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Autumn saw more changes in the IFA office. Alex Llewellyn juggled care arrangements for her new baby to come back after maternity leave, but Paula Smith and Gillian Phillips left us to take up new careers. We welcomed Nick Davis and Beth Asbury who will, between them, be taking care of most membership and RAO matters. Gina Jacklin, who has worked on a temporary basis since Spring, is now confirmed as our part-time finance assistant. Another welcome addition in January was Kate Geary, to work on self-funded training and standards projects with Kenny Aitchison. Kate will already be well known to many of you as previous Chair of IFA’s Wales/Cymru Group.

For the second time we have devoted an issue of TA to the work of one of our lively Special Interest Groups, this time the Buildings Archaeology Group. This has been made possible by both the variety of exciting projects members of this Group are involved in, and also the energy and persuasiveness of Catherine Cavanagh who collected the articles. It is a steep learning-curve for most archaeologists to see the range of projects in this field: scientific techniques applied to cathedrals and churches, best approaches to conversion of farm buildings, defending Britain’s oldest building, learning from the detritus of deserted industries of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the archaeology of lettering, speaking to American soldiers at Greenham Common and a different perspective on London’s past: are all parts of the story.

This TA also has papers on the core functions of IFA: complaints and disciplinary procedures and improvements and expansion of the RAO scheme. These are very timely, as IFA is challenged to take an increasing role in managing historic environment issues, and member feedback is invited.

Final reminder: IFA’s Annual Conference in Winchester (22-24 March) has a stimulating programme in a wonderful setting and should not be missed. If you haven’t made your booking, get it in now – application by 22 February qualifies you for special ‘early bird’ rate.

The bias of articles towards late post medieval buildings represents the majority of building assessment and recording undertaken through the planning system. Commercial organisations are realising the benefits of having a specialist buildings team, but how experienced are they, and are considerations such as health and safety properly covered? Are curatorial archaeologists adequately informed and how many actively pursue buildings analysis through the planning system?

Shane Gould demonstrates that the use of PPG15 has been less effective than PPG16 in securing developer funding. Yet the approach for standing structures is the same as for buried remains within the planning system. Archaeologists can contribute their experience of the processes of assessment, recording and analysis, to complement the conservation-based approach. Oral history, dating and survey as well as creating local lists and characterisation studies, are examples of the tools available.

Nineteenth and twentieth-century vernacular and industrial buildings are most at risk of being lost without record, especially when neither listed nor within conservation areas. Demolition still doesn’t require planning permission outside areas with statutory protection. However, buildings and ancillary structures are archaeology and PPG16-style pre-determination assessment and recording conditions do apply. It’s important that we don’t lose today’s standing buildings without record, and end up excavating their foundations in years to come.

How many building records have been published, or even entered on the SMR/HER? Buildings can still be neglected by professional archaeologists. We have a lot to learn from conservation colleagues, amenity societies and local experts, including the AIA, CBA and our sister body IHBC.

Jason Wood’s historical overview informs suggestions for the future; joint working is vital. Training is a common theme of this TA. Some of the suggestions for guidance and training are already being taken forward by English Heritage and local authority colleagues, but the need for more work in this area is clear.

BAG’s role is to promote buildings within the profession and build links with non-archaeological colleagues. The group publishes two newsletters per year that are also published on the IFA website. To spread good practice and improve standards, we are also planning educational events such as a joint training day with the Finds Group.

Don’t miss the BAG session at the IFA conference on 23 March!

To join the BAG mailing list, email: jonathan.smith@hertscc.gov.uk. Membership is free, apart from non-IFA members wishing to receive newsletters by post rather than email. Please email the newsletter editor, Phil Thomas archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.co.uk with short articles, roundups of recent work, books reviews, course details, etc.

Catherine Cavanagh
BAG Education Officer
catherine.cavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk

Notes to contributors
Themes and deadlines
Spring: Prehistoric Britain
deadline: 1 March 2005
Summer: Working in historic towns
deadline: 1 June 2005

Contributions and letter/emails are always welcome. Short articles (c. 1000 words) are preferred. They should be sent as an email attachment, which must include captions and credits for illustrations. The editor will edit and shorten if necessary. Illustrations are very important. These are best supplied as originals or on CD, scanned at a minimum of 300dpi at the size they are expected to appear. More detailed Notes for contributors for each issue are available from the editor.

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From the Buildings Group
Catherine Cavanagh
FROM THE FINDS TRAY

A new archaeology service for Coventry
Coventry has a new archaeology service with creation of the posts of Planning Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record Officer. Chris Patrick is the Planning Archaeologist while Anna Wilson and Phillip Markham are building the city’s new HER. All three posts are part funded by English Heritage and will work alongside Coventry Museum’s Archaeology Officer, Paul Thompson. Maps are being produced for each century from the twenty-first back to the sixteenth, and for major periods from the medieval back to prehistory. These will be used to create interpretative views of what the city’s landscape looked like during each century/period. This approach is possible due to the documentary evidence in local archives and record office. Results of archaeological fieldwork are also being fed in. A three-dimensional model showing the surviving archaeological deposits of the city centre is planned, to assist with development control. With several large archaeological projects already underway and with extensive areas earmarked for redevelopment, the next few years will see a substantial growth in the knowledge of the city.

Contact: Chris Patrick, Floor 5, Civic Centre 4, Much Park Street, Coventry CV1 2PV, christopher.patrick@coventry.gov.uk, and see www.coventry.gov.uk

Archiving buildings at the LAARC
Standing structures have been recorded by archaeologists for many years and their records form an important part of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). Building recording is classed as a type of archaeological fieldwork, so expectations for the archive are similar. They include project design and desk-based assessment and survey reports, full site records, location plans, survey data, context-type information, matrices, photographs, video and oral recordings and finds (including building materials, architectural features, samples of paint and wallpaper and environmental material, such as dendrochronological samples). Post-fieldwork reports, historical research, analytical data and reconstruction drawings also need to be archived and to be referenced in publications. Online access is planned. Standard terminology is therefore essential and this has been given additional emphasis in the revision (2005) of our General Standards for the preparation of Archaeological Archives with the Museum of London, 1998 (www.museumoflondon.org.uk). Buildings are often of special relevance to a locality and can be the focus for involvement in history and archaeology, so keep those archives coming!

Cath Maloney
LAARC, Museum of London

HELM (Historic Environment: Local Management)
HELM is an English Heritage initiative designed to encourage members and officers who have little or no experience of the historic environment to give it greater consideration when making decisions. HELM promotes the need for properly resourced and actively consulted conservation departments.

Website (www.helm.org.uk)
This is a useful source for archaeologists, putting English Heritage guidance online and providing links to heritage guidance produced by councils. To keep it up to date, your input is needed. Case studies illustrating good practice in the historic environment are welcomed, as are reciprocal web links.

CPD for local authorities
Eighteen HELM seminars organised by English Historic Towns Forum (EHTF) began on 19 January 2005. County archaeologists are helping to deliver training. For an application form see www.ehtf.org/helm.asp, or HELM website.

Historic Environment Champions
As a related initiative, government and English Heritage are campaigning for Historic Environment Champions at a senior level in all English local authorities. So far, there are over 120 champions. A support network and training events are being set up together with CABE. Contact tim.brennan@english-heritage.org.uk.

HELM contact: catherine.cavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk

Lecturers aboard
Are you qualified to lecture on cruise ships and escort guided tours in Greece and the eastern Mediterranean? If so, Lindsay Frost, Director of Leisure Services, Saga Shipping Co Ltd, would be interested to hear from you.

Portable Antiquities Scheme Conference: Looking to the Future
A day conference to assess the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme to date and to look to its future beyond March 2006. There will be time for open discussion. The conference is FREE but bookings are essential. For further details or to book a place contact Claire Costin, tel 0207 323 8618 or email ccostin@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

IFA Diggers Forum
Saturday 19 February 2005 1pm
Museum of London Archaeology Service HQ, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED
A full agenda, notes on last meeting and directions to Mortimer Wheeler House are posted on www.archaeologists.net/diggers
For information about the Digger’s Forum and the forthcoming meeting, contact Jez Taylor, Tel 020 7410 2242 or 07951 024197 jct@molas.org.uk
Chris Clarke, Tel 020 8769 5029 or 07751 612574 tallieddy@hotmail.com
Paul Everill, Tel 07775 582 525 paul@everill.net

Visiting Cyprus?
If any IFA members are visiting Cyprus, Francis Haggerty (AIFA837) invites you to get in touch as, if not busy, he might be able to offer you a guided tour or assistance with your visit.

Contact: fhaggerty@yahoo.com, tel 00357 25821782 c/o NAAFI HQ/ RAF Akrotiri/BFPO 57 /BFPO London

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Chris Clarke, Tel 020 8769 5029 or 07751 612574 tallieddy@hotmail.com
Paul Everill, Tel 07775 582 525 paul@everill.net

Ancient hospital in Coventry
A recent Professional Associations Research Network conference concluded that the disciplinary procedures of professional institutes are cumbersome, lack credibility outside the organisation (‘chaps regulating chaps’), lack lay involvement and are not transparent, emphasise punishment rather than redress, do not allow for Alternative Dispute Resolution, and need to be proof against human rights challenges.

The IFA’s procedures are no exception. In 22 years the IFA has received numerous informal complaints and over forty formal allegations of malpractice. In only three instances have prima facie cases been identified. One case resulted in the suspension of a member; one is in progress, and in a third case the allegation was withdrawn mid-inquiry on compassionate grounds. Our process has proved long-winded and expensive, and has done little to silence critics.

 Allegations tend to be about competence, business behaviour, acting against the interests of the historic environment and impugning other archaeologists’ reputations. They usually come from archaeologists but may also be made by the public. Complaints can only be about major breaches, not occasional inappropriate practice and, apart from contractual disputes, we have no real facility for arbitration.

The regulations lack the flexibility, and the legalese is unhelpful. We also lack credibility by being able to report little on disciplinary matters.

The IFA Disciplinary Procedure: proposals for reform

Peter Hinton

Making the change

Changing the disciplinary regulations will require a Special Resolution at the AGM. A draft of the new regulations will be published on the website (and can be posted to members). Feedback (by the end of April please) will be welcome in redrafting. Please help your Council put forward a procedure that will make IFA more effective, and more credible.

Improving the Registered Archaeological Organisation scheme

Laura Schaaf and Peter Hinton

The Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) scheme, which has been in existence since 1996, currently has 50 registered organisations. Of these 36 undertake fieldwork, 29 of them also providing consultancy services; ten have a primarily consulting role; and six provide curatorial (as well as contracting) services.

RAOs are inspected at least once every five years – more frequently if particular issues have been raised. Inspection panels include RAO Committee members and co-opted Responsible Post Holders supported by IFA staff. In future, panels may also include curatorial members of IFA for contracting organisations, and contractors or consultants for RAOs with a curatorial role.

