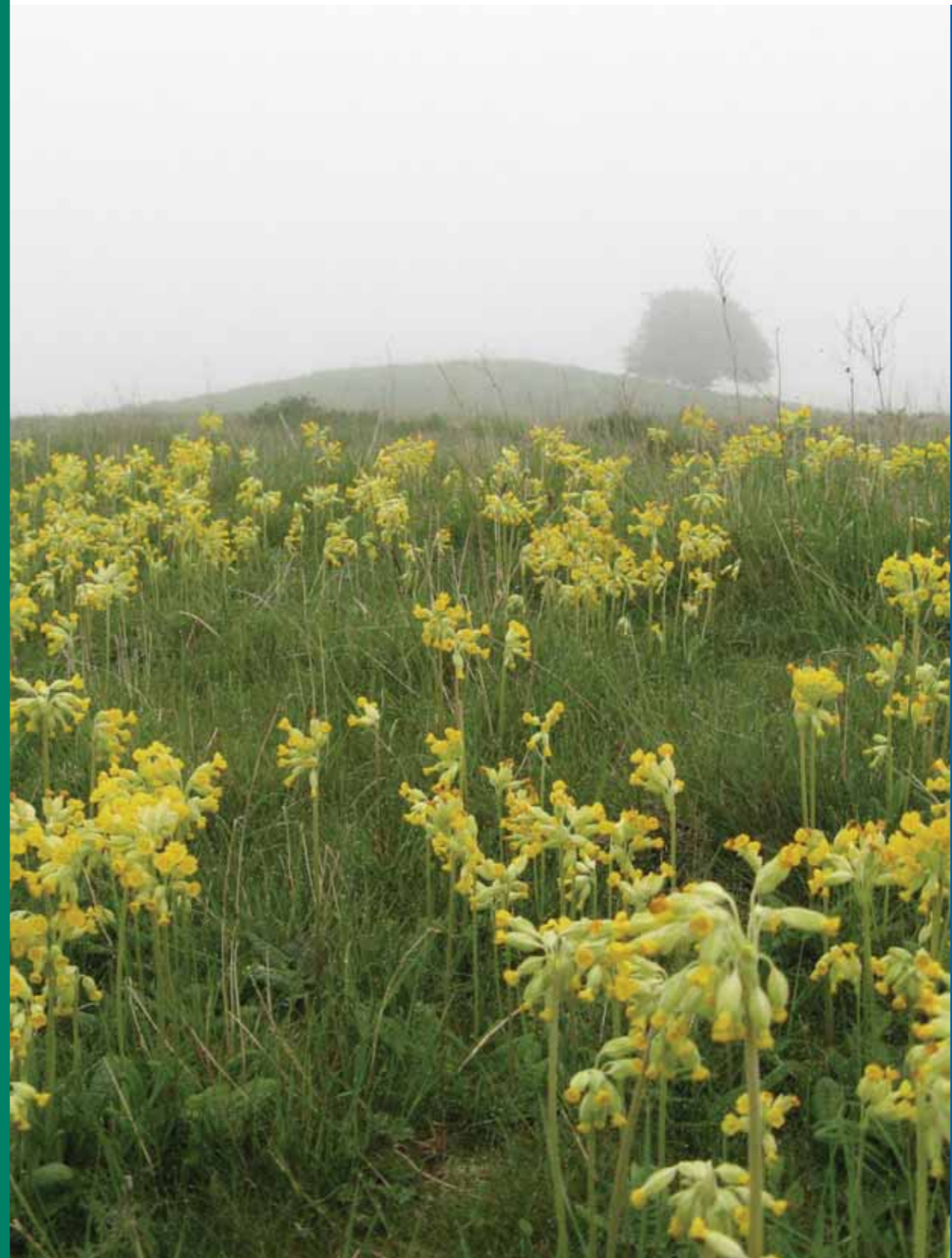




Winter 2010  
Number 78

# The ARCHAEOLOGIST



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OF RURAL SITES**

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**Management of rural sites**

This issue of *TA* was planned, in more optimistic times, to take a wide-ranging look at ways that the historic environment is managed in rural areas. By the time it was compiled in October we were aware of the Comprehensive Spending Review and all that would mean to public services and the mood steadily darkened, although authors were keen to show how much had been achieved.

