure that English Heritage and local authorities can integrate heritage controls and guidance successfully are very small. Yet without this money, we face a damaging and depressing retreat from the quality of governance and decision-making needed to safeguard our rich inheritance. Why is it that the government has so far failed to see the merit in the DCMS Select Committee report that although protecting the historic environment is very good value, we do need to actually pay for it? The Historic Environment Record, for example, is an essential source of accurate information that is needed to guide wise development decisions. But if the resources to collect, tabulate and maintain this information are

not available, the facts will not be available either. Pre-application consultation on planning applications is a wise and democratic idea, but people need to be employed by local authorities to do this work. CPRE works closely with local authority officers expert in the historic environment wherever it can, but often these officers are working under great pressure, with only modest support and in a significant number of local authorities there is no one employed in this role.

There is an overwhelming consensus that the historic environment brings riches to society of every kind: cultural, social, environmental and economic. Our report *Recharging the Power of Place*, published jointly with the National Trust and Heritage Link in 2004, contributed to building that consensus. But, depressingly, it seems far-fetched indeed that government should identify the protection and enhancement of the historic environment as meriting funding as part of a Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. The embedded energy and quality of construction of buildings that have literally stood the test of time appears still to mean little to the Treasury. Far greater encouragement could be given to the farming community to see historic landscapes and monuments as part of their asset base, rather than as a hindrance to freedom of land management. And the taxpayer needs to make a fair contribution to the long-term survival of historic landscapes, in view of their national benefits.

Our rural landscapes, made up as they are of towns, villages, scattered settlements and open countryside, are the closest thing we will ever experience to a time machine. They are the source of much of our culture – art, drama, poetry and language. From earth everyone has come and to earth everyone will return. In the mean time, it makes sense to understand and celebrate that ancient historical fact.

Made in England: landscape, culture and identity

Graham Fairclough
Head of Characterisation, English Heritage

Having written about the European Landscape Convention (the 'Florence Convention'; www.coe.int/t/e/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/Landscape/) in several issues of *Conservation Bulletin*, it is gratifying to write about it again as it comes into force in the UK on 1 March 2007. It is already active in 25 other European countries, a speed of progress since publication in 2000 that testifies to how great its potential is seen to be. How far or quickly this potential will be achieved depends of course on its implementation. Its ideas need to be adopted by all government departments, and to be recognised at the highest level. It could even form part of a national constitution: how citizens see their landscapes defines the nation.

'Florence', as befits a new member of the Council of Europe's family of heritage conventions, offers a revitalised approach to heritage. It is the first convention dedicated to the whole landscape, rather than to components of the environment. Its starting-points are that landscape is everywhere, and that it is natural and cultural heritage entwined. It insists that all areas, whether special or ordinary, beautiful or degraded, need to be treated as landscape. The 'poor' landscapes, not the best, might indeed be the ones that most need investment and management to improve people's quality of life.

The convention is important to English Heritage and the wider historic environment sector for many reasons. Its concept of landscape promises to be central to our work, which is why we have already been participating in the conferences and workshops organised by the Council of Europe to start implementing the convention. It firmly underwrites national policy as set out in *Power of Place* and *Force for our Future*. It allows us to engage people's interest in heritage on a much larger scale than hitherto, and in terms of future development it enables us to build a bridge from past to future. It is an effective way to integrate our cultural interests with those of other agencies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency.

The word 'landscape' may conjure up ideas about Nature and rural scenes, but the convention encourages us to see it as much more important than that, as a democratically shared common heritage. We each take different things from it, depending on who we are, on our gender, ethnicity or religion, on how old we are and what our lives are like, yet at the same time we all share landscape perhaps more than anything else. Landscape is very squarely about people: people who over very long periods of time have created the physical patterns of the land, who today 'create' landscape through their perceptions, and for whom landscape is an economic or social resource, people who are part of landscape, not simply external impacts on it. The European Landscape Convention is the first heritage convention that relates to where people live and work, how they accommodate themselves to their surroundings and how they interact psychologically and emotionally with their environment or habitat. It is

concerned not only with places of scenic beauty or ornamental parks, but with landscapes everywhere, with how people perceive all land, urban and peri-urban as well as rural, and indeed water or seascapes. In summary, an 'ordinary' area of landscape is as much part of our heritage as any palace or church.

But the traditional concern of heritage to protect and keep the fabric of the past cannot be applied to landscape. Conventional heritage protection can only keep the very best because we know we cannot keep everything. The convention, on the other hand, invites us to recognise that human history and, more important, people's memories and identity, exists not only in the small proportion of the building stock that is listed but everywhere in the landscape, especially where people actually live and work. Put simply, all landscape is heritage. How do we respond to this challenge?

Landscape is our most complex human artefact, but it is not finished. It will continue to change and evolve whatever actions we take or do not take. We can, however, plan its future evolution, which is why the convention is explicitly forward-looking, and also why it is an enabling instrument rather than a prescriptive one. It advises us to manage landscape in active ways that include change and creation so that it continues to live. It suggests three ways of doing this – protection, management and planning – but it is management (ensuring upkeep, keeping up appropriate processes for a living landscape) and planning (mitigating necessary change, enhancing landscape, creating new landscape) which have the greatest applicability, especially through spatial planning and agricultural policy.

The challenge posed by the convention is not simply to protect our inherited landscapes but to create 'good' future landscapes for everyone. We need a wide debate about what 'good' landscape might be. For the historic environment sector (and we might not share other sectors' views on this) a 'good' landscape is surely one in which history and culture, identity and memories, can be read and enjoyed, but this is not the same as attempting to keep landscape unchanged, or recreating the past.

This issue of *Conservation Bulletin* shows many examples of how the historic environment sector is already contributing to implementation of the convention: well-established methods for understanding landscape, with a broad range of applications such as English Heritage's programme of historic landscape characterisation and urban characterisation (see, for example, *Conservation Bulletin* 47), regional characterisations that begin to chart the contribution to landscape of our rich legacy of farm buildings (see the HELM website at www.helm.org.uk) and a broad explanation of landscape history at regional scale as seen in the recent English Heritage books (see Rowley, pp 20–1). Implementing the European Landscape Convention will be a cornerstone for practical working relationships with the newly formed Natural England, and we have already helped the Highways Agency to write practical guidance on how to take Historic Landscape character into account in the design of new roads, probably the first official document to use the convention as its starting-point.

All this is only a start, however, given the wide horizons thrown open by the convention. Landscape's role in social and individual well-being, and its major contribution to economic prosperity and quality of life, gives it an importance that cannot be ignored.

''"Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors' (from the European Landscape Convention, Article 1, Definitions). Now awaiting a new post-Cold War future as an immigration centre, the redundant RAF Coltishall was itself superimposed on to a traditional Norfolk farming landscape.

Challenges for the countryside

Our fast-changing society is making new demands on England's valued traditional landscapes and buildings.

A turning-point for the uplands?

David Riddle
Land Use Director, The National Trust

The National Trust looks after some 150,000 hectares of land in upland areas including some of the finest landscapes in the UK, from the mountains of Mourne to Snowdonia and the Lake District. It is tempting to imagine that these magnificent areas have always been as we see them now – and to think that the farming that takes place upon them has been unchanged for centuries. But the uplands have always changed, not only in the distant past with the clearance of wildwood and establishment of settled farming, quarrying and mining, but significantly throughout the last century with major changes in agricultural technology in response to the national priority for food production.

The uplands are valued for different things by different people and they are among our most highly designated areas. Centuries of interaction between man and nature in this rugged environment have produced landscapes of unparalleled quality and interest. The layers of landscape evolution are writ large in the ancient walls, vernacular buildings and earthworks of the open countryside. As conservationists we can seek to protect the artefacts of this cultural history, but the extent to which we, or anyone, can protect the ways of life currently associated with them is another question.

As a result of Common Agricultural Policy reform, agricultural support payments (the Single Payment Scheme) can now be claimed without having to farm. This has exposed the stark reality that livestock farming on its own is simply not profitable in many parts of the uplands. Research carried out by the National Trust across 60 of its tenanted hill farms has showed that the majority will face severe falls in income and that some will see their support payments halved over the next five years.

From a purely economic point of view it is hard to understand why livestock businesses are continuing in the uplands, but we must not underestimate the passion to farm that is deeply rooted in families and individuals whose lives are on the land. In the short term many farmers will use their Single Payment Scheme funding

The uplands provide some of our most spectacular landscapes, which provide spiritual refreshment as well as vital environmental services.

© David Riddle, National Trust

The embryonic River Kinder in the High Peak. The harvesting and protection of freshwater is a vital public service that the uplands provide for the nation as a whole.

to prop up struggling cattle and sheep enterprises even though the money does not have to be used for agriculture. But this is not a long-term solution, especially as all subsidies and grants come under increasing pressure.

To some, the potential loss of grazing animals conjures up fears of unmanaged wasteland and impenetrable scrub; to others the prospect of more natural tree growth on higher ground, lightly grazed by feral sheep and wild deer, is welcome. Either way the conservation of many habitats and cultural landscapes that we value will depend upon the grazing of livestock at appropriate levels – it is in our interests to ensure that this can happen.

The Trust has long recognised the need to broaden the base of farm incomes and has supported a wide range of diversification schemes on its let farms. Many have related to produce marketing, such as the establishment of mail-order boxed-meat services or the creation of farm shops. The Trust has just launched the 'Fine Farm Produce Award', which allows successful tenants to use the famous oak-leaf logo to market selected quality products that meet high environmental and animal welfare standards. Other initiatives have encouraged farmers to take advantage of the tourism potential of the wonderful landscapes they manage through providing camping, bed-and-breakfast or self-catering accommodation.

Declines in wild flowers, bird populations and natural tree growth in the uplands are familiar problems but other environmental issues are now coming to the fore. Concerns about water resources have been heightened by recent winter shortages in the South-East and water is increasingly being recognised as a precious asset that needs to be valued and carefully managed. Conversely flooding is set to be a growing problem with climate change predicted to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. In the uplands, however, the widespread introduction of moorland drainage combined with the canalisation of many rivers has hastened the passage of freshwater through catchments, starving groundwater, impacting on archaeological deposits in wetlands, increasing the risk of flash flooding and aggravating diffuse pollution. We have to re-learn the techniques of using land to absorb, control and manage floodwater – a valuable service upland land managers can provide for the nation as a whole.

CO_2 emissions and carbon storage are rightly high on the political agenda and we are all encouraged to do our bit to reduce our environmental footprint. The peat soils of the UK, most of which are found in upland areas, lock up more carbon than all the woodlands of Britain and France added together, so protecting peat from desiccation and erosion now takes on a new urgency in addition to its vital role in protecting evidence of the past. Recent research suggests that bracken rhizomes also store significant amounts of carbon, which is released when the plant is eradicated. This, together with the potential prohibition of the use of Asulox for its control, may force us to re-think how we approach this over-successful native of lower upland slopes and its impact on archaeology, grazing and biodiversity.

The contribution that open space and outdoor exercise can make to people's health and well-being is also becoming more widely recognised. The accessible and challenging nature of upland landscapes provides huge opportunities for active recreation in inspiring scenery. This not only has a big part to play in combating major health problems such as obesity and heart disease but also meets a very real need for spiritual refreshment and connection with history as a counterbalance to modern urban lifestyles.

The post-Second World War imperatives for food and timber production have now gone and we have the chance to decide what landscapes we want for the future and how they need to be managed. As the economic drivers of production give way to the environmental drivers of resource protection and environmental services, the delivery of public benefit, in the widest sense, will become the justification for future funding.

There are, however, no mechanisms to pay for carbon storage, production of clean water or flood control. Land managers will have to develop new skills to meet the expectations of customers and deliver increasing environmental

standards. The government, through key bodies such as Natural England and the Environment Agency, will need to find new ways to encourage and reward land management that delivers public benefit through care of natural resources and supporting ecosystem services.

Ultimately the economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the uplands depends upon the natural resources of soil, air and water. Unless we can find ways to support the land management required for their protection we stand to lose the capacity to care for our most prized landscapes whatever we choose to use them for.

Historic farmsteads

Jeremy Lake
Characterisation Team, English Heritage
David Pickles
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England's historic farmsteads and their buildings vary enormously in scale and character, but until recently it has been difficult to fully appreciate them as an integral part of the present landscape. English agriculture has been marked by a steady enlargement of farm size from at least the 15th century, and by the 1930s it had the lowest percentage of the working population in agriculture in Europe (Fairclough 2002, 8–9). This process accelerated from the 1950s and, as a consequence of the restructuring of the farming industry, has rendered more traditional forms of building redundant for agricultural purposes.

Global pressures on farming – which now contributes less than 1 per cent to Gross Domestic National Product – will only increase in the next few years, particularly in upland areas. The maintenance of the great majority of farms will in future depend on finding new roles for them outside agriculture, but – despite a general appreciation of the landscape and historic value of farmstead buildings – there are considerable differences of opinion on how best to secure a sustainable future.

Research commissioned by English Heritage and the Countryside Agency (Gaskell and Clark 2005; Gaskell and Owen 2005) has established that an overwhelming majority of applications for residential use have been approved. Indeed, strong policies designed to resist new development in the wider countryside have resulted in pressure to convert the existing building stock. By 2004, more than 30 per cent of listed farm buildings had been converted, mostly to residential use (Gaskell and Clark 2005). Some of these conversions have been highly damaging to buildings and their settings.

Limited understanding of historic farmsteads in their broader context was identified as the greatest obstacle to targeting particular features and areas for grant aid and to developing local-plan policies that give priority to historic farmsteads. This is significant, as national planning policy has moved from advocating restraint on development in rural areas to the advancement of the principles of sustainable development, based on sound understanding of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of an area.

Methods for mapping landscape character have developed in response to this need, including the Joint Character Areas which are used to target funding for the natural and historic environment under the Agri-Environment Schemes, and English Heritage's Historic Landscape Characterisation programme. The need for the built environment to be part of this process, and for local character and context to inform high-quality design, has recently been reinforced by DCLG's *Guidance on Changes to the Development Control System*, effective from August 2006, and related guidance by CABE.

This research has highlighted the need for strategies for re-use to be informed by regional and local differences in patterns of settlement, redundancy, dereliction and conversion, and in farmstead and building character. This forms

A major aspect of farm-building conversion is how to incorporate daylight and functions that require subdivision. This is particularly difficult if a building is significant for its open interior, impressive proportions and long sight-lines, as at this Grade II* medieval barn now in use as car museum.

Drebley in Wharfedale. Upland landscapes are poised for considerable change. Drebley has a mix of cruck-framed and formerly heather-thatched barns, and large 19th-century combination barns, which have widely differing capacities for change. The Bolton Abbey Estate is developing methods for evaluating what buildings in the southern Dales need to be retained, adapted or salvaged for their materials.

one of the key recommendations in English Heritage's and the Countryside Agency's joint policy on farm buildings, *Living Buildings in a Living Landscape: Finding a Future for Traditional Farm Buildings*. This document includes a region-by-region analysis of the drivers for change as well as illustrated summaries on the historical development and landscape context of farmstead buildings.