There are now four possible outcomes for an application. The organisation may be

• refused registration
• registered with encouragement to improve in certain areas
• registered subject to conditions
• refused registration.

If three conditions for registration are imposed in any three-year period it will be judged that the organisation needs to conduct a serious review of its work or systems and it will be ineligible to apply for registration for a specified period of time. This new procedure is intended to ensure that organisations do not depend on IFA to identify improvements, but demonstrate to the Institute that they have the management skills in house to deliver a programme of continuous improvement.

The IFA has received or initiated 13 formal complaints about six RAOs, and several are pending. The complaints cover a range of issues and allegations, and from those complaints that have run the course (they are sometimes withdrawn following redress), eight allegations have been partially or fully upheld. More constructively, the complaints have resulted in 16 recommendations for improvements by the RAO (as well as five to the parties bringing the complaints and six to the IFA on plugging gaps in guidance or improving its complaints procedure). A streamlined complaints procedure has now been introduced (see the guidance notes on the RAO page on the website), with the same four defined outcomes as the registration process, plus the option of referring the matter to the Executive committee as a possible disciplinary matter. Several complaints previously investigated might have led to such conditions, which in future would score towards potential ‘non-eligibility’.

Future work

There are three main areas of work this year

• encouraging increased membership from organisations in higher education institutions
• encouraging increased membership from curatorial bodies
• promoting improvements in staff training and IFA membership amongst RAOs and new applicants – matters which the Committee frequently comments on in relation to individual applications.

After five years as Chair of the RAO Committee, David Jennings stood down in 2004 to become Hon Chair of Council. Laura Schaaf has taken over as Chair and with the Committee and IFA staff will continue David’s excellent work in developing the scheme and promoting its contribution to raising and maintaining high standards in archaeological work.
Why should universities become Registered Archaeological Organisations?

John Hunter

In 1997 I took the important step of registering Birmingham’s Department of Ancient History and Archaeology within IFA’s RAO scheme. Admittedly we were unusual in having a commercial field team closely associated with us, but I specifically wanted the rest of our fieldwork to meet the same professional standards as other archaeological work in Britain. There were various reasons behind this: one was that I have always been a strong supporter of the scheme itself, seeing it as an essential step in raising standards of archaeological work and employment across our young profession. But I also recognised its value in maintaining the standards and relevance of our own university’s work – rather important considerations when we claim to be training the archaeologists of tomorrow.

Mainstream archaeology
University departments, after all, generally want to be part of mainstream archaeology. With the hugely increased numbers Government has insisted we teach, there is a constant danger of dumbing down, becoming just a rite of passage for young people. Combating this involves proving that we need to adhere to professional standards, or we are letting down both students and staff as well as archaeology itself. These standards are an important counterbalance to other targets we have to meet, and a useful argument when asked to cut more corners in relation to real archaeology.

Employability
Professional standards are especially vital for departments that still do their own field training, sadly a diminishing group because of costs and the sheer number of students. That field training is expensive for students and university alike, so it must be worthwhile in every way. Inevitably, academic staff are likely to have moved away from fieldwork (even if they were once proficient), so bringing in modern standards – and demonstrating that we have done so – is essential for the credibility of the students we train. This particularly applies to MA students, for whom employability becomes a major consideration. From 2006 even undergraduates will be charged some £200 in fees, and many will be thinking hard about a career that will repay this. Those with power to choose will go for departments that are part of the wider archaeological community, where their field experience will be taken seriously.

Bridging gaps
Then again, we need to recognise that today there is a distressing and persistent divergence between academia and fieldwork, and this is damaging to both. One way around this is to work together on research frameworks, and there are other ways that university departments that are RAOs can start bridging the gap, to the benefit of all archaeology: Just as those working in commercial organisations need to keep up with academic thought as part of continuing professional development, so must academics keep up with changes in field practices and new discoveries.

External benchmarking
Finally, we live in a world in which Government is moving towards benchmarking standards for everyone. In selecting and applying these they will prefer external rather than purely internal ones, so it would be a benefit for universities to show they are ahead of the game and are already applying standards for non-teaching work that are recognised across their profession. And of course they can play a part in developing those standards, learning about the world of modern archaeological work in the process. I have certainly learnt a huge amount from my work on RAO Committee and our inspection visits to varied archaeological organisations, and have fed this back into the department. Of course, there are some material benefits from becoming an RAO (a very useful Yearbook and directory, a quarterly magazine that keeps you up to date with changes in the profession, cheap advertising and conference fees etc), but what a university department should hope to get goes far beyond this. It is the way it can play a part in maintaining and developing the structure and substance of British archaeology, preserving the very integrity of our subject.

One small subscription (£105) seems a small price to pay for this.

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Training in field survey for Birmingham students on Harris in the Western Isles. Photograph: John Hunter

Birmingham students training on a Roman site at Eusson, France. Photograph: A5 Fernunos-Cleary

Birmingham students training on a Roman site at Eusson, France. Photograph: A5 Fernunos-Cleary

Training in field survey for Birmingham students on Harris in the Western Isles. Photograph: John Hunter

Training in field survey for Birmingham students on Harris in the Western Isles. Photograph: John Hunter
Agenda for INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY in Britain

Industrial archaeology is increasingly in the public eye. World Heritage sites such as the Derwent Valley, Blaenavon and the Liverpool waterfront are being designated, and there is good television coverage. The umbrella organisation for industrial archaeology in Britain is the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA), founded in 1963, for amateurs and professionals interested in industrial archaeology and industrial heritage. AIA runs conferences and seminars, publishes a quarterly newsletter and has editorial responsibility for Industrial Archaeology Review.

UPDATING RESEARCH AGENDA

In 1991, after widespread consultation, AIA published Industrial Archaeology: working for the future, recommending priorities for research and conservation. An increasing emphasis on developer-funded activity prompted English Heritage to sponsor a programme to update the research agenda published for the Iron Age and the Roman periods. Then, in June 2004, AIA organised a two-day seminar on Understanding the Workplace: an agenda for industrial archaeology in Britain, aiming to provide an updated research context. Twenty-two papers were given by English Heritage, the Royal Commissions in Scotland and Wales, contract and local authority archaeologists and university academics.

This seminar is a good demonstration of how industrial archaeology has developed over the past decade, with far more emphasis on the social and economic context. ‘Doing industrial archaeology’, it was made clear, is not just about recording buildings and researching their history: it is about understanding the role of buildings in the industrial context. How does the form of a building express its function? How do we interpret the use of space within industrial buildings? What is the significance of physical changes which have taken place to a building? How do buildings on a particular site relate to each other and does this help to understand the processes which took place and the way in which the workforce operated? Do industrial buildings have any symbolic meaning?

FOOTBALL, CINEMAS AND DEATH

Topics such as ‘The Workplace’ and ‘Industrial Settlement’ included consideration of the use of space in textile mills by Ian Mellor of York University, and Eleanor Casella from the University of Manchester on her careful excavation of twentieth-century workers’ cottages at Alderley Edge in Cheshire. Mike Nevell, also from Manchester, explained the methodology he has developed with John Walker for relating the introduction of new types of industrial buildings into the landscape to the social structure of the region, while Marilyn Palmer discussed evidence for technological change on the country house and its estates. The final sessions considered the archaeological evidence for the lifestyles of the workforce engaged in industrial activity. Jason Wood of Heritage Consultancy Services (Talking Sport or Talking Balls?), describing a pilot project mostly concerned with football stadiums originally undertaken for English Heritage. Not to be outdone, Shaun Richardson (Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd, Beverley) discussed cinema-going (Welcome to the cheap seats: cinemas, sex and the landscape), using oral and building evidence to elucidate a major social activity of the twentieth-century workforce. Religious life is also important, and Stephen Hughes described the work by RCAHMW on churches and chapels in Welsh industrial settlements. Sarah Tarlow (University of Leicester) concluded with Death and commemoration, looking at churchyards and cemeteries for the ‘archaeology of emotion’. The seminar papers will be published in 2005 as an extended edition of Industrial Archaeology Review, and will include a suggested research strategy.

MOVING BEYOND TECHNOLOGY

It is already clear that industrial archaeology has moved well beyond the technological paradigm for which it has been criticised in the past, towards greater consideration of social contexts. Buildings of production such as textile mills are still important places, but are being studied not just for their form and function but also for the ways in which the workforce operated within them and for their relationship to other buildings in the landscape. The range of buildings has been extended to include those associated with the lifestyles of both the entrepreneur and the workforce. My own recent work has been concerned with the way in which the buildings of the textile industries in south-west England can indicate the changes in industrial organisation over time.

Now that many archaeological contract units deal with industrial buildings as a matter of course, it is hoped that this research agenda, when published, will enable such buildings to be put in the wider context that they deserve.
Analysis and recording of historic buildings within the English planning framework: an assessment of current practice

Shane Gould

Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG15) was published in 1994, but concerns have been expressed within the historic environment sector that its effectiveness has been limited compared with PPG16. Whilst the latter has transformed archaeological resource management, impact assessments in support of planning/listed building applications and use of conditions for the recording of features that may be lost or destroyed remain rare. Similarly, record systems for conservation of the historic built environment and management of information from development control processes are poorly developed.

Surveying current practices

An initial project was undertaken at Oxford Brookes University to look into the effectiveness of PPG15, and this current survey takes the analysis a stage further by asking the same sample of local authority conservation advisors if they use the guidance for historic building analysis and recording. For comparative purposes local authority archaeologists were included in the survey. In both instances the respondent was asked if they prepared a written brief, and to provide sample copies.

As with the earlier work by Oxford Brookes University, this survey found a variety of practices amongst local authorities. It appears that local authority archaeologists are undertaking much of the work, with the emphasis on recording non-listed industrial structures following the granting of planning permission.

Worrying absences

Interestingly, many categories which form the traditional focus for historic building conservation were absent, including vernacular buildings, town houses, farmsteads and ecclesiastical structures. Furthermore, the need for exploratory opening-up works to investigate hidden features and the specialist analysis of timber, plaster, paint or mortar was not recognised during this survey.

Some conservation officers still maintain that assessment and recording of historic buildings as set out in PPG15 is not needed within their authority. However, this research found a growing number who recognise its potential importance. Advice is increasingly being sought from archaeologists on the form and content of the written brief, but in most instances the conservation officer appears reluctant to become directly engaged in the process or in assessing the outcome.

A way forward?

