The ARCHAEOLOGIST

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN EUROPE

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Summer 2008 Number 68
Archaeology and archaeologists in Europe

As labour markets open up, some IFA members and RAOs are already getting used to working abroad in developer-funded contexts, as well as the research-based work to which university archaeologists are accustomed. Meanwhile, EU legislation, guidelines, conventions and working practices are now affecting much of our work, from work-time directives to protection of monuments. Some of this bureaucracy is still little known but it has potential to be very useful, often being rather bolder than our own government is likely to deliver. Cravings by authorities for World Heritage Site status for sites in their areas is one indication of the value of international respect, as is competition to meet (or at least not to dramatically fall short of) aspirational Conventions.

International networking is growing to match this Eurocentric style of working. Whether it’s Heads of archaeology in state agencies, national antiquarian societies, special interests that benefit intellectually and practically from cross-boundary activity (aerial photography, study of our common industrial past, monuments such as the Roman frontier defences etc), or the more general interests of the European Association of Archaeologists, we all find it enlightening, fruitful (and definitely fun) to mix with like-minded in other nations. As the new Europe becomes more familiar, working and socialising with colleagues across the whole continent can be seen as a natural way of life.

This issue of TA brings some of these relevant initiatives to the attention of IFA’s membership and, we hope, will encourage more to take advantage of new freedoms, to work and gain experience in different environments, and to bring fresh ideas back to the UK. It was also an opportunity to invite tales of woe alongside modest triumphs, with some grass roots accounts that make some of us quite relieved to be working in Britain.

Back at home, we bring you up to date on the latest state of resolution regarding excavation of human remains and the law, the new draft Heritage Protection bill, and other rumblings from within government. As more politicians become aware of and sympathetic to our interests these agenda can sometimes move quite fast, so do watch our website for the latest news.

Your editor is taking a break this summer, leaving Alex Llewellyn, Kathryn Whittington and other staff in IFA office to cover the August TA, which will include our annual report and articles derived from sessions given at the Swansea conference. If you have a contribution to make to this but haven’t sent it in yet, please contact Kathryn whittington@archaeologists.net.

Regional Scientific Advisors

After strong protests from archaeological organisations English Heritage has mercifully decided not to go ahead with the proposal to abolish the post of Regional Science Advisor. Feedback emphasised that RSAs have an important input into a number of areas, and that replacing their advice would mean more expensive and less effective consultancy. ‘The consultation provided very solid evidence for the value of these posts and the regard in which the RSAs are held in the sector.’

Notes to contributors

Themes and deadlines

Autumn: IFA Conference papers and Annual Report deadline: 1 July 2008

Winter: Protecting our heritage deadline: 1 October 2008

Contributions and letters/emails are always welcome. TA is made digitally available through our website and if this raises copyright issues with any authors, artist or photographers, please notify the editor. Accessed digitally, web links are especially useful in articles, so do include these where relevant. Short articles (max. 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 can be supplied as originals, on CD or as emails, at a minimum resolution of 500 kb. More detailed information on media type for each issue are available from the editor. Opinions expressed in The Archaeologist are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of IFA.

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EDINBURGH. Photograph: J. Sheils, Crown Copyright

Scotland: Scheduled Monument Consent policy launched

Following consultation in 2007, a policy on the consent process for Scotland’s 8000 scheduled monuments was launched in March. The Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) sets out government policies on works affecting scheduled monuments. For further details and links see http://www.historic.scotland.gov.uk/news-full-article.htm?articleid=28688

Scotland: removal of archaeological finds

The Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) reminds all excavators working in Scotland that under the Treasure Trove system there are particular regulations governing the temporary export of archaeological finds (including to England) prior to their reporting for Treasure Trove. It is illegal to remove unreported archaeological finds from Scotland for any purpose, including post-excavation processing and research, without having obtained the proper authorisation – or the finds become ‘tainted’ as defined by the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003. Applicants need to complete a standard application form, which can be downloaded from the Treasure Trove website, and may apply for the loan of unreported excavated material for periods of up to four years (which may sometimes be extended to eight). This note particularly applies to archaeologists based in other parts of the UK, but it applies too to Scotland-based excavators who wish to send finds elsewhere in the UK for processing or specialist examination. For further information see www.treasuretrovescotland.org.uk

Ian Ralston, Chair, SAFAP
Alan Saville, Head of the Treasure Trove Unit

Recently excavated Bronze Age loch find from the River Tay in course of conservation at the National Museum of Scotland laboratories. Under the Scottish system the loch find was claimed as a Treasure Trove item.

The Scottish Treasure Trove Unit is operated in Scotland by the Scottish Office, on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

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Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory conference
HERITAGE CHAT
14-16 November, University College, London
This year’s conference will explore connections between theoretical perspectives and ideas and the more traditional concerns of heritage management practice. Papers are promised that challenge the very notion of heritage, and the commercial and corporate strategies that go with it, and describe work on contemporary and historical archaeology which operate within more conventional heritage frameworks.

For further details contact Charlotte Fearson (charlotte.fearson@atkinsglobal.com), Sarah May (sarah.may@english-heritage.org.uk), Hilary Orange (h.orange@ucl.ac.uk), Sefryn Penrose (sefryn.penrose@atkinsglobal.com) or John Schofield (john.schofield@english-heritage.org.uk).

Unpublished research on the built historic environment – Access and standards
Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX, 4 July 2008
This important conference follows on from the grey literature conference held for archaeologists last year. We will be using the outcome of both sets of discussions to formulate an action plan to address the issues under debate. This action plan will be devised in partnership with the sector. Papers will include Recording historic buildings – what’s the point? Shane Gould, English Heritage, Web delivery - encouraging access to the UK’s built historic environment, Jen Mitcham, Archaeology Data Service, The use of grey literature in historic building research – the academic viewpoint, and Volunteering information: grey literature and the voluntary sector. There will also be a breakout session where participants will be asked to debate the positive and negative aspects to the questions
• how do we maintain high standards in unpublished research? Can we set, monitor and maintain these standards more effectively than at present?
• how easy is it for researchers to find about relevant research and to extract information from it? How could web delivery solutions such as the Heritage Gateway make a difference?

For free tickets to this conference, contact Jackie Gardo on 07919 572867 or jackie.gardo@english-heritage.org.uk.

IKUWA3: The Third International Congress on Underwater Archaeology
University College, London 7-13 July
The Third International Congress on Underwater Archaeology (IKUWA3) is to be held in London in 2008. The Nautical Archaeology Society, with project partners, IFA and University College London will host the largest conference on underwater archaeology ever held in the UK, and the National Monuments Service, UCC Archaeology Department, the Discovery Programme, the National Roads Authority and Headland Ireland. Reduced rates for attendance are available for both AAI&S and IFA members.

For more details see www.ikuwa3.com/registrations.php.

Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors annual conference
Cork, 5-7 September 2008
AAI&S will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this year at its conference in Cork. Speakers will include the National Monuments Service, UCC Archaeology Department, the Discovery Programme, the National Roads Authority and Headland Ireland. Reduced rates for attendance are available for both AAI&S and IFA members.

For further information and registration, see www.aais.org.uk.

Jobs in British Archaeology 2007-2008

James Drummond-Murray

A slight change in methodology this year – the period under review now runs from April 2007 to March 2008 to reflect more closely most organisations pay year (sorry Ian – March 2007 you are forever excluded). 2007 saw a record number of jobs (305), reflecting what a busy year it has been for most. Already there are signs 2008 may not be as busy as the credit crunch bites.

Overall, 2007 was a good year for field-based staff. For site assistants, from 73 advertisements, there was a marked improvement and a break through the £15,000 barrier. The standard IFA rate based on county council scales is now seen as a drag, and lags behind the norm. Supervisors, project officers and project managers also made strong upward strides, passing the £17,000, £19,000 and £25,000 marks respectively. All positions saw an increase in the number of jobs advertised.

Junior CRM/SMR held steady at £19,228, with a big increase in the number of jobs, whilst senior posts fell back slightly to dip under £30,000. Both grades saw substantial increases last year, so perhaps there was some consolidation this time. Specialists fell back markedly to £17,930 from three times the number of jobs. However, the overall trend is still upwards from 2005, and last year can be seen as a quirk, perhaps based on the small number of jobs. The survey and illustration section also saw a decrease but closer analysis revealed a number of trainee posts that held the average down.

Consultants recovered from last year’s decrease to go back over £20,000 from a small number of jobs, although many posts are advertised without salaries attached.

From the Finds Tray

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TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR FINDS

Nicky Powell, Victoria Bryant and Richard Constable

IFA ‘Hands-on’ training sessions

By the time you read this, the IFA Finds Group Slags and wasters seminar will have happened, and we will have discussed with those that attended what they would like later in the year to complement the seminar. This is how the IFA FG run short training sessions: they are cheap, rely heavily on the goodwill of established specialists and organisations to run, and the themes are suggested by FG members. Sessions are often over-subscribed; osteology and building materials being typical examples.

Few specialist training posts are advertised now, and most organisations want fully-formed specialists who can ‘hit the ground running’. The Portable Antiquities Scheme and bursaries offered by IFA and English Heritage are amongst the few places a fledgling specialist can develop and grow with formal training, although this year actually seems quite good for practical training, for the English Heritage Technology Team will be running nine days on slags and other industrial waste through the autumn and winter, organised by the EH Regional Science Advisors. Meanwhile, a model of professional/amateur cooperation can be seen in the course on Post-excavation procedures taught by Jacqui Pearce as part of Birbbeck’s further and continuing education. This is the eighth year the course has run and will begin in September and run for two terms.

As soon as further details are available on each of the above, we will post on the IFA FG webpage, accessed through www.archaeologists.net.

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MPRG pottery sessions

Members of the Medieval Pottery Research Group have been concerned for some time that archaeologists in commercial organisations and museums as well as local groups have little access to basic training in ceramics. The idea behind recent training days was to test the waters. We wanted to identify what kind of people would be interested and also if the format of small groups and lots of hands on work would be the best way to enthuse them. In 2007 MPRG held a successful series of training days for non-specialists interested on local medieval and post-medieval pottery, with four events covering the pottery of Somerset, Bristol and West Dorset, Worcestershire, Wiltshire, and Scotland.

Feedback was positive and the days attracted archaeology students, museum staff, field archaeologists and members of local archaeology groups. Following this success, MPRG will be organising more local sessions in autumn 2008. Each day includes formal teaching but the focus is on handling material and discussing issues such as date, provenance, technology, trade patterns, social and economic systems, day-to-day life and social structure. No previous experience is necessary and each participant will go home with an information pack and reading lists. To facilitate discussion there will be a maximum of fifteen on each course. These will be advertised this summer.

If you are interested in attending a course or would just like to find out more, contact Victoria Bryant vbryant@ worcestershire.gov.uk, and also watch out on our website, www.medievalpottery.org.uk.

Victoria Bryant
vbryant@ worcestershire.gov.uk

The second Samian Research Workshop

This March saw the latest in a series of lectures on samian ware. The groups, chaired by Nottingham University, are designed to define and resolve problems related to samian pottery. The first meeting had ben an overview of the situation, whereas this concerned the future for samian specialists, especially with regard to training opportunities.

The first paper addressed results of a survey by UCL of ten commercial archaeological organisations. Answers suggested that most recorded samian in-house but also used external specialists. Problems such as limited budgets, out of date references and a general underestimation of the material were addressed. Online databases and digitised versions of out of print references were proposed. It was suggested that there are two levels of samian study: the immediate ‘mechanical’ stage, which involves basic identification of fabrics etc, and the expert level, which generally means working in spare time. Concluding comments suggested that, while pottery studies have been overlooked in universities in recent years, they are making a comeback. A recent project involving the samian collection at Durham University aimed to improve intellectual and physical access to the collection, establishing new ways of learning and increasing the employability of students. Some best practice points emerged from the project, including students working within the museum environment and integrating the collection into the university curriculum.

After a presentation by English Heritage on the three main areas of training offered, there was a talk on the role of the IFA, discussing how to facilitate specialist groups, and information on bursaries, the recently developed NVQ in Archaeological Practice, and CPD. Discussions emphasised that archaeologists need to talk to one another; specialists should not be separated from the main body, and there should be a more standardised approach to recording.

Richard Constable
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Workers for study: a stack of glazed plates. Ruthertie Photograph: Andy Chopping, © MoLAS

The second Samian Research Workshop training day discussing the merits of ceramic cooking pots

Members of the Medieval Pottery Research Group have been concerned for some time that archaeologists in commercial organisations and museums as well as local groups have little access to basic training in ceramics. The idea behind recent training days was to test the waters. We wanted to identify what kind of people would be interested and also if the format of small groups and lots of hands on work would be the best way to enthuse them. In 2007 MPRG held a successful series of training days for non-specialists interested on local medieval and post-medieval pottery, with four events covering the pottery of Somerset, Bristol and West Dorset, Worcestershire, Wiltshire, and Scotland.