The policy is supported by much larger Preliminary Regional Character Documents, consultative documents which represent an initial attempt to understand the farmsteads of each region in their national and landscape context. To supplement this policy work, English Heritage's Conservation Department has produced detailed guidance on the adaptive re-use of farm buildings (*The Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A Guide to Good Practice*). This guidance is intended to help individuals and local authorities make better-informed decisions about the future use of farm buildings and their capacity for change. High standards in design and implementation are promoted where conversion is considered as a viable and appropriate option, and an assessment framework is included to help inform pre-application discussion and subsequent decision-making.

This assessment framework is now being developed in consultation with land managers, planners and other key partners in North Yorkshire and the South-East region. Image-based character statements are being prepared as a core part of a web-based product that will inform the identification of key farmstead and building types in their landscape and national context. As well as assisting the targeting process, these will inform the pilot development of character-based local-plan policies and help owners, land managers and local authorities to align an understanding of historic farmsteads and landscapes with their sensitivity to change.

This work has been informed by a pilot project in Hampshire (Lake and Edwards 2006), Sussex and the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which has demonstrated through GIS mapping that the dating and distribution of farmsteads in the landscape, and the rates of survival of different types of steading and building, are closely related to patterns of landscape character and type. For example, the highest densities of historic farmsteads and pre-17th-century buildings are concentrated within landscapes defined by dispersed farmsteads and hamlets and ancient patterns of fields and boundaries, such as in the High Weald of Sussex and Kent.

It is studies like this that will help us understand the capacity of distinct farmstead types and their landscapes to absorb change. This is important because recent work has shown that the adaptation of the existing rural building stock – and especially in areas characterised by dispersed farmsteads and hamlets – is account-

ing for as much housing growth as in urban areas (Bibby 2006). This new understanding, combined with evolving life–work patterns, will challenge some existing assumptions and must inform an open debate about the future shape of our rural landscapes and communities.

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Rural places of worship

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For rural people, the presence of a church of any denomination provides a local rooted-ness that extends beyond the congregation to the whole community. This stems not only from the presence of a building, often seen as a special sacred place, but also from people's need to involve their faith at crucial stages of life. The annual cycle of prayer and celebration are considered to contribute to a sense of belonging and well-being.

These findings come from a recent research report supported by Defra, *Faith in Rural Communities: Contributions of Social Capital to Community Vibrancy*. People who attend church regularly make a significant contribution to community vibrancy, most importantly through their voluntary roles in village life, both formal and informal, and through their engagement with church-based activity. For many people

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A modest former Baptist chapel in Icklingham, Suffolk, hardly recognisable after the 'improving' additions of a tarmac drive, mass-produced joinery and a big plastic cover for the gas cylinder.

this activity is a conscious outworking of their faith. Residents in the places studied valued the contribution of people of faith, acknowledging that without it community life would be the poorer. Policy-makers in all levels of government and the voluntary and community sector need to recognise and acknowledge this contribution. This equally applies to churches themselves, and the challenge for all is to learn more about this contribution and to work collaboratively together.

Seeds in Holy Ground – A Workbook for Rural Churches (2005) is a resource designed to enable small rural congregations to engage with these issues, giving good examples of existing projects. Both it and the Defra report are available from the Arthur Rank Centre at www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk or by email from katrinas@rase.org.uk.

The 2005 *Heritage Counts* report by English Heritage (www.heritagecounts.org.uk) highlighted the 'particularly high concentration of listed parish churches in the countryside' and Trevor Cooper has pointed out that eight rural dioceses 'look after a quarter of parish church buildings with hardly more than one tenth (11%) of the population' (Cooper 2004). The picture is less easy to assess for the other denominations. The 2005 English Church Census found that although church-going overall is still declining (at a slower rate than in the 1990s) there is real evidence of growth in some areas and denominations.

The Church of England's Building Faith in our Future project (www.cofe.anglican.org/about/buildingfaith/buildingfaith/index.html) continues to gather examples of parish churches housing 'community' uses, and a debate in the General Synod in February 2006 demonstrated the strength of support for keeping rural churches open by widening their use beyond regular worship. As 'secular' uses are much less acceptable or physically possible to accommodate

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The interior of the Grade II* church at Wentworth, Cambridgeshire, recently repaired with the aid of English Heritage and Heritage Lottery Fund grants. Since 1992, the nave has also been used as a hall, with folding screens to join up the two spaces. Toilets, storage and kitchen are at the back.

within non-Anglican churches and chapels (so adjacent halls are used instead), this route will not necessarily ensure the conservation of these places of worship. With less historic attachment to their places of worship, non-Anglican congregations are more likely to share one place of worship or to adapt a hall for both purposes and sell the surplus buildings.

The initiative and sustainable success of alternative uses within active places of worship usually owes much to individual effort at congregational level. Effective partnerships with others also often come about through personal contact, rather than through any co-ordination within the denomination or with a regional authority. Local and regional planners could better understand the needs of the congregations and match them up with their sustainable community targets if there was greater denominational participation in Local Strategic Partnerships. If the denominations themselves could establish a coherent overview of the role of their buildings within their own mission strategies, then long-term management of listed places of worship could be much improved.

English Heritage actively encourages strategic overviews in two ways in Solution 2 of the Inspired! campaign (www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired!). First, we have part-funded diocese-wide studies of churches so as to establish their architectural quality and consequently, the scope for acceptable alteration. Second, we are also offering to part-fund and train 'historic building support officers'. Their exact function will vary according to local needs and any partnerships that might be created –for instance, with regional rural organisations. Initially, these officers will need to establish which congregations and listed buildings require active support from their denominations and outside bodies to achieve a sustainable future. They can then advise and guide the projects, possibly in partnership with others looking for premises or by getting a major repair and re-ordering programme under way. New partnerships and a degree of open thinking will be needed if these focal historic buildings are to re-establish their value to their community and so survive for future generations to use.

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Affordable rural housing and the historic environment

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The population is rising proportionately faster in England's countryside than in its towns and cities. As surveys consistently demonstrate that a majority of people wish to live in the countryside, this trend looks set to continue. This pressure, together with planning constraints intended to protect the countryside from inappropriate development, has resulted in significant rises in house prices in most rural areas. The corresponding shortage of affordable housing makes it difficult for those on lower incomes, including the young, to enter the housing market. Recent research suggests that 45 per cent of prospective newly forming households in rural areas could not afford to set up home in the rural ward where they currently live.

Last year, in response to this, a government commission on affordable rural housing, chaired

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Right: In Corfe, Dorset, careful design and use of local materials ensure that new affordable-housing units are in keeping with the historic character of the village.

The White Hart Yard scheme, developed by the Eden Housing Association in a derelict Grade II-listed stables within a Conservation Area, provides 12 much-needed affordable rented homes in Penrith, Cumbria.

by Elinor Goodman, made a series of recommendations designed to increase the supply of low-cost-housing schemes. From a heritage perspective, the provision of affordable housing is also important in terms of rural areas. We endorse the argument that communities tend only to be truly sustainable if they include a mix of people of different ages and backgrounds and serve the needs of those on lower as well as higher incomes. More pertinently, the provision of affordable housing is important in terms of sustaining the fabric of historic communities and the character of the landscape. Research by CPRE and the National Farmers' Union has highlighted an increasing lack of locally available craftsmen in rural areas. While new training initiatives may begin to address these skills shortages, affordable housing will also be required for people engaged in craft and land-management activity if they are to live and work locally.

Full implementation of the recommendations of the commission would cause a significant rise in the numbers of affordable-housing schemes brought forward in historic small towns and villages. The commission has, for example, proposed that 11,000 new units of affordable housing should be provided per year in settlements below 10,000 population.

English Heritage does not believe the historic character of these places should normally be an impediment to providing this housing, but we consider it essential that high standards of design and implementation are adopted to avoid erosion of sense-of place and local diversity. We therefore welcome the commission's recommendation that the need for good design in sensitive locations be recognised in the allocations made by the Housing Corporation to local scheme providers.

During 2007, following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, English Heritage will publish guidance on delivering sympathetic affordable housing developments in historic rural settlements. We will also explore in more detail the contribution historic buildings could make to enhancing supply. While some historic buildings are unlikely to be suited to re-use for affordable housing projects, either in terms of their market value or the need to retain their character, others may offer more scope and we are keen to identify examples of good practice.

The challenges facing rural World Heritage Sites

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World Heritage Sites are places of outstanding universal value to all humanity, selected by the intergovernmental World Heritage Committee under the terms of the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention. The UK has 27 World Heritage Sites of which 17 are English. By joining the World Heritage Convention, governments undertake to identify, conserve, present and transmit to future generations heritage of outstanding and universal value. It is up to each state party to decide how it is going to do this.

The convention is unique among international conservation treaties in dealing with both natural and cultural heritage. The definition of cultural heritage in Article 1 of the convention defines sites as the 'works of man or the combined works of man and nature' so that the idea of human influence on the environment

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The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site, including the medieval St Catherine's Chapel. Inscribed as a natural site, the Coast also has very strong cultural values.

was present from the outset. In fact it took some time for the committee, its advisory bodies, ICOMOS for culture and IUCN for nature, and its secretariat, to work out an approach to the identification and management of sites representing 'the combined works of man and nature'.

The breakthrough came only in 1992 with the recognition of cultural landscapes as a category of cultural World Heritage Site. In World Heritage terms, cultural landscapes 'are illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal'.

This definition matches well with the holistic approach to landscape developed in the UK over the last two decades. However, of the 17 English World Heritage Sites, only the Cornish Mining Landscape (in fact both rural and urban) is formally recognised as a cultural landscape. None the less there are a number of other English sites that are sufficiently extensive and sufficiently rural in character to require a landscape-scale approach to their management. These include Stonehenge and Avebury,

© RSPB

A volunteer helps to clear scrub from the Normanton Down group of Bronze Age barrows in the Stonehenge World Heritage Site.

Hadrian's Wall and its buffer zone, Blenheim Palace and its park, Studley Royal Park (including Fountains Abbey), and the Jurassic Coast, the only natural World Heritage Site in England.

The UK system for protection and management of World Heritage Sites does not add to existing statutory controls but does require production of a non-statutory Management Plan on behalf of all the key stakeholders. These plans should ensure an appropriate balance between conservation, access, sustainable use of the resource, and the interests of the local community. To be effective, it is also essential that the process of producing them should develop the consensus needed for their successful implementation. Experience shows that a joint and holistic approach to managing the rural areas included in World Heritage Sites depends on the vision, aims and policies set out in the Management Plan, underpinned by the habits of joint working that were developed during its preparation. The objectives relate not just to the outstanding universal value of each site but to the full range of natural, cultural and social values that it represents.

This has stimulated public agencies, landowners and others with interests in such sites to work together. A notable example has been the use of agri-environmental funds (see Hunns in this issue, pp 35–7) in the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site to encourage landowners to revert arable land to pasture, thereby improving the setting of parts of the site and protecting archaeological sites. It has also been possible to use agri-environmental funding to achieve various wider objectives within the site, for example enabling the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to establish a reserve for breeding stone curlews and to use volunteers to clear scrub off the Normanton Down group of barrows. Coupled with the reintroduction of grazing by sheep, this has greatly improved the visibility and appearance of the barrows. The scheme has thus met a number of objective relating to both cultural and natural objectives. Elsewhere it has been possible to improve access, as at the West Kennet Long Barrow near Avebury where agri-environmental funds have enabled the creation of a broad access strip to the barrow as well as increasing the area of pasture around it.

The high profile of World Heritage Sites and their requirement for Management Plans has been an important catalyst in developing approaches to the holistic management of such places. The process provides valuable insights and lessons that can be transferred to other special areas with multiple values and uses.

Minerals extraction and the historic environment

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From the stone in Stonehenge to the iron in Ironbridge, the extraction of minerals in prehistory through to the modern era is a story of remarkable human endeavour and ingenuity, in sometimes extreme and hazardous environments. Nevertheless, the scale and technical proficiency of the modern extractive industries means that they can have profound effects – both positive and negative – on what we value most about the historic environment. These effects can occur in terrestrial, subterranean and marine contexts.

Government mineral planning policy emphasises the importance of ensuring that extraction is carried out according to the principles of sustainable development, both in terms of minerals supply and by adopting an integrated approach to the consideration of social, economic and environmental factors (*Minerals Policy Statement 1* (MPS1), DCLG 2006).

Recently developed English Heritage policy on mineral extraction and the historic environment reflects these aims under three headings:
- the historic significance of mining and quarrying sites and landscapes
- the impacts on the historic environment that can be caused by mineral extraction together with advice on appropriate mitigation measures
- the need for, and supply of natural stone and other materials required to conserve the historic environment and maintain local distinctiveness.

The legacy

Mineral extraction in the past has created a widespread and, in some areas, fundamental social, economic and environmental legacy. Its physical remains therefore form a significant part of today's historic environment. Each generation has placed its own values on this legacy with attitudes changing radically over time and continuing to change. Historic remains initially perceived as derelict structures and land may eventually become highly valued, particularly as the pool of surviving examples declines over time – requiring difficult, pragmatic choices on what is conserved for future generations.

In recent years our understanding of historic mining and quarrying sites and landscapes has developed rapidly, as part of the growing interest in industrial archaeology. The contribution of voluntary sector special-interest groups has been an important factor in this development. Frequently these groups have developed as a response to community associations with the extractive industries that have developed over many generations, and which have become imbued with a strong sense of local identity and heritage.

English Heritage and its voluntary sector partners believe that concerted endeavour is required to raise general awareness of the extent, significance and cultural value of former mining and quarrying remains if the legacy of the extractive industries is to be safeguarded,

Impacts and mitigation

Survey and excavation have revolutionised our understanding of the past as a result of the minerals industry's compliance with the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance* notes 15 and 16. The environmental costs, however, can be considerable. In addition to the destructive

The mineral legacy: mine engine-house at Botallack, Cornwall. In 2006 the Cornwall and West Devon mining industry was inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

A geologist tests the suitability of stone for historic building repairs.

impacts within the footprint of minerals extraction, the surface disposal of mineral waste can preclude appreciation of historic sites. Inappropriate restoration of former sites can also disfigure the historic character of the landscape and compromise the setting of ancient monuments. Noise, dust and the vibration caused by the regular passage of minerals-related heavy traffic can similarly damage the fabric of historic buildings and reduce opportunities for their enjoyment and appreciation.