Although it is ten years since the publication of PPG15, there remains considerable confusion on its practical application. The following steps are recommended

- National guidance: A concise guidance note is required on procedures and best practice
- Record systems: It is widely acknowledged that record systems for the historic built environment are poorly developed. More needs to be done to integrate existing information with emerging Historic Environment Record Centres
- Training: More emphasis should be given to the importance of historic building assessment and recording at post-graduate degree level, membership qualifications for professional bodies and short courses linked to continuous professional development
- Promotion: Conferences, day schools and seminars should raise awareness

Promotion of best practice would overcome some of the current deficiencies in the conservation process, but perhaps the traditional role and function of the local authority archaeologist and historic buildings officer should be re-examined. Given the complex nature of the resource and the inherent linkages between these professions their separation is no longer tenable, and it is hoped that further efforts will now be made at a strategic level to encourage more integrated working practices.

Note: A detailed version of this article has been published in the May issue of Context, the journal for the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. It provides further information on the use of recording levels together with guidance on the content of the written brief.
The next natural step was to become a recognised professional Institute, established as a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity and so IHBC was born. A large percentage of former ACO members migrated over to the new Institute which has nine branches in total, and membership widened to include the private sector (total approximately 1400). Until 2000 the Institute was entirely run by volunteers, but then employed a part-time professional administrator. It recently appointed its first full time director, Sean O’Reilly who is charged with enabling IHBC to develop and expand its role. Particularly high on the agenda is a formalised CPD system, tackling accreditation issues for the members and ensuring that the voice of the Institute is more widely heard.

Since 2003 IHBC and IFA have been discussing closer cooperation, reflecting how much the two institutes have in common, how we need to present a more united front to government and to other sectors, and the benefits of pooling resources where we can. We hope to build on this in the coming months to develop a stronger relationship.

The annual school for 2005 is to be held in York on 7-10 July, but during the year several individual branches will be holding training and social events to allow for networking and support at a more local level. These events are usually open to non members and details can be obtained from the branch committees. Details of the activities of the IHBC can be obtained from the website www.ihbc.org.uk.

Should you wish to join and share in the exchange of ideas as well as receiving Context, we would welcome your involvement.

Nigel Barker, IHBC
nigel.barker@english-heritage.org.uk

In 2004 the Council for British Archaeology received 3713 listed building applications for England, 156 site visits were made on our behalf and 163 written responses were sent. In addition, advice from our voluntary historic building correspondents was used to reinforce the comments of other amenity societies and English Heritage.

The good news is that total demolition figures for historic buildings do seem to be declining (CBA Conservation database). Instead we see more proposals for conversion, and the benefits of conservation-led regeneration are more widely recognised. Mill and warehouse conversions are popular, particularly waterside development sites, as are agricultural buildings. Also good news is that I am also increasingly finding that, in the quest for informed decision making, more applications arrive with a wealth of information. This is excellent for allowing us to assess the impact on the fabric and significance of the historic building, though inevitably it takes time to assess.

One of our current cases is a twentieth-century structure built as a regional seat of government, one of only two built in the 1960s. It was built to protect against bomb blast, radiation and the public, is a base to rule the country after a nuclear attack. There is a wonderful poem specifically written about this building by Adrian Mitchell called On the Beach at Cambridge (after Neville Shute…). The application is for partial demolition, which actually means one wall is to be left standing! It has to be one of the ugliest structures we have ever seen, but its function dictates its form and it encapsulates so much of the fear and feelings of its time its historic value is so great, we have to object.

Working with colleagues, successes of 2004 included saving the second world war officers’ squash court at Duxford (now proposed for conversion) and the second oldest racetrack-training establishment in Newmarket (saving a listed cottage and stables): we also spoke out against the loss of a fine Victorian public house interior in Dudley: Even after four years however, we are still involved with the future of the Victorian terraced houses of Whitefield, Nelson, Lancashire, saved from demolition but still boarded up. An Enquiry by Design arranged by the Prince’s Trust, including a week of intensive designing, looked at the area holistically. It was realised that the perceived ‘over-supply’ of two-bedroom terraced houses was not true, and the vision for the future sees retention of most houses, albeit knocking three or two into one in some cases.

It is important that we get it right for Whitefield as hopefully it will be seen as a template for success and used in other Pathfinder areas of the North and Midlands. Here schemes are being put forward for similar ‘renewal areas’, often leading to the loss of workers housing and settlement patterns, usually much against the wishes of residents.

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CHARACTERISING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN LONDON AND LIVERPOOL

Peter Guillery and John Cattell

LONDON

In unusual circumstances, English Heritage agreed to undertake a study to characterise the historical and architectural development of the London suburb of South Acton. Using building analysis, documentary research and oral history, the aim is to analyse and then promote understanding of the evolution of this neighbourhood, to help local people gain a more historically based sense of place, and to provide a record of what South Acton is like now for posterity.

In June 2004 the South Acton Residents’ Action Group (SARAG) and Ealing Civic Society approached English Heritage requesting a characterisation study of South Acton. This neighbourhood has one of the largest post-war housing estates in west London, exhibiting a rich and typical variety of buildings from the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s, ’comprehensive redevelopment’ that followed slum clearance of late nineteenth-century terraces. The result is a mixture of high- and low-rise flats in a mature landscape, with great variety of appearance and quality in the architecture and the spaces between.

Through the 1980s and ’90s the problems and costs of maintaining public housing mounted, repairs became backlogged, and in 1996 the London Borough of Ealing began to plan ’comprehensive regeneration’. In 2001 a 23-storey tower block, Barrie House, was demolished; low-rise homes have been built on the site. More blocks have been earmarked for demolition and replacement, others for refurbishment.

Community value

There are no buildings of outstanding historic or architectural interest, nor is conservation area designation justified. Despite this, some members of the local community, led by SARAG, strongly believe that there is something here worth keeping. Ignorance of history risks the repetition of past mistakes. People would like to see the history and character of South Acton’s built environment articulated before the next attempt at a fresh start is too advanced. As SARAG’s manifesto ‘Aspirations for Change’ states: ‘the history, continuity and community spirit of the area is important and should inform what happens and which buildings are retained.’

An English Heritage investigator and photographer are working alongside a team from Fluid, community engagement consultants, to engage local residents in documenting their memories of the neighbourhood. This side of the project seeks to discover what people feel is of value and significance in South Acton’s built environment, focusing on what has happened, not on what should happen, though understanding the past should inform attitudes to the future. The final report will be available locally, as well as through the NMR.

New approaches to the historical analysis of post-war housing are needed. For this South Acton presents an excellent and timely opportunity.

Peter Guillery

English Heritage

LIVERPOOL

A recently completed assessment of housing in Anfield and Breckfield, inner-Liverpool suburbs blighted by economic decline and social problems, was carried out in response to proposals for a ‘Pathfinder’ Housing Market Renewal Initiative. By combining documentary research with a rapid survey of the whole area, the study complements the broader based Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (by Merseyside Archaeological Service in conjunction with English Heritage).

The Anfield/Breckfield work has resulted in a more in-depth understanding of the evolution of the area, identification and analysis of the ‘typical’, and occasionally the ‘unique’, as well as highlighting those parts of the area most vulnerable to change. A strong methodological element was built into the study and will be published as a model. Similar approaches might usefully be extended to the analysis of towns, villages or rural areas where buildings need to be assessed as a key part of the wider landscape.

Adoption of a fully integrated approach to analysing and understanding the historic environment in a key strategic objective for English Heritage and has proved an important driver in the recent reorganisation of its research teams. Area studies like those described here have great potential to contribute to this multi-disciplinary approach and to act as vehicles for developing effective partnerships between those involved in research on the one hand and planning and conservation professionals on the other.

John Cattell

Head of Survey and Investigation (Buildings)

English Heritage

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The range of work IFA members do and the range of buildings encountered mean that there is no simple H&S solution. We may work alone or in teams, the building may be in good repair or an unstable ruin. It may be medieval and agricultural or twentieth-century and industrial. It may be contaminated with chemical agents or animal borne (zoonotic) diseases.

For good reasons, every employer is required to comply with current H&S legislation, and employees also have a responsibility to report any unsafe working conditions or practices and to comply with training and equipment guidelines. Risk Assessments have to be carried out and appropriate training, equipment, working practices, specialist advice and monitoring systems put in place.

An article this length cannot identify all the issues, but here is a useful checklist

- Is the building secure or can potentially dangerous animals or people gain access without your knowledge (animal attack, needles etc)?
- Are the electric and gas services off?
- Is there danger of flooding or the build up of gases? Confined spaces require specialist training and equipment
- Are you able to get in and out without being accidentally locked in?
- Is the fabric of the building stable or are there potential hazards?
- Are there uneven surfaces, unlit steps or falls, rotten timbers?
- Is there a build up of pigeon droppings, standing water with rats or other rodents (zoonotic diseases)?
- Are you working in an isolated area with difficult access for bringing in any equipment?
- If using scaffolding are you sure that it is safe, has it been checked by a competent person and are you trained to use it correctly?
- Length of journey to and from site and rest breaks if driving.

So to any Indianas out there, think safe and live to have many more adventures!

**USEFUL TRAINING AND INFORMATION SOURCES**

- **Health and Safety Executive** The HSE has a useful website packed with downloadable leaflets on every subject from Accident Reporting to Zoonotic Diseases. They also have publications order line and advice line for H&S queries. www.hse.gov.uk
- **SCAUM. The Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers** produces two useful manuals, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology and Employment Manual. Check with your organisation’s safety coordinator, contact SCAUM direct, or purchase through IFA.
- **British Red Cross.** This provides First Aid, Manual handling and other related training and can provide First Aid equipment. www.redcross.org.uk
- **AM Training Services Ltd.** Providers of First Aid, Pre-Hospital Care, Health & Safety and associated Training. Run a Lone Worker Course specifically for Historic Environment Specialists. Their clients include: Oxford City Council, Oxford Archaeology and CgMs Ltd. www.amtrainingservices.co.uk
- **Oxford University Department for Continuing Education.** Provide professional courses for the historic environment, including an annual Health & Safety for Archaeologists course. This gives a detailed review of the current legislation as well as an opportunity to explore practical issues for a range of situations including buildings and lone working. www.conted.ox.ac.uk
- **Paul Jeffery Heritage Protection Department English Heritage** Paul-philip.jeffery@english-heritage.org.uk

**Gatehouse of Debre Berhan Selassie Church, Gonder, Ethiopia. Even World Heritage Sites can look like spot the hazard competition entries. © Paul Jeffery**
planning authorities are not even rigorous in applying the recording provisions set out in PPG 15 (see Shane Gould, p12).

Again, the early experience of buildings archaeologists was largely gained studying the ‘bones’ of buildings and monuments, rather than their surface finishes, and on the back of major conservation or dismantling and re-erection projects, typically with detailed and comprehensive recording, quite unlike the small-scale works frequent in the planning process. And archaeologists involved with building conservation are often under-valued (and under-value themselves) as part of the client team.

**Brief and tender stages**
The first opportunity is the prospect of improved links between the planning, conservation, architectural and architectural professionals at local authority level. The brief and tender stages of recording projects are an opportunity to bring conservation and archaeological officers together. Sharing responsibility would deliver more confidence and consistency and ensure that greater account is taken of regional vernacular traditions. Other benefits might include improved procurement arrangements, enhanced record systems and more coherent regional research projects.