For the recent past has seen dramatic improvements in ways that archaeological sites are protected in the countryside. Farmers, as Victoria Hunns points out, own the great majority of archaeological sites, so schemes targeted at working with them must be the core of protection strategies. Environmental Stewardship schemes are the heroes of new management work, and the invaluable role of Natural England is seen in several articles. English Heritage has vital roles, especially in research and expert advice, as do enlightened landowners such as the National Trusts and Forestry Commissions. Local authorities too play a significant part, through conservation areas, local trusts, and management of their own land.

Positive stories from all these bodies and more fill the following pages. The good news is that Stewardship schemes, especially the Higher Level variant, look (in November 2010), as if they will safely continue, and even grow. But there is plenty of news that is bad. We know already that over the next four years, English Heritage (much depleted in recent years) will lose another 32% of its funding. Their funds for administration will be cut by 50%, although there is £2.3m towards modernising the National Monument Record Centre. It seems all too likely that Cadw and Historic Scotland will be similarly affected, although

settlements for the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Government are not yet published. Local councils will see 26% less funding, with non-statutory functions such as HERs and other archaeological services inevitably vulnerable, as are local museums and grants to voluntary bodies. Losses of advisory staff (development control archaeologists) will be felt especially keenly, for it is with their work that most archaeological projects begin. Infrastructure projects too will be lost. These cuts will have a massive impact on all commercial archaeological organisations, currently the greatest employers of archaeologists.

Money for universities is being reduced substantially, with obvious effects on research, training and specialist support. National museums get off relatively lightly, with cuts of around 15%, although free entry is still protected. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council is due to be abolished, and we do not yet know what will happen to its functions.

Colleagues in all organisations are sadly affected. IfA itself is far from immune, and we are struggling like everyone in the sector to provide a better service with fewer resources. We are losing staff whilst developing a new business plan, and Pete Hinton (p5) explains some ways we are re-organising ourselves.

One thing we can't stop, and that is Alex Llewellyn organising a fine conference for the spring (p4), and we do hope to see many of you there.



**Alison Taylor**  
Alison.taylor@archaeologists.net

**Notes to contributors**

**Themes and deadlines**

Spring: Archaeology on the islands  
deadline: 15 December 2010

Summer: Archaeology today, yesterday and tomorrow  
deadline: 1 March 2011

Autumn: IfA Conference 2011  
deadline: 1 June 2011

**Contributions and letter/emails** are always welcome. *TA* is made digitally available through our website and if this raises copyright issues with any authors, artists 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. Copyright of content and illustrations remains with the author, that of the final design with IfA (who will make it available on its website). Authors are responsible for obtaining reproduction rights and for providing the editor with appropriate captions and credits. More detailed *Notes for contributors* 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.

EDITED by  
Alison Taylor,  
IfA, SHES,  
University of Reading,  
Whiteknights, PO Box 227  
READING RG6 6AB

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**FROM THE FINDS TRAY**

**Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE)**

This new panel, a replacement for the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Christian Burials in England, has been set up with support from English Heritage, the Church of England and the Ministry of Justice, with a membership of archaeologists, osteologists and museum staff. It provides free casework advice to professionals who deal with archaeological human remains on scientific, legal, ethical and other matters, it offers support to those involved with human remains in interpreting the guidance documents issued in 2005 by DCMS and English Heritage/Church of England, and it produces new guidance where necessary. It is currently working on policy papers on ancient DNA and on a research framework for post-medieval burials. For further details, publications or to request casework advice, see the APABE website at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/apabe>. Other useful links are

- *Guidance for the care of human remains in museums*  
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/GuidanceHumanRemains11Oct.pdf>
- *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/human-remains-excavated-from-christian-burial-grounds-in-england/>
- *Archaeology and burial vaults: a guidance note for churches*  
<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/adca/documents/ADCAGuidanceNote2.pdf>

The Ministry of Justice is also working with APABE to produce further guidelines for archaeological treatment of human remains. In the meantime, the licensing system is being used sympathetically, and the two-year rule on reburial can be extended as necessary, with the expectation that it will be repealed as a standard condition. APABE is there to help with queries or problems. Advice on many issues, including screening of excavations and re-burial of excavated remains, is already contained in the *Guidance* noted above.