Nevertheless, more effective approaches to mitigation are being developed, both for terrestrial and marine-dredged extraction (see Cole in this issue, p. 40). Dialogue between heritage professionals, mineral planners and the minerals industry is needed to ensure mitigation meets sector standards, as well as the test of 'reasonableness' required by the planning process. It is particularly important for these sectors to continue to develop strategic approaches to understanding the significance and distribution of historic sites and landscapes in order to ensure effective protection for the most significant sites and to limit the cost of compliance for the industry. Areas actively under discussion include: approaches to the pre-determination evaluation of land proposed for extraction; measures to ensure that the numerous 'old minerals permissions' (granted between 1948 and1982) comply with modern requirements for safeguarding the historic environment and mitigation; and the appropriate restoration, end use and aftercare of former extraction sites.

Natural building and roofing stone

Government policy (set out in MPS 1 and its annexes) has now recognised the importance of supplies of stone for conserving historic buildings and for maintaining local distinctiveness during new build. Re-opening old quarries, however, has become increasingly contentious and many applications have been subject to strong objections. Using authentic sources of stone is nevertheless essential if local character is to be maintained and individual buildings are to be repaired effectively.

Planning authorities are now charged with safeguarding important sources of stone that could be used for these purposes. The problem is that too often little is known about the stone used on historic and vernacular buildings – or where it came from. English Heritage has begun a major national study to draw together the very considerable amount of fieldwork and archival work that has already been done – but currently this mostly resides in *ad hoc* collections or as undocumented specialist knowledge.

Although a primary aim is to protect important sources for the benefit of the historic environment, there are other tangible benefits to rural areas in these highly sustainable operations. Winning the material is still very much a hand-crafted operation that involves minimal traffic movements. Local farmers have found this form of small-scale quarrying an effective form of diversification that also results in local employment.

Winning stone is essential but there is no intention of needlessly destroying old quarry sites that are now recognised for their archaeological, geological or wildlife interests. The aim will be to find new sites where closely matching stone can be won with the least damage. Failing that, mitigation measures will be expected to minimise harm and conflict if there are competing interests on the site in question.

It is something of a paradox that English Heritage might seek to protect old quarry workings as an industrial legacy, but at the same time want to exploit such reserves for much needed stone. But this is the stuff of conservation. Accommodating all competing interests in mineral extraction, its aftermath and old quarry sites may often be contentious. Those with a particular interest in the historic environment will need to articulate the full significance of the asset. Having this information ready before detailed consideration begins will be a necessity if the site or resource is to be effectively conserved or used.

The Weight of Evidence

If we want to care for England's rural landscapes we have first to understand their historic origins and changing condition.

England's Landscape: a review

Trevor Rowley

Just over 50 years ago W G Hoskins wrote *The Making of the English Landscape* (1955). It was a modest book of only 240 pages with monochrome photographs and plans, but one which advocated a fresh approach to England's history, using the landscape as a primary source, and one which was to have a profound impact on local and regional studies. Since that date hundreds of books incorporating a landscape theme have been published, including an incomplete county series by Hodder and Stoughton, edited by Hoskins himself. The new English Heritage series*, however, is by far the most ambitious, and the most successful. The series was the brainchild of Sir Neil Cossons and its publication is a personal triumph representing one of his most significant achievements as chairman of English Heritage.

Over the past half-century, historians, archaeologists and geographers have investigated different aspects of the English landscape, using increasingly sophisticated analytical techniques, such as geophysics and aerial reconnaissance. Our knowledge of landscapes from the Neolithic to the 20th century has expanded greatly. The synthesis of all this work forms the basis of the new English Heritage regional series, from Stonehenge to Sellafield.

The division of the country into eight regions is a sensible one, but as always regionalism in England tends to fall apart in the centre. Hence there are anomalies such as the Derbyshire Pennines appearing in *The West Midlands* and the Upper Thames Valley in *The East Midlands*. There is also some territorial duplication, for example, Dorset appears in *The West* and in *The South East*. The absence of a regional tradition of historical writing in some cases leads to an element of serendipity in the choice of areas/topics to be covered. The most serious omission resulting from this is the treatment of urban areas. The rural landscape makes up over three-quarters of England and as it is incredibly photogenic it is natural that it should dominate all the volumes, but major conurbations such as Liverpool and Southampton are dealt with perfunctorily. The topography of a number of ancient county towns, such as Shrewsbury, Warwick and Gloucester, not to mention the absence of a whole layer of provincial market towns, is hardly covered at all.

Similarly, the second half of the 20th century's own contribution, 'exurbia', defined by Neil Cossons in his introduction as 'that mixed-use land between city and country that owes nothing to either', is understandably but unfortunately almost completely neglected. The absence of a common template for the series also leads to omissions. Although each volume follows a general chronological framework, authors – or author/editors in some case – have been given the freedom to explore their own region in their own way. In the case of Tom Williamson's excellent *East Anglia,* for example, the licence to develop his ideas on the relationship between landscape, settlement and soils, has led to a strong integrated volume. Other volumes are more loosely structured and adopt a more thematic approach; the chapter headings for Angus Winchester's *The North West* are typical of this: 'Moving through the Landscape', 'Expansion of Power', 'Places of Prayer' and 'Industrial Heritage. Roger Kain's *The South West* rather loses its way towards the end, concentrating on definitions of landscape and heritage; interesting material but out of place here.

The books are all beautifully produced and the high quality of illustrations is common to all the volumes – many of the photographs, most of which are in colour, were taken especially for this series. The breathtaking aerial views of former and extant field systems above Grassington in Wharfedale exemplify this high standard of photography (*The North East,* 140–1). There is also a good mix of site, building and landscape photographs in most of the volumes. The editors also make generous use of old photographs, estate maps,

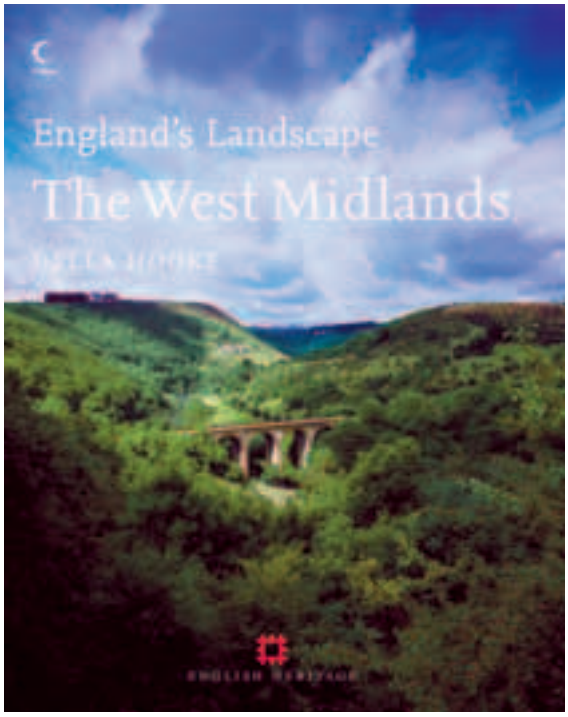
technical diagrams and reconstructions.

The use of all-colour plans is a particularly attractive feature of the series. Many familiar maps of planned towns and deserted villages have been reproduced in colour giving them freshness and a new life. An exception to this is the use of Geological Survey solid geology maps, which have had to be over-reduced, giving rise to ugly black smudges in areas of geological complexity.

Most of the themes explored are familiar ones, each region playing to its own strengths. Hoskins would have been surprised at the extensive coverage of the prehistoric landscapes, both surviving and erased. He would have been equally surprised by the treatment of the period from the Romans to the Normans, which is given considerable coverage in *The West Midlands*, but only touched upon in *The North East*. This remains the most interesting and enigmatic of eras when the framework of the medieval and modern landscape developed. Della Hooke uses place-names and territorial boundaries to track the expansion of agriculture and settlement in *The West Midlands* while Williamson relies upon soils and settlement for the same job in *East Anglia*. A combination of the two approaches should yield impressive results.

Happily little space is given to the accountancy approach of landscape evaluation, which has become a buzz phrase in recent years through the Countryside Character Initiative. The process of characterising and grading historic landscapes undoubtedly is of importance in development control, but the problem is that all too often the process is given priority over content. There is no substitute for integrated academic analysis for understanding historic landscapes and ultimately such evaluations must form the basis of long-term conservation policies. To use Hoskins's phrase, the English landscape is a 'palimpsest', that is a document on which each generation has erased a little and added a little. These books clearly show that it is not a series of single footprints, it is a delicate and complicated matrix incorporating the physical evidence of cultural activity over the centuries.

The *English Landscape* series contains much of interest and value to the specialist but the books are not definitive. Despite this they provide a sound basis for taking English landscape research forward into the 21st century. If properly promoted they will also introduce the non-specialist to the joys of landscape history. The illustrations themselves demonstrate what a beautiful and richly varied landscape survives in England today, what a wealth of historic buildings and monuments there are, and how vulnerable these are to the global economic juggernaut. The publication of the series comes at an important time, coinciding as it does with ratification of the European Landscape Convention. It should remind policy-makers that landscape is much more than nature conservation, it is a unique cultural legacy, to be handled with great care. The texts are refreshingly jargon-free and will inform the lay reader of the ideas, approaches and concerns of the landscape historian today. The major drawback to the widespread dissemination of the series is the cost: £35 each is a reasonable price for such beautiful volumes but it will deter the casual reader from acquiring even one book in the series. It is to be hoped that the series will soon appear in paperback, a move that would immediately broaden its accessibility. Building on Hoskins's foundations the *England's Landscape* series is a potentially powerful and timely affirmation of the irreplaceable cultural composition of the English landscape.



The eight regional studies that make up *England's Landscape* explain how it came to be the way it is, and why it helps us experience that most neglected of emotions – a sense of place.

* The eight volumes that comprise *England's Landscape* are published by Collins in association with English Heritage. For full details, see *Conservation Bulletin* 53, 43–4

Mapping the landscape

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Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and the National Mapping Programme (NMP) are complementary programmes. Each has its own aims, timetable and uses, but they can be used together to support strategic planning and other research.

Characterisation

Over the last decade 'characterisation' has become a many splendoured thing; the techniques developed for use in rural areas have been adapted to urban and metropolitan contexts, and even individual sites. The projects help us convey our understanding of the historic environment in better ways and have delivered real benefits in many areas such as informing Local Development Frameworks and Regional Spatial Strategies (see *Conservation Bulletin* 47, Winter 2004–5).

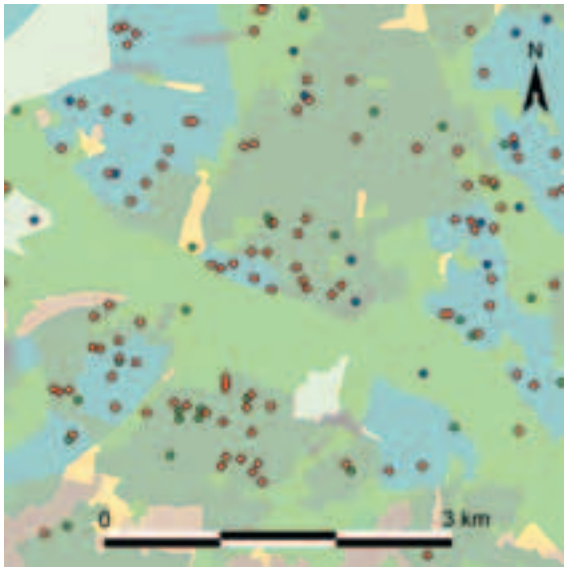
At the heart of all this work, the original programme of HLC has continued steadily to grow. Working with partners in local authorities, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, we have now covered something like 80 per cent of England at the county scale. HLC uses existing maps, aerial photographs and other sources to explain the stages that have led to the present appearance of the landscape, and describe why one area differs from another. It is comprehensive in outlook. Every part of the landscape is considered and mapped, irrespective of whether it has remained much the same for centuries on end, or changed beyond all recognition in recent years.

Static or dynamic, landscape is a material record of choices made by people in the past and must be studied in its entirety. The generalised picture provided by HLC is mainly concerned with visible features at a broad landscape scale – field boundaries, patterns of woodland and rural settlement, commons, parkland – all elements which appear on modern and historic editions of the Ordnance Survey maps and can be interpreted with reference to a range of local historical sources, as well as non-specialist vertical aerial photography.

The National Mapping Programme

The NMP is a linked series of projects that aims to enhance our understanding of the historic environment, and like HLC, has developed and broadened in scope over many years (see *Conservation Bulletin* 39, 2000). The approach is more detailed than that of HLC. NMP uses the careful analysis of tens of thousands of historic and specialist photographs to

Characterisation at a local level undertaken by Atkins Heritage to inform plans for future changes at the Scampton RAF base in Lincolnshire – the former home of the 'Dambusters' and a key part of the UK's Cold War defence strategy.



Newton St Cyres, Devon: combining the evidence of maps and aerial photography. Historic Landscape Character areas: blue = Barton Field, grey-green = medieval enclosure based on strip fields. National Mapping Programme site distribution: red = prehistoric and Roman sites, green = medieval or later sites.

Source: Historic Environment Service, Cornwall County Council

identify, map and record archaeological sites and landscapes, the vast majority of which do not appear on any Ordnance Survey mapping. Some 34 per cent of the country has benefited from an NMP project and the aim is to complete 40 per cent by 2010. More than half of the sites mapped by NMP have not been recorded before and so the impact on our understanding of the development of the landscape is often dramatic and greatly enhances both the quality and quantity of data made available through the National Monuments Record and Local Authority Historic Environment Records.

NMP and HLC: a case study in North Devon

A recent project in North Devon has started to look at how the HLC and NMP can be used together as a predictive tool to aid the management of the heritage landscapes of a rural area in the light of the potential development of a biomass energy power station at Winkleigh. The project was undertaken by the Historic Environment Service of Cornwall County Council, with previous experience of both HLC and NMP, and was designed to look at a representative 10 per cent of the landscape using transects that encompassed a wide variety of landscape types that had already been classified by HLC. The project team used evidence gleaned from existing NMR and HER records in conjunction with detailed interpretation of 5,000 aerial photographs to produce mapped layers of archaeological information. The methodology proved dramatically effective; in the 400 sq kms covered by the Winkleigh NMP transects, 1,678 individual sites were recorded. Of these 80 per cent were previously unrecorded and they included 149 new prehistoric or Roman enclosures and 18 possible new Bronze Age barrows – a very significant addition to our knowledge of the pre-medieval landscape.

Results were not uniform across the area and a significant relationship between density of sites and some of the HLC landscape types was identified. Medieval-derived fields cover much of the landscape and although NMP discovered sites across the whole range of types the greatest density was in the areas classified as Barton Fields. The correlation between HLC and NMP opens up new avenues for targeted research, such as the question of whether this is a genuine reflection of more intense pre-medieval land-use on the better soils, or solely because the underlying soils and current land-use benefit the identification of archaeological sites; vital points for well-informed resource management. The NMP results suggest that a project covering the whole area would increase the total number of recorded sites on the Devon Historic Environment Record by between 40 and 50 per cent Clearly, to assess the full potential of the archaeological resource for a specific area, NMP methodology can provide a very effective first stage to the necessary work. The results also suggest that HLC can be used to guide where NMP or other techniques will most valuably be employed and also provide a framework for the analysis of these records.