**Multi-disciplinary teams**
A second opportunity is the prospect of multi-disciplinary teams. In some instances the archaeologist may play a more extended role in the design of conservation works and in the co-ordination of related specialists and services (for example, measured survey, dendrochronology, and mortar or paint analysis). Other benefits might include rolling programmes of archaeological recording as part of forward maintenance plans and the creation of ‘retained’ archaeologists for certain classes of historic building or monument.

**Collaboration not fragmentation**
Integration of different professional bodies responsible for the management and interpretation of the built environment would be another positive step. The conservation part of the built environment sector is too small to support the increasing number of professional institutions and related interest groups. Continued fragmentation is unsustainable. Co-operation, and possibly merger, are the only logical ways forward. IFA could play a lead role, perhaps starting with the Buildings Archaeology Group sharing resources with similar groups within the IHBC and perhaps the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. One useful collaborative project might be to draw together and publish relevant extensive and intensive recording procedures and planning scenarios to illustrate good development control and historic building recording practices.

**Training**
These opportunities could all be advanced through enhanced training. Although the number of published standards, principles and guidelines continues to increase, nothing replaces the advantages of participation in courses. But at what level and to whom should such courses be aimed? Are existing courses sufficient in number and flexibility to get the message across?

Jason Wood
Heritage Consultancy Services

Jason was a founder member of the IFA Buildings Special Interest Group and its Chair between 1994 and 1998. He is the author of a chapter on historic buildings to be published in the new edition of Archaeological Resource Management in the UK – An Introduction.

Over the last twenty years or so, the archaeological profession has passed important milestones in buildings archaeology. Warwick Rodwell laid the modern foundations, providing a general guide to analysis of buildings using churches as examples. From the mid-1980s, long-term historic fabric surveys were set up by English Heritage in order to understand monuments in their care prior to major works. About fifteen years ago the profession really woke up to the academic and commercial potential of work in this field. IFA’s Buildings Special Interest Group was established and a string of successful conferences, day schools and other events reinforced the message. Publications by the IFA and ALGAL followed, anticipating and responding to planning guidance.

‘Archaeologists’ for buildings?
But problems remain. One is the word ‘archaeologist’. CBA has been a statutory consultant for Listed Building Consent notifications for many years, but there remains puzzlement about the involvement of archaeologists with buildings. Another problem is that recording a building, if it happens at all, happens after key decisions have been taken, usually as a condition of consent. Recording should not be seen as a punishment for bad applications but as a beneficial process that can avoid damage to historic buildings. Some local

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The long period of major repair at Ightham Mote in Kent on behalf of the National Trust has recently drawn to a close. The project had the benefit throughout of a project archaeologist working alongside the architect and contractor to inform the process and record what was discovered. (Photo: Jason Wood)
In the last decade all types of building have been subjected to more intensive recording due to the rise of building archaeology and new legislation such as PPG15. Although outside the secular planning process, ecclesiastical buildings have also benefited.

Recording at cathedrals takes a variety of forms, but large projects are usually a reaction to repairs or conservation. Recording elevations is usually tied in with stone replacement, and the process is seen as a means of producing accurate drawings for the architect to mark up required work. The archaeological aspect is an added bonus. However, cathedrals are realising the value of commissioning measured surveys to produce plans of their complex buildings. The first major survey was of Norwich (1997-98), to aid design of a visitor centre. At present, Newcastle is considering a similar project to complement its conservation plan, and Lichfield to aid its fire evacuation procedures. Again, archaeology is not the stimulus, but much can be gleaned from the resulting plans.

**Single-person recording**

Techniques for recording buildings are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Advances in Total Stations in the last few years mean that surveying can be achieved quickly, accurately and cheaply. One person can now operate alone using a reflector-less machine which takes readings off the actual walls rather than the prism held by an assistant, or for horizontal surfaces the operator may choose to use a robotic machine which seeks out the prism they are positioning.

**Scanning cathedrals**

For major elevations photogrammetry was the obvious choice until recently. Now there is a new option, laser scanning. When deciding how to record a 315 ft building it makes sense to turn to the construction industry for ideas. Laser scanning was developed for checking the ‘as-built’ accuracy of skyscrapers so is a natural choice for otherwise inaccessible heights. By systematically scanning the building from different directions the operator can produce a ghostly image or ‘point cloud’ in 3D.

A recent project to laser scan the tower and spire at Norwich took two days on site and captured all relevant detail. The resulting ‘point cloud’ is an important source of information. It can be manipulated using a viewer to obtain cut-through sections, heights, dimensions or plots. Those with more sophisticated requirements can purchase software and produce line drawings by joining the dots, or even render the cloud to produce a solid model. Archaeologists can plot information and make judgements about the significance of the fabric themselves, rather than relying on a survey technician (as in photogrammetry). At Norwich, scanning was invaluable for obtaining ‘cut-line’ horizontal sections through an otherwise inaccessible spire, but time on site is expensive and maximum yield has to be guaranteed.

**Improving the image**

One major disadvantage is the quality of the photographic image. This is improving, but was primarily intended just as a view finder. Consequently, if the building requires an accompanying image, it may need a different technique. To produce a stone-by-stone elevation photogrammetry is a viable option, but is time-consuming and therefore expensive. Providing the elevation is flat, or consists of flat elements, rectified photography is cheaper. Digitally corrected photographs can be used to drape an elevation using CAD to save plotting time, especially if the elevation is built with small irregular stones or flints. It is ideal for showing painted decoration and was used to record a wall painting at Norwich.

This technique, perfected at Norwich Cathedral, has filtered down to other ecclesiastical buildings in Norfolk. Wymondham Abbey commissioned measured survey plans and elevations to aid designs for a visitor centre. Rectified photographs were used to give added detail to the elevations of coursed flint. The same method was used at All Saints, Hethel, a Grade I listed building with square flint tower. This was subsequently scaffolded for repairs and so the plotted ‘photo-realistic’ drawings could be annotated with archaeological observations. Rectified photography was used to good effect ensuring that both buildings were well recorded at minimal cost.

Cost is a big issue when dealing with churches and even cathedrals. It is essential to select the most appropriate method that produces a good record for a reasonable price. We can also stress the other positive benefits of survey work, such as assistance to the architect, value as a management tool, or even how they can assist seating arrangements for concerts.

Cathedrals come under scrutiny more often than parish churches, but these too deserve to be recorded before important information about their development is lost during repairs and repointing.

For further information or consultancy advice, contact archaeological.surveyor@cathedral.org.uk

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Ground-based remote sensing – ‘geophysics’ for historic buildings

Christopher Brooke

Geophysical survey methods are well understood by the archaeological community and are routine in subsurface investigation. Less well known, but equally effective, is a toolkit of electromagnetic sensing techniques for the investigation of standing buildings, structures, and monuments (and exposed soils under excavation). Known as ‘Ground-Based Remote Sensing’ (GBRS), the methods comprise a range of imaging tools that have been borrowed and adapted from aerial and orbital remote sensing and from medical investigation.

The principal tools are multispectral imaging, which helps differentiate complex areas of building fabric, and fittings such as historic glass; Contrast/contour Enhancing Illumination (CEI) and Laser Contour Profiling (LCP), which reveal features hidden beneath plaster and rendered surfaces; Laser Surface Profiling (LSP) and Multiple Angle Surface Saturaton (MASS), that decipher illegible inscriptions, graffiti, and carved detail; and ultraviolet fluorescence and infra-red luminescence that can detect traces of paint or other decorative pigments. All reveal information invisible to the unaided eye.

Since the development of GBRS in the 1980s, huge advances have been made in methodology and particularly in digital imaging processes. Highly portable diode lasers have opened up the potential for reaching areas of fabric and objects at high level and in obscure locations. Direct digital capture has improved multispectral imaging capabilities and has made possible cost-effective UV-visible-IR composites for study of multiphase fabric. One of the greatest advances has been the improvement in data visualisation software, with the introduction of powerful mathematical techniques that allow extraction and meaningful display of information from complex images. Again, the development owes much to earth-observation remote sensing and to medical imaging. So powerful are these methods that many historic building GBRS surveys carried out twenty years ago are now being re-examined and additional data extracted.

The methods are cost effective, rapid and non-destructive. Future developments promise ever clearer elucidation of complex standing fabric, especially when used in conjunction with metric survey techniques such as laser scanning.

For more information see: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~ahzcb/gbgs.html or contact Chris Brooke at chris.brooke@nottingham.ac.uk

Christopher Brooke
University of Nottingham

Training for recording buildings: Course review

Building Survey Week: Analysing and Recording Historic Buildings

Ignus Froneman

This annual one week course at Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education focuses on teaching the principles of building recording and analysis, as well as practical recording methods and techniques that can be applied to a range of historic structures and buildings. Participants ranged from postgraduate archaeological students to professional buildings analysts.

An intensive mix of lectures, case studies and fieldwork included a day-trip to a ‘secret’ location followed by group based research, discussion and analysis, and production of scaled, hand drawn survey drawings. The results were presented and discussed and, after much anticipation, the development of the building was finally revealed by the course directors. Whilst the principles of building analysis can be applied to most structures, fieldwork concentrated on local timber framed buildings. The choice was practical as these lend themselves to interpretation, once the basics of their construction and evolution is understood. If the course lacked anything, it was an introduction to recording twentieth-century buildings and in particular industrial structures/complexes. The sheer scale, complexity and available material relating to these sites can in itself be daunting, with additional aspects such as oral history collation, internet resources, video records, aerial photography, historical associations.

Another area often neglected at academic level is the question of establishing and controlling correct levels of recording and setting standards for minimum requirements. Case studies illustrating best practice standards for all levels of recording, as set out by the RCHME ‘Recording Historic Buildings A Descriptive Specification’ would benefit buildings analysts and local authority conservation staff.

Training events for heritage professionals are organised by English Heritage in association with the Archaeology Training Forum, IFA and IHBC. Short courses available at Oxford University Department of Continuing Education cover a range of topics including public inquiry, archaeological publication, maritime archaeology, health and safety and web publishing. Email Alison.macdonald@conted.ox.ac.uk for a programme.

Ignus Froneman
Laser scanning is becoming a widespread technique for recording cultural heritage around the world. A range of scanners are available, from airborne systems that provide detailed topographic modelling of large sites or regions, through site portable time-of-flight scanners suitable for measuring buildings and monuments to triangulation scanners that provide sub mm accuracy for small artefacts. Generally, the visual impact of the point cloud generated from scanning is impressive.