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Richard Constable
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Participants at the Worcestershire MPRG training day discussing the merits of ceramic cooking pots
Discovering the archaeologists of Europe

Kenneth Aitchison

Hungary, Slovenia, Greece and Cyprus. Each nation will report on archaeological employment in their country, to be available in both English and the national language when the project concludes in September 2008, along with a transnational overview of the situation across Europe. Preliminary results are informative. Put crudely, where there is private sector archaeology there are many more jobs (and more opportunities to move from country to country); where archaeological practice is heavily state-based, there are fewer jobs but these are better paid. Ireland, with an active archaeological private sector, has seen a huge boom, with a prime driver being the National Roads Authority’s programme of infrastructural development – funded in large part by EU Objective One. The resulting influx of archaeologists working in the UK are not from this country. As Objective One funds become focused on new member states we may see a similar boom in the archaeological workforce of those countries. Can we ensure this is achieved while maintaining the social and financial status of archaeologists? Archaeology is rapidly expanding in the Czech Republic for example, where the average archaeological salary is higher than the national average (hardly the case in the UK). It would be good if measures were in place to ensure the best of both worlds.

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Archaeology in contemporary Europe

Facing the challenges with an EC funded network

Nathan Schlanger

Archeology, as we know, is not confined to treasures, nor to providing narratives of progress or territorial legitimisation. Concerned with the past, it is a contemporary scientific and cultural undertaking, and its leading missions – to increase our knowledge of past societies, to protect the archaeological cultural heritage, to convey its values to the broader public – are embedded within the social, economic and political realities of the modern world.

This has been recently recognised by the European Commission who, within the framework of the ‘Culture’ programme (DG Education and Culture) are supporting the ACE project Archaeology in Contemporary Europe: Professional practices and public outreach. Over the coming five years, a dozen archaeological institutions from across Europe (archaeological services, university departments, research institutes and cultural operators) will bring together their competences and energies to address the transformation of European archaeology, specifically focusing on:

- researching the significance of the past (e.g. migrations, settlements patterns, cultural identities and landscapes in the past and present)
- comparative practices in archaeology (field methodologies, operations and data management, information technologies, European archaeologists abroad etc)
- the archaeological profession (qualitative and quantitative aspects of the discipline, archaeology and its practitioners in contemporary society, professional responsibilities and conduct, training and skills, etc)
- public outreach: invitations to archaeology (communication and awareness measures, community involvement, educational tools, exhibitions and valorisation, films, etc)

The partnership includes:

- Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives (INRAP), Paris – FR (Project leader)
- Archaeology Data Service (ADS), University of York – UK
- Romisch-Germanische Kommission (RGK), Frankfurt am Main – DE
- Faculty of Archaeology, University of Leiden – NL
- Direzione Generale per i Beni Archeologici (DGBA-MIBAC), Roma – IT
- Instituto de Estudos Galegos P Sarmiento (IEGPS - CSC) Santiago de Compostela – ES
- Vlaams Instituut voor het Onroerend Erfgoed (VIOE), Brussels – BE
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki – GR
- Institute of prehistory, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan – PL
- Academy of Cultural Heritage, Vilnius – LT
- National office of Cultural Heritage (KÖH), Budapest – HU
- Unité d’archéologie de la ville de Saint-Denis, Saint-Denis – FR
- Culture Lab - Conseils en coopération culturelle européenne – BE
- Festival du film archéologique, Association Kineon – BE

For more details, see www.ace-archaeology.eu (in construction), or contact the coordination team at ace-coordination@inrap.fr.

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The inevitable group photograph, outside the Collège de France, Paris, November 2007
EUROPEAN PROJECTS FOR URBAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION

David Baker

The 5th and 6th Framework programmes of the European Commission included several projects linking heritage, tourism and governance arrangements. These were largely driven by university-based collaborations, often linking widely dispersed countries, with a particular focus upon helping new and candidate entrants to the Union. One of the difficulties of such projects is that the high-quality research they produce is rarely in a form easily assimilated by its main target audience – senior politicians and administrators in national and local governments. In 2007, Historic Environment Conservation was commissioned by the Environment Directorate of the EC to assess the outputs from four related projects, with particular reference to dissemination of results, and (with the help of Geraint Franklin) to prepare short ‘policy briefs’ for the main target audience.

APPEAR (2003-2006) was probably of most interest to IFA members. Accessibility Projects for the sustainable Preservation and Enhancement of Urban Sub-soil Archaeological Remains was concerned with the sequence of management actions for archaeological sites in towns and cities from initial discovery to public display. Project partners were Belgium, Spain, France, ICOMOS and Italy. The project developed a complex six-stage methodology and also looked at case studies, notably Roman Saragossa (‘successful coordination, communication and integration create a high quality tourism destination’), the Rose Theatre in Perigueux (‘a tourist attraction created, but a gap between intention and achievement’). Further information about the APPEAR project is at: www.in-situ.be.

PICTURE (2004-2007) concerned itself with Proactive Management of the Impact of Cultural Tourism upon Urban Resources and Economies. Partners were organisations in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sicily, France, England (English Heritage) and France. The project’s main purpose was to help local authorities deal with the opportunities and problems of tourism, managing them through strategic governance arrangements and a specially developed tool, the Cultural Tourism Impact Assessment. Major case studies included the small historic town of Úbeda in the Czech Republic, where diversification of the local tourism offer was needed to protect local distinctiveness, and the city of Avila in Spain, where the aim was to draw attention to the neglected wealth of interest within those iconic city walls. Further information can be found in the final project report, Strategic Urban Governance Framework for the sustainable management of cultural tourism and a summary version Towards Sustainability in Urban Cultural Tourism at http://www.picture-project.com.

SUIT’s (2003-2006) message was Sustainable development of Urban historical areas through an active Integration within Towns. Belgium, Northern Ireland, Germany, Denmark and Wales combined to put across a triple message

- historic urban areas are culturally-rich modern ‘living’ systems
- enhancing the local quality of life and conserving heritage values are closely connected
- public-private partnerships are the key to successful regeneration and conservation

Case studies included Karlsruhe, with an extreme case of token facadism in a historic centre redevelopment, Victoria Square Belfast where small-scale cherished local landmarks were removed by over-energetic regeneration, the new mega-Museum EMAHL in Liège which damaged the cultural quarter it was intended to revive, and the new Danish National Opera House which illustrated the impact of ‘iconic’ new architecture upon the essential character of the planned royal city. The project report, Guidance for the environmental assessment of the impacts of certain plans, programmes or projects upon the heritage value of historical areas, in order to contribute to their long-term sustainability is available at www.suitproject.net.

SUIT – governance (2003-2003) covered similar ground in focusing upon Sustainable Urban Tourism. Germany, Austria, Greece and Bulgaria worked together with special reference to helping the recently independent East European countries. The project facilitated public-private partnerships and developed a self-assessment benchmarking tool to help communities, governments and the private sector to

- improve management of tourism activities
- provide better urban governance for tourism
- bring communities long-term prosperity from tourism

Amongst case studies, the success in Graz (Austria) was held up as a good example for the developing Veliko Tarnovo in Bulgaria. Further information about the project and the Final Project Report is at http://suit.itas.fzk.de/.

The similarities and overlap between these projects are a mixed blessing. There is undoubtedly a university-based research community driven by a combination of academic interest and the need to generate income. The participants are committed, work hard and enjoy themselves. There is definitely scope for archaeologists to become more involved as part of cultural resource management, in partnership with built environment and tourism interests.

Copies of the brochures are available from me at dbb@suttons.org.uk as pdf files.

David Baker
Historic Environment Conservation
ARCHAEOLOGY in the EUROPEAN institutions: power versus influence?
Noel Fojut

Noel Fojut, Head of Archaeology at Historic Scotland, spent 2004 working in Strasbourg for the Council of Europe. As well as a taste for Alsatian wine and sauerkraut, he brought back a distinctive and, he emphasises, personal perspective on where archaeology sits among the high councils of Europe.

Although the 1992 Valletta Convention remains the watchword on the archaeological philosophy of the collected states of Europe, and something like developer-funding has appeared almost everywhere, the policy debate in European institutions has moved on. Archaeology has been relegated to a subset of cultural heritage. Should the profession worry?

EU and COE

Of the two major inter-governmental bodies in Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe, the EU is vastly more powerful, with huge financial resources and capacity to create directives which must be enacted into the national law of 27 countries. In the EU, archaeology (as a subset of culture and cultural heritage) has always been left to individual countries. Until the early 1990s any financial support was incidental, achieved by ingenious insertion into activities sponsored for other reasons, such as regional development or financial or policy support was incidental, achieved by ingenious insertion into activities sponsored for other reasons, such as regional development or knowledge transfer. This was deliberate – the founding fathers wisely feared homogenisation of culture, and it allowed them to duck the question of what constituted ‘European culture’.

Not that the EU has ignored heritage, at least as subsumed within the concept of culture. All EU policies and financial support has been incidental, achieved by ingenious insertion into activities sponsored for other reasons, such as regional development or knowledge transfer. In the EU, archaeology (as a subset of culture and cultural heritage) has always been left to individual countries. Until the early 1990s any financial support was incidental, achieved by ingenious insertion into activities sponsored for other reasons, such as regional development or financial or policy support was incidental, achieved by ingenious insertion into activities sponsored for other reasons, such as regional development or knowledge transfer. This was deliberate – the founding fathers wisely feared homogenisation of culture, and it allowed them to duck the question of what constituted ‘European culture’.

However, the EU has tended to leave deep thinking about the historic environment to its older, much less wealthy but more inclusive cousin, the Council of Europe. Set up in the ruins of the Second World War, the COE makes no laws, issues no directives and has a minuscule budget compared with the EU. It operates solely by consensus but (or perhaps because of this) has carved out an influential niche as the think-tank of Europe in several key areas. Best known in the field of human rights and social ethics, the COE also considers the needs of Europe’s cultural heritage.

Useful conventions

Conventions are what the COE does best. Guided by steering committees, nominated by governments on a one member per country basis, and backed up by expert working groups, the Council’s main function is to agree and promote common standards. Its products include the 1985 Granada Convention (Architectural Heritage), the 1992 Valletta Convention (Archaeological Heritage), the 2000 Florence Convention (Landscaes) and the 2005 Faro Framework Convention on the Value of Heritage to Society. It has also developed initiatives such as European Heritage Days and European Cultural Routes. Interestingly, the Council does not employ a single archaeologist although, as with the EU, it is sometimes possible for archaeologists with useful skills to thrust themselves into a cultural heritage-sized gap through bluff, a skill not unknown to our profession.

The problem with think-tanks is that they are not always good at planning. The COE has tended to boil down the best practice in Europe into a set of philosophical principles, enshrine these into a convention and then move on. However, a logical progression can be seen, with earlier conventions (Granada and Valletta), concerned with defining and conserving heritage assets, while more recent conventions, Florence and especially Faro, concentrate upon sustainable use of heritage assets for economic, social and political goals instrumental rather than intrinsic values.

Today, the COE’s intellectual fast-breeder role is being adopted, with pressure from Member States to stop creating new documents and concentrate on getting the best from the conventions: monitoring adoption and effectiveness, exerting moral pressure and offering practical help. This ‘observatory function’ has been effective in fields such as human rights, and it is argued that well-organised moral pressure could do more for Europe’s cultural heritage than proliferation of new conventions.

Multilingual thesaurus

A model already exists for such collective self-examination in the form of HEREIN – the European Heritage Network – which has compiled a compendium of national policies on cultural heritage and is creating a multilingual thesaurus of terms used in heritage policy dialogue. HEREIN’s membership is quite strong on archaeology. The UK is typical, our seat held successively by staff of English Heritage and now Historic Scotland.

The COE envisages bodies like HEREIN developing a stronger role, but there is a potential bear-trap – giving more influence could actually make it less effective than the present grouping. Countries faced with criticism may be more prescriptive and would transfer representation to senior policy staff. One strength of HEREIN is that it brings together members of heritage agencies across Europe quite early in their careers, fostering future co-operation as careers develop. An energetic HEREIN with the support of a well-informed steering committee could be a useful combination, combining current practical knowledge with senior policy-making access.

Does Europe, whether EU or COE, matter to archaeologists and should we care? In my view it does and we should, and here are four of many reasons:

• the EU has strong powers over natural heritage conservation and none over cultural heritage conservation. Has the time come for a developer-funding directive, at least?
• with these greater powers, the EU has allocated substantial funds to nature conservation. Persuading the EU to take cultural heritage issues on board remains a challenge
• despite the rhetoric of diversity, there appears to be a European bias towards institutional conformity. Research into early continent-wide linkages receives more attention than research into differences. If we think that a bad thing, how could we combat it?
• cultural heritage in European institutions may be nearing a turning point. It could probably achieve a higher profile within the EU, but at the sacrifice of diversity in favour of more regimentation, regulation and definition. Or it could continue as a poor but honest relation, free to develop more or less as it wants, guided by consensus but starved of resources, and provided always that it does not affect trading conditions and competition in the Community to an extent that is contrary to the common interest.