HLC and NMP are not stand-alone resources, but an integrated part of the historic environment record. They are both spatially defined and so can be integrated easily with other similarly constructed datasets such as the National Monuments Record and the suite of local authority Historic Environment Records. NMP ensures that we have an up-to-date view of the detail of the archaeological resource, while the 'high-level' view of the landscape in HLC provides an historically informed landscape context for the distribution and survival of archaeological sites and monuments from all periods.

Understanding the rural landscape through archaeological survey

Peter Topping
Head of Archaeological Survey and Investigation, English Heritage

The countryside is an important resource. It not only feeds us and provides an environment for exploration, enjoyment and education, but locked into its hedgerows and walls, field patterns, old buildings and earthworks, lies the history of where we have come from. If we look carefully, we can discover the ebb and flow of settlements – the remains of prehistoric and medieval farms lying beyond the limits of modern ploughing, testimony to warmer climates and perhaps pressure on land. From the geological evidence of retreating glaciers, we know climate change is not new, nor is resource depletion as witnessed by the decline of the UK's coal and iron industries. Such episodes have all left their marks upon the historic environment.

English Heritage's Archaeological Survey and Investigation Team (AS&I) have a long-standing commitment to provide definitive analytical fieldwork in rural and protected landscapes (see map, p 34). The specialism of landscape archaeology is non-invasive, rapid and comparatively inexpensive; it seeks to develop an understanding of historic landscapes through detailed observation and research. Our work draws in colleagues from Architectural Investigation, Aerial Survey and others, to create a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to the study of landscape.

In most cases, English Heritage's integrated fieldwork has been undertaken in partnership with key stakeholders such as the National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coasts, MoD Estates, English Nature, the Environment Agency and local authorities. The resulting multidisciplinary research has fulfilled joint agreements and been used effectively to underpin management and interpretation.

The following provides a flavour of the range of fieldwork undertaken by AS&I. Among AONBs, fieldwork recently focused upon the Malvern Hills, studied in conjunction with colleagues from the county archaeological services. The published results emphasised the role of these iconic hills as border territory and a place of spiritual significance, but also addressed key conservation concerns. Fieldwork in the Quantock Hills AONB has systematically studied the archaeology and historic buildings of the designated area, recording many new discoveries and complementing surveys of the natural environment; here, the historic environment was also promoted through guided walks, lectures and new interpretation boards at Scheduled Monuments.

During 2006 two new multidisciplinary projects began. First, English Heritage, in partnership with the Mendip Hills AONB and others, embarked upon a three-year study of this historic environment. As landscape-based research, it will provide context to the

Holwell Castle, Parracombe, Exmoor. The medieval strip lynchets and the village layout focus upon the earthworks of the motte-and-bailey castle, which were recorded as part of the Exmoor project.

Yvonne Luke © Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Miles Johnson (upslope), Countryside Archaeological Adviser for the Yorkshire Dales National Park, receiving training in analytical survey on a complex prehistoric settlement at Deepdale.

archaeological sites and historic buildings and address conservation concerns. Secondly, an investigation has begun of the lead-mining landscape in Scordale, within the Warcop Training Area and North Pennines AONB. Here, English Heritage is working with Defence Estates and Durham University, the British Geological Survey and others to explore the interaction between the historic and natural environments and the impacts of flash-floods and severe erosion upon the archaeology.

National Parks are also a major study area. For example, on Exmoor the Park commissioned English Heritage to undertake a baseline survey, which recorded archaeology from the prehistoric to the 20th century. The project publication *The Field Archaeology of Exmoor* by Hazel Riley and Rob Wilson-North (2001) helped to raise the profile of the historic environment in protected landscapes nationally and led to recent initiatives on Exmoor including excavations of ironworking sites, prehistoric enclosures and a survey of historic farm buildings.

In the Lake District research into the Cumbrian gunpowder and Furness iron industries, alongside surveys of mining and quarrying landscapes, have all addressed conservation issues and increased understanding of how industry has physically shaped Lakeland. Similarly, by responding to sectoral needs, AS&I has recorded a substantial body of data on Dartmoor's past, improving management strategies and tackling themes such as extractive industries, rabbit warrening and medieval agriculture. English Heritage has also pursued its own research agenda here through ongoing studies of the military ranges and peripheral metal mines, both for pressing management needs.

Occasionally, emergency fieldwork is required. In 2003 on Fylingdales Moor in the North Yorks Moors National Park, a heathland wildfire exposed a fragile multi-period landscape; archaeological fieldwork and aerial survey was used to inform subsequent remedial works and conservation strategies undertaken by the Park, English Nature and others.

Visitor presentation is often interlinked with management concerns, as can be seen with the hillfort trails laid out in the Northumberland National Park, which made good use of English Heritage fieldwork and anticipated the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Similarly, in partnership with various authorities, English Heritage has produced a series of heritage broadsheets designed to encourage people to explore the Howardian Hills AONB.

Developing or harnessing local interest in the historic environment is a core facet of English Heritage's strategy. At Boltby, in the North Yorks Moors National Park, AS&I worked with residents to produce a Millennium history of their village. Similarly, local volunteers are studying the long barrows of the South Dorset Ridgeway as part of a project focusing on the ancient routeway. Fieldwork continues within the Sussex Downs AONB, engaging with, and capacity-building within, local archaeological groups. Survey training has been provided at a number of locations and other investigations, including excavation, have been undertaken alongside outreach activities. As part of this, a broadsheet has been produced detailing the landscape development of Arundel. English Heritage also has a strong commitment to training fellow professionals to help skill the sector. In the Yorkshire Dales National Park, AS&I is currently training the Park Authority's Archaeological Countryside Officer at Langstrothdale.

The great value of landscape archaeology is its ability to provide a rapid holistic understanding of the historic environment through multi-disciplinary research, which can be used to inform management and interpretation, underpinning best practice. Where preservation is impossible, as with the alum works eroding from the North Yorkshire sea cliffs, such investigations can record sites that cannot be saved. Inevitably, the challenges facing this discipline are shared with the heritage sector: a finite resource faced with an increasing call upon its time. As the impacts of climate change and development pressures grow, the big challenge will be to provide enough information to inform the decision-makers from the relatively small number of professionals working within landscape archaeology.

Scheduled Monuments at risk

Vince Holyoak

Senior Rural and Environmental Policy Adviser, English Heritage

In 1998 English Heritage published the *Monuments at Risk* study, which showed that on average one archaeological site had been destroyed every day since 1945. These included Scheduled Monuments – historic sites designated as being of national importance – as well as undesignated archaeological sites. As the *Monuments at Risk* study demonstrated, although protected by law from deliberate damage, Scheduled Monuments can be subject to a wide range of processes that adversely affect their condition. These include animal burrowing, scrub and tree growth or general decay, all of which can be prevented or at least reduced by regular maintenance.

This problem is exacerbated because the owners of Scheduled Monuments do not have a legal obligation to maintain them in a positive condition in the way that applies to their nearest natural-environment equivalent, Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Effective management is therefore largely reliant upon good will and personal interest, although for rural monuments the new Defra agri-environment scheme may offer more powerful practical incentives. In certain cases English Heritage may be able to fund a management agreement, but with resources limited it is important that they are used in the most effective ways possible.

Since 2001 English Heritage has been engaged in a rapid assessment of all 19,500 Scheduled Monuments. The project has evaluated the condition, amenity value and setting of Scheduled Monuments in each region of England, the extent to which they are at risk and identified the key causes of loss and decay – referred to as the 'principal vulnerability'. The first of the studies – completed in the East Midlands in 2003 – showed that 527 (35 per cent) of the region's 1,493 monuments were at risk from damage, decay or loss. The main agencies putting monuments at risk were arable agriculture, development, the recreational use of the landscape and natural processes. Subsequent studies across the remaining regions have identified similar factors, but also underlined the variability in extent and degree of risk.

The data generated by the Scheduled Monuments at Risk initiative is still undergoing analysis, but will be ground-breaking in several ways. This is the first time that information on scheduled monument condition has been collected in a systematic rather than piecemeal way, and for this reason it will provide a robust baseline for monitoring future change. It will also help English Heritage's regional teams to target their own resources, and at the same time allow them to raise awareness amongst partner organisations about the issues affecting monuments and the ways in which they may be able unlock resources to help with their management.

As an example, the East Midlands survey showed that the greatest concentration of high-risk monuments was in the protected landscape of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which has allowed the problem to be formally addressed in the AONB's five-year management plan. The results of the Scheduled Monuments at Risk programme will also feed in to English Heritage's wider Historic Environment at Risk initiative – a commitment to provide the Department for Culture, Media and Sport with a means of measuring how well English Heritage and other government bodies are caring for the historic environment.

The Scheduled Monuments at Risk initiative will provide a baseline for measuring future change. This Martello tower on the East Coast is facing the combined threats of erosion, engineering works to mitigate the loss of the beach and physical isolation. Future management action will need to take prioritised account of these different kinds of risk.

Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in cultivation

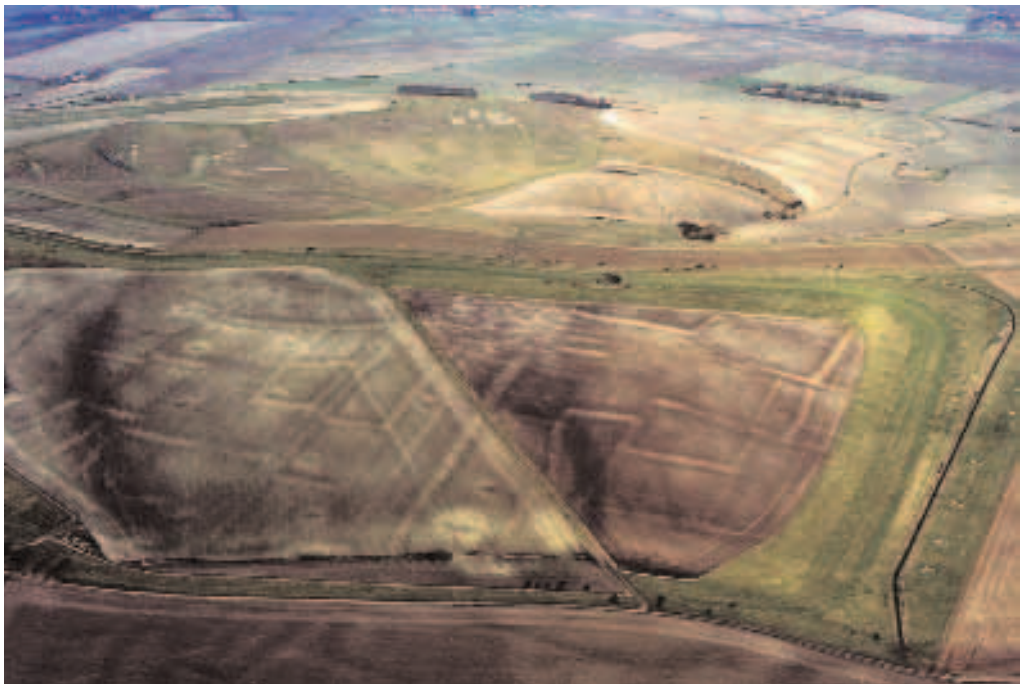
Fachtna McAvoy
Archaeologist, English Heritage
Vince Holyoak
Senior Rural and Environmental Policy Adviser, English Heritage

In 2003, concerned by the continuing loss and degradation of Scheduled Monuments by cultivation, English Heritage launched the *Ripping Up History* campaign. To the archaeological community this was not a new story and the aim was instead to raise awareness beyond the historic-environment sector. The campaign was well received, generating support from parliamentarians and a guarded yet positive response from farming organisations, who none the less highlighted the need for better cross-sectoral dialogue. As a result the government agreed to review the protection afforded to such sites under its Heritage Protection Review, and positive recommendations are expected to appear in the new Heritage White Paper.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that all sites under cultivation are being actively destroyed or that the only means of preventing damage is to return all monuments to grassland. In reality the story is more complicated. While many sites will be undergoing degradation as a result of the physical movement of tillage implements through the soil, soil erosion or efforts by the farmer to prevent compaction, the amount of damage will depend on a range of other factors. These include the location of the monument, the soil type, the crop being cultivated and the presence or absence of earthworks or buffer deposits – layers between the plough zone and the archaeological features beneath. This means that in some circumstances a monument undergoing cultivation will not suffer damage, while in others the level of damage can be significantly lowered by using practices such as direct drilling or non-inversion tillage rather than conventional ploughing.

Recognising the need for a range of responses rather than a 'one size fits all' approach to this problem, English Heritage and Defra jointly commissioned the Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC) project to develop and test a risk assessment and mitigation model for archaeological sites under arable.

Between 2003 and 2005 COSMIC used data generated by the earlier Scheduled Monuments at Risk pilot project to review a sample of monuments under cultivation in the East Midlands counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire. A total of 77 Scheduled Monuments and 39 unscheduled monuments was assessed, covering a range of variables that included topography, soil type and cultivation regimes. Three desk-top risk-assessment models were tested on each of the monuments and the postulated level of risk was evaluated against the actual damage using a series of trial pits at each monument. This led to the development of a fourth model, based on the best attributes of two of the originals, which proved to be very accurate when compared against the real risk.



The surviving fragments of these once-extensive prehistoric field systems across the Lambourn Downs, here visible as soil marks, illustrate the extent to which post-war arable agriculture has dramatically altered the English landscape.

Carrying out non-inversion tillage on a simulated archaeological earthwork at Cranfield University's Silsoe test site.

The project revealed that 42 per cent of the evaluated monuments were at serious risk from cultivation, with scheduled sites generally being at slightly higher risk (81 per cent at moderate, high or serious risk) than non-scheduled sites (78 per cent at moderate, high or serious risk). The variables that led to sites being most at risk were identified, as was the geographical spread of high-risk sites. For each site the project devised a series of management and mitigation options that could reduce the risk from cultivation and these were tested against farmer reactions.

One key finding was that the risk to all archaeological sites was compounded by the lack of awareness amongst farmers of the damage they can do to sites. The majority assume that the past removal of above-ground earthworks had robbed monuments of all significance and that no important buried archaeological deposits still exist. Even for scheduled sites 49 per cent of farmers said that the relevance of the archaeology had never been explained to them and 37 per cent did not think that their sites were nationally important. The COSMIC project identified a series of priority site-types for future management action. These included monuments with surviving earthworks or vulnerable archaeology (such as burials or mosaics) and monuments under root and tuber crops (such as potatoes or sugar beet), which affected 27 per cent of the scheduled sites assessed, 8 per cent more than non-scheduled sites. Monuments in fields which are particularly vulnerable to soil movement (such as those on moderate or steep slopes), on light soils or subject to root or tuber-crop harvesting were also more likely to be in the serious or high-risk categories.