Without recognised standards and guidance, data can’t be collected consistently from site to site. The joint English Heritage/Newcastle University Heritage3D project is seeking to address these problems by developing best practice for using 3D laser scanning in cultural heritage applications and helping users get the most out of this developing technique. The project is looking at laser scanning as a whole and developing guidance in conjunction with the general scanning community through a series of visits and steering committee meetings.

The first Heritage3D project workshop last November identified guidance to deliver useful standard as a positive step. Catherine Hardman (ADS) suggested that planning for data reuse would be the most effective way of getting best value from archived scanner data. Such reuse is currently limited by the availability of affordable commercial software with tools suitable for heritage applications. For example, while all users can now access digital images and, in most cases, digital survey drawings, very few users can routinely use scan data. Wolfgang Bohler (Mainz University of Applied Sciences) highlighted a number of ways laser scanning may be integrated with other techniques such as photogrammetry, and Richard Gillibrand (University of Bristol), provided an interesting example of using laser scanning combined with computer rendering techniques to look at lighting of features (such as rock carvings), monuments or entire buildings which may have been moved since their original inception and where the original lighting may have had a particular influence on the feature’s design and orientation.

The project will now move onto addressing the issues raised in order to provide professional guidance. Regular updates will be available via the project website. As an archaeologist who has used laser scanning, or someone who would like to know more about laser scanning in general, you may like to play an active role in the project by becoming a project associate. This pool of experts is acting as the wide knowledge base from which steering committee members will be chosen. For more information please contact the project officer at info@heritage3D.org or visit www.heritage3D.org.

Oral history has been used in a number of recent CgMs Consulting projects to great effect, contributing a dimension that could so easily be lost. For example, during recording works at Greenham Common contact with an ex-USAF serviceman led to a number of his former colleagues committing their memories and knowledge of the buildings, formerly covered by the Official Secrets Act, to paper. At Battersea Power Station, contact with former employees, both administrative and floor staff, resulted in a detailed understanding of the surviving plant and its significance, informing decisions on retention/disposal during redevelopment. During our recent assessment and record of the former HMP Maze in Northern Ireland with approximately 350 buildings, oral history proved invaluable in understanding routines, security measures and procedure as well as the functions of each structure and the interrelationship of groups of buildings. At the Ovaltine Factory, Hertfordshire, site interviews with former staff explained the processes and product ranges and the effect this had on structural evolution of the buildings.

Technology now makes recording oral history easier than ever. For example, dictaphones, tape and mini disc recorders, email and web have all been used to good effect. However, the justification for excluding or including elements is less straightforward as the selective representation of the interviewee through editing for a specific purpose, such as a building record, may alter or omit narrative. Referenced, selective, use of oral history within a report and the inclusion of a full transcript within an archive is one solution.

Oral history is an increasingly valued resource in the analysis and recording of our built heritage. With a greater recognition of the historic and architectural interest of twentieth-century sites in particular, oral history is proving itself worthwhile for historic building analysts, researchers and archaeologists. With an emphasis on informed conservation and a legislative framework encouraging assessment prior to specifying appropriate levels of recording, oral history is valuable during both assessment and recording stages of a project. It can take a number of forms including on-site interviews and walk overs, or even written personal testimonies by email.

The Joint English Heritage/Newcastle University Heritage3D project is seeking to address these problems by developing best practice for using 3D laser scanning in cultural heritage applications and helping users get the most out of this developing technique. The project is looking at laser scanning as a whole and developing guidance in conjunction with the general scanning community through a series of visits and steering committee meetings.
Over the next decade, structural changes to farming and rising rural populations will accelerate the pace of change in the countryside. These changes will put particular pressure on traditional farm buildings, which are increasingly irrelevant to modern practices. These vernacular buildings are an important historic resource and a major contributor to countryside character. How are these values to be protected in the face of processes operating at a global scale?

English Heritage is currently considering this difficult issue, with a view to issuing new policy guidance. As a first step we will soon publish a major study by the... on the state of their historic farm buildings and more than half do not publish relevant supplementary planning guidance.

Future policies need to place greater emphasis on maintenance and repair of the historic stock and must work with the strong economic pressures driving conversion. We need to achieve better co-ordination of approaches to long-term conservation and change-of-use. Key to this will be better understanding of which buildings and landscapes are most significant in historic terms, and which are least suited to adaptive reuse. Repair grants should be focused on these. The emphasis for the remainder should be on finding new uses compatible with their historic and landscape value and on driving up the quality of design in conversion.

As a first step towards understanding these values, English Heritage is examining ways of rapidly characterising the resource and its contribution to the wider landscape. In 2005 we will also publish guidance on achieving quality in conversion alongside a series of regional statements calling for a more strategic approach to decisions about this threatened resource.

Steve Trow
Head of Rural and Environmental Policy
English Heritage

Jeremy Lake
Inspector of Historic Buildings
English Heritage

Most individual elements of the historic built environment do not meet criteria to be listed but nevertheless are locally important in terms of rarity, historical associations or their relationship to a locale’s character. As such, many justify inclusion on a list of locally important structures supported by appropriate policy for their management and protection in the Local Plan.

Following representations to Stevenage Borough Council, a partnership to compile a list was formed comprising members of the Campaign for Real Stevenage, the Stevenage Conservation Liaison Committee and Stevenage Local History Society with staff from the Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council and Stevenage Museum. Criteria for inclusion were:

- is the structure locally unique or a locally good example of style(s), materials, technological innovation or have any other distinguishing character?
- is it a good example of a period of development in its locale?
- is it associated with an important landscape or landmark?
- is it a good example of the work of a locally renowned builder or architect?
- does it have a strong historical association?

The starting point was structures assessed during the DoE’s survey of Stevenage in 1976. Members of the partnership then brought their own suggestions, and the County Council... and post office, agricultural buildings, a national school and some 1955 concrete and cast iron street lamps. The lamps were rare surviving examples of street furniture from the initial post-war period of development of the new town. Unfortunately, only a few months before the survey started, the last five London County Council style bus stop shelters from the original development of the new town were demolished.

The project identified a wealth of nationally unlisted structures in Stevenage that justify conservation, and was valuable in bringing together local people with historic environment and planning professionals to make decisions over the future management of a local historic environment. If adopted, the list will make a significant contribution to the management and conservation of Stevenage’s locally significant built environment.

Jonathan Smith
Hertfordshire County Council

**THE MAKING OF A LOCAL LIST**

Jonathan Smith

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**Historic farm buildings: assets or liabilities?**

Steve Trow and Jeremy Lake

Over the next decade, structural changes to farming and rising rural populations will accelerate the pace of change in the countryside. These changes will put particular pressure on traditional farm buildings, which are increasingly irrelevant to modern practices. These vernacular buildings are an important historic resource and a major contributor to countryside character. How are these values to be protected in the face of processes operating at a global scale?

English Heritage is currently considering this difficult issue, with a view to issuing new policy guidance. As a first step we will soon publish a major study by the University of Gloucestershire which explores changes already affecting the building stock and continuing drivers of change, quantifying the scale of disrepair and reuse. Agricultural buildings are the biggest category on buildings at risk registers, with 12% of actively used farm buildings in disrepair and 8% of grade I and II* listed buildings under threat. Since 1980, 6% of listed farm buildings have been granted consent for demolition and one in five have permission for change of use. Despite past policy guidance dissuading conversions to domestic accommodation, 70-80% fall into this category: only 10-20% are converted for employment and business use. Few rural planning authorities have comprehensive data on the state of their historic farm buildings and more than half do not publish relevant supplementary planning guidance.

Future policies need to place greater emphasis on maintenance and repair of the historic stock and must work with the strong economic pressures driving conversion. We need to achieve better co-ordination of approaches to long-term conservation and change-of-use. Key to this will be better understanding of which buildings and landscapes are most significant in historic terms, and which are least suited to adaptive reuse. Repair grants should be focused on these. The emphasis for the remainder should be on finding new uses compatible with their historic and landscape value and on driving up the quality of design in conversion.

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Steve Trow
Head of Rural and Environmental Policy
English Heritage

Jeremy Lake
Inspector of Historic Buildings
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**THE MAKING OF A LOCAL LIST**

Jonathan Smith

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**A 1955 concrete and cast iron street lamp in Stevenage**
Writing on buildings: the archaeology of lettering

Geraint Franklin

Take a building archaeologist around an unfamiliar site, and one of the first things he or she will pick up on is any lettering on the fabric. Inscriptions provide a clear association with a builder, patron, or inhabitant, perhaps even a date. Whilst archaeologists are quick to exploit the text itself, and its contextual information, few choose to study the ‘metadata’ – the lettering itself, its medium, and its role as an architectural element.

Lettering can be applied (signs, billboards, neon, 3D letters, transfers), inscribed (scratched or carved into the fabric), painted, or drawn (pencil, chalk). Lettering can commemorate (a patron, builder, occupant or event), inform (signage), warn, advertise (eg pub livery, a ‘for sale’ sign), or even dedicate a building to a saint or deity. These functions may provide information about a patron, builder, owner or tenant. Additionally, historic graffiti can reflect other sections of society, displaying subversive or hidden texts in addition to authoritarian ones. A good example is the cell block at Richmond Castle, used to detail conscientious objectors during the first world war.

The graffiti was carefully recorded by English Heritage (http://www.alive-uk.com/richmond).

Sequences and typologies of plan-types, style and ornament, and fixtures and fittings have been assembled through the detailed analysis of buildings firmly dated by inscription. Multiple inscriptions may show evidence of repair, alteration or addition. Occasionally, lettering is left by builders during construction or assembly. Some late medieval masons’ marks are on based on contemporary script, and carpenters’ marks are based on Roman numerals.

The reuse of lettering is another fascinating field. At the base of the Anglo Saxon tower of St Mary le Wigford Church in Lincoln is a reused Roman tombstone. The original, Roman, inscription is in the lower part of the tablet. The inscription marked the graves of Sacer, a Roman from Gaul, his wife Cassouna and their son Quintus. It was reused in this eleventh-century building, with an added inscription to the patron Eirtig: ‘Eirtig had me built and endowed to the glory of Christ and St Mary’. Significantly, rather than obliterate the Roman inscription, or use the back of the tombstone, the Anglo-Saxon one has been carved in the apex of the tombstone.

Lettering is inherently ephemeral: surface spalling can easily destroy inscriptions and writing on painted or plastered surfaces can be equally unstable. Elsewhere, especially in urban areas, historic lettering is in danger of removal or replacement—although documents such as Streets for All (English Heritage, 2000) are increasing the appreciation of lettering as an integral part of historic architecture, and the wider historic environment. Conservation issues aside, there is a pressing need for archaeologists to adequately record historic lettering, in all its forms, when it is encountered.