On balance, I would prefer my European MP to look after my cultural as well as my natural heritage, however painful the adjustments that would imply for my old friends at the Council of Europe HQ in Strasbourg. It’s all very well thinking deep thoughts, but deep pockets would be useful, too.

Strasbourg – the European circuit has its attractions

Noel Fojut
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Archaeologists of Europe: the European Association of Archaeologists

Anthony Harding

The European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) is the organisation for European archaeology and archaeologists par excellence. Founded in 1994 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, it has grown in size and influence over the years. With a membership of around a thousand, coming from almost all the countries of Europe (and with a sizeable US contingent), it is ideally placed to provide a forum for discussion, news, information exchange and a meeting point for archaeologists of every kind from all over Europe.

The European idea

Ironically, given the Euroscepticism which so deeply embeded in our country, by far the largest contingent of EAA members comes from the UK. This is partly for the obvious reason that English is the official language of EAA, but it is also a reflection of a generally outward-looking attitude among British archaeologists. Many people believe in the European idea, and even those who are lukewarm about it can see the benefits of meeting up with those with similar interests with whom they can do business – literally or figuratively. The goal of creating common standards for archaeological work across Europe is certainly a worthwhile one, as is the desire to see ethical practice in professional work throughout our continent. These are among the things the EAA has set out to do, it has already achieved much, but has more to try for. There is no other body which can stand up for archaeology in this way at a European level.

Its working parties include

- the European Reference Collection
- archaeological legislation and organisation
- sustaining the historic environment within farmed landscapes in Europe
- teaching and training of archaeologists
- professional associations in archaeology
- trade in cultural material
- archives and collections in Europe
- creation of research strategies for the European frontiers of the Roman Empire and there are Round Tables on
- making the most of information – maximising the value of archaeological results
- ecology and archaeology
- perspectives of medieval and post-medieval pottery production centre researches in Europe

Influence?

How much influence does EAA have? The answer is not straightforward, and depends a lot on the country concerned. In Britain, we have great support from English Heritage and Historic Scotland, but we do not seek to influence their decisions: there is no need to, because so many of their archaeologists are EAA members, and ensure that the professional standards EAA upholds are enshrined in what they do. The further east you go, the more influential the voice of EAA becomes. This is partly because the legal framework for heritage protection is not always as strong as one would wish in some countries, and even where it is in theory strong, in practice politicians may bypass planning laws and thieves loot archaeological sites without much fear of legal comeback.

Sarajevo

Almost all European countries have signed and ratified the Valletta Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, but have different ways of interpreting its provisions; all too often we find that heritage comes low down the list of priorities when the national – or a local – interest is at stake. Nevertheless, campaigns are sometimes fought. For example, following a visit to Sarajevo by the President, Secretary and Administrator, EAA affirmed its support for the small community of professional archaeologists in Bosnia-Herzegovina, urging ‘the authorities, cantonal, federal and state, to uphold the standing of the profession by providing adequate resources for museums, rescue archaeology and heritage protection, and to withdraw all support for the absurd ‘pyramid’ project which is attracting world-wide media attention, misleading the public, and diverting political support and resources from the real issues of protecting and restoring Bosnia- Herzegovina’s authentic and endangered national heritage’.

Annual meetings

The main way that people use the EAA, apart from receiving the European Journal of Archaeology and the Newsletter, The European Archaeologist, is to attend the Annual Meetings. By common consent, these are very enjoyable events, held in a different country each year, and providing participants with the opportunity to meet a huge range of like-minded people from all over Europe. The meetings are good value financially as well, and enable one to visit sites and monuments you would not normally be able to see.

Whether you work mostly in the field, or in project management, or in museums, or in the lecture room, you will find plenty of people with common interests at EAA meetings, and will learn a lot from archaeologists facing common problems but in a different culture. If you have never been, why not give it a go in Malta this year? Great sites to visit, lots of interesting sessions to attend – go to http://www.e-a-a.org for full details, and put 17-20 September in your diary now!

Anthony Harding
President, European Association of Archaeologists

The Archaeologist

Summer 2008 Number 68
The European Route of Industrial Heritage

David Buckley

Creation of the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) network was prompted by massive economic changes over recent decades which have left the heavily industrialised regions of Europe in serious decline, impressive buildings and infra-structure becoming derelict or swept away by regeneration. Many groups have been formed to protect particular sites and buildings, to undertake recording and generally develop interest in the rich but threatened heritage, but funding and support for these efforts have often been poor and appreciation of the potential for marketing and tourism generally lacking.

The aims of ERIH are to
• raise the profile of industrial heritage
• improve the economic potential and attractiveness of former industrial sites
• develop cross-marketing approaches between them
• increase visitor numbers

In this way industrial heritage can contribute to sustainable regeneration in former European industrial regions.

International brand
The Ruhr Route of Industrial Culture (Ruhrgebiet) (www.route-industriekultur.de), launched in 1999 in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, is the model that is being followed. This region became the Lead Partner for ERIH and Volkingen Iron Works (WHS) in Saarland, the other German partner. Dutch partners are the Foundation for the Industrial Heritage for the Netherlands and the Province of North Holland. In the UK the four partners are Torfaen County Borough Council, Telford and Wrekin Borough Council, University of Manchester Field Archaeology Centre and Essex County Council.

Between 1999 - 2001 an Interreg-funded feasibility study was carried out. Since 2003 the partnership has built the network using the Interreg IIIB European funding programme. The ERIH brand has been developed, marketed and promoted, and is now a model which can be expanded to other European regions.

Anchor Points
The network consists of sites of national or international importance, known as ‘Anchor Points’. Currently there are 66 of these, 27 in the UK, and several hundred more potential sites have been identified across Europe. Existing sites include
• the Big Pit, South Wales
• New Lanark, Scotland (WHS)
• Ironbridge Gorge, Shropshire (WHS)
• Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills, Essex
• Cruquius Pumping Station, Haamslernmeer, Netherlands
• Volkingen Iron Works, Saarland (WHS)
• North Duisburg Landscape Park, Germany
• Flemish Mining Museum, Beringen, Belgium.

Anchor Points are identified by a distinctive sign at the entrance and an internal sign giving a brief explanation and website details. Leaflets and a touring exhibition about ERIH are available in the four project languages (English, Dutch, German and French).

Regional routes
Below the level of Anchor Points ERIH partners are creating regional routes. These link significant civil engineering monuments and structures which demonstrate specific aspects of technology while offering a good visitor experience. The four existing UK ERIH routes are South Wales, the East of England (www.industriouseast.org.uk ), the West Midlands and the North West of England. Promotional leaflets exist for each route and various events have been staged.

Theme routes
Many other sites are recognised on transnational theme routes, based on the themes of
• mining
• iron and steel
• textiles; production and manufacturing
• application of power
• transportation and communications
• water

A further three were added to cover
• housing and architecture
• service and leisure industry
• industrial landscapes

Research for these was carried out by specialist industrial archaeologist, Barrie Trinder. He has also researched personalities who have influenced European industrial history. To date ninety biographies of significant individuals, including entrepreneurs, inventors, engineers, scientists, authors, workers, and others, illustrating the transnational nature of industrial history, are on the website. Following the successful pilot The Industrial East regional route in the East of England, a new HLF application has been agreed which will enable development of digital lessons plans on industrial heritage for the 14 – 19 age groups, and a travelling exhibition.

Formal launch
In February at the former Zollverein Colliery (WHS) at Essen in the Ruhr ERIH was formally established as a new transnational legal entity under German law.

The founding members elected an interim Board and agreed categories of membership for organisations, Anchor Point sites, other sites and individuals. A formal launch will take place at the ERIH Annual Conference in October 2008. In the UK the lead co-ordinating role for ERIH has been taken by the Ironbridge Institute, (contact David de Haan d.dehaan@bham.ac.uk) and a new Steering Group is now taking forward development of ERIH in the UK.

Expansion has included two new Anchor Points. The Imperial War Museum, Duxford, the foremost centre for aviation heritage in the UK, and the Museum Pizensky Prazdrod Brewery in Pilsen (brewers of Pilsner Urquell beer) became the first Anchor Point in the Czech Republic. After the formal launch many more sites across Europe are expected to seek to become Anchor Points or to join with other sites to create new regional routes.

www.erih.net has details of all of the Anchor Points and regional route sites in four languages, and details over 700 other sites which make up themes routes.

David Buckley
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Launching the
South Wales ERIH
regional Route at
Aberdulais Falls,
South Wales

Experiencing
industrial heritage
at the Museum of
Science and Industry in
Manchester

Discovering by night the Duisburg Landscape Park, Germany

Viewing working steam engine at
Iron Bridge Steam
Museum

The Archaeologist
Spring 2007 Number 63

16
This May, the Society of Antiquaries of London hosted a seminar for sixteen European antiquarian societies, from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales. The seminar explored the histories and roles of these various societies, the challenges ahead and opportunities for collaboration. Many are ancient societies, often born at a time of rising nationalism fostered by newly-won independence. Many were inspired by the emergence of archaeology as a scientific discipline out of classical studies during the mid-19th century.

All agreed that fostering research and publication of results were their core activities, based on excellent library facilities built up over long periods. England is not alone in having a fiscal regime that is not especially sympathetic to charities; fortunate are those countries that have a middle way between commerce and charity – the ‘not for profit’ – that is therefore especially sympathetic to charities; fortunate are those countries that have a middle way between commerce and charity – the ‘not for profit’ enterprise. Fortunate too are countries where research and publication are regarded as charitable activities without the need to jump through other ‘public benefit’ hoops.

Some regretted that research was increasingly marshalled into themes approved by committees; such research strategies were often outmoded before they were published, and encouraged a homogeneity that was regrettable, not least in the growing emphasis on the use of English (in reality American) for scholarly publication. ‘Our government is encouraging us to resist,’ said Joost Van der Auwera of the Royal Academy of Archaeology of Belgium. And quite right too: language is heritage. Even so, a strength of many of these various societies, the challenges ahead and opportunities for collaboration. Many are ancient societies, often born at a time of rising nationalism fostered by newly-won independence. Many were inspired by the emergence of archaeology as a scientific discipline out of classical studies during the mid-19th century.

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The 1972 World Heritage Convention is the most popular of the cultural heritage conventions established by UNESCO. Now with 185 member states, the Convention established the principle that there is natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value which it is the duty of all humanity to identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit to future generations.

From this came the World Heritage List of places of outstanding universal value coupled with the List of World Heritage in Danger. The Convention also requires member states to protect their heritage as a whole and to integrate it into the life of the community. It is World Heritage Sites however – places of outstanding universal value to all humanity – which has captured the interest of governments and the public.

EUROPEAN LEAD

Thirty years ago, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee inscribed the first twelve sites. Of these, three – Aachen Cathedral (Germany) and the Wieliczka Salt Mine and the Historic Centre of Cracow (both Poland) – were from Europe. The following year 20 of the 45 sites inscribed were European and this enthusiasm has continued. Of the 851 sites now on the World Heritage List, 417 (48%) are from Europe. Six of the ten countries with most World Heritage Sites are European, led by Italy with 42, followed by Spain (40), Germany (32), France (31) and the UK, which did not join the Convention until 1984, (27).

COMPETITION

Europe also took early to involvement in implementation of the Convention. Four out of the fifteen members of the first World Heritage Committee were from Europe and competition to get onto it has remained keen. Both France and Italy have spent 21 years as members, but the UK has only served one term of four years. European countries have also been at the forefront of providing assistance to other parts of the world with France, Spain, Italy, Germany and many others providing funding and advice, as has the UK. Generally, World Heritage has a high profile and in most European countries there is enthusiasm to continue nominations. Even an island nation such as Malta has seven sites on its Tentative List.

TOO GOTHIC

At first sight, then, World Heritage in Europe is flourishing and in many ways it is, for there is high awareness of the accolade and keen competition to gain it. There are however concerns both from both world and European perspectives. For example, the List is overweighted by European heritage. A frequently quoted example is the contrast between the number of Gothic cathedrals on the List compared to the sacred buildings of other major religions. European concepts of heritage, said to be focused on monuments, buildings and fabric, are felt by many to preclude other types of site. There are strong opinions too that so many nominations by well-represented countries make it difficult for other parts of the world.