The successful completion of the pilot project will help English Heritage and Defra to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective approach to reducing risk on a monument-by-monument basis. This will in turn be a valuable tool for identifying the correct management prescriptions for monuments entering Defra's Environmental Stewardship Scheme. However, there are not the resources to enter all such monuments into the scheme, nor is it likely that all farmers will wish to do so. In a follow-on project English Heritage and Defra have therefore commissioned Oxford Archaeology and Cranfield University's Soil Science department to undertake a five-year research programme to identify how active cultivation can be adapted to minimise the impact upon archaeological sites. The project will specifically review and make recommendations about the effectiveness of minimal and shallow cultivation techniques and other soil-management practices in preserving the archaeological resource. The research will examine differing soils, topography and arable regimes and will also develop cost-effective methods for monitoring the effectiveness of the recommended options. This will be achieved in part through work in Cranfield's laboratories and soil bin, but will also include field operations carried out on a series of specially constructed earthworks and sub-surface archaeological 'sites'.

It is hoped that the resulting recommendations will highlight as many opportunities for multiple benefits as possible. As an example, if cultivation practices could be designed to reduce soil compaction, this would also reduce the need for subsoiling, saving the farmer time and fuel costs and reducing water run-off. A single action could therefore bring positive outcomes for the historic environment, for farm businesses and for resource protection. However, as the earlier COSMIC project has highlighted, the key to successful outcomes for archaeological sites under cultivation is an effective working relationship with the farming sector – which will thus remain a priority for English Heritage and Defra over the coming years.

Managing Change in the Countryside

Maintaining the character of England's rural landscapes is going to depend on shared vision, creative solutions and strong partnerships.

Regional Development Agencies and rural heritage

Belinda Knight
Head of Rural Heritage and Tourism, South-East England Development Agency

Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) – what use are they for rural heritage? Sometimes they are perceived as working with urban areas, business, and large-scale regeneration projects, with little concern for rural heritage. That is not necessarily true – RDAs' framework means that, where competing resource priorities allow, they contribute a useful role as influencers and deliverers.

What can RDAs do? The structural framework

RDAs are bounded by a strategic framework within which all their activities must be set. Their purposes are formulated in the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998, which specifically instructs that the five purposes apply as much to rural areas as non-rural areas. This is appropriate – even within the South-East, often considered suburban and congested, where 80 per cent of the land mass, a third of the business base and a quarter of the population are rural. In summary, the act's five purposes comprise:

- furthering economic development and regeneration
- promoting business efficiency, investment and competition
- promoting employment
- enhancing skills for employment
- contributing to sustainable development where applicable.

From this statutory foundation, each RDA and its regional partners produce a Regional Economic Strategy (RES), revised at intervals. These reflect the different priorities of very diverse regions. An RDA's own contribution to the achievement of the region-wide RES is set out in its Corporate or Business plans, while government-set Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets measure achievement.

Funding is, of course, key. RDAs receive their money from government, mostly as a 'single pot' for them to determine their own priorities within the statutory rules and regionally agreed RES priorities. This welcome freedom ensures that diverse regional needs can be addressed in different ways. It is, however, an open secret that RDAs receive vastly different allocations, both in absolute and in per-head-of-population terms. These two factors – regional diversity, and varied funding – result in the variety of RDA approaches to rural heritage.

RDA activities are of two broad types – influencing, and delivery. Working with regional partners as a catalyst is a highly effective contribution to the regional economy, even when funding is limited. These two approaches are examined below.

The North-West Development Agency and One North East are two of the key players behind Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd, a partnership company set up to promote the economic, social and cultural regeneration of the World Heritage Site.

RDAs as influencer

Most RDAs participate in their region's Historic Environment Forum, where they

Photograph supplied by SEEDA

Yonsea Farm, near Ashford, Kent. The Traditional Buildings Preservation Trust and Centre for Rare Breeds have combined forces to give new life to this important Georgian farmstead, with the aid of funding from the South-East England Development Agency.

represent economic development in its widest sense. RDAs also have relationships with their Protected Landscapes. In the South-East, for example, 40 per cent (source: Office of National Statistics) of the land has a Protected Landscape designation, and we are fortunate to have a close relationship with the nine AONBs and one National Park that fall principally within the region (the South Downs is proposed, designated but not yet confirmed, as another National Park). These are key guardians of the rural landscape heritage. Another key landscape heritage partner is Natural England.

Sustainable tourism, both for the built and landscape heritage, is often a major economic activity for rural areas. Tourism organisations have changed significantly in recent years, and in some areas former tourist boards have been absorbed into RDAs. Irrespective of organisational structure, RDAs work closely with tourism functions, as well as bodies such as the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Houses Association, and some practical delivery examples are discussed below.

A less obvious, but important, relationship is with the Climate Change Partnerships. Climate change is the single most important factor affecting the future of rural heritage. For example, the South-East England Development Agency's (SEEDA) rural team participates in the Tourism Sub-group which aims to ensure that both public and private sectors of the visitor economy consider climate change in their planning and operations, to 'climate proof' their business and policy decision-making. This sub-group also has cross-regional links with its South-West counterpart.

RDAs as delivery bodies

RDA rural heritage delivery projects encompass a huge range of project type, not just for the built heritage. The transfer in October 2006 of existing England Rural Development Programme (ERDP) projects, and the aspects of the delivery of the new scheme that will replace it, to RDAs will increase available delivery funding, some of which can be directed towards heritage projects. The amount is unknown at the time of writing, but the demand is expected to outstrip resources.

Work to promote landscape heritage includes countryside education grants for work with schools – for example SEEDA gave money for Hampshire Country Learning to research school farm-visit issues. Another landscape heritage project worked with the region's protected landscapes on climate change, involving key partners in the UK Climate Impacts Programme, the South-East Climate Change Partnership, and others.

Rural local distinctiveness and horticultural heritage projects can be supported through local food group initiatives. Some RDAs have supported a single region-wide food group, with work on training, marketing and product development for producers of quality local foods.

Rural housing heritage is discussed elsewhere in this bulletin (see Trow, pp 15–16), but an example of RDAs' delivery role is the North-West Development Agency's housing-market-renewal work with heritage and craft skills.

Turning to the built heritage, and looking first at the small scale, some RDAs support schemes which use redundant buildings, for example the SEEDA-funded project at Yonsea Farm, Kent, to convert an 18th-century Listed granary into office accommodation for rural-based organisations.

At the special and spectacular end of the scale, Yorkshire Forward contributed £1.5 million towards the first phase of restoration at the Grade I-Listed gardens and parkland at Wentworth Castle and Stainborough Park near Barnsley, which featured on BBC's *Restoration* programme. This support complemented that of Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Learning and Skills Council, and others. New facilities for visitors and the local community will be created, including educational services. The first phase should be complete by the end of 2007.

Another example is the joint project by One North East and the North-West Development Agency at Hadrian's Wall. They have created a new organisation, Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited, to manage, maintain and preserve this

World Heritage Site. This partnership aims to realise economic, social and cultural regeneration of the site and its surrounding communities, through sustainable tourism, management and conservation activities.

Conclusion

From protected landscapes to local food, and from redundant building grants to honeypot tourist sites, rural heritage has many facets. RDAs' statutory and regionally agreed priorities often coincide with rural heritage aims. There are inevitable constraints of competing priorities for RDA staff time and funding, but within these parameters RDAs can be enthusiastic supporters and partners for rural heritage. Working both as influencers and delivery bodies, RDAs collaborate with partners to enhance the economic and social opportunities for rural heritage.

A sort of national property – not ours but ours to enjoy

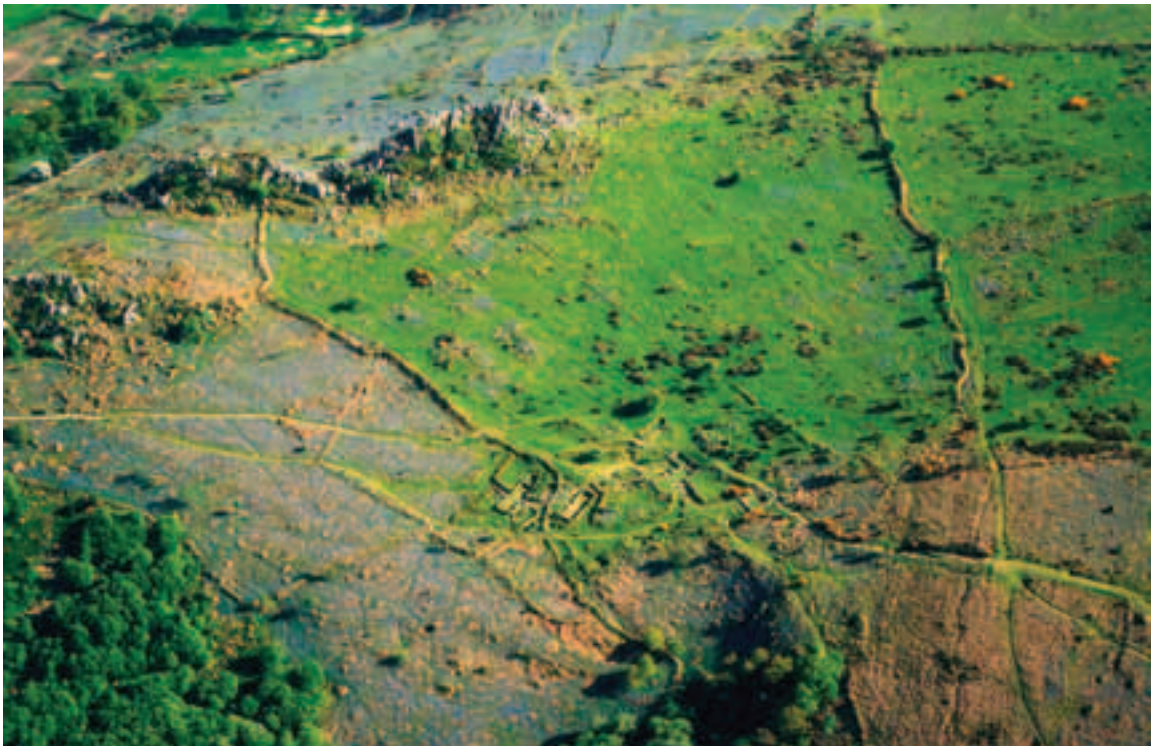
David Butterworth
Chief Executive, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Many of the most dramatic cultural landscapes in England can be seen in our National Parks. These landscapes, of national and international importance, range from the Broads, largely created through peat extraction in the medieval period, through the stone-axe factories of the Lake District to the valleys of the Yorkshire Dales, with their thousands of kilometres of drystone walls enclosing botanically rich meadows and pastures, punctuated by stone field-barns and overlying the remains of earlier phases of land use.

National Parks cover 10,506 sq km, about 8 per cent of the landscape of England and administratively form a unique part of the local government system (see map p 33). National Park Authorities (NPAs) have many of the powers of local authorities but their members are appointed: either by constituent local authorities or the Secretary of State. The NPAs are charged with the difficult task of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of their areas while promoting opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of those areas. Unlike many national parks elsewhere in the world the UK National Parks are not wilderness areas. Approximately 207,000 people live within the nine English parks, and most land within them is privately owned although the amount varies from 96 per cent in the Yorkshire Dales to 52.5 per cent in the New Forest.

The 1945 Dower report, which set the scene for the National Park legislation of 1949, recognised that 'the landscape was the joint product of nature and human use of many generations;

Riddings Farm, Reeth, Swaledale. The Yorkshire Dales is still a working agricultural landscape. Hay meadows and pastures, bounded by drystone walls and punctuated by field barns, are evidence for the pastoral farming of the last five centuries. They overlie the earthwork remains of medieval arable fields and prehistoric and Romano-British settlements. Of the 1,442 traditional farm buildings in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale, 1,044 are field barns.



The Hound Tor Premier Archaeological Landscape contains one of the largest deserted medieval settlements on Dartmoor as well as evidence for prehistoric farming. The ideal management requires the maintenance of a very short (50–100mm) grass sward. Bracken and gorse are encroaching: the bracken needs to be removed and the spread of gorse controlled.

it cannot be preserved in anything like its present aspect unless that human use is kept going'.

The 1949 Act, and the reports which preceded it, failed to recognise the pressures that would arise in the following half-century. These included the increase in private-car ownership, and increased mechanisation and intensification of agriculture, with its parallel reductions in the numbers employed in working the land and in the economic viability and consequent decline of rural services. These trends continue today and are accentuated by other factors such as the need for more sustainable energy supplies; variations in temperature and rainfall patterns and their effects on agriculture, biodiversity and the sustainability of rock and soil surfaces; enhanced animal-welfare standards which reduce the suitability of traditional farm buildings for animal husbandry; and a general decline in agricultural viability. While agriculture remains the major land use in National Parks, leisure pursuits such as grouse shooting are increasingly impacting on landscape management in some, and tourism is now the major economic sector in all. Dealing with these issues while having regard for the social and economic well-being of local communities and trying to maintain the special qualities of their areas is the challenge facing the National Park Authorities. The parks are not museums, preserving the landscape as it was – either in the late 1940s after five years of wartime activity and agricultural development, or a romanticised version of the landscape of the agricultural depression of the 1930s – but living, working landscapes that are in a constant state of change.

The NPAs' principal funding comes from central government (£43 million in 2006/7) but this is small in comparison with the sums available to other bodies dealing with the countryside, particularly Natural England and its predecessors, the Rural Development Service and English Nature. This has meant that the NPAs have become primarily enabling organisations, dealing with change through persuasion and advice, rather than directly intervening in the landscape. Partnership working is enshrined within the management plans produced by each NPA: management plans for the National Park rather than just the Authority. Since 1997 all NPAs have employed small teams of specialists to carry out the tasks of conservation and interpretation. These interdisciplinary teams are one of their strengths. Another is an ability to utilise the love people have for National Park landscapes by recruiting volunteers. Volunteer activities range from practical tasks such as footpath maintenance to monitoring the condition of listed buildings.

The NPAs seek to be exemplars of, and laboratories for, good landscape management. For example, the pilot Integrated Rural

Development project in the Peak District led to Farm Conservation Schemes being established in many National Parks. These pioneered the creation of Whole Farm Plans, informed by assessment (or survey) of historical and botanical assets – something now rolled out nationwide with Higher Level Environmental Stewardship (see Hunns this issue, pp 35–7). Another example, the Barns and Walls Conservation Scheme in the Yorkshire Dales, required the designation of the largest Conservation Area in the country and incorporated a 'use and condition' survey so that particularly important barns could be targeted for repair. This restoration work is mainly carried out by local contractors, and thus indirectly supports the wider local community (see Tunnicliffe this issue, pp 37–8).