Geraint Franklin
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‘London that great cesspool into which all the loungers of the empire are irresistibly drained’ (A Study in Scarlet 1887) is how Arthur Conan Doyle described one aspect of the economic pull of the metropolis. Yet the nineteenth century is a period of the capital’s history that is abundantly present yet largely absent in terms of surviving material culture. OS maps, census returns, publications, photographs, ephemera and oral histories survive, but there are significant gaps. For many years the capital’s above- and below-ground nineteenth-century heritage was largely ignored in the pursuit of Roman Londinium. Yet between 1600 and 1900 London changed from an important European trading centre at the beginning of colonial expansion to the world’s first great modern metropolis at the epicentre of an empire.

Archaeologists are sometimes guilty of concentrating on data collection and neglecting the people who created those data. Detecting a building’s function can be as tricky as working out why a pit was dug, but there are clues if an interdisciplinary approach is adopted. What can interrogation of standing buildings tell us about finds assemblages? Why don’t we use evidence from material culture and social history to turn a basic building record into an exciting story based on local archives?

House detectives
The nineteenth-century component of the Museum of London’s collections (curated at the LAARC) has been examined to define exactly what material culture exists from this period. This revealed that most Londoners ate off cheap and mass-produced wares that are traditionally absent from museum collections. Excavated assemblages include such ceramics, together with glassware, clay tobacco pipes and other household objects.

Following outbreaks of cholera caused by polluted water supplies – and in response to ‘the Great Stink’ of 1858 – an integrated sewage system was constructed between 1858 and 1880. Redundant cesspits were backfilled with domestic rubbish, providing us with a vivid snapshot of the Victorian household as a direct consequence of ‘reform’ and ‘improvement’.

Map regression and the post 1841 census enables excavated assemblages to be attributed to individual properties and families, providing both a social and spatial context. Such a methodology offers the chance to compare the material culture of an individual household with the income of its working inhabitants, the size of their dwelling and the number of occupants. Given such resources it would be possible to construct a ‘people and place’ database to link archaeological and historical evidence for missing buildings.

Alternative narratives and forgotten stories
The material culture of nineteenth-century London remains a vast unexplored dataset, and only a few of its potential research questions have been defined. For instance, during 2003 a number of eighteenth-century cellared buildings at Keeley Street, part of the notorious Wild Court slums, were excavated. In 1876 these properties were described by the Metropolitan Board of Works as ‘some of the most wretched houses in the metropolis in which the inhabitants are closely packed’. In 1880 the area was ‘reformed’ when its slums were cleared and replaced by a school and blocks of Peabody Trust flats. The recent excavation revealed brick-lined soakaways, cesspits and cellars, all latterly used as ‘dustbins’. Finds from these features include large quantities of mould-made white wares of which 23% were used for tea drinking. Other finds included fine metal working crucibles (possibly gold), a gold finger ring, children’s toys, buttons, a baby’s rattle and an ivory back scraper. One plate bears the inscription ‘industry pays debts’; a quote associated with Benjamin Franklin, but the plate features Father Matthew (1790–1856) a leader of the temperance movement.

Finds from Keeley Street raise the questions of who lived here and whether their material culture challenges the contemporary narratives offered by social reformers. Was the area really populated by drunkards, thieves and prostitutes? Possibly not, as the architectural remains consisted of well-built brick foundations, and the finds provided evidence of organised family life, craftsmanship and an awareness of the temperance movement. Were these families or individuals forced by their low incomes to live in overcrowded and insanitary conditions (the deserving poor) or were they simply too drunk or idle to improve their lot in life (the undeserving poor)? Conversely do the numerous finds of clay pipes and wine bottles demonstrate that temperance had a lot of potential recruits here? Can the surviving buildings and the finds assemblage answer some of these questions?

The archaeology of nineteenth-century London: an under-examined commodity
Structural and portable remains provide us with the chance to re-position and re-examine our perspectives. Yet, whilst social and economic historians or urban geographers produce engaging publications on nineteenth-century London, whenever archaeologists attempt similar engagement this is questioned. This attitude is beginning to change as more publications are produced and research work conducted. Recent examples include excavations at Spitalfields in the old East End, which have yielded a large body of nineteenth-century material from households along Fort Street. A mid to late nineteenth-century coffee house in Fulham was recently examined by Pre-Construct Archaeology, who have also studied Henry Doulton’s Lambeth pottery works, which produced many of the miles of stoneware drainpipes laid after 1858.

The nature of nineteenth-century London’s archaeology means that we must move away from producing conventional accounts of the capital’s history or what Matthew Johnson has termed as the ‘social history plus artefacts’ approach. We are planning to investigate the capital’s recent past in a new Museum of London research programme – Biographies of London Life – in which we will study people, their homes and their material culture as a single entity.

Nigel Jeffries and Bruce Watson

The archaeology of nineteenth-century London: an under-examined commodity
In the 1980s post-processual archaeology encouraged us to see material culture as an active system of communication, with symbols and meanings that could be read like a text. Although valuable, this interpretation relegated material culture to secondary importance. Twenty years on, few archaeologists seem willing to study material culture in its own right, as something that is solid and real in the world and has a practical function.

In a Sheffield back street the rhythmical sound of a hammer striking metal rings out from a dilapidated workshop. There are perhaps four or five ageing men working here. On three sides of the building windows that line its upper storeys. Within a year this building will be transformed into ‘city living’ apartments. We peer into the unlit space and see benches, oil-stained machines, and tools scattered everywhere. The Sheffield cutlery trade used a bewildering array of hand tools and people: the smither that straightened machine made knives, the putter that assembled (or put together) the two halves of a pair of scissors. Economic historians have left us detailed accounts of individual works and fluctuations in supply and demand. The buildings of the metals trades have also been the subject of detailed study by English Heritage.

Our challenge is to integrate this information with the wealth of material evidence that is now available for study. In so doing we must look to that which is real, for these artefacts tell us of real skills and real people.

James Symonds

Archaeologists have long been comfortable with the concept of buildings as archaeological sites. Increasingly their skills are accepted as essential to the understanding of an historic building (archaeological training needs to keep pace with this development). Recent discussion between IBBC and IFA reflects the increasingly mutual professional concerns of those concerned with the conservation of buildings and of archaeological sites.

However, between the buildings are spaces. In recent years the government has, through its planning guidance, placed increased emphasis on urban design, to improve the quality of architecture and provide a high quality context for these buildings. What role is there for the historic environment professional?

Urban archaeology has evolved from early concerns with the investigations of threatened sites to an interest in the urban landscape. With initiatives such as the urban archaeology programme in historic towns and cities supported by English Heritage, a wider perspective is being taken. Yet there is still failure to ensure the historic environment informs major regeneration initiatives.

Coventry City Council decided it wanted to use Millennium Commission funding to re-develop its historic core. This area has a Grade I listed monument, considerable archaeological remains and is set within a Conservation Area. Rather than be daunted by constraint, the council decided to use these historic elements to inform the new development. The result is the Coventry Phoenix Initiative, which provides new public spaces, housing, retail and catering outlets.

Coventry is unique in this country in being a city with three cathedrals: the new St Michael’s, the bombed cathedral and an even earlier, medieval one. In order to display this medieval cathedral and a Benedictine priory to the public, the Phoenix Initiative undertook to excavate its remains. Television was considered the most efficient medium to present these important remains to a wide audience. The remains of undercroft were significant enough not to preserve in situ, but to display permanently with public access. New squares were laid out respecting the layout and form of the nave, conventional buildings and a mill. The best of the finds are now housed in a new visitor centre, and staff conduct tours of the Priory Undercroft.

Unusually for an urban regeneration project consisting of a complex of new buildings and public open spaces, the Phoenix Initiative was shortlisted for the prestigious RIBA Sterling Prize, 2004. The Priory Undercroft appeared alongside the London ‘Gherkin’ in the televised proceedings.

The Coventry Phoenix Initiative has shown that the conservation of the historic environment is compatible with good and innovative new design. The result is a series of urban spaces which not only inform people about the city’s long history but also present challenging new urban design principles for today. Archaeology and the need to conserve historical buildings influenced development throughout the project. Again the skills of the archaeologist are relevant. It is through an increased understanding of the historic urban form that meaningful public spaces can be created.

George Demidowicz
Coventry City Council
Ian George
English Heritage

From the ashes? The Coventry Phoenix project
George Demidowicz and Ian George

It is through an increased understanding of the historic urban form that meaningful public spaces can be created.

The Archaeologist Winter 2005 Number 55

MATERIAL CULTURE & THE SHEFFIELD STEEL INDUSTRY
James Symonds

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In a Sheffield back street the rhythmical sound of a hammer striking metal rings out from a dilapidated workshop. There are perhaps four or five ageing men working here. On either side of the workshop premises have been vacated and are boarded up. One building earmarked for redevelopment has an undistinguished brick façade, but betrays its former use as a cutlery workshop by the rows of small closely-spaced windows that line its upper storeys. Within a year this building will be transformed into ‘city living’ apartments.

We peer into the unlit space and see benches, oil-stained machines, and tools scattered everywhere. The Sheffield cutlery trade used a bewildering array of hand tools and people: the smither that straightened machine made knives, the putter that assembled (or put together) the two halves of a pair of scissors. Economic historians have left us detailed accounts of individual works and fluctuations in supply and demand. The buildings of the metals trades have also been the subject of detailed study by English Heritage.

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MATERIAL CULTURE & THE SHEFFIELD STEEL INDUSTRY
James Symonds
If it ain’t screwed down: recording material culture in industrial buildings

Oliver Jessop

Government policy promoting the development of brownfield sites has led to a dramatic increase in former industrial buildings that are faced with redevelopment. The presumption that the standing fabric, rather than the contents, is all that needs recording is becoming a real concern.

The portable contents of historic industrial buildings, especially those that have obvious monetary value, are usually removed prior to archaeological work on a site. ‘Worthless’ items of material culture can remain in situ, in the form of discarded fixtures and fittings, packaging, company records, empty sales, personal items, benches, tools, clothing, furniture, machinery, bobbins, line-shafting, wooden moulds, and even architectural fragments. This material is incredibly informative in understanding former uses and processes undertaken on site, especially when the archaeologist is faced with a partially burnt-out shell. It should be treated in the same manner as artefacts recovered during subsurface excavations, even when recording briefs that barely mention ‘material culture’.

In listed buildings the situation is slightly clearer. If machinery, for example, is bolted to the floor it can fall within the protection of the listing, even if not actually described. Grey areas are, eg, a set of company accounts, or batch of headed note paper, not part of the fabric but essential to understanding the history of a site.

Certain requirements should be standard, particularly at the evaluation stage. If there is no specific requirement in the original brief for survey of plant, fixtures and fittings, the client is unlikely to agree to pay for it. The worst case scenario is that delays caused by prolonged negotiations can result in further vandalism and decay.

So, it is important to raise awareness about the potential significance of removable materials, enabling the client, archaeological curator, local museum, archive and contractor to consider the implications at an early stage. Only then can we ask the questions: Is it worth keeping? Is anyone willing to curate it? Can it be salvaged and reused? Who will pay?