Within Europe, concerns focus on the management of existing World Heritage Sites. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee annually reviews conservation of sites where concerns have been raised, and over a third of these at this year’s Committee are from Europe. There are currently three European sites on the World Heritage in Danger List, and it is quite possible that Dresden will be deleted because of inappropriate development.

The number of cases reflects development pressures in Europe and also differences of approach between the World Heritage Committee and national governments over what constitutes appropriate change in the historic environment. Tall buildings in an urban context have been a focus of concern, as has the emerging impact of wind energy projects. Another, more long-term, is the effects of climate change. These issues are not confined to World Heritage Sites and reflect more general concerns in conservation of the historic environment. The involvement of World Heritage does however ensure high-profile involvement from both conservationists and potential developers.

STRENGTH and COOPERATION

On a more positive note, the Periodic Report on European World Heritage Sites inscribed up to 1997 was completed in 2006. While this flagged up concerns, not least in the areas of awareness raising and interpretation as well as conservation, but growing cooperation within Europe should provide a basis to achieve this.
Britons and Romans:

Roman archaeologists have long been interested in what was happening beyond the English Channel – after all, most of Britain from 43 to 410 was part of the Roman empire. For Roman military archaeologists the links are especially strong with other countries which contain remnants of the frontiers of that empire. And links and cross-fertilisation go both ways: a crag on Hadrian’s Wall is named Mons Fabricius in honour of the great 19th-century German archaeologist Ernst Fabricius. The links have been strengthened over the last sixty years through the International Congress of Roman Frontier Studies, founded 1949. This has met in most European countries containing Roman frontiers, and in Israel and Jordan. Up to 250 scholars from all continents attend the 3-yearly gatherings: the next is in Newcastle in 2009.

protecting the Frontiers of the Roman Empire again  David Breeze

WHS for all frontiers

These links have been given a fillip by the move to add frontier monuments to the World Heritage Site list, the intention being to have a single WHS for all frontiers of the Roman empire. A start was made with Hadrian’s Wall in 1987 and the German Limes in 2005. At that point, a new multinational WHS was created, Frontiers of the Roman Empire. The Antonine Wall in Scotland was proposed in 2007 and its fate will be decided by the World Heritage Committee meeting in Quebec in July this year.

Nine partners

Every WHS must have a management plan with a research strategy. Roman archaeologists working on frontiers decided that they would rise to the challenge of creating a pan-European research strategy for the infant FRE WHS. At the European Archaeological Association Conference at Thessaloniki in 2002 six actions were agreed and, at the second attempt, a grant of €600,000 was obtained from the Culture 2000 programme towards a project worth €1.35m, to run over 3 years. There are nine partners: Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, UK, Slovenia, Spain and Romania. The lead partner is Historic Scotland and our archaeological co-ordinator and administrator both live in Vienna.

There are four parts to the Culture 2000 programme

• create a Frontiers of the Roman Empire website
• provide material for local exhibitions on Roman frontiers
• improve documentation of Roman frontiers
• advise on the conservation, curation, management and presentation of Roman military remains

Meetings have been held in seven countries, each meeting involving local colleagues, and a network has thus been formed. Although we started slowly we have achieved our aims. The final meeting was held in Edinburgh this spring, when the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport launched the volume of essays detailed the work undertaken. Twinning and co-operation

The great joy of such projects lies in ideas which occurred to none of us at the beginning, such as the twinning of schools and museums along frontiers: simple but excellent ideas which should do much for international co-operation. Another project is a DVD about all frontiers, supported by short films about the frontiers in individual countries. This was made with Boundary Productions who we commissioned to extend their remit into Central and Eastern Europe.

Has it all been worthwhile? Undoubtedly. Not only have we realised the ambitions in our grant application, but we have been able to support new ideas: Colleagues meeting on a regular basis across Europe have got to know each other better and can work more effectively together. We are already considering our next application – just so long as I don’t have to run it! And everyone’s English has improved considerably, though my German has got decidedly worse.

David Breeze
Leader of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire Culture 2000 project and co-ordinator for the Antonine Wall David.Breeze@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

One element of documentation in the Culture 2000 project was geophysical survey along the Antonine Wall to improve our data base. Work was undertaken by both GSB and Glasgow University. In this survey of Balmuildy new information is provided about the forts defences and the annexe

A key component of preparation of documentation supporting the nomination of the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site has been to improve mapping of the monument and the archaeological data base. RCAHMS is a key partner in both aspects. This plan of Balmuildy contains several layers: OS mapping; early 20th- century excavations; and geophysical survey

Culture 2000 project members and friends at Airth Castle, Scotland, 2006

Schools and museums are key components in continuing work of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire project. Introducing pupils to displays in the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, is Jim Devine, who has also masterminded creation of the Antonine Wall website. The University has provided additional funds to create a new Antonine Wall Interpretation Centre

RCAHMS, shows the Wall at Rough Castle fort looking west

New photography was undertaken for the nomination of the Antonine Wall as a World Heritage Site. This aerial photograph, taken by RCAHMS, shows the Wall at Rough Castle fort looking west
Austria – an archaeological rogue state?

Raimund Karl

As someone who has moved from what we Austrians consider the ‘heart of Europe’ to its western edge (Wales), it is difficult not to compare the situation of archaeology in my country of birth and my new home. As a national ideology Austria – landlocked as it is – for long has considered itself an ‘island of the blessed’. And where its archaeological resource is concerned that may be a proper assessment: it is second to none. To name but the Venus von Willendorf, one of the oldest and most famous palaeolithic figurines in the world, and Hallstatt, the eponymous site for the central European early Iron Age, there are spectacular finds to be made and an excellent archaeological resource to be mined (in case of the Hallstatt prehistoric salt mines, quite literally so). Preservation conditions by and large are good, in some cases excellent. While there are some major conurbations, much of the countryside is unspoilt, and most of its archaeology is accessible, even if set against the beautiful background of the Austrian Alps.

Archaeological advances

Where the practice of archaeology in Austria is concerned, some good things can be said: in geophysical prospection and aerial archaeology, for example, excellent work is done by the Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG), the Vienna Institute of Archaeological Science (VIAS) and the Aerial Archive at the Institute of Pre- and Protohistory at the University of Vienna. In the last decade, stratigraphic excavation has become frequently used, if not the norm, and the Austrian National Heritage Agency, the Bundesdenkmalamt, usually insists on this as a condition for permission to excavate, which is a legal requirement for every excavation.

Valletta Convention

However, Austrian archaeology is behind much of Europe where protection and preservation of its archaeological resource is concerned. Perhaps most significantly, Austria is the only member state of the EU that has not yet ratified the Valletta Convention. As a result, the polluter pays principle has not been introduced. Massive underfunding, particularly where posts in archaeological heritage management are concerned, is a direct consequence. As heritage protection is a responsibility of the central state, rather than a federal responsibility, this falls to the National Heritage Agency. Due to severely restricted state funding, this employs just twelve full time archaeologists to cover all of Austria. Some federal Austrian states employ archaeologists in museums and town archaeology services, raising the total to about fifty, but these archaeologists have remits limited to curation of excavated archaeology in the federal state museums, with little capacity to carry out fieldwork.

Health and safety

Another problem is limited understanding of health and safety regulations in archaeological fieldwork. Unshored trenches with vertical profiles of several metres in modern building rubble or through prehistoric ramparts are a frequent occurrence on Austrian digs. Proper safety equipment for staff, emergency plans and pre-excavation risk assessments, are still a rarity. This resulted, in 2005, in the death of a young archaeologist, Markus Koller, who was killed when such a profile collapsed onto him. Two further casualties luckily survived. One result of this tragic event was a health and safety in archaeology conference in Salzburg in 2006 (http://ausgegraben.org/Documents/Sicherheit/Sicherheitsitagung_Artikel.pdf). Another result was that the Association of Austrian Museum Archaeologists are co-operating with the Austrian equivalent of the NHS for accidents and emergencies, the AUVA, to bring health and safety standards in archaeology up to the legally required minima – this despite criticism from some very senior archaeologists in Austria.

Another problem occurs where contracts for fieldwork are awarded without proper competitive tendering. Similarly, most jobs in archaeology, particularly in field archaeology, are not properly advertised, which makes for an hierarchical labour market, almost closed to the outside. In institutionalised structures, health and safety and the labour market, Austrian archaeology has fallen behind many European states. For a country considered a centre of European culture, and one of the richest nations in the EU, this is positively shameful.

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Archaeology and archaeologists in Hungary
Zsolt Magyar

Hungary, since 2004 a member of the EU, has a long tradition of archaeology. The first antiquarians started to excavate in the 18th century and university courses were launched in the 20th century. Many archaeologists started their careers then, even though talents such as Sir Marc Aurel Stein, Andreas Alfoldi and Geza Alfoldy had to work abroad. Following political changes since 1990, development-led archaeology has played the most important role within the profession.

Protecting and recording
Hungary has some of the best heritage protection laws in Europe, but the heavy workload has led to huge post-extraction problems. More than 7 million square metres have been excavated in the last 17 years just along new motorways, and the pace of large-scale developments is expected to increase dramatically over the next five years.

There are currently about 56,000 known archaeological sites in Hungary, but if we consider the number of sites discovered along new motorways, the total can be estimated as 672,000. Of these, only 1500 are protected, and there is only one World Heritage Site: the Early Christian cemetery of Sopianae/Pécs. On linear construction projects such as pipelines and highways, and for buildings covering more than 10,000 square metres, a desk-based assessment has to be made and, if an archaeological site is threatened, a trial excavation must be undertaken. If necessary, the whole development area must be excavated at the developer’s expense. In addition, a watching brief is compulsory on large-scale developments, and if an archaeological site emerges excavation must be undertaken. Problems arise with non-registered sites, for which the law provides no finance, but the regional museums have to carry out a rescue excavation if such a site emerges during construction works. In 1998 the first central public administrative organisation was formed, which from 2001 became the National Office of Cultural Heritage. This deals with protection of archaeological sites, and issues excavation licences.

Developer-led archaeology
Since 1989 protection of cultural heritage has been supported by legislation. Highway construction in particular has transformed the profile of Hungarian archaeology as rescue excavation has become accepted by developers. Again, it is processing the data that is the outstanding problem. Large and exceedingly important sites that have already provided important results include the Late Roman pottery production centre in Vecsés-Ullo (covering 400,000 square metres), the neolithic settlement of Polgár-Csoszhalom and the neolithic Lengyel culture settlement in Alsónyék, which has unique timber funerary buildings. Mining too leads to discovery of new sites. Eight million year-old cypress trees came to the light in Bükkabrány in 2007 in a lignite mine.

Recording standards
Until April 2007 only the nineteen regional museums and Budapest Historic Museum were entitled to carry out development-led excavations. Other participants could only take part as subcontractors. New legislation established the Field Services for Cultural Heritage as a government organisation with national competency to organise development-led archaeological tasks when investment in the development is over €6 million (now €2 million). The authority of local museums to carry out excavations has been transferred to the State.

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Documentation for excavations varies. All records (a minimum of the excavation diary, description of features, drawings, maps and photographs) have to be sent to the National Office of Cultural Heritage Archive and to the Central Archaeological Archives of the Hungarian National Museum (HNM), which has collected all archaeological archives since 1957. Documentation for fieldwork before 1957 is in the archives of local museums.

There is no unified system of archaeological recording. The basic unit is a feature, with stratigraphic units included in descriptions of features. According to the new Documentation Procedures of the Field Services for Cultural Heritage stratigraphic documentation is now compulsory in excavations for large developments. In some university excavations stratigraphic documentation also applies, and documentation using the Harris matrix is taught in the two main archaeological departments.

Future tasks
A major task for the future is to tackle the backlog of finds needing processing. Archaeological sites in Hungary are rich – from one t/ril site alone, at Polgár-Csoszhalom, came four million finds. There is a need for a Chamber of Archaeology, for which a first step was taken when the Association of the Hungarian Archaeologists was established in 2007. Standard documentation is also needed. The new Field Services for Cultural Heritage made the first steps in this process, initiating standard ‘Documentation Procedures’ for their own excavations and for subcontractors. However, this standard is much debated within the profession, not least because it uses stratigraphic units as basic elements instead of features. Training, as ever, is an issue for many throughout our emerging profession.

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Professional archaeologists
In 2000 there were about 300 archaeologists in the country. Today there are 323 members of the Association of the Hungarian Archaeologists, representing about 75% of us. A typical excavation organisation contains one or two archaeologists, three or four site technicians and about twenty labourers with a foreman (ie nearly as many archaeologists as there are excavations). Because of demand, newly graduated archaeologists start leading excavations as soon as they finish their education and have received a diploma number (a legal requirement before an archaeologist applies for permission to excavate). Yet the new large-scale excavations show the benefits of team work by professional staff.