The National Parks have an unparalleled archaeological resource, including 22 per cent of England's Scheduled Monuments. The slight remains of many archaeological landscapes are best seen in areas of close-cropped vegetation. The removal of grazing pressure due to the culling of livestock as a result of the foot-and-mouth outbreak of 2001, accentuated by stock reductions negotiated for biodiversity reasons, had a dramatic impact on the visibility of some landscapes while changes in agri-environment support mean that proposals for 'rewilding' have emerged. These demand careful scrutiny to ensure that pressures for biodiversity do not harm the evidence of thousands of years of cultural activity. To address this, the Moorland Futures project in Dartmoor brought together statutory agencies and hill-farmers to develop a vision of the moor in 2030. This process identified 14 Premier Archaeological Landscapes where the management of archaeology should take precedence over nature conservation interests and may offer a template for other areas.

Details of this and other innovative approaches adopted by the National Parks, many of which have attracted external funding, particularly from lottery and European sources, are detailed in *A Landscape Legacy* (available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/finestlandscapes), a book designed to inspire best practice in historic environment management.

AONBs: managing landscapes of complex value

Mike Taylor
Chief Executive, National Association of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Around 15 per cent of England's land area lies within 36 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), with comparable areas in Wales and Northern Ireland. These designated areas are among the most beautiful landscapes in England, but none are wilderness. Instead they are a record of human activity over many millennia. In some AONBs, such as West Penwith, Cornwall, or the North Wessex Downs, the prehistoric origins of the landscape are still a significant element of landscape character. In others, medieval landscapes survive intact, such as Braunton Great Field in North Devon, and many more AONBs include extensive enclosure landscapes or the results of 17th and 18th-century landscape design, the Howardian Hills being a prime example. Elsewhere the remains of industrial activity and abandonment are a dominant theme, as in Cornwall and the North Pennines. Modern activity has influenced the landscapes of all AONBs to a greater or lesser degree, with an unusual example provided by parts of Cannock Chase, as a result of its role in two world wars, as a prisoner of war camp, displaced persons settlement and army training ground!

The history of AONB landscapes is, therefore, a reflection of the historical and cultural changes that have taken place in the British Isles since the start of human history. While this

England's 9 National Parks and 36 AONBs are designed to conserve the country's finest natural and cultural landscapes. The map also shows the distribution of archaeological survey projects carried out by English Heritage in these designated landscapes (see pp 24–5).

The Quantock Hills AONB: a view of East Quantoxhead, Somerset

was not – and still is not – the primary purpose of a designation based on aesthetic criteria, it can be no accident that heritage and cultural considerations feature highly in the aesthetic judgements required for designation.

AONBs are complex landscapes that integrate a wide range of attributes, both physical and spiritual. In addition to their legacy of important geological, wildlife and historic sites and features, all AONBs have a strong 'sense of place' that evokes powerful emotions in people who live in them and visit them. This 'sense of place' owes much to the AONBs' cultural heritage, both through the physical remains of their historic landscapes and settlements or a rich artistic heritage, such as Wordsworth in the Wye Valley or A E Houseman in the Shropshire Hills.

Following the 1949 Wildlife and Countryside Act, government's main focus for almost the next 50 years was on designation. Attempts to stimulate more commitment from government and local authorities to the positive role the AONBs could play in delivering recreational, wildlife, heritage and educational policies met with limited success. In the 1990s, however, there was a noticeable change in the attitude of a wide range of organisations, stimulated by pressure from the Countryside Commission and by the increasing political profile of the dramatic changes in landscape quality wrought by post-war land-management policies.

In 2000 the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act for England and Wales confirmed that National Parks and AONB landscapes have the same status. In addition, Part IV of the Act introduced some important provisions that included:

- the creation of conservation boards for selected AONBs by means of an order by the Secretary of State
- requiring the preparation and publication of a Management Plan for every AONB, and its periodic review, and
- placing a duty on public bodies to have regard to the need to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB when carrying out their duties.

The introduction of these new arrangements has led to greater recognition of the potential of AONBs to contribute to a wide range of public interests. The preparation of management plans, through broadly based partnerships of local, regional and national bodies, provides an ideal mechanism for integrating the work of all those with an interest in the long-term future of these precious landscapes and the communities that live in, work in and enjoy them. The first round of management plans, produced between 2000 and 2004, all contain policies and programmes that will protect and enhance the historic environment in AONBs. The inevitably wide variation in the level of detail and commitment to deliver the action needed to achieve these objectives reflects both financial constraints and the recent origin of the newer partnerships.

Among the most positive measures in the CROW Act was the requirement for all public bodies to consider the interests of AONBs when developing their own policies. This has led to the formalisation of the developing relationships between AONBs and a range of public bodies, including heritage agencies. In December 2004, the Chairman of the National Association for AONBs signed a joint accord with the Chief Executives of English Heritage and CADW, which committed all three organisations to closer working, building on the good work that had already been achieved with the first generation of management plans. This closer co-operation between AONB teams and colleagues working in the heritage agencies is exemplified by *Outstanding Beauty: Outstanding Heritage* (available at www.english-heritage.org.uk/finestlandscapes), which highlights the range of joint initiatives already bearing fruit across England and Wales.

AONB management plans have to be reviewed every five years, with most coming up for review over the next three years. This provides an excellent opportunity for even

better integration of the historic and cultural objectives for AONB management with the landscape, wildlife and geology as well as the social and economic interests of the local communities. It will also be an opportunity to bring together a range of public organisations to help deliver the government's policies to make access and understanding of our rural heritage available to a wider audience through the Defra Diversity Action Plan due out in 2007. By working closely together in a true partnership, the delivery of the AONB management plans will provide an exemplar mechanism for all those with an interest in the future of our most treasured landscapes to reach those sections of the population who currently do not feel that the countryside is for them. This is an important step towards securing the broadly based and active public support essential if AONBs – and their heritage – are to gain the long-term political support required to ensure future generations enjoy the same pleasure, stimulation and fun as today's users.

Stewardship of the past: farming the rural historic environment

Victoria Hunns
Senior Historic Environment Specialist, Natural England

The role of Natural England

On 2 October 2006, Natural England, a new body charged with the conservation of the natural environment, was created. Natural England brings together three organisations: Defra's Rural Development Service, English Nature and the Landscape, Access and Recreation division of the Countryside Agency. As the government's statutory adviser on the natural environment, Natural England is responsible for conserving and enhancing the value and beauty of England's natural environment and promoting access, recreation and public well-being for the benefit of today's and future generations.

A key 'purpose' of Natural England is that of 'conserving and enhancing the landscape', which 'includes, but goes wider than, conserving the natural beauty of the landscape. It could for example cover conserving field boundaries (such as hedgerows and drystone walls), and monuments, buildings and sub-surface archaeological features which contribute to the landscape' (NERC Act 2006; Explanatory Notes to the NERC Act, 2006, Para 63). As such, Natural England can conserve and enhance the English landscape for aesthetic, cultural and historic purposes as well as those carried out for habitat protection purposes.

Natural England's strategic objectives, published in 2006, also emphasise the delivery of integrated environmental objectives and outcomes by making specific reference to the conserving and enhancing of landscape, cultural heritage and other features of the built and natural environment.

An important mechanism for this is through the administration and delivery of Defra's agri-environment schemes, which form part of the wider England Rural Development Programme (ERDP). These schemes, which reward land managers for undertaking good environmental practice on their farm holdings, are one of the principal sources of funding for the rural historic environment. In *Heritage Counts 2005* Defra reported that, over a five-year period,

Known from parish records to have been blown down in 1667–78 and rebuilt in 1702, this building was found to be a typical Sussex timber-framed barn underneath the external accretions. Using only the building's archaeological evidence, the HLS grant-aided works reinstated the thatched roof and wattle-and-daub infill. The restoration won a Sussex Heritage Award and the barn is now used to shelter participants attending wild-flower seed-harvesting demonstrations on the estate.

© Blaise Vyner

Piercebridge Roman fort and a modern organic farm in the Tees Valley. This 112-ha organic holding has an HLS agreement that includes measures to remove the *vicus* (the civilian settlement outside the fort) from cultivation, clear scrub to prevent root damage and repair an eroded section of the ramparts.

more than £90 million had been spent on 'historic environment features'. This included restoring some 7 million metres of traditional boundaries, more than 96,400 ha of parklands, in excess of 2,800 historic farm buildings and the protection of 132,200 ha of archaeological features, through measures such as scrub control.

Environmental Stewardship

In March 2005 a new agri-environment scheme, 'Environmental Stewardship' (ES, http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/default.htm), was launched in England, replacing the 'classic' agri-environment schemes – Countryside Stewardship (CSS) and the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA). This marked a significant shift in emphasis. Instead of offering grants only as incentives to farmers to *change* farming practices to safeguard and manage environmental features, the new scheme rewards farmers for *undertaking* good environmental practices. It operates on two levels – a 'broad and shallow' entry-level scheme (ELS) available to all farmers, achieving a basic level of environmental management; and a competitive, higher-level scheme (HLS), for those delivering more demanding environmental enhancements. HLS is 'targeted' at key features and areas that have been identified as priorities through national, regional and local consultation with stakeholders – including historic-environment partners.

ES is designed to provide an integrated, 'multiple-benefit' approach to land management and has five primary objectives that clearly recognise the potential for the scheme delivering benefits to the rural historic environment and the wider cultural landscape:

- wildlife conservation
- protection of the historic environment
- maintenance and enhancement of landscape quality and character
- promotion of public access and understanding
- natural resource protection.

In addition it has two secondary objectives:

- flood management
- genetic conservation.

Applicants to both the ELS and HLS choose 'options', which have clearly defined 'prescriptions' identifying the work or actions that a land manager needs to take. These are linked to 'indicators of success' that are specific, measurable outcomes.

The new scheme contains a much broader suite of options specifically designed to protect the historic environment. These include protecting archaeological sites in grassland, taking archaeological sites out of cultivation or restricting cultivation depth and maintaining weatherproof traditional farm buildings. Capital items available in HLS also enable the restoration of designed landscapes and non-domestic historic buildings and structures. Importantly, many of the options are designed to benefit more than one environmental interest. For example, options for the maintenance or restoration of hedgerows or boundary walls will help protect and conserve the historic environment, landscape character and biodiversity.

Raising awareness among land managers

The mechanisms in place for delivering the scheme increase awareness and understanding of the historic environment within the farming community. For the first time, land managers are made aware of known historic environment sites on their holding and are required, through scheme conditions, to protect these sites throughout the life of the agreement regardless of whether they choose an option to manage that feature. The information provided includes regionally as well as nationally important and designated historic features.

The more competitive HLS requires applicants to provide an audit of all environmental features on their holding – including historic environment features such as archaeological monuments, non-domestic historic buildings and designed landscapes – in a 'Farm Environment Plan' (FEP). The FEP holds data on every land parcel on the holding, including information on land use, the condition of identified features and recommendations for their management. Local authority historic environment professionals are formally consulted as part of the FEP process and play a critical part in providing information and advice on managing relevant aspects of the historic environment on a holding. Natural England also has a team of in-house Regional Historic Environment Advisers who help ensure that agreements offer the greatest value for money for all environmental interests and overcome potential conflicts in any proposed management.

Collecting this information is useful for several reasons – it enables both applicants and Natural England advisers to monitor the condition of features and to ensure that any options chosen do not damage historic features. It also leads to the discovery of new features, which is proving particularly important in relation to unlisted historic buildings, and allows correction of errors in HER data.

Successes

The government's objective is to get 60 per cent of all agricultural land into the entry-level scheme by the end of 2007, and so far uptake has been good with. More than one year from the launch of ES, we are starting to see historic-environment benefits. By the 1 February 2007, a total of 3,316 ELS and HLS agreements included 'historic environment' options, covering an area of more than 56,450 ha and committing over £11.5 million to HLS work over 10 years. The most popular option is currently for managing 'Archaeological Features on Grassland'; however the 'Maintenance of Weatherproof Traditional Farm Buildings' option, newly available in June 2006, has already proved to be a success with 276 agreements now including one or more buildings and a total ground-floor area of more than 136,500 square metres being maintained.

The future

Many historic sites are already benefiting from the 'classic' agri-environment schemes but many more lie on holdings within schemes, without being actively managed. This demonstrates the potential for better, more joined-up, heritage management if these agreements come into Environmental Stewardship. In 2005, more than 40 per cent of all Registered Parks and Gardens, 37 per cent of Scheduled Monuments, 34 per cent of all World Heritage Sites, and 28 per cent of Registered Battlefields fell wholly or partially within existing agreement land. The importance of agri-environment schemes to the ongoing protection of the rural historic environment cannot be overstated – a fact which is expected to be recognised in the forthcoming Heritage White Paper.

Building value in the landscape

Sarah Tunnicliffe
Rural and Environmental Policy Adviser, English Heritage

Traditional farm buildings are a major contributor to the distinctive local character of rural landscapes and can be an important economic asset for farm businesses. Maintenance and repair of these historic buildings not only sustains the appearance of landscapes, but can also deliver important benefits to local economies.

Over the last two years English Heritage and Defra, in partnership with the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities, have commissioned research to evaluate the social, economic and public benefits of publicly funded repairs to traditional farm buildings in both National Parks.

The Lake District project focused on the period 1998 to 2004, during which time Defra's grant-aid to owners of traditional farm buildings through the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Scheme was more than £6.2 million. The project sought to rigorously define the additional benefits delivered by this repair programme alongside the important heritage conservation dividends that were the primary objective of the work. These additional benefits included the creation of employment, inputs to

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Field barn at Healaugh, Swaledale, during repairs under an Environmentally Sensitive Area Conservation Plan.

the local economy, gains to farm businesses and landscape enhancement from the perspective of residents and visitors, as well as the development of an important skill base in traditional-building repair techniques.

The study demonstrated that between 25 and 30 full-time equivalent jobs had been created in the local economy, at least half of which were generated through direct employment on traditional farm building projects. Allowing for direct, indirect and induced effects, the scheme resulted in a total injection of £8.5 million into the local economy; every £1 of public expenditure on farm-building repair under the scheme was calculated to result in a total output within the ESA of £2.49.