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If it ain’t screwed down: recording material culture in industrial buildings

Reconstructing a Roman aisled building in Norfolk

Leonora O’Brien

In 2003, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (now Archaeological Solutions Ltd) excavated a Roman timber aisled building, a well, part of a small apsidal-ended masonry building and a pottery kiln in the Nar Valley at East Winch (Norfolk) in advance of quarrying. The related Roman industries of the Nar Valley were probably associated with military supply and include salterns, clay extraction and pottery production, iron smelting and livestock rearing. The aisled building was part of a well-organised estate, and environmental evidence and soil characteristics suggest there was concentration on barley production (for brewing).

The landscape at East Winch was laid out in the late second to third century, with a droveway and field boundaries. This was succeeded by an aisled timber building and a fenced enclosure for livestock. Aisled buildings generally occur on large, wealthy Roman villa estate complexes and in the context of third-century villa expansion. They were probably used for housing rather than agriculture, although some provided cover for metalworking, tool storage and grain drying. Larger aisled buildings may have been used to accommodate farm labourers.

This building was built entirely of timber and perishable materials and was approximately 60 Roman feet long (18m) and 40 wide (12m). The building comprised two parallel inner rows of posts flanked by less substantial outer aisle-posts. Several postholes had been re-cut, suggesting alteration or refurbishment. Upon its disuse, it was carefully dismantled. Sedge and rush macrofossils were found in postholes along one aisle and wall, possibly derived from rushlights, and the entrance may have been in a corner, avoiding the prevailing wind.

The final reconstruction painting is a bird’s eye view of a typical scene at the end of a day’s work in the third century, drawing on the building plan, stratigraphic, environmental, finds and topographic evidence, as well as hypotheses about the social use of space at other aisled building sites. The watercolour-and-ink illustration was produced using conventional techniques, with detail enhanced and modified in Corel Photopaint.

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USING TREE-RING DATING TO UNDERSTAND HISTORIC TIMBERWORK

Derek Hamilton and Peter Marshall

The first full report on the tree-ring dating of a standing building funded by English Heritage was issued in the Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report Series in 1978. This analysis was of timbers from Hangram Lane Farm, Sheffield, in which, not unlike many cases we undertake today, modernisation work revealed parts of an older cruck-framed structure.

Over the past five years nearly 50% of the work commissioned has been to inform grant-aided repairs, nearly 20% to support Priority 4, while the remaining 30% are to inform statutory decisions or in aid of conservation plans for Buildings at Risk. The following cases illustrate the importance of dendrochronology in a conservation programme, and also how unexpected and informative the results can be.

Salisbury Cathedral

Dendrochronological research has also been undertaken at Salisbury Cathedral over the past fifteen years, commissioned by English Heritage as part of various programmes of grant-aided repair. Tree-ring analysis in the tower and spire produced a previously unrecorded phase of construction in the third quarter of the fourteenth century.

Construction of the spire is thought, from documentary sources, to date between 1310 and 1330. Scaffolding within the spire, long thought to remain from the spire’s construction, has now been dated to 1344–76. At this same period, imported Baltic oak, dated to 1338–74, was used in an inserted ceiling at the base of the tower.

Documentary sources revealed references to a severe storm in January 1362, which caused damage to the spire. An internal scaffold would have been needed to facilitate repairs and was presumably left in place to help support and reinforce the spire during future storms and to maintain access for further repairs.

Another area of research at Salisbury focused upon the under-lead sarking boards (a continuous layer of wood boarding placed under the lead roofing to keep out wind and rain). Tree-ring analysis has demonstrated the survival of original medieval under-lead sarking boards. Because of their significance, these were retained in the subsequent repair programme, demonstrating the very practical application of tree-ring dating in developing conservation specifications.

The best use of dendrochronological analysis for informing conservation programmes needs the sampling and analysis to run concurrently with archaeological recording and/or the development stage of the repair programme, as illustrated at Salisbury. However, dendrochronology is not simply a tool with practical applications; as the example from Bolsover Castle shows, it also provides an important source of information for academics and researchers interested in architectural development and the historic environment.

Lists and copies of dendrochronology reports from the AML/CfA report series are available from English Heritage at cfa@english-heritage.org.uk, or tel: 023 9285 6700.

Derek Hamilton and Peter Marshall

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Developments in national curatorial maritime archaeology in England after the National Heritage Act 2002

Ian Oxley

The National Heritage Act 2002 (NHA 2002) enabled English Heritage to assume responsibility for maritime archaeology in English coastal waters – modifying the agency’s functions to include securing preservation of monuments in, on, or under the seabed, and promoting the public’s enjoyment of, and advancing their knowledge of, such monuments.

Our new duties can be split into two categories, both of which include opportunities to develop curatorial issues. The first category covers procedures formerly undertaken by the Department of Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) in administering the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. The second category covers physical management of wreck sites protected by that legislation, and wider issues of England’s maritime archaeology. Since the Act came into force in July 2002 English Heritage has been able to promote advances in the care, protection, interpretation and awareness of the maritime historic environment of England, particularly management of our existing designated historic wrecks and development control.

England’s Designated Wreck Sites management

There are 41 Designated Wreck Sites in England’s waters and we are taking forward a staged approach for their investigation, conservation and management based on management plans, in keeping with the well-established practice for designated terrestrial sites and monuments. As part of our administration of the licences required by anyone wishing to investigate designated wrecks (in 2003 over 45 were issued) we have been able to increase the visitor category, enabling a greater number of divers to see these important sites. To enhance this initiative we have supported organised diver trails, with informative booklets that can be taken underwater.

Unexpected changes in the levels of the protective sediments that cover some historic wrecks represent a significant curatorial problem. To address this, English Heritage has commissioned stabilisation trials to determine the most effective method of mitigation.

Some designated historic wrecks are marked by buoys. This is for navigational safety purposes and also to provide additional notification of their legal protection, for unauthorised interference is an offence. Maintenance of the buoys is now on an organised schedule, with the help of relevant organisations such as Poole Harbour Commissioners and Trinity House. We are working to further raise the profile of these sites and the wider submerged historic environment with the Police authorities and other organisations involved in enforcement in the marine zone, so that they fully understand the legislation and can deal promptly with local cases of illegal fishing gear and diving, for example.

Development control

Development control and wider consultation duties began for us immediately, and are steadily increasing. This is due to the Government’s promotion of Marine Stewardship initiatives and the gradual increase in awareness by regulators, environmental consultants and developers of the need to address archaeological issues. We currently process around twenty cases per month. Developments range from marine aggregate extraction, offshore wind farm installations, gas pipelines, electric cables, coastal defence, port and coast-edge construction.

Recognising that future protection will largely lie with regulators and developers, a significant amount of time has been spent building an adequate framework to provide marine development control advice and liaison. This is a particular challenge in the present administrative and structural frameworks for marine planning, where local authorities and their archaeological officers do not have a statutory role.

It is a time of great change in both maritime archaeology and the wider context of the marine zone. English Heritage has only been a player in this sector for a short time and significant challenges remain in developing our own capacity to fulfil our objectives with the available budget. However, subsequent to the passing of NHA 2002, we believe we have made useful advances in raising standards and providing guidance, caring for our existing designated sites and working towards a position where other important heritage assets are appropriately protected.

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Discharging several thousand tonnes of marine aggregate at Greenwich Wharf, London. Photograph: Mark Dunkley

Testing methods of physical stabilisation on the HMS Colossus Designated Wreck Site. Photograph: Kevin Carney

Marker buoy on the Mary Rose Designated Wreck Site. Photograph: Ian Oxley
In autumn 2003, after local divers reported material drifting out of the German battleship wrecks at Scapa Flow, an underwater investigation was launched by SULA Diving at the behest of Historic Scotland. SULA diver Bobby Forbes noted that the bulkheads were breaking up because of corrosion. As a result of this, he spotted loose postcards emanating from the wreck of SMS Karlsruhe, a first world war cruiser. This was one of seven battleships and cruisers of the German High Seas Fleet, which were scuttled in 1919 following the surrender of Germany. They were scheduled as ancient monuments by Historic Scotland in 2001 to give them full legal protection whilst still allowing divers to visit the wrecks without the special licence required for other protected wrecks.

The underwater investigation revealed that the postcards had been kept in metal boxes which had gradually eroded, explaining why they had lasted so long under water. The corrosion from the boxes welded the stacks together and it was a delicate operation to separate them.

To conserve these fragile remains, conservators from AOC Archaeology were sent a consignment of approximately 1200 postcards. Of these, at least 95% were unused and still had traces of their original paper wrapping and metal boxes, as they left the printers. So far, four different images have been recorded: ships steaming in formation at sea, two small children reading letters, a (wounded) man in uniform with a lady friend, and part of an image of a child with a toy elephant and a jar of marmalade!

Bobby Forbes was able to secure copies of two further digital images of postcards that were recovered by other divers, but the actual postcards have since disintegrated.

The bulk of the cards bear an image of a flotilla of ships underway. The ships are not identified on the front of the cards, but printed text surviving on the back of some cards reads "... im... Auftrag S.M.S. Königsberg". Presumably the main vessel in the picture is the SMS Königsberg, which would explain why the vessel in the postcard does not appear to match the picture of the SMS Karlsruhe. Possibly the Karlsruhe is one of the other ships.

The surface on which the images are printed is so vulnerable a soft brush can remove it, as can water movement, or even misting with water. The cards are too fragile to handle when wet and were transferred to a polyester support net, after a gentle jet of waters was used to tease apart the edges of the bundles of cards. Only one other example of the conservation of paper items from a shipwreck is known: the papers from the Titanic. In this case, successful conservation of a variety of papers and books was reported, but there were problems with postcards.

These postcards are extremely fragile: the size that held the fibres together has dissolved and dispersed, and the paper fibres themselves are severely weakened as a result of biological degradation. A black sludge of fuel particles and iron corrosion has penetrated all the bundles of cards, coating the surfaces of all the cards, even those in the centre of each bundle.

Experiments with some of the fragments have ruled out treatments such as freeze-drying to remove water, or oxidising the corrosion products to remove staining. We know that in order to protect the paper fibres, the iron corrosion has to be removed as far as possible; this will also reveal the images on the surfaces. We will be using stain removing chemicals that have been used on wood and stone from other shipwreck sites to help eliminate the iron in the card, but they will affect the fillers of the paper, so their use has to be restricted. Once cleaned as far as possible, a new size will be put into the cards to hold the fibres together, and an alkaline buffer will be sprayed on to help prevent acid damage.