Rescuing and conserving an eight million-year-old cypress tree (taxodium) found during mining activities in Bükkabrány

A special find depicting a griffin found in a rescue excavation in Bácskéz in 2007. Photograph: Field Services for Cultural Heritage

An aerial view of a Roman villa from the rescue excavation in Büntorfüdő, Tó-park in 2007-2008. Photograph: Field Services for Cultural Heritage
Salt seems to get a bad press these days. Eat junk food or ready meals, and you are sure to take in more than is reckoned good for you, with a danger of high blood pressure. Eat no salt at all and you will suffer far worse consequences: loss of appetite, listlessness, a decline of general health, and eventually death. Salt is also used in a variety of technological processes, and for preserving foodstuffs. Over the ages people have sought out salt for these reasons. A range of words and sayings attest to the importance which salt has assumed in the daily lives of people: good people are the ‘salt of the earth’; our word ‘salary’ is derived from ‘salinum’, the allowance given to Roman soldiers for salt; in Slav countries visitors are greeted with bread and salt.

The trough extracted from Figa in 2005, stored in Bistrita Museum

Details of trough fragment, posts, and withies recovered in excavation in 2007
Digging in the garden of France

Jason Wood

It all started in the city of Tours in the Loire Valley, commonly known as the Garden of France, where I pitched up in 1978 after replying to an advert in the CBA Calendar of Excavations. The newly established Laboratoire d’Archéologie Urbaine de Tours was run by Henri Galinié. Henri and Bernard Randoin, who had both excavated at Wolvesey Palace in Winchester for Martin Biddle and had set up what amounted to the first urban unit in France, introducing ‘La Méthode Winchester’.

Erasing ‘Winchester’

My first job was to erase the word ‘Winchester’ from all the pre-printed plastic drawing sheets (which Martin Biddle had sold to Henri) and to substitute ‘Tours’. My second job was fabricating wooden planning frames out of bits of 18th-century window. My lodgings were a room above a small bar and restaurant one block away from the excavations, owned by Mme Boilleau, or Mrs Drinkwater, though it wasn’t water that most of her clients liked drinking. Here I would eat breakfast, surrounded by drunken fishermen who trawled the Loire by night, and be joined by Richard for lunches and evening meals. The food was quite frankly appalling – alphabet spaghetti soup and re-heated leftovers – about as far removed as it is possible to get from the culinary heights for which the region is renowned.

Tight budgets

Later that season I got to direct my first excavation – a deep, complicated sequence of Roman and medieval defensive ditches immediately outside a Roman amphitheatre incorporated into the later city walls. The site was enormous, as was the quantity of earth to be moved, but Henri’s budget for machine hire (an absolute must given the depth of the overburden) was, as were so many of Henri’s budgets, extremely tight. (Henri once accidentally dropped a 35mm film canister off the top of the amphitheatre wall, which I retrieved and later put in my camera, only for him to dock the cost of it from my final wage packet four months later.) Anyway, I came up with an ingenuous, and what we might call today ‘sustainable’, solution for the earth removal, paying the machine-driver partly in spoil with which he backfilled another site he was working on for the City Council. I was happy as I got my machining done within budget; he was happy as he was selling the spoil to the Council as well as getting paid for the backfilling. The only potentially unhappy people were the Council, who owned the site where I was digging and therefore were buying their own spoil. But as they never found out, everyone was happy.

Choosing diggers

Working in Tours in the late 1970s was a popular choice for students and others. Up to 150 were required for the summer to work on three big urban sites – the Château, St Martin’s basilica and my ditches. Most applicants had little or no archaeological experience, desiring simply a working holiday abroad or to learn French. Sifting through the 300 or so applications was a laborious but fortunately well-lubricated task. Bernard, after years of performing this role, in Winchester as well as in Tours, had long ago abandoned any selection criteria which related in any way to applicants’ experience? with the phrase ‘Sat under a pyramid’. I offered her a place and, in truth, she turned out to be the best digger that season. However, one tea-break when I casually enquired of her interest in Egyptology it transpired that the pyramid she’d sat under was in a shop window in the Amadale Centre advertising razor blades.

Jason Wood
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The archaeological profession in the Irish economy

Patrizia La Piscopia, Conor McDermott and Margaret Gowen

According to The Economist, in the last ten years Ireland's economy has continued to expand strongly, with recent figures pointing to year-on-year GDP growth of 5.4%. This increase in the archaeological profession also experienced extraordinary expansion. The changes have recently been documented in a national survey conducted by the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) as part of the Discovering the Archaeologists of Europe project coordinated by the IFA.

Massive expansion

Since the last official survey by IAI in 2002, the number of archaeologists in the Republic of Ireland alone has increased by almost 300%. At present, some 1709 individuals are employed in the profession, including specialists and support staff. The vast majority (89%) is employed in the commercial sector, with the remainder mainly divided among the public sector and higher education. A climate of favourable legislation plus increasing investment in the construction sector in general, and infrastructure projects under the National Development Plan (NDP) in particular, has generated significant demand, in turn creating a significant inflow of non-national workers into Irish archaeology. At present 44% of archaeologists in Ireland are non-Irish nationals, of which the majority are Polish (23.5%). Non-EU member states are significantly less well represented, with just 2.9% of the total non-national employees.

Young, educated and (fairly) rich

This current Irish study portrays a young profession where the average age of 52% of the workforce is 20–29, with a further 40% in the 30–39 age range. A degree is not a requirement to start work in archaeology, but suitable qualifications are a requisite for career advancement and membership of the IAI, the professional body. In fact, 80% of professionals in the archaeological sector hold a primary degree and half of these also have a postgraduate qualification. The latest figures show an average gross salary of €37,480 per year, one of the highest figures in the EU, although within Ireland this is 2.8% lower than the national average. It should also be highlighted that, although there are a small number of well paid senior positions, 76% of employees earn less than €35,000.

Overall the survey results appear extremely encouraging, although some employees can experience difficulties. For more than a thousand qualified young professionals job stability and security are not the norm, as they work on short-term contracts for smaller companies that cannot guarantee continuity of employment to all staff. This requires much of the workforce to be mobile and flexible. To date this lack of security has been balanced by a buoyant employment market, but this is likely to change as the sector and the economy evolve.

Future slow-down?

Of course we cannot predict the future of the archaeological profession in the evolving Irish economy. It is closely tied to the construction sector, which it is now showing signs of slowing down, with a 7.4% reduction in investment due to financial problems in the United States and in international financial markets. Recent forecasts are that in 2008 there is likely to be no net employment growth.

For more information about the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland, visit http://iai.ie/
Professional archaeology in the Netherlands

Karen Waugh

As Patrice de Rijk describes (p36), significant changes in the archaeological system in the Netherlands over the last few years have had far-reaching consequences for the whole archaeological profession. Not only the research budget for archaeology, but also the parties and personnel working in archaeology have grown significantly, following implementation of the Malta Convention (Valletta) via the Archaeological Management Act 2007, in combination with the decentralisation of governmental tasks to local council level. Both developments have led to a fundamental and sweeping review of the tasks and responsibilities of central government within heritage management. A decade ago the majority of archaeologists in the Netherlands were employed by either government bodies (central, provincial and local government organisations) or universities. Today the majority are employed by commercial companies. Archaeologists in paid employment have increased ten-fold over the intervening period.

Before the Malta Convention

In 1995 only about 125 archaeologists worked in the Netherlands, plus support staff and a large number of active amateurs. Fieldwork was carried out by the State Archaeological Service¹ (rescue excavations), the five small university archaeological departments (mostly research excavations) and a few town archaeologists. The vast majority of research was financed by limited government budgets. Inadequate financial resources and the scarcity of qualified personnel led, perhaps inevitably, to an enormous backlog in post-deposition and publication of excavated sites. The preservation of archaeological sites was rarely realised. At this time less than 80 students studied archaeology: Of these the majority of graduates did not find employment within Dutch archaeology.

After Malta

The new legislation stipulates that government bodies (central, provincial as well as local) must make archaeology a condition for permits for developments. The costs of the archaeological mitigation, research and preservation, are borne by the developer, who can choose the contractor. Substantial funding has become available for archaeology and a market for archaeological services has been created in which ‘market principles’ such as tendering and competition apply. Precise figures are not available, but estimates suggest a yearly turnover of €60 - €80 million across the whole archaeological sector. Of this, approximately €40 - €50 million is spent on evaluation and excavation in the context of building and infrastructural projects. These projects are largely financed by local councils, private developers and national construction projects as ProRail (national railways) and Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch authority for highways and waterways).

Rapid expansion

The broader financial basis has led to a huge expansion in employment opportunities. The number of students now lies between 150 and 200. Graduates are more or less guaranteed employment within Dutch archaeology. There has also been an increase in higher education institutions offering archaeology-related courses. The number of jobs in archaeology has grown to almost a thousand, of which two-thirds are filled by archaeology graduates. Most graduates are, at the very least, offered temporary contracts with commercial companies. At the moment there are almost a hundred companies that work in archaeology, offering expertise ranging from evaluation and excavation techniques to finds specialists, presentation and communication specialists and policy and project management consultants. The need to enforce new legislation has also led to increased employment opportunities within the public sector, in particular local council policy and planning departments.

Quality assurance

Whilst the new legislation acknowledges that archaeological work is a service, it is also regarded as research which is of vital importance for understanding and valuing the national archaeological heritage. To this end, market principles operate under a strict system of quality assurance that has been developed by the Dutch archaeological community as a whole. The system is based on legal requirements so that basics standards for all archaeological work are guaranteed. The quality assurance system (KNA: Kwaliteitsnorm voor Nederlandse Archeologie)² is based on a definition of the required standard in the archaeological process instead of the archaeological product. As well as being in possession of an excavation licence, it is a legal requirement that a company has KNA-certification before carrying out a number of activities listed under the quality assurance system (all ground-intervention activities from evaluation to excavation).

For the individual, the quality assurance system defines the actors (their function, based on level of experience) for all steps in a specific process. This has led to the requirement of a definition of all personnel working in archaeology. The Dutch Association of Archaeologists, on behalf of the State Secretary for Culture, has designed a national register of archaeologists in which professional archaeologists sign an ethical code of conduct and are registered according to education, training and experience.

Anno 2008, unemployment within Dutch archaeology is virtually non-existent. This is good news for the individual archaeologist who has opportunity and choice, but a cause for concern for the potential employer. There is an increasing shortage of experienced and qualified personnel that meet the requirements of the quality assurance system, in particular project leaders and specialists for policy and heritage management functions. Despite the scarcity of personnel, the excavation licensing requirement coupled with the quality assurance system, represent the biggest deterrents for an influx of foreign companies and archaeologists into the market.

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1 Rijksdienst voor het Oudheidkundig Bodemonderzoek (ROB), now the Rijksdienst voor Archeologie, Cultuurlandschap en Monumenten (RACM).

Excavating mesolithic hearths in the Hanzelijn. Photo copyright Archeolo BV, Leiden.
Archaeology beyond the report
The Amsterdam conference on ‘the Future of Dutch Archaeology’ 2007

Patrice de Rijk

In the Netherlands commercial archaeology is a relatively new phenomenon. The Valletta Convention (known as ‘Malta’), was ratified in 1997, although since 1992 archaeology had been commercialised and the first units established. A new heritage law incorporating all aspects of ‘Malta’ became valid in September 2007. From being a publicly-funded luxury activity in universities, the State Service for Archaeological Investigations and some privileged towns, archaeology became an activity undertaken by many companies that compete for clients. The transition was followed by directives regarding standards of good practice and the establishment of a monitoring institution.

Ten years on, a conference to review the future of Dutch archaeology was organised by ArcheоСpecialisten, literally ‘Archaeospecialists’, a collaborative venture between archaeologists who are specialised in particular disciplines or areas of study (www.archeospecialisten.nl). ArcheоСpecialisten focuses on the continual improvement of archaeological research, in terms of both quality and quantity. Presentations by archaeological contractors, local government and clients covered the status quo of contemporary Dutch archaeology. Some themes will be familiar to British readers: Dutch archaeology suffers from unclear directives eg regarding the appropriate body in charge of the national heritage, and lack of a national policy and research agenda. Depending on the province or administrative region, different rules apply. Furthermore, existing rules sometimes lack common sense. For instance, archaeological research are obligatory when surface finds are known although from experience we know that in 92% of cases nothing else will be found. Thus, after the implementation of ‘Malta’, archaeological research grew by c. 500%, mostly in the form of tiny projects, but archaeological knowledge did not grow proportionally.

Across the North Sea archaeologists also want to be nice guys. They often tender below cost, spend hours on unpaid overtime, and open their excavations to the public without charging. To survive financially, archaeological contractors write more or less raw-data reports with only minimal interpretation. Clients and the general public cannot understand these reports as they lack interpretation and ‘story-telling’. As a result, clients cannot see the purpose of the reports, and archaeological mitigation and archaeological contractors are now viewed as unnecessary.