Following the Lake District research, work began in 2006 on a project to examine the socio-economic benefits of repairs to historic farm buildings and boundary walls in the Yorkshire Dales National Park between 1998 and 2004. The research applied the same methodology as the Lake District study but considered a variety of funding programmes, including the ESA, and the National Park Authority's own Farm Conservation Scheme and Barns and Walls Conservation Scheme. Once again, the study demonstrated the delivery of important collateral benefits alongside core conservation objectives. During the study period, public investment in conservation work totalled £6.1m, as a result of which more than 515 buildings and 190 km of dry-stone walling were restored and 95 per cent of the repaired buildings put back to productive use. This investment generated over £7m in the local economy, £1.65 and £1.92 for every £1 of grant provided, and up to 37 full-time equivalent jobs. Although these figures seem lower than in the Lake District, this is because several beneficiary market towns lie outside the National Park boundary. When the analysis was extended to the wider local area (which encompasses a 5-mile buffer zone containing a number of market towns) the results are substantial – the number of full-time equivalent jobs created by the works rises to 74 and between £7.08 and £9.12 m in investment into the wider economy is stimulated specifically by work to this unique built heritage.

Copies of the full socio-economic reports are available at www.helm.org.uk

Beating the Bounds: communities and landscape

Jane Golding
Outreach Officer, National Monuments Record, English Heritage

By working with communities, the National Monuments Record (NMR) aims to help people use archive sources to learn from and enjoy the historic environment. Recent projects in Swindon and Lancaster have enabled local residents to explore the history and development of their communities in response to urban growth from the late-Victorian period onwards. Now the NMR has transferred the focus of its outreach work to a rural setting; Beating the Bounds examines the landscape development of several adjoining parishes within the Vale of White Horse, Oxfordshire, from the late Bronze Age to the present day.

The project is run in partnership with the Vale and Downland Museum, a thriving community museum in the historic market town of Wantage, Oxfordshire. The town

Using resources from the National Monuments Record at the Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage, Oxfordshire

developed as a spring-line settlement at the foot of the Berkshire downs and its parish boundary extends over some 9.5 km, from the downs in the south to the clay vale in the north. Narrow elongated strip parishes are a common feature in this part of the Vale of White Horse and a triple land-use enabled settlements to be self-supporting: clay in the vale for meadowland; a shelf of rich, loamy greensand for arable crops; and chalk downlands providing grazing for sheep.

The traditional relationship that enabled communities to be virtually self-sufficient within their immediate rural landscape – not just economically but to meet their spiritual and social welfare too – has altered dramatically. This project is examining current concepts of 'parish, landscape and community' through helping local people explore the meaning of boundaries and the significance and value of the land units they define, both in the past and today.

The first phase of the project is engaging groups with existing connections to the Vale and Downland Museum in order to establish the project and its methodology. Future work, involving filming with a local youth group to capture current views on parish and community, will aim to widen participation to those sectors of the community not currently represented. Through this project the NMR is trialling the use of an on-line tool-kit that will enable community groups to combine images, text, sound and film in a digital story of their investigation.

The project makes use of both fieldwork and documentary research and helps participants explore a wide range of evidence. Working together in small groups, they investigate areas of the parish boundary using the resources of the NMR and locally held material. Examples of investigations include: the identification in the landscape of a disputed mill-site, recorded in 1086; querying the accepted line of a Roman road; and researching how a failed settlement came to be divided between two adjoining parishes. Recent changes in landscape are also noted. A comparison of 1940s air photographs, held by the NMR, with the landscape today, illustrates a significant loss of ridge and furrow and other archaeological evidence due to modern agricultural practices.

Beating the Bounds is helping communities in the Vale of White Horse to engage with their local rural landscape intellectually and physically. Here, landscape history is not delivered by experts but is drawn together by local people through a process of investigation and reappraisal, enabling them to value and share the meaning and significance of their rural cultural and natural heritage.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Sarah Cole
Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Adviser, English Heritage

Aggregates extraction (such as sand, gravel and crushed rock) represents the most common type of quarrying in the England, the UK consuming some 240 million tonnes annually. It is inevitable that this will impact on the historic environment.

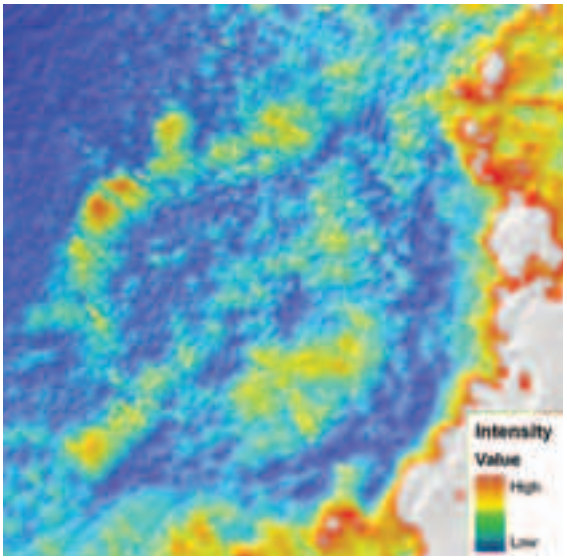
In 2002 the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) was introduced by Defra to provide resources to address the environmental costs of this extraction; English Heritage was appointed as one of the lead distribution bodies of the fund. Run by a small team connected to the Historic Environment Enabling Programme, the English Heritage ALSF has to date distributed over £19 million to more than 200 projects nationally.

All projects address one or other of two objectives: promoting environmentally friendly extraction and addressing the environmental impacts of past aggregates extraction. Additionally, projects address English Heritage's own key priorities, focusing on the following areas:

- developing the capacity to manage aggregate extraction landscapes in the future
- delivering to public and professional audiences the full benefits of knowledge gained through past work in advance of aggregates extraction
- reducing the physical impacts of current extraction where these lie beyond current planning controls and the normal obligations placed on minerals operators
- addressing the effects of old mineral planning permissions
- promoting understanding of the conservation issues arising from the impacts of aggregates extraction on the historic environment.

One of the most important elements of the English Heritage ALSF over the past four years has been the need for good baseline information about the archaeological and historic landscapes in which the extraction takes place. A number of projects have used the opportunity to explore the effectiveness of scientific and technological techniques in the field. One example is the 'Aggregate Extraction in the Ribble Valley' project undertaken by Liverpool University and Oxford Archaeology North. Building on earlier research that identified the paucity of historic environment information for the area in relation to its known aggregate production history, the Ribble Valley project has attempted to address this gap in knowledge. After collating existing archaeological and palaeoenvironmental data and setting it against geological data and current aggregates permission, further multiple lines of evidence were addressed. These included remote sensing, field survey and absolute dating (including radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence). The results of these investigations will be collated in a GIS with an accompanying report setting out a framework for understanding the archaeology in the area, thus giving valuable data for future management and minerals planning.

Across the country a number of similar projects have been undertaken to 'Assess the



The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) has given priority to scientific investigation of the archaeological landscapes that lie hidden within areas of the English countryside proposed for gravel extraction. In this image, intensity data from a terrestrial laser scan reveals a prehistoric ring ditch buried beneath Port Meadow in Oxford.

Exploring the effectiveness of archaeological remote-sensing techniques. Dr Chris Carey, University of Exeter, collecting *in-situ* soil-moisture readings using a Detla T Devices Theta Probe.

Finds processing session for adults with learning difficulties. The session involved working with a previously unprocessed collection of artefacts from an archaeological site within one of the most intensively quarried areas of Worcestershire.

Archaeological Resource' within the aggregate-producing areas of a county. The first such project was undertaken in Gloucestershire by the County Council and has since been repeated in other aggregates-producing counties such as Co Durham, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, with more planned for the future.

Aimed at establishing a coherent evidence-base and thus improving the local Historic Environment Record, these projects all incorporate a rigorous desk-based assessment of existing data collated into a GIS environment to improve future decision-making. In some counties there was an opportunity to enhance the record by carrying out aerial photography mapping (thus helping to accelerate the National Mapping Programme, see Went and Horne, this issue pp 22–3), allowing the identification, interpretation and recording of all probable and possible archaeological features that are visible as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks and earthworks. The data collected by these assessments have also been a valuable tool in the production of Local Minerals Plans. Outreach follow-ups have ensured that the public, as well as curators, have the chance to benefit equally.

Through the ALSF English Heritage has been in a position to fund a number of projects that attempt to assess, refine and develop different methods of prospection and investigation, in order to increase predictive accuracy, and thus minimise risk to industry and the historic environment. One good example is the 'Airborne LiDAR Backscattered Laser Intensity Prediction of Organic Preservation' project undertaken by Birmingham University. This investigated the potential of backscattered laser intensity data from airborne laser altimetry to remotely determine soil properties, including organic content and moisture levels. This information can then be used to identify areas of preferential organic preservation within regions affected by aggregate extraction and provide information related to wider issues of catchment management (eg the impacts of changing hydrological conditions). A generic good-practice guidance document is being produced from the project, to ensure knowledge transfer.

The understanding and involvement of the public in the archaeology and history of aggregates-producing areas is a central tenet of the ALSF. Many projects have thus been designed with outreach and education at their core.

Following on from their Resource Assessment project Worcestershire County Council have been involving the local community, particularly those normally excluded from archaeological activities, with their 'Unlocking the Past' project. Through workshops for adults with learning difficulties the project has aimed to raise awareness of the important contributions archaeological discoveries made during aggregate extraction have made to our understanding of the past.

For the future the aim is to continue to build on the developments and technological advances already made. Many projects, such as the Resource Assessments and those with an outreach focus, have potential to be rolled out in different areas of the country, and new projects will hopefully be taken forward.

At the time of writing the ALSF has been extended for a further year and is now due to end in March 2008. For more information regarding the fund and the projects already funded, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/alsf

News
from English Heritage

Government response to Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry

The government published its response to the committee's report in October (www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications). It welcomed the committee's 'wide-ranging' examination of the historic environment, and those conclusions and recommendations that detailed the positive contribution of the historic environment to wider government objectives.

On the whole, however, the response challenged the committee's findings and many of its recommendations. In particular, it states that any decisions on future funding for English Heritage will not be taken before the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review is complete, and that the government's priorities for the historic environment remain those set out in *A Force for Our Future* (2001). It also says that the historic environment 'continues to feature prominently' in DCMS priorities, and that the department will maintain work with partners across government to promote its 'intrinsic and instrumental' values.

Heritage Counts 2006

The fifth annual survey of the state of England's historic environment was published on 15 November (www.heritagecounts.org.uk). The report identifies the principal trends and challenges facing the historic environment, with a particular focus in 2006 on the role that communities play by valuing and engaging in England's heritage. It draws on new evidence about the people who visit historic sites and how the sector is trying to widen participation, especially from under-represented groups. It looks at the vital role played by 400,000 volunteers and how voluntary groups act to save the heritage that communities really care about. A suite of regional reports provides further detail on the state of the historic environment in each of the nine government office regions.

History Matters – Pass it On

The campaign *History Matters – Pass it On* was launched in July 2006 by a partnership of heritage organisations including the National Trust, English Heritage, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Houses Association, Heritage Link, the Civic Trust and Council for British Archaeology http://www.historymatters.org.uk). Over four months:

- more than 1.1 million people showed their support by taking a badge or making an online declaration
- more than 1 million people took part in the Heritage Open Days in September
- 46,000 people contributed a blog of what they did on one single day – 17 October – which will be recorded for posterity at the British Library
- nearly 10,000 people completed a postcard outlining why history matters to them.

Science and Heritage inquiry

Last summer, the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology set up an Inquiry into Science and Heritage, chaired by Lord Broers. The committee's report, published in November 2006, drew attention to the value of the cultural heritage, and to this country's high reputation in heritage conservation, but warned that this standing is now under threat, that the sector is undervalued and fragmented and that we face a real risk of irreversible losses.

Their central recommendation was that the DCMS should match its commitment to access to the cultural heritage, which results in more wear and tear, with a commitment to effective conservation based on sound science. Subsidiary recommendations include a call for those in the heritage sector – museums, universities, libraries, English Heritage and other organisations – to work together to develop a broad-based strategy for heritage science. To view the report see www.publications.parliament.uk and follow the links.

Your Place or Mine? Engaging New Audiences with the Heritage

Manchester Town Hall was packed on 2 and 3 November 2006 for this conference run jointly by English Heritage and The National Trust. A wide range of people, from community groups and development workers to archaeologists and curators, discussed how to broaden audiences for our shared heritages.

The 350 delegates heard more than 80 speakers addressing some of the big questions about the nature of heritage, such as whose story are we telling? And do we need to redefine 'heritage'? Practical workshops for delegates to

The author and English Heritage Commissioner Bill Bryson addresses the launch of the 2006 History Matters campaign. Other celebrity supporters included Stephen Fry, Bob Geldof, Bettany Hughes, Sebastian Faulks, Tony Benn, Derek Jacobi and Tony Robinson.

share experiences ranged from engaging young people with heritage to involving communities in re-interpreting historic properties.

Reports from and responses to the conference can be found at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/yourplaceormine, along with a podcast discussion in which Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, follows up some of the issues raised. An evaluation of the conference will be published in the coming months, while further in-depth articles on key conference themes will appear in the Summer 2007 edition of *Conservation Bulletin*.

Barker review of land-use planning: final report

The government has for some time been concerned that the planning system might have an adverse impact on economic growth and in December 2005 the Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister commissioned Kate Barker to undertake an independent review of the land-use planning system in England.

The final report and recommendations of the Barker review were published on 5 December 2006 (www.communities. gov.uk/index. asp?id=1504875) and received a mixed reception. They were welcomed by the Confederation of British Industry, British Property Federation, Housebuilders' Federation and supermarket chains, but criticised by the environment NGOs. The Royal Town Planning Institute saw pluses and minuses. Among the suggestions that were generally welcomed were those relating to resourcing and training for planning authorities, a national infrastructure commission set in a framework of public involvement and a recommendation to review greenbelt boundaries. More controversially it has proposed introducing a 'presumption to develop' and removing the burden of demonstrating 'need' in support of applications. English Heritage submitted a response to the final report in the New Year.

Guidance on tall buildings

A review of the document originally issued in March 2003 is now entering its final stages. Though the existing document had withstood examination at public inquiry, there are many sections that required rewriting to take account of changes to government policy and guidance. There was unanimity between English Heritage and CABE on where rewriting was needed and what additional text was needed to cover issues not previously included. A joint 'masterclass' was held in January 2006 to explain to local-authority chief executives and council leaders the benefits of having a tall building strategy and policies, rather than being reactive. The new guidance, issued for consultation, will be available shortly.

Building conservation masterclasses

West Dean College, English Heritage and The Weald and Downland Open Air Museum are collaborating to offer the following intensive courses combining lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises:

- Conservation and Repair of Masonry Ruins, 8–11 May 2007
- The Historic Interior: Commissioning and Managing, 14–16 May 2007
- Conservation and Repair of Plasters and Renders, 29 May–1 June 2007
- The Ecological Management of Historic Buildings and Sites, 11–14 June 2007
- Cleaning Masonry Buildings, 18–21 June 2007

Non-residential fee: £410 (except The Historic Interior: £275); fully inclusive residential from £530 (except the Historic Interior: from £355).