**State of the Countryside 2010: highlights**

This year's annual audit from the Commission for Rural Communities (which was abolished this summer as part of Defra cuts) highlights issues and statistics of interest to the heritage sector. For example, the report estimates that every year around 427,000 adults regularly volunteer in the historic environment, and membership of both the National Trust and English Heritage increased between 2001/02 and 2008/09 up to 3,599,000 (27 per cent) and 687,000 (54 per cent) respectively. With regards to Environmental Stewardship and other agri-environment schemes that protect the rural historic environment, the report shows that 58,000 farmers and land managers in England have entered over six million hectares of land, covering two-thirds of the country's farmed land, into Environmental Stewardship schemes. For the full report, see [www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk](http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk).

**Journal of Conflict Archaeology**

This journal, formerly published by Brill, will be relaunched by Maney Publishing in 2011. Founded and edited by Tony Pollard and Iain Banks, both based at the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow, the *Journal* is devoted to battlefield and military archaeology and other spheres of conflict archaeology, covering all periods with a worldwide scope. Additional fields of interest include the archaeology of industrial and popular protest, contested landscapes and monuments, nationalism and colonialism, class conflict, the origins of conflict, forensic applications in war-zones, and human rights cases.

# FROM THE FINDS TRAY

## Tourism at the top

At least the role of heritage in tourism is valued in today's economy, reports the Heritage Alliance in its August e-newsletter. Speaking at London's Serpentine Gallery, David Cameron recognised that tourism contributes £115bn to the economy every year and is the UK's third highest export earner, behind financial services and chemicals. It is 'fundamental to the rebuilding and rebalancing of our economy... I love our historic monuments, our castles, country houses, churches, theatres and festivals...our national parks, our hundreds of historic gardens and national network of waterways....Heritage is a key reason why people come to Britain; we should play it up, not play it down'. Tourism and Heritage Minister John Penrose will be tasked with taking 'our tourism industry to a whole new level', developing a full tourism strategy by the end of 2010 'that sets us on a path to break into the top five tourist destinations in the world'.

## Tips for limiting liability in contracts

It is increasingly common for contractors, sub-contractors and consultants to limit liability in contracts by imposing provisions which limit their exposure to potential liability. Hawkswell Kilvington LLP, a specialist law firm dedicated to addressing and resolving construction and engineering industry issues, has prepared a bulletin summarising the most common and successful clauses used by contractors, sub-contractors and consultants in order to limit their contractual liability. This and other bulletins can be downloaded from [www.thkp.co.uk](http://www.thkp.co.uk).

## No room for finds?

The Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) is warning of the lack of museum space for newly-excavated finds, now that many (most?) museums are refusing to accept more collections. It estimates that commercial archaeological organisations may be storing over 15,000 boxes of archaeological finds and records, at an annual cost of £0.25m, because no museum is willing or able to accept them. FAME's Chief Executive Adrian Tindall says that resource centres are needed, but 'we must also look more carefully at whether keeping everything we find is really sustainable' (see p8 for the Scottish experience). If anyone would like to raise issues or otherwise contribute to the debate, please contact Adrian at [info@famearchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@famearchaeology.co.uk).

## IfA annual conference: even better next year

Thanks go to all who put forward suggestions in a questionnaire about the IfA conference. The IfA office received constructive comments about the key note address and topics for future sessions, and heard from over 66% of respondents that they would like to have more discussion sessions and workshops offering relevant and practical training. In response to this feedback the 2011 conference (13-15 April, Reading) will continue to offer topical lectures updating delegates on current issues, policy and best practice, and new techniques and developments in the profession, but in parallel there will be practical training workshops. The theme is *Assessing Significance* and both the lectures and workshops will provide essential CPD opportunities. For further information see [www.archaeologists.net/conference](http://www.archaeologists.net/conference), where there will be regular updates.

Alex Llewellyn  
IfA Head of Governance and Finance



One of the hidden treasures – a Roman enamelled brooch from the route of High Speed One, Kent (reproduced courtesy of High Speed One)

# VIEW from the (CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S) CHAIR

Peter Hinton

During July and August IfA's Executive committee commissioned a review of the Institute's organisational structure. The principal purpose was to ensure the best possible shape to deliver the strategic plan; but disappointing financial performance provided an additional imperative to reduce expenditure. Reforms relating to governance and constitutional matters will be discussed by Council in November, and some may require an AGM. Reforms to the staff structure were implemented during September.