The informal conclusion of the conference was that representatives of the archaeological community will try to convince the government of the importance of making outreach activities part of the heritage law. This task force will report back their progress during the next congress, in October 2008.

Patrice de Rijk
Wessex Archaeology

In today’s diversified European landscape, French archaeology represents a unique perspective. Some of its distinctive characteristics could well be better recognised and taken on board across our continent.

POST-WAR DESTRUCTION
The archaeology of France was for long the poor cousin to that undertaken by its scholars abroad, in Rome, Egypt, Mesopotamia or the Far East. The study of these great civilisations often secured more symbolic and material capital than that of palaeolithic flint scatters, neolithic postholes, or Gallo-roman settlements. Although nurtured by dedicated amateurs and learned societies, local archaeology suffered from a dearth of academic support and institutional recognition. Only in 1941, of all times, were laws introduced for compulsory declaration of fortuitous finds and the supervision of archaeological excavations by competent authorities (neither yet achieved in UK – Ed). Even so, these laws could not protect the archaeological heritage from massive post-War reconstruction programmes. Repeated cases of destruction led to grassroots and academic protests, partly inspired by pioneering movements in Scandinavia and Britain. With ratification of the Valletta Convention these pressures culminated in 2001 with the creation of the Institut national de recherches archéologiques préventives – INRAP.

MISSIONS
As an autonomous public body within the ministries of Culture and of Research, INRAP’s statutory missions are to:
- detect, identify and excavate archaeological remains vulnerable to development and infrastructural works
- study and exploit scientifically these archaeological remains
- contribute to the teaching, cultural diffusion and wider awareness of archaeology

INRAP employs some 1700 archaeologists, their specialisms ranging from the palaeolithic to the 20th century, and from palaeoenvironmental studies through physical anthropology, archaeozoology, numismatics, urban architecture and ceramic studies, not forgetting conservation, topography and public outreach. Distributed in eight regional headquarters, these archaeologists provide 90% of new archaeological data. With over half of French archaeologists in its ranks and an annual budget of some €130 million, the size and remit of INRAP rank it among the largest archaeological institutions in the world.

EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION
Preventive (rescue) archaeology in France has two distinctive phases. The first is ‘diagnostic’
(evaluation), to assess unknown archaeological remains under threat. These diagnostics are prescribed by the regional archaeological services (the State) on all ‘sensible’ zones (i.e. urban areas, areas subject to impact assessments, greater than 30,000 m², etc.). Being a public body INRAP is legally entrusted to carry them out (as are some local councils). Around 2008 are undertaken every year, resulting in intensive assessment of about 15% of the 700 km² which undergo development in France every year. In turn, some 10–15% of those diagnosed surfaces are subject to the second phase, that of ‘excavations’. Here the relevant archaeological authorities prescribe full-fledged excavations, which are undertaken according to a detailed scientific tender by INRAP (about 350 annually) or by any operators certified by the Ministry of Culture. While excavations are financed under the ‘polluter-pays’ principle, with direct contract and billings with the developers concerned, the diagnostic stage is funded through a dedicated taxation system. This is levied on all development land, and currently stands at 0.38 eurocents per square metre. Roughly €60 million is collected each year, which is dedicated to three main purposes:

- Supporting developers who cannot afford archaeological operations
- Diagnostic assessment. Because funding is not tied to particular cases, INRAP can (within time and operational constraints), deploy all the material and scientific means necessary to assess the archaeological remains. This includes expert desk-top assessments and systematic campaigns of trial trenching. This proactive strategy has greatly increased the number of recorded sites, and radically renewed our understanding of past landscapes, environments and settlement patterns, notably in palaeolithic and medieval times.
- Research and valorisation. In addition to the skills deployed and knowledge generated during ‘standard’ diagnostic and excavation activities, INRAP is able to dedicate some 17,000 person-days annually to archaeological research programmes, in close collaboration with universities, CNRS and other institutions. Resources are also available to ensure publication and dissemination within the scientific community and the broader public.

Long as it has been in coming, and only recently bestowed with adequate legal and operational frameworks, preventive archaeology in France now represents a distinctive approach to the modern imperatives of archaeological heritage management.

**PUBLIC SERVICE**

The system still needs to be fine-tuned and consolidated in the light of economic, demographic and organisational challenges in the years ahead. Nevertheless, preventive archaeology as it currently stands reflects the deep-seated conviction that scientific study and preservation of the archaeological heritage is a public service and a scientific undertaking, carried out on behalf and for the benefit of the community as a whole. This concept does not oppose infrastructural and building works, but nor does it consider developers to be ‘clients’, putting archaeological service providers in commercial (rather than scientific) competition for the expedient clearance of their property.

Be they the most glamorous treasure troves or the lowest refuse pits, these archaeological remains of the past need to be valued as a fragile and non-renewable heritage for our common future.

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**Aerial archaeology across Europe**

**Flying Carpet or Patchwork Quilt?**

Chris Musson

It would be nice to think of aerial archaeology as a flying carpet to archaeological enlightenment across Europe, as in some respects it is in Britain. But the reality is closer to a patchwork quilt, of variable provision and often significant shortcomings. Slowly, though, through local effort, international co-operation and EU funding, the position is improving.

**Public service and academia**

In Britain, aerial survey and the interpretation and mapping work that bring the myriad individual images into effective use are integrated into public service archaeology. English Heritage and the Royal Commissions in Scotland and Wales have their own flying programmes, exploring, recording, monitoring and publicising sites and landscapes of the past. There is county-based flying in some areas, too, along with national and local mapping projects that feed information into the planning and conservation processes. Penetration into the world of academia has been less pervasive, whether in undergraduate teaching or in research on the vast body of ‘aerial’ data. This contrasts with mainland Europe, where aerial archaeology, when it exists at all, lies almost entirely within the academic sphere.

**AARG, Culture 2000 and expansion through Europe**

The situation on mainland Europe is more patchy than in Britain, despite efforts over the past twelve years by British and Continental members of the Aerial Archaeology Research Group (AARG), assisted by generous funding from the British Academy, the Association for Cultural Exchange (ACE) and two...
Researchers at Ghent having done pioneering work in the use of First World War military air photography. A different kind of military link in Austria sees Michael Donatus and colleagues at the University of Vienna working with military air-photographers, who take ‘blanket’ vertical coverage at the most effective time of year in a study areas where airborne lidar scanning, terrestrial survey and geophysical prospection are also being used in a coordinated research programme.

Elsewhere, in Belgium the universities of Ghent and Leuven military links provide aerial cover for much of the country, In the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia adventurous academics such as Martin Gojda, Ivan Kuzma and Darja Grosman took readily to the air when the political changes of the 1990s at last released their countries from the 50-year military embargo on freelance aerial activity. Aerial archaeologists have been active in France, too, though they rarely explain their work in the ‘international English’ that underpins the exchange of skills and experience across Europe.

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Prosecuting ‘time crime’ – some thoughts

Most countries with significant archaeological remains have enacted legislation making it a criminal offence to excavate, damage, or remove objects from archaeological sites and monuments – what is sometimes called ‘time crime’. In the US the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) imposes such controls in relation to archaeological resources on publicly owned, federal or Indian Tribal land. Although ARPA has limitations, the law and the way it is applied has some interesting features which could be adopted elsewhere, including the UK.

Looted site: crime scene
Before a prosecution is brought in England the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will apply a two-stage test: is there sufficient evidence to obtain a conviction, and is it in the public interest to prosecute? Wherever looting occurs it is unlikely that offenders will be caught in the act, unless a site is being monitored 24 hours a day (and in the US many important sites are in extremely isolated locations). So it is important that a looted site is treated as a crime scene and any physical evidence (for example footprints or tyre prints, or abandoned tools at a looted site) is properly processed. In recent years law enforcement personnel in the US have started to treat time crime seriously. Analysis of soil samples has enabled prosecutors to prove looted articles have been removed from a specific site and to secure a conviction. This change in attitude and practice is largely the result of the training courses provided by law enforcement bodies (particularly the Archeological Resources Protection Programme of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) and by academic institutions or private companies. Both archaeologists and the police contribute to these courses, which cover law and policy, the archaeological implications of looting, and practical exercises in the skills needed to gather evidence, put a prosecution case together and present evidence in court.

True archaeological value
ARPA requires that where the commercial or ‘archaeological value’ lost is greater than $500, the offence is prosecuted as a felony. Archaeological value is defined as the costs of the retrieval of the scientific information which would have been obtainable had the offence not taken place, including the cost of preparing a research design, conducting field work, carrying out laboratory analysis and preparing reports. By way of contrast, in determining whether it is in the public interest to prosecute, the CPS will usually look at the monetary value of the damage caused or objects removed, and is unlikely to consider wider harm to the public interest through loss of archaeological information. Training courses (above) are also attended by public prosecutors in the US who gain understanding of the concept of archaeological value and the full impact of the harm caused by looting. The result has been a greater willingness to bring court proceedings where looting occurs.

Deterrents
Although draft heritage legislation under consideration in England will increase some penalties for time crime offences, current penalties are unlikely to be much of a deterrent compared to those under ARPA. Compare, for example, the current maximum fine of £200 for using a metal detector in a protected place under English law with the fine of up to $250,000 and/or up to 5 years imprisonment under ARPA for the same offence if damage to archaeological value exceeded $500. The judiciary in the US also has the advantage of official sentencing guidelines for cultural heritage offences established under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. These guidelines specifically state that such offences are to be considered serious as they ‘involve essentially irreplaceable resources and cause intangible harm to society’. They provide for penalties to be 25% higher than the normal tariff for any offence involving cultural property, with further increases in penalties where there are aggravating factors, such as an offence that involved human remains, or was committed for pecuniary gain or was part of a pattern of offending.

Sentencing guidelines and better training
Could we do the same here? The introduction of a legal requirement to take archaeological value into account would require legislation. Other changes might be easier to effect. Formal sentencing guidelines (reflecting archaeological harm) could be established for offences involving archaeological sites or cultural property and lead to more fitting penalties than currently imposed. However, perhaps most useful might be the introduction of training courses along the lines of those in the US, with input from both lawyers and archaeologists. These could do much to improve awareness and attitudes of the police, prosecutors, magistrates and the judiciary to time crime in the UK, and would substantially improve protection given by the criminal law.

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Burial law and archaeology

Alison Taylor

Following work on behalf of archaeologists led by DCMS and English Heritage with support from IFA, CBA, ALGACO, BABAO and the Church of England, the Ministry of Justice has reconsidered the approach to burial licences adopted in 2007. Their new position is set out in this statement, which takes us close to the previous modus operandi except that at the moment there is a requirement for reinterment after about two years. However, MoJ is aware that this is not an acceptable position and will seek reform of the legislation to allow for deposition in a suitable repository, and will be sympathetic to granting extensions to licences and other variations. For those excavating extant burial sites, most of which will be covered by Church of England faculty jurisdiction, the best advice is contained in Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England (2005) (www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/16602_HumanRemains1.pdf).

To avoid further doubt, MoJ’s published statement is in full.

‘In the light of a further review of the burial legislation in relation to the archaeological excavation of human remains, and as an immediate first stage of reform, the MoJ proposes to proceed on the following basis with immediate effect:

• Exhumation licence applications under the Burial Act 1857 will be considered wherever human remains are buried in sites to which the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 or other burial ground legislation do not apply. This will reverse the recent change of practice and is expected to apply to the majority of archaeological excavations. When licences are issued, a time limit, normally of up to two years, will be set for reinterment of human remains. It will be possible to apply for an extension when circumstances justify this.

• The 1981 Act and other burial ground legislation will be regarded as applying only to extant burial grounds, in use or disused, which have not evidently been put to some other use. This legislation will not be regarded as applying to burial grounds which have been previously cleared of human remains, which have been built over or otherwise converted to commercial or residential use, or which have been put to agricultural use or have become uncultivated countryside. This approach will mean that relatively few burial sites of interest to archaeologists are likely to be subject to this legislation with the additional requirements it imposes. For sites to which the 1981 Act and similar Acts apply, directions will set a time limit, normally of up to 2 years, for reinterment of human remains; it will be possible to apply for an extension where circumstances justify this.

2 To assist archaeologists in making applications for exhumation licences or directions, a new form designed to collect the minimum information required is now available upon request.

3 During the course of the year, as a second stage of reform, consideration will be given to amending existing burial ground legislation so that it can be more responsive to 21st-century needs. The aim will be in particular to allow otherwise lawful and legitimate activities, such as the archaeological examination of human remains, to proceed without the constraints of legislation not designed to deal with such issues, and with retrospective effect as far as possible. In taking this forward, the MoJ aims to continue to work closely with the Department for Culture Media and Sport, English Heritage, and relevant professional bodies.