For further information contact Liz Campbell, West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QZ; tel: 01243 818219/811301; e-mail: bcm@westdean.org.uk.

The National Monuments Record
News and events

The National Monuments Record (NMR) is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes more than 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 online and 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

Online resources from the NMR

Images of England

Images of England (www.imagesofengland.org.uk) is a 'point in time' online image library recording England's listed buildings. It is one of the largest, free, image libraries on the internet and contains more than 280,000 images from monuments and bridges, churches and gravestones to windmills and canal locks.

The project is due for completion by the end of 2007, when more than 300,000 images will be available. Volunteer photographers have carried out the work, and have recently been able to complete photography on the listed buildings owned by the National Trust.

For further information please contact Julie Swann, tel: 01793 414420; email: julie.swann@english-heritage.org.uk.

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Left: Church of St Thomas à Becket, Fairfield, Kent: a Grade I church in an isolated position in the Romney Marshes.

ViewFinder

ViewFinder (www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder) is an online picture resource drawing on the NMR's national photographic collections. It contains more than 45,000 images, with a programme to add more each year. The following important collections of historic photographs have recently been added to *ViewFinder*.

Harold Wingham

Former Squadron Leader Harold Wingham was an important practitioner of aerial photography, primarily for archaeology, though he also photographed architectural, industrial and landscape subjects. This collection of more than 1,800 negatives covers the South-West of England for the period 1951–63.

H A Wingham © English Heritage. NMR

An Iron Age hillfort and medieval ringwork on the Herefordshire Beacon, Malvern Hills, Herefordshire (photographed in August 1958). HAW 9389/28

Cold War project

As a result of the 'peace dividend' following the end of the Cold War, many previously secret military sites were decommissioned and either demolished or left derelict. In response, the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England and English Heritage undertook a survey of defence installations built in England between 1946 and 1989 (and published as P S Barnwell, W D Cocroft and R J C Thomas (eds), *Cold War: Building for Nuclear Confrontation 1946–1989* (English Heritage, 2003)). Some 1,600 images of these restricted sites, created as part of this survey, are now available online.

A Bloodhound Mark II surface-to-air guided weapon at RAF Neatishead, Norfolk. AA98/05754

Rupert Potter Collection

This small collection of some 200 items gains its interest from the fact that Rupert Potter (1832–1914) was the father of Beatrix. Although it does not contain family pictures, connections include the family home at 2 Bolton Gardens, Kensington, and the Potters' holiday home in Cumbria. The bulk of the collection records events in Greater London which are of interest in their own right, such as scaffolding being erected in Trafalgar Square for the coronation of George V in 1911.

For further information please contact: Andrew Sargent, tel: 01793 414740; email: andrew.sargent@english-heritage.org.uk

PastScape

PastScape (www.english- heritage.org.uk/pastscape) is the online version of the national database of monuments curated by the NMR, accessible to the public. It is far from being a static resource and over the autumn months well in excess of 7,000 records have been worked on, of which some 1,400 are newly created records.

Work on medieval shipwreck sites noted in the last issue of *Conservation Bulletin* has been continuing apace and has so far nearly doubled the number of records (233 at the time of writing). This research has been based on legal documents contained in the Calendar of Patent Rolls for the period 1250–1450. The shipwrecks were mainly mentioned in the Patent Rolls as disputes over the rights to the resulting goods washed ashore. Cases between local landowners and aggrieved merchants petitioning the king could sometimes take up to 20 years to resolve!

In addition some changes to the mechanics of *PastScape* have been made, including improved place-name-search functionality and changes to allow more source material to be displayed.

For further information please contact Robin Page, tel: 01793 414617; email: robin.page@english-heritage.org.uk

A porter guards the Strand entrance to Northumberland House, photographed in 1874. AL2027/04

NMR cataloguing

Stowe Estate sales particulars

Recently accessioned auction sales particulars for the sale of the Stowe Estate, Buckinghamshire, in 1921 demonstrate the changes to the rural economy in the aftermath of the First World War. This acquisition complements the NMR's extensive holdings of estate sales particulars.

The particulars include the sale of the freehold of the house and estate, comprising 24 farms and smallholdings, the village of Dadford, the hamlet of Chackmore and residential and commercial buildings in Buckingham. The 59 half-tone photographic plates taken by R and H Chapman of Buckingham illustrate details of the sale of the contents of the main house, plus the garden temples, statues, garden statuary, buildings and temples. As well as photographs, the sales particulars include plans of the main house and grounds, Dadford village, Chackmore village and estate buildings in Buckingham.

For further information contact Helen Shalders, tel: 01793 414749; email: helen.shalders@english-heritage.org.uk

Album: Northumberland House

An important set of photographs and plans of Northumberland House, Westminster, (demolished 1874) was purchased in August 2006 by the NMR (AQ/06/014). The 1875 folio was compiled by the Metropolitan Board of Works to document the last-remaining private palace between The Strand and the River Thames, which was removed to create Northumberland Avenue. This key record of Victorian London contains 11 photographs by William Strudwick and 5 plans showing alternative routes for the new road.

For further information contact Ian Leith, tel: 01793 414730; email: ian.leith@english-heritage.org.uk

Legal Developments
Understanding guardianship

Many of the wonderful properties which English Heritage visitors and members enjoy are not actually owned by either the government or English Heritage but are in their guardianship. At some time in the past the actual owner has asked the relevant government department to become the guardian of the property and take over responsibility for its maintenance and management. English Heritage now manages these properties on behalf of DCMS and approximately two-thirds (260) of all the properties in its care are in guardianship. Generally, guardianship agreements have been used at the request of the owner to ensure the continued preservation of the most important examples of our heritage where the owner was unable or disinclined to commit the resources necessary to preserve the property. The government agreed to accept responsibility for management and maintenance and in return acquired certain rights over the property.

Guardianship was first introduced by the Ancient Monuments Act 1882 and has been developed and refined by subsequent legislation. The basic principle is that by accepting guardianship a guardian takes on full responsibility for the repair and maintenance of an ancient monument and gains extensive rights of 'control and management'; these, however, fall short of outright ownership of the property.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Act 1979 is the legislation governing guardianship today and s12–15 contain the main provisions. Under s12 the Secretary of State, English Heritage and local authorities all have the power to become guardians of 'ancient monuments'. The organisation concerned takes on responsibility for maintaining the monument and also acquires control and management of the monument, but the freehold ownership is not disturbed by guardianship arrangements.

Once the monument has been taken into guardianship the guardian is under a statutory duty to maintain the property and has very wide powers to exercise 'control and management' and to do everything necessary for its maintenance including archaeological investigation and the power to remove any part of the monument to another place to preserve it. There is also a responsibility to provide public access and visitor facilities. Under the 1979 Act, a guardianship agreement can only be made by the person who owns absolutely the monument in question or has a leasehold interest with not less than 45 years remaining.

The powers in the Act are subject to any terms set out in the guardianship deed, although in practice this has usually done little more than constitute the relevant body as guardian and provide for access and/or rights of way to the monument for maintenance and/or the public. Very few guardianship deeds contain any greater detail. Guardianship is used rarely nowadays and only one property (Wigmore Castle in Hereford and Worcester) has been taken into guardianship in the last 10 years.

It is not thought that the current review of heritage protection legislation is likely to have any implications for the concept of guardianship.

For many years, guardianship took effect in perpetuity, similar to the National Trust's power to hold land inalienably. The intention was to give assurance to the owner placing a monument into guardianship that the future of their property was secure. The 1979 Act introduced for the first time the possibility of rescinding guardianship in certain closely specified circumstances, although no guardianship has been terminated to date. In view of the historical nature of some guardianships it may even be difficult to identify the current freehold owner of some monuments let alone consider returning responsibility for the monument to them, and English Heritage will therefore continue to safeguard these properties for public enjoyment and education.

Ceri Pemberton
Head of Legal Department

New Publications

Jewish Heritage in England: An Architectural Guide

by Sharman Kadish

The year 2006 marked the 350th anniversary of the resettlement of the Jewish community in England. For the first time, *Jewish Heritage in England* celebrates in full colour the undiscovered heritage of Anglo-Jewry – the oldest non-Christian minority in Britain.

The guide covers more than 300 sites, organised on a region-by-region basis. Each section highlights major Jewish landmarks, ranging from Britain's oldest synagogue, Bevis Marks in the City of London, through the Georgian gems of the West Country to the splendid High Victorian 'cathedral synagogues' of Birmingham, Brighton and Liverpool. Relics of Anglo-Jewry's medieval past are explored in York, Lincoln and Norwich and curious oddities are not to be missed, including a 19th-century private penthouse synagogue in Brighton and an Egyptian-style *Mikveh* (ritual bath) in Canterbury. This guide will undoubtedly appeal both to the specialist and the tourist alike.

PRICE £16.99 + P&P (offer: £14.99 + free delivery*)
ISBN: 10 – 1 905624 28 X (13 – 978 1905624 28 7)
PRODUCT CODE 51169
Paperback, 240 pages

More London Peculiars

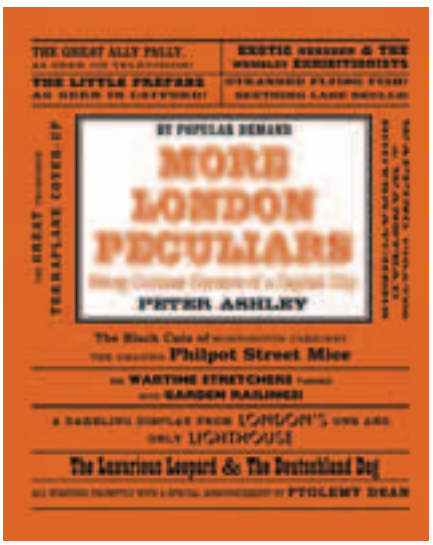
by Peter Ashley

In this second volume, writer and photographer Peter Ashley digs just a little bit deeper into the patina of London's past, revealing the rich patterns that make this the most exciting capital city on earth.

His camera discovers a city's occupations that have, quite literally, disappeared, but that nevertheless leave tantalising evidence of their existence. The truly odd is explored and puzzled over – wartime ambulance stretchers recycled as council flat railings, King Lud hiding in Fleet Street, a colourful Wild West icon presenting the pipe of peace to pedestrians in St James. He gets to grips with the suburban miasma, from the largest collection of post-war pre-fabricated houses in Britain to the leonine remnants that celebrate empire in Metroland Wembley.

This is an essential book for all those who enjoy living in London, visiting London and who, in any case, love London.

PRICE £14.99 + P&P (offer: £12.99 + free delivery*)
ISBN: 10 – 1 85074 999 X (13 – 978 1 85074 999 8)
PRODUCT CODE 51183
Paperback, 120 pages



Stonehenge: The Story so Far
by Julian Richards

Stonehenge is not only the ultimate symbol of prehistoric achievement but also one of the past's most enduring mysteries. In this book, Julian Richards – archaeologist, broadcaster and Stonehenge fanatic – takes a very personal look at his favourite ancient monument.

The first section outlines the history of Stonehenge and its landscape, from magic and Merlin to the obsessive diggers of the 19th century. The 20th century is a story of collapse and restoration, of changing ownership and conflict, of botched excavations and the final triumph of science in unlocking some of the stones' most closely guarded secrets.

This book brings our understanding of Stonehenge into the 21st century, and is written with the authority that comes from 25 years of involvement with the monument and a passion to share its wonders.

PRICE £30.00 + P&P (offer: £27 + free delivery*)
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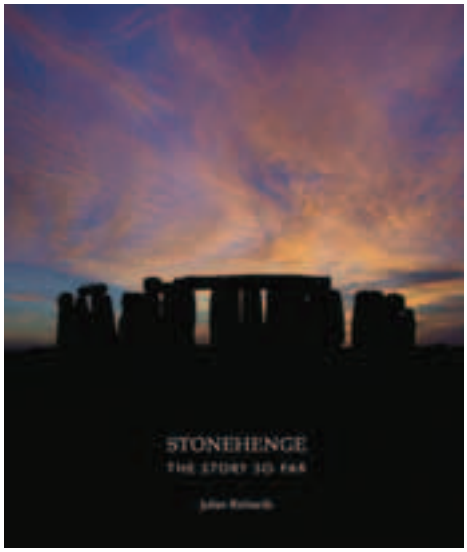
Hardback, 350 pages



The Historic Landscape of the Quantock Hills
by Hazel Riley

The Quantock Hills, famous for their associations with Coleridge and Wordsworth in the 19th century, have been the canvas on which are sketched the shadowy images of people who lived on the land from prehistoric times to the present. There are Bronze Age cairns and burial mounds, Iron Age hillforts, Roman settlements, medieval manors and post-medieval estates, right through to stark monuments of the Second World War and the Cold War.

This book presents and interprets the Quantocks' landscape after a dedicated programme of archaeological fieldwork, air-photograph transcription and architectural investigation by English Heritage. It describes the results in a readable book including full colour illustrations and line drawings throughout, plus a series of lively reconstruction paintings by the artist Jane Brayne.

PRICE £19.95 + P&P (offer: £17.95 + free delivery*)
ISBN: 10 – 1 905624 29 8 (13 – 978 1 905624 29 4)
PRODUCT CODE 51199
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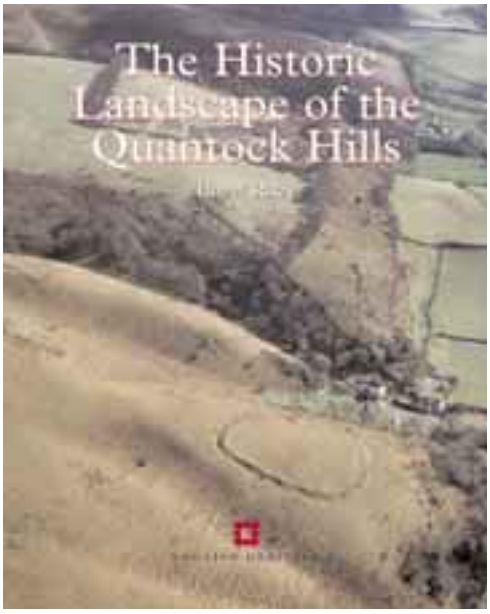

Publications may be ordered from English Heritage Postal Sales, c/o Gillards, Trident Works, March Lane, Temple Cloud, Bristol BS39 5AZ; tel: 01761 452 966; fax: 01761 453 408; email: ehsales@gillards.com

Please make all cheques payable in sterling to English Heritage. Publications may also be ordered from www.english-heritage.org.uk

* Special offer prices are valid to 30 June 2007 for orders made through English Heritage Postal Sales at the address shown, above right. Please quote 'Conservation Bulletin Offer', the title and product code. For all other orders P&P is £2.50 per book for the first two items and £1.00 for each additional book thereafter.

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