The management team has been strengthened by creation of posts for our three core functions: setting standards, measuring compliance with standards, and promoting standards. The team also includes a Head of Governance and Finance and a Chief Executive. This structure will ensure that projects advance the objectives of the Institute and are subject to tight financial controls. It elevates the 'promotion' function within the organisation, as communications dominate the strategic plan; and it recognises that the sensitive and complex activities involved in measuring compliance with our *Code of conduct* and standards for membership and Registration are more than 'admin'. We intend to outsource some administrative support systems and membership services to help us control costs and respond to changing circumstances.

It is estimated that next year the annual core staff costs will fall to about £288,000, compared with £389,000 last year and a budget for this year of £349,000. We have said farewell to Anne Bobby (Administrative Assistant), Gina Jacklin (Finance and Administrative Assistant) and Kenneth Aitchison (Head of Projects and Professional Development). Parting has been amicable, and former colleagues may well be working with IfA in future. Alex Llewellyn has been appointed to Head of Governance and Finance, Kate Geary to Standards Development Manager, Kirsten Collins to Standards Compliance Manager, and the post of Standards Promotions Manager is being advertised under the

title of Communications Manager. Tim Howard has taken over the role of Policy Advisor, and Kathryn Whittington is our Membership and Services Coordinator. The posts of Editor, JIS Compiler, Workplace Learning Bursaries Coordinator and Chief Executive are unaffected by the restructuring and therefore Alison Taylor, Lynne Bevan, Andrea Bradley and Peter Hinton remain in post, although Alison is retiring next April.

Many – most – organisations in the sector will be undergoing difficult changes in the coming months if they are not already: your Institute has no immunity. We have cut our costs and the remaining staff will be working even harder – not to ensure business as usual, but to deliver our ambitious strategic plan. While changes have been taking place behind the scenes IfA staff have continued to explore the route to Chartership, to promote higher standards of professionalism on the back of PPS5 in England, to lobby for perpetuation of PPS5 principles in new planning guidance, to argue for improvements to planning guidance in Scotland and Wales, and to push for strengthening amendments to the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (p10). The Institute has consulted on new recommendations on remuneration for archaeologists, drafted new *Standards and guidance* for forensic archaeology and geophysical survey, is finalising preparation of improved membership application procedures and has planned a new-style conference on 'Assessing significance' for April 2011. In parallel, we continue to promote the value of membership and Registration to other sectors, and to those in our world who have not yet applied.

While there is clearly a need to curb our expenditure there will be no easing off on the key strategic objectives and the continuing campaign to professionalise historic environment practice.

Peter Hinton  
Chief Executive, IfA  
[Peter.hinton@archaeologists.net](mailto:Peter.hinton@archaeologists.net)

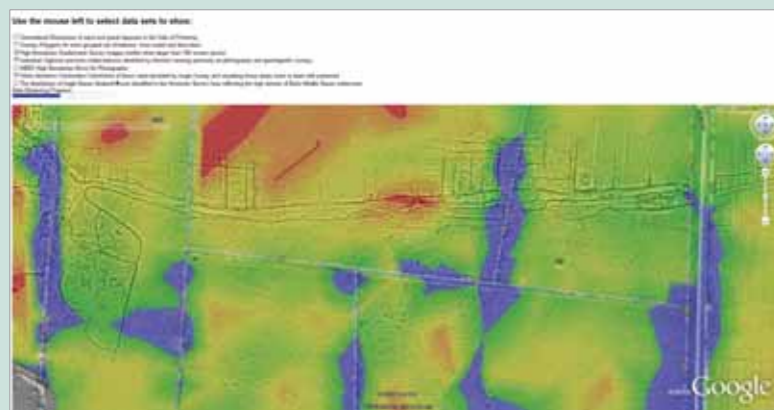
# The Past Changing the Future: ALSF funding in the Historic Environment

**Buzz Busby** IfA's short AGM on 4 October was preceded by a conference which highlighted results of work which has been funded by the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF) and administered by English Heritage. The nine papers could cover only a small selection of the 357 projects (total value £28.4m) funded over the last nine years. All were projects that have changed the way we view the past, sometimes in quite dramatic ways.