4 Any archaeologist wishing to seek assistance in any particular case is invited to contact the MoJ on 020 7210 0036; telephone numbers are liable to alter during the year. Answers to frequently asked questions appear in the annex attached.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1 Do I now need to apply for a licence where I have previously been told that I did not need one? Not if the remains have already been removed from the ground. If remains have not yet been disinterred, an application may now be made.

Q2 Does an extant burial ground have to be reinterred within 2 months? No. The MoJ is satisfied that the 2 month time limit specified in the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 relates to the time limit for reporting reinterment after reinterment has taken place. It does not impose a time limit between exhumation and reinterment, for which a time limit will be specified in as Q4.

Q3 Will the MoJ continue to issue exhumation licences for trial pits in advance of site development work? Yes (subject to the usual considerations).

Q4 Will the MoJ always require a firm date and details of arrangements for the reinterment of remains? No. If no firm arrangements are proposed in the application, a time limit, normally of up to two years, will be specified in a licence or directions. For large and complex archaeological sites, a longer time limit may be specified if circumstances justify this; such cases should be discussed with MoJ.

Q5 What is the time limit for reinterment if research has not been completed? Yes, if circumstances make this reasonable. Apply to the MoJ, if possible before the expiry date on the licence (or directions).

Q6 Once study has been completed, will it be possible for remains to be deposited in a museum or church so that they are accessible for future research rather than re-interred? This will be considered as part of the second stage of reform. It is intended that this should be possible, subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, if acceptable and justified by circumstances.

Q7 Will remains from sites excavated under the DBG(AA) 1981 have to be reinterred within 2 months? No. The MoJ is satisfied that the 2 month time limit specified in the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 relates to the time limit for reporting reinterment after reinterment has taken place. It does not impose a time limit between exhumation and reinterment, for which a time limit will be specified in as Q4.

Scottish Burial Review Group recommendations

Robin Turner

A review of the Burial and Cremation legislation in Scotland was set up in 2005 in response to the Dr Shipman case, and although some of the recommendations relate to death certificates, others attempt to deal with current problems, such as the scarcity of burial grounds and the abandonment of graves and memorials.

Worryingly, it recommends full burial grounds/cemeteries should be available for reuse for interments after a period of non-use of 75 years. The necessary legislation should be retrospective. The ‘dig and deeper’ method of reuse, which will require compliance with the proposed exhumation procedures, should be adopted. Crematoriums, monuments and memorials should wherever possible, be retained at or close to their original. And, regardless of ownership, all cemeteries, burial grounds of whatever type, and crematoria should be subject to the proposed new legislation.

The recommendations are presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing and the Minister for Public Health. The report encourages the government to involve the professional bodies most closely concerned with these matters in their eventual implementation but apart from Historic Scotland there is no mention of genealogy or other heritage organisations being consulted. The full report is at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/03/2513621/0.
The new draft Heritage Protection bill

Alison Taylor

Probably the most significant Parliamentary issue of the last three months for IFA members has been the long-awaited publication of the Draft Heritage Protection bill in April. This introduces significant changes to the way in which the historic environment is protected in England and Wales, and to the role of English Heritage and of local authorities in designating and controlling work on scheduled archaeological sites and listed buildings (both to be known as ‘registered heritage assets’). The full Draft Bill and Explanatory Notes, together with the Impact Assessment and additional draft guidance are available at http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5075.aspx (but beware - there are 192 legalistic pages of this).

In essence, as summarised in these bullet points by Gill Chitty (CBA) (with my added explanations in brackets)

- **Part 1 Heritage Registration** sets out provisions for a unified designation process for heritage assets on land and for marine heritage assets with the creation of a single Heritage Register in England and in Wales, bringing together all designated heritage assets including World Heritage Sites (ie scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks, gardens, battlefield and landscapes will be dealt with through the same system). There is also provision for sites of special local interest
- **Part 2 Control of works** provides for a new heritage asset consent regime administered by local planning authorities, enforcement and purchase notice procedures, and extension of Ecclesiastical Exemption to registered heritage structures which are ecclesiastical in nature and in use for ecclesiastical purposes (ie local authority archaeologists will have for more responsibility for sites that are currently scheduled. Before deciding any heritage asset consent (HAC) local authorities must to have regard for information in its HER, receive expert advice, and take this into account)
- **Part 3 Other Effects of Registration** sets out, in relation to registered heritage assets, planning requirements, new provision for statutory management agreements, for licensing use of metal detectors, for compulsory purchase, guardianship and public access, and powers for making grants and loans (with a new offence of ‘removal of objects from sites’ that affects their special interest, extension of metal detecting offences to heritage open spaces such as registered battlefield sites, and fines for use of metal detectors on protected sites without authorisation. There is also useful provision for statutory management agreements (already trialled) known as Heritage Partnership Agreements)
- **Part 4 Marine Heritage Licences** sets out a new procedure for marine heritage licenses to manage activities on marine heritage sites
- **Part 5 Historic Environment Records** provides for creation and maintenance of HERs in England and Wales to be a statutory duty for local authorities (as long requested by archaeologists; this requirement will also allow national standards to be set for this vital part of the archaeological planning process. These records must be publicly available and will include sites or structures of historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest and, where they meet the criteria, will be known as ‘registered heritage assets’. Access to records should be free, except for non-profit-making cost recovery for some services)

There may now be prison sentences, heavy fines (or both) if activities on registered sites are without consent unless there are health and safety or other overriding reasons, and local authorities or EH can insist on steps necessary to rectify illegal works – through another new acronym, HAEN (heritage asset enforcement notice).

The Bill will replace previous legislation in England and Wales, including the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (which first made damage to scheduled sites an offence and allowed for designation of Areas of Archaeological Importance, a power that was mostly made irrelevant by PPG 16 but which has proved useful in five historic towns for dealing with bodies such as utility companies).

Still of considerable concern to archaeologists are key areas where details are not yet available

- **Class Consents**, whereby registered heritage assets may continue to be damaged by ploughing
- **World Heritage Sites**, for which there is no additional protection in the Bill (though a DCMS consultation on Protection of WHS is now published with a draft planning circular and further guidance to follow)
- **resources**, which will clearly be a significant issue for hard-pressed local authorities. English Heritage has secured only half the £11 million it estimates that it will require. DCMS has undertaken to recompense local authorities either itself or through English Heritage, including covering increased responsibilities for maintaining HERs. The latter are costed for England at £0.5million / annum after initial one-off costs in the first year. For Wales it is stated that there would be no significant cost increase.
- **Planning Guidance** (PPG 15 and 16) revision, whereby archaeologists are pushing to include provisions for better publication of excavation results, to involve the public in excavations in their neighbourhood and to open sites for visitors, to expect the planning process to require commercial work to be conducted by accredited historic environment organisations or individuals, and for provisions for storage, conservation and display of finds. Requirements for analysis and recording of historic buildings before changes are undertaken should also be expected

IFA was involved as a consultee during drafting of this bill and, with other members of The Archaeology Forum, has already written to DCMS to congratulate it on progress so far, to alert it to shortcomings, and to offer involvement in further stages. IFA is also expecting to give oral evidence to a Culture, Media and Sport committee on this Bill this summer, when the lack of statements on accreditation is likely to be raised as a hazard to effective implementation of the Bill.
Alison Taylor

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Draft Bill (Hague Convention)

Although significant and long-awaited legislation in its own right this draft bill is now to be included with the Heritage Protection bill (p46-7). As Margaret Hodge, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism states in her Foreword ‘This Bill will help to ensure the security of the nation’s most important cultural property in the event of armed conflict and will send a signal to the international community that the UK takes seriously its obligations under international humanitarian law to respect and safeguard the cultural property of other nations. … The Convention, adopted following the massive destruction which took place during the Second World War, provides a system to protect cultural property from the effects of international and domestic armed conflict. Parties to the Convention are required to respect cultural property situated within the territory of other Parties by not attacking it, and to respect cultural property within their own territory by not using it for purposes which are likely to expose it to destruction or damage during armed conflict. Policy objectives include seizure and return of cultural property unlawfully removed from occupied territory and prosecution of those knowingly dealing in such material. Military commanders may now be responsible for offences by those under their control.

Perhaps the most succinct clauses are

Schedule 1 Article 9 Immunity of cultural property under special protection
‘The High Contracting Parties undertake to ensure the immunity of cultural property under special protection by refraining, from the time of entry in the International Register, from any act of hostility directed against such property and, except for the cases provided for in paragraph 5 of Article 8, from any use of such property or its surroundings for military purposes’.

and

Schedule 4 Second protocol Article 9 Protection of cultural property in occupied territory
‘Without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, a Party in occupation of the whole or part of the territory of another Party shall prohibit and prevent in relation to the occupied territory
a) any illicit export, other removal or transfer of ownership of cultural property;
b) any archaeological excavation, save where this is strictly required to safeguard, record or preserve cultural property;
c) any alteration to, or change of use of, cultural property which is intended to conceal or destroy cultural, historical or scientific evidence.

Within the UK, it is proposed that all sites that are currently scheduled ancient monuments, and all Grade I listed buildings, should be included within the assets to be protected. For a full transcript, see http://www.culture.gov.uk/Science_library/Publications/archive_2008/draft_cultprop_armed_conflict_bill.htm

It is expected that training programmes for military forces will be designed so that these policies can be met, both at home and abroad. Loopholes in the legal situations surrounding trade in looted artefacts will need to be sorted, military use of archaeological sites in Britain (already carefully controlled) will need reassessment and, above all, future military actions will need to consider implications for heritage assets that could be affected.

Draft Marine Bill

Although the marine historic environment is not the primary purpose of this Bill, it is an important component. It sets out plans for a new network of marine conservation zones around Britain’s coast, a new UK-wide marine planning system based on ‘making the best use of marine resources’, simplified licensing arrangements for marine developments (such as offshore wind farms) and ‘improved management of marine and inland fisheries’. It proposes the establishment of a new Marine Management Organisation, a centre of marine excellence, to regulate development and activity at sea and enforce environmental protection laws. For further information http://www.defra.gov.uk/marine/legislation/index.htm

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in England

Defra now proposes to cut by over half the funding directed towards historic environment projects through this Fund. Last year English Heritage distributed over £3 million to more than a hundred projects; reports are available on the EH website www.english-heritage.org.uk/ALSE

The Archaeology Forum has written to Defra in protest, summarising the effect of reductions (funding for work on quantities to be reduced from £2.41m to £1m, for marine projects from £0.75m to £0.5m, and for community work to be cut altogether from £0.81m).

‘We strongly support the need to maintain the level of funding in all three areas and believe that the cut to the community-based theme will be particularly detrimental’.

All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group (APPAG)

Meanwhile, APPAG has continued to discuss and make representations on many archaeological issues.

There was particularly strong support for continued funding of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, for which reductions had been proposed. An Early Day Motion had attracted 216 signatures, over 40 Parliamentary Questions had been laid down, the DCMS had received 131 letters from MPs and 109 letters from the public, as well as over 2500 signatures on the e-petitions on the Number 10 website. A Westminster Hall Adjournment Debate on the scheme was held on 5 March and Colin Renfrew had a starred Question in the House of Lords. Despite this, the agreement MLA and the Culture Minister, so only one-year contracts had been issued to PAS staff. An APPAG delegation will approach the DCMS Secretary of State before the outcome of the review is announced in July.

APPAG is also concerned about aspects of (low) pay and conditions in archaeology. Rupert Redesdale has set up an inquiry which took oral evidence in May, and has received IFA’s salaries benchmarking report. We are expecting that the resulting APPAG report will identify market failure and lack of barriers to entry to professional practice as major obstacles to be overcome before pay and conditions for archaeologists working across the UK can be improved.