Amanda Clydesdale
AOC Archaeology Group
REVIEWS

NEW BOOKS

Paddington Station: its architecture and history
Steven Brindle 2004
English Heritage hb 180 pp £25

This book is a passionate advocacy for a great Victorian building ‘the finest work in England’. It is well written and lavishly illustrated, and combines description with analysis, setting the station in its social, historical and engineering context. The author shows us that Paddington Station was the hub of an industrial empire and was itself a community the size of a small town. This book is full of revelations about class, prejudice, and social conditions. Third class passengers were not originally countenanced and only later allowed providing they travelled on separate trains. Carriages were originally unheated and passengers provided with foot warmers, while dining cars were not introduced until 1896. I like the juxtaposition of social niceties with architectural reality and it is particularly revealing to discover the expectations of wealthy passengers. Likewise, speculation about the reason for the decoration of the trusses with stars and planets – astronomical or to reduce weight – compels us to admire ‘one of the greatest interiors of London’.

Brindle does not stop with the original Brunel designs, but describes the evolution of the building and the construction of new buildings over time. The hostel for workers is a particularly good example and the wonderful photograph of female workers playing tennis in 1935 in high heels reminds us how life has changed over eighty years. Read this book because it is about passion for Brunel, a celebrated engineer and a celebration of Victorian and twentieth-century virtuosity of achievement.

Robina McNeil

Measured Survey and Building Recording for Historic Buildings and Structures
Guidelines for Practitioners 4:
Ed: Ross Dallas 2004
Historic Scotland pb 174 pp £22.50

These guidelines are about the necessity of recording historic buildings in Scotland, but have wider application. The book reinforces the need for Conservation Based Research and Analysis (CoBRA) in order to understand the importance of the historic environment. It is not easy to read because, as its editor states ‘the Guide is a reference work, generally to be dipped into when the need arises’. That the book is difficult to read from cover to cover does not too undermine its basic premise – a much-needed authoritative management tool designed to inform the planning process, emphasising when work should be undertaken, why it should be undertaken and what steps are necessary to ensure that the planning condition is fulfilled.

Of its main strengths. Numerous case studies enrich the volume, reiterating this philosophy. The vignettes are a welcome addition and give us graceful short sketches on a particular topic. Indeed it is this combination of practical advice and a desire for a thorough understanding and appreciation of what exists that makes this book stand out. Read it if you want to know what to do but read it again for what it tells us about the importance of the historic environment and how we might protect it.

Robina McNeil

Easy Access to Historic Buildings
English Heritage 2004 pb 54pp Free
Product Code 50702

This is another of the many guides being produced in response to fuller implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Coming from the English Heritage stable of publications, its print quality and presentation is excellent, as you would expect. However, when one comes to read and subsequently use it, there is some doubt about its purpose. Is it a guide or is it just a general information document?

In some places it is decidedly misleading, for example when it suggests that the Building Regulations require reasonable provision be made to all buildings. This is given out of context: the Building Regulations are not retrospective and only affect those structures that are subject to some form of application under the Act, and then only to a specific extent. No mention is made either of the degree of latitude that is allowed by both the DDA and the Building Regulations, when it comes to dealing with historic buildings, whether in conservation areas or actually listed. There are some useful case studies but overall, the document is rather too much of a ‘curate’s egg’.

Bob Hill

Medieval Building Techniques
Gunther Binding 2004
Tempus publishing 216pp pb £25

This is an upgraded catalogue of medieval illustrations produced originally in 1987, from a catalogue of Romanesque building techniques published in 1972. It is illustrated with hundreds of line drawings showing medieval builders at work. The author and assistants have collected illustrative material from throughout Europe, acknowledged in the foreword by Glynn Copping. Tracking down, analysing and referencing this vast corpus provides invaluable information on trades and techniques associated with building in the medieval period. This publication demonstrates the valuable methodological approach characteristic of German research.

As a source of illustrative material for research and teaching, it brings together material not easily accessible in Britain. Sources include illustrations found in manuscripts, early printed books and representations in glass and from stone and wood carvings. Many show incredible detail that indicates thorough understanding of the techniques and processes involved. This is perhaps not surprising given that many illustrations were produced in monastic and cathedral scriptoria, where these processes could be viewed regularly. This has to be coupled with an understanding of medieval thinking, for example theological concepts of building.
Damage to property and disruption to lives and livelihoods were caused by storms and floods in England during the winter of 2000-2001 and again in 2002. In response to the impact of water damage to historic buildings, English Heritage has produced this Technical Advice Note, supported by a helpful and lengthy bibliography. The advice ranges from the general to the technical, including guidance on the salvage of wall-coverings and paint finishes. There are particularly useful notes on health and safety which describe the risks associated with flooded basements, the reconnection of services, and hazards such as Weil’s disease.

Most of the second half describes disaster mitigation, in which there is advice on investigative work, assisted drying, dehumidification, and the responses of different historic building materials to water saturation. In the Introduction, however, it is accepted that in the majority of cases water ingress can be delayed but not prevented, although the section on Disaster Preparedness does assist with the assessment of flood risk, the preparation of an emergency floor plan, and what to do if your building is about to be flooded. Overall, the section on preparedness tends to accentuate the disaster associated with flooding and historic buildings, and it is comforting to read: ‘It is important to keep a sense of proportion: flood-proofing works should be designed according to realistic assessments of the likelihood and severity of flooding.’

Jonathan Edis

The Vernacular Workshop – from craft to industry, 1400-1900
PS Barnwell, Marilyn Palmer and Malcolm Airs (eds) 2004
CBA Research Report 140 192pp pb £17.50

This is the edited volume of an Oxford conference in 2002 which explored new directions in the study of vernacular buildings countrywide, focusing on the workshop as both a building type and as a workplace.

Throughout the fourteen chapters there is a clear emphasis on small-scale production. The papers cover a broad time period and include medieval Suffolk, workshop production in Georgian London, Yorkshire textile looms; domestic weaving in Lancashire; the cutlery trade in Sheffield; Nottingham lace and framework knitting; the Northamptonshire boot and shoe industry; the Furness iron industry; and Ironbridge. Three overarching chapters examine the role of the workshop in the wider urban context and discuss potential future avenues of research.

The contributors, who are either buildings archaeologists or architectural historians from academic institutions and English Heritage (including the former RCHME) and represent a core group of formative, experienced and expert practitioners. The case studies explore interrelationship between trades and the concept that the finished product was a combination of many different stages produced by different craftsmen.

The book is well illustrated with line drawings, maps, historic prints and photographs. Unfortunately it can only skim the surface of each ‘workshop’ type, although this does highlight the potential for future survey and research. It will appeal to those who study the regional diversity of specialised trades, often dependent upon related craftsmen who together dramatically shaped their local environment by the styles of architecture developed to serve their requirements. The vernacular workshop is an excellent starting point for understanding the diversity and regionality of small scale workshop production within England and also emphasises the amount of surviving evidence still awaiting an archaeological record.

The Vernacular Workshop is excellent value for money and will be a source of reference for professionals involved with the interpretation, conservation, preservation and repair of historic buildings.

Oliver Jessop

Measured and Drawn: techniques and practice for the metric survey of historic buildings
David Andrews, Bill Blake, Tom Cromwell, Richard Lea and Sarah Lunnion 2003
English Heritage 2003 62pp hb £35
Publication code 50729

Any publication of this type is likely to date very quickly, and this is already evident in some of the comments and observations in this book. Everything from cameras to survey equipment is specifically named. At the time of writing they were probably excellent pieces of kit, but even at such a short time after, they are starting to be seen as outdated. This extends to other methods of survey that are similarly given scant regard. For instance, the use of airborne radar survey is effectively not mentioned, yet there is almost a preoccupation with orthophotography, photogrammetry, and similar ‘traditional’ optical survey methods. Laser scanning is dismissed in little more than a paragraph.

As a demonstration of the best principles of working, it succeeds. Illustrations, both photographic and diagrammatic are good, and explain survey principles in clear and simplified terms. Whether it may have been better produced in the form of a regularly up-dateable series of data sheets or online is a different question, and a section looking ahead to future survey methods would have been useful. This is a format that English Heritage could well consider.

Bob Hill

REVIEWS

Fifteenth-century French ms in Copenhagen
Frank Green
Charles Mundy, Heritage Information Officer for Worcester City Museums Service, has died aged 45. Charles graduated from Sheffield, and followed that with an MSc at Bradford. He and his wife Jenny Inkpen excavated in Turkey and Italy, and then he directed excavations in Saffron Walden. In 1985 he began a series of evaluations for Hereford & Worcester County Council that led to excavations at Blackfriars and large-scale work at Deanway (published this autumn). In 1991 he was appointed Worcester’s City Archaeological Officer, and worked tirelessly to develop the city’s policies and procedures in the wake of PPG26. Charles was one of the founder members of the Association of District Archaeological Officers, and he was a prime mover in the merger with ACAO to form ALGAO. Charles was a passionate advocate of public archaeology – over 30,000 people visited the Deanway excavations – and about the applications of digital technology. In 1997 he become Heritage Information Officer, developing and maintaining the City Museums website, one of the best of its kind in the country and responsible for some 40,000 virtual visitors per month to the museums. His contribution to the development of archaeology and heritage in Worcester was outstanding. He died unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage in August, and is survived by his wife, Jenny, children Peter and Katie, and his parents.

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MEMBERS

Members news

Obituary

Charles Mundy, Heritage Information Officer for Worcester City Museums Service, has died aged 45. Charles graduated from Sheffield, and followed that with an MSc at Bradford. He and his wife Jenny Inkpen excavated in Turkey and Italy, and then he directed excavations in Saffron Walden. In 1985 he began a series of evaluations for Hereford & Worcester County Council that led to excavations at Blackfriars and large-scale work at Deanway (published this autumn). In 1991 he was appointed Worcester’s City Archaeological Officer, and worked tirelessly to develop the city’s policies and procedures in the wake of PPG26. Charles was one of the founder members of the Association of District Archaeological Officers, and he was a prime mover in the merger with ACAO to form ALGAO. Charles was a passionate advocate of public archaeology – over 30,000 people visited the Deanway excavations – and about the applications of digital technology. In 1997 he become Heritage Information Officer, developing and maintaining the City Museums website, one of the best of its kind in the country and responsible for some 40,000 virtual visitors per month to the museums. His contribution to the development of archaeology and heritage in Worcester was outstanding. He died unexpectedly of a brain haemorrhage in August, and is survived by his wife, Jenny, children Peter and Katie, and his parents.

Charles Mundy, enjoying a holiday in Scotland a week before he died

Maritime Archaeology

A Technical Handbook

SECOND EDITION

Jeremy Green
Western Australian Maritime Museum, Fremantle, Australia

“The second edition of this handbook includes information on topics such as how to extract as much information as possible from a site, how to record and document data, and how to act ethically and responsibly with the artifact. The book demonstrates how archaeologists, footters, academics and governments interact and how the market for archaeological artifacts creates obstacles for these groups, while also trying to provide a foundation for all those interested in underwater environments.”

SEA TECHNOLOGY

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