The first session *Bright Science, Mapping the Unknown*, opened with a paper on OSL, amino acid rationisation, and the dark arts of Bayesian statistics, which have given us the opportunity to date events and not just things. The next paper gave us a taster of the acoustic survey revolution that is enabling us to map drowned landscapes and to identify new wrecks and small objects. The final paper proposed that predictive modelling was not really possible in the



A snapshot of a time-coded animation displayed over the geophysical results at West Heslerton, Vale of Pickering. Landscape Research Centre and Google



The extensive geophysical surveys overlain by the plough soil and blown-sand depth model. This shows areas already compromised by ploughing in red at one end of the spectrum, and areas with enhanced preservation and thus exceptional potential in blue at the other end of the spectrum. Landscape Research Centre and Google

busy historic landscapes of England, but recommended 'Top Sight' as a detailed way to visualise the possible density of human occupation across the English landscape – a visual complement to Aggregate Resource Assessments later in the day.

After a fine lunch, in a session on *Mapping the unknown* we heard the work of Wessex Archaeology in tracking down and investigating a large collection of Palaeolithic hand axes dredged from the North Sea. Next, Vince Gaffney's presentation on mapping land lost to marine transgression using industry data was a tantalising glimpse of lost landscapes which may revolutionise ways we view human migration at the dawn of agriculture. On land again, we were shown how Google Earth can reveal and disseminate information on the historic landscapes of the Vale of Pickering.

The final session of the day was *Guidance*, with the Minerals Products Association presenting the concerns of the aggregates industry regarding spiralling costs of archaeology, but recognising the need for all to follow the guidance outlined in the *Minerals Extraction and Archaeology; a practice guide* in these days of cuts. The final papers highlighted the way Aggregate Resource Assessments are supporting the planning system and being adopted as supplementary planning documents. Whilst at sea, the industry-supported Marine Finds Protocol is starting to identify the locations of wrecks and areas of prehistoric occupation.

After this day no one could doubt that English Heritage's ALSF fund has not only changed our view of the past, but has influenced future research, stragic planning, and the way the different parts of the minerals planning process work together.

Discussion at the end of the day recognised the value of the ALSF and its achievements, but regretted that there was not more time to present the many other achievements of the fund. However, to see for yourself the results of over 150 projects visit the ALSF part of the ADS site <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/projArch/alsf>.

**Buzz Busby**  
English Heritage  
National Terrestrial Aggregates Advisor (ALSF)

[Buzz.Busby@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Buzz.Busby@english-heritage.org.uk)

# IfA Standards and guidance update

Kate Geary

Developing standards and good practice guidance continues to be an important part of IfA's work. Recent additions to the suite include those for *Geophysical survey* and for *Forensic archaeology*, both of which were adopted for an interim period of one year at the IfA AGM in October. The interim adoption allows for further comments to be received and revisions made before they are proposed for final adoption in 2011. The *Standards and guidance for Geophysical Survey* was developed by the IfA Special Interest Group for Geophysics (GeoSIG) while the *Forensic Archaeology* document is a joint publication by IfA and the Forensic Science Regulator. As such, it has departed from the common format of other *Standards and guidance* and is reflective of Home Office documents.

Two other *Standards and guidance* documents are currently in the early stages of development. A project design to develop one for Historic Environment Advisory Services is currently being refined and has been submitted to English Heritage for funding. This will cover the historic environment advice role in respect of undesignated historic assets, specifically covering development control, monitoring, enforcement and information management (Historic Environment Records). The second Standard will relate to consultancy roles. The methodology for taking this forward is being explored with interested parties. These two new Standards will form important additions to the suite which has hitherto concentrated on activities relating to primary data gathering, largely fieldwork, and will sit underneath the Stewardship Standard published in 2008.

In addition to development of new Standards, we must ensure that existing ones are kept up to date and remain fit for purpose. Minor changes and updates are made regularly, but introduction of PPS5 in England has changed the language and altered the concepts of archaeology within the planning process and our *Standards and guidance* need to reflect this. The opportunity to promote new ways of working that PPS5 provides should be reflected in good



practice guidance and IfA is working with ALGAO to rewrite the document guidance for desk-based assessment to ensure that this is the case. The entire suite will be updated over the coming months in the light of this and of the work of the 'Southport group'.

All the *Standards and guidance* documents are freely available on the IfA website at <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>. Comments, and suggestions for new Standards, are