Funding for the Metropolitan Police Arts & Antiquities Unit has also been addressed. Colin Renfrew had written to the Home Secretary, Tim Loughton had submitted a Parliamentary Question, and the issue will be pursued with the Home Office and new mayor of London.
New guides from English Heritage

English Heritage Conservation Bulletin: Adapting to a Changing Climate
Conservation Bulletin Issue 57 includes a review of a conference earlier this year: Inventing the Future: Buildings in a Changing Climate. It includes much useful information on this topical issue, with contributions from UK Climate Impacts Programme, UCL’s Centre for Sustainable Heritage, ALGAGO, English Heritage, the National Trust, Historic Houses Association and Church of England. Sections cover ‘Facing the Facts, Anticipating the Impacts, Inventing the Future’ (a review of the conference), Learning to Adapt and Finding out More. Free copies can be ordered from customers@english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage: microgeneration guides
In a similar vein, two guides address the impact of small-scale renewable energy options on traditional buildings. Small scale solar electric (photovoltaics) energy and traditional buildings sets out firmly that in deciding how best to incorporate renewable technology, the principles of minimum intervention and reversibility should be adopted. Separate guides look at generation, solar energy, bio-fuels, heat pumps and combined heat and power, explaining how each system works and what needs to be considered when installing it in or on a historic building. See http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/49357-SolarElectric.pdf

A second guide in the series Small scale solar thermal energy and traditional buildings deals with solar thermal energy. There is a list of useful contacts and sources of grants. See http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/17999-SolarThermal_28.pdf

English Heritage: Engineering the past to meet the needs of the future
With the earliest historic services dating from around 1850–1860, building services are often viewed as the latest and least historically important part of a listed building. Many early examples of heating, ventilation and lighting systems have been badly converted, removed or lost. But, given the short life expectancy of 25–30 years for building services, even for those early systems of historic significance doing nothing is rarely an option. The paper covers water, electrical, heating, lighting and fire alarm systems. See http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/ BnEST1.pdf

Mineral extraction and the historic environment
This sets out the English Heritage position on mineral extraction and the high-level policies that will form the basis for responses and views. It describes the planning policy framework for mineral extraction, historic background (from Grimes Graves to Coalbrookdale and beyond), the legacy from past mining and quarrying (often much valued – the landscape left by Cornish and west Devon lead-mining is now a World Heritage Site), and recommendations on mitigation strategies. Marine aggregates now supply some 21% of sand and gravel in England and Wales, and special strategies have been developed for this. The role of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in developing and promoting new techniques and best practice for assessment and mitigation is discussed, plus problems of old mineral permissions and the role of minerals in conservation (eg providing traditional materials such as slate and local stone). Free copies can be ordered from customers@english-heritage.org.uk

EXTRACT: the ALSF annual report
Celebrating EH’s final year as the major distributor of funds from ALSF, this report includes case histories for projects in aggregate producing areas, examples of better and more cost-effective techniques that have been developed, and outreach projects that have fed back benefits of archaeological work to local communities. Its development of new approaches include geophysical assessment in the Vale of Pickering, Hull University has been supported in hydrological monitoring of a waterlogged archaeological sequence, and has been able to show that organic floodplain sequences have already been damaged by water abstraction and net by aggregate extraction. On-going monitoring will assess re-wetting, an important issue for many floodplain environments. ALSF has also been able to step in as a last resort when old planning permissions are reactivated up to fifty years later, as occurred on a Neolithic site near Frampton on Severn.

For definitive project information, publication details, grey literature and educational resources, see http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/alsf

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund review documents
A major review of the benefits of the ALSF summarises some of the knowledge gained from over 360 projects that it has funded. Full details are at http://www.sustainableaggregates.com/topics/topics_assesplanning.htm, and there are also three printed publications. Rich Deposits looks at archaeological knowledge gained from aggregate extraction on land and at sea through fieldwork and excavation. Sustainable Heritage argues that the heritage community has mitigated destructive impacts through projects which developed guidance, standards and best practice for the aggregates industry. The Sands of Time contains case studies describing archaeological outreach projects funded by the ALSF among communities impacted by quarrying and extraction, arguing that ALSF has fundamentally changed the nature and extent of archaeological outreach work in England over the past six years.

Nevertheless, much of the funding used to support archaeology in these ways has now been withdrawn in order to fill holes in Defra’s budgets, and future projects look as if they will be very limited.

Protected Wreck Sites at Risk
This Risk Management Handbook describes a draft methodology for English Heritage, contract archaeologists, Licensees and others engaged in the risk assessment and risk management of England’s Protected Wreck Sites. It is designed to achieve a consistent approach to the risk assessment of wreck-based archaeological sites, whether designated or not. It can be found at http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Wreck-Sites.pdf. There is further information on Protected Wreck Sites at www.english-heritage.org.uk/nautical
INTRODUCING A RESEARCH FRAMEWORK FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF WALES

This attractive booklet, bilingual, beautifully illustrated and just a digestible 24 pages long, sets out to be a ‘brief summary of research priorities as they are seen currently’. The process started with an IFA Wales/Cymru Group conference in Aberystwyth in 2001, and was followed by regional audits undertaken by the Welsh trusts and by development of research agenda through working groups tasked to examine periods and themes. The results were tested at regional seminars, with consideration of the national agenda at Aberystwyth, before a research strategy with a prioritised list of objectives could be produced.

A straightforward chronological approach is taken, with highlight issues for research bullet-pointed in each section. Understanding external contacts is usefully mentioned under Early Medieval Wales, but otherwise outside influences are little noted, apart from palaeolithic colonisation and interactions with Roman occupiers. The significance of Welsh industries to the wider world is well noted in the Industrial section, and coastal trade within Maritime and Coastal Wales, but otherwise, as in English archaeological research agenda, the outside world is mostly forgotten. This even applies to the medieval period, where symbols of England, such as castles and new towns and the impact these had have no reference.

However, it is always easy to spot extra things one would like to see, and all Wales should be proud of this research framework, so inevitably compact and clear, as well as the processes that preceded and will proceed from it. Free copies are available from Cadw (Cadv@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or can be downloaded from www.archaeology.org.uk.

In a similar eye-catching and elegantly designed format, the Glamerics-Covent Archaeological Trust have just produced Wales, waterforts and the world, a more in-depth look at these elements. It includes sections on risks to the resource, and how it can be protected. Free copies are available from GGAT at Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea SA1 6EL.

The need for more information on settlement patterns is the aspect most commonly specified (even for the earliest periods, which seems optimistic), and for more understanding of use of the landscape, especially in the vicinities of Wales’ well-known but strangely little understood stone monuments. Climate changes and their impact are on all our agenda, and many areas in Wales’ wet and volatile regions (notably the Severn estuary) could elucidate these. Understanding external contacts is usefully mentioned under Early Medieval Wales, but otherwise outside influences are little noted, apart from palaeolithic colonisation and interactions with Roman occupiers. The significance of Welsh industries to the wider world is well noted in the Industrial section, and coastal trade within Maritime and Coastal Wales, but otherwise, as in English archaeological research agenda, the outside world is mostly forgotten. This even applies to the medieval period, where symbols of England, such as castles and new towns and the impact these had have no reference.

CONVERGENCE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: SEMINAR

Peter Hinton and Michael Dawson

On 12 February the IFA hosted the seminar Convergence in the Historic Environment. The purpose was to promote constructive debate on how far and how fast the historic environment sector can and should take a holistic approach to the study and care of the historic environment. The starting point was recognition that while over the past century archaeology and building conservation have diverged in practice and ethos, in recent years there has been remarkable convergence, most dramatically illustrated in the draft Heritage Protection Bill for England and Wales. An additional context was the modernisation programme of the IFA. IFA now has a programme of internal reforms to become an institute for all archaeologists (not just field archaeologists) wherever and however they work in the investigation and management of the historic environment.

It was apparent from discussion that convergence means many things to many people, but everyone seems to like it. It is not the same thing as structural integration, which may hold fears for many, but is a process of drawing together that appears to unite both IHBC and IFA.

The process of convergent practice is reflected at government policy level across the UK, and in the structures of the national agencies, the Royal Commissions, local authorities (sometimes, increasingly), the National Trust, private practice (normally), the third sector (often), but not yet the professional institutes. Convergence is driving Heritage Protection reform, and is manifest in English Heritage’s Conservation principles and the IHBC/IFA/ALGAO Standard and guidance for stewardship of the historic environment – a standard both in the sense of a benchmark of against which professional performance can be
measured and as a banner behind which the institutes can rally to face the challenges ahead.

And those challenges are many. Frequently discussed in the debate was planning reform, where the threat to heritage comes not only from infrastructure development executed with minimal regard for environmental considerations, but also from the uncertain future of the nature and status of planning policy guidance in England: current indications suggest a two-page policy statement on heritage with the guts of PPGs 15 and 16 reworked into one or more planning circulars. The lack of historic environment indicators for local authorities threatens to render conservation a luxury, though the presence of a historic environment objective amongst the fifteen recently agreed between Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities is encouraging. Planners in England and Wales will also have to get to grips with scheduled monument consent, though as most have had at least some exposure to managing the 95%-99% of archaeological sites that are not designated this may not be too steep a learning curve.

There was less clarity in the papers and discussion about the roles of conservation officers and archaeologists. Dave Chetwyn’s slide illustrating the functions of a conservation service was remarkably similar to Stewart Bryant’s tabulation of the activities of a local government archaeology service, which perhaps indicates that convergence can take place without being recognised. Archaeologists and building conservation professionals work in all sorts of ways and places across the sector: problems come when one group ignores or rejects the legitimate remit of fellow colleagues. The How to care for places and people consultation makes interesting reading here (http://www.ihbc.org.uk/news_update.htm).

Skills featured large in discussion. Nine sector skills councils cover (or slip off) our sector, and while most archaeologists would envisage a Venn diagram where their irregular skills blob has considerable overlap with that of building conservation professionals, one view at the seminar was that the skill sets are substantially distinct. This may in part be because we express competencies in different ways, but it is clear that there is much to be gained by better mutual understanding of our roles, and by refusing to fall into the trap of assuming our colleagues lack skills because their professional development has followed an unfamiliar route. The apparent misidentification of skills-gaps in the historic environment by the Academy of Sustainable Communities adds to the urgency of resolving this collectively. All seminars have a recurrent metaphor, and this one’s was the heritage GP assessing the historic environment patient when it first presents, prescribing for familiar conditions but referring to specialist advice for unusual or complex cases: this seems to be a useful way to envisage the skills requirements of front-line and specialist services.

Merger of the IHBC and IFA emerged occasionally in presentations and discussion, but it was recognised that this was off the agenda. Recognising that for many members, who also belong to RIBA, RICS and RIPA, IHBC is the ‘secondary’ body (in professional but not necessarily emotional terms) through which they demonstrate their building conservation credentials and commitment, one suggestion was that IHBC should likewise be the ‘home of the conservation professional’ whose primary affiliation is to the IFA. This needs further exploration, but it may provide a better framework for joint working in the sector, ensuring coherence of message and economies of advocacy effort, building on the cooperative model of The Archaeology Forum that has secured unparalleled political influence for archaeologists.

The conclusion of the seminar was that together we make up a multi-disciplinary professional family. Like many families we have our dysfunctional moments... (but) we all recognise what we can achieve through cooperation.
Dear Editor,

John Collis’ “Teach archaeology, not (just) history” - a riposte

John Collis makes a number of valid points from the perspective of someone teaching archaeology in one of the most innovative university departments in this country, and who is deeply versed in the broad range of techniques employed in archaeology. And given TA reflects the professional interests of archaeologists, it can scarcely be surprising if they, with all the fervour of a young discipline, seek to advertise their wares passionately and with gusto.

But whether he can genuinely claim, by offering courses for archaeologists going back to ‘our human origins and colonisation of the planet, beginnings of tool-making, development of agriculture…’ etc, including dialogue with ancient, medieval and modern historians right up to ‘even our recent history… in the cities, towns and villages we live in’, in practice teach ‘history relevant to all our citizens’ in schools, remains to be seen. It is scarcely as if historians have not had plenty of experience trying to make their subject both interesting and relevant over recent decades. Why not seek to persuade historians to include archaeological investigation and studies as part of their curriculum, as with the pilots Collis mentions? Historians, especially historians of more recent societies, are more likely to have the skills necessary, in terms of using their specialist expertise to reflect upon the present and future, including facility with languages, in the places where we now live. And history has a long and distinguished past of enabling young citizens to reflect upon the world in which they are growing up.

Collis has already, in his description of archaeology’s strengths, confounded those in Cambridge New Archaeology who claimed archaeology as a science by itself – and as a discipline completely separate from contacts with those in history and the social sciences. Perhaps he ought to be a little more humble about the limitations of archaeology – what we cannot know and the problems of genuine understanding of the remoter past with which most archaeologists are (privately) familiar but seem loathe to discuss in public. IFA has made sterling efforts in the matter of raising standards in professional archaeology – what makes for good archaeology in practice – but perhaps it is time that archaeologists start to learn more about what it is that makes good historians.

The same issue of The Archaeologist, not for the first time, includes much discussion of the historic environment – and its conference at Winchester some years ago had the theme of ‘Working in historic towns’ - so we needn’t altogether despair of fruitful cooperation – and mutual respect – between archaeologists and historians.

It is not a requisite of IFA membership to have an archaeology degree, and entry into the profession from those with appropriate high levels of skills, expertise and experience relevant to archaeology ought to be applauded, especially for a profession claiming width of vision. The ideal ought to be encourage historians who understand, and can work with and make contributions to, the fullest range of archaeological techniques and certainly historians have become more skilled in their presentation. Meanwhile, how can archaeology as a profession renew itself, unless we archaeologist/historian hybrids are given enough space within the IFA to develop our own specialist expertise, as a contribution to the profession, without being accused of producing ‘Little Britons’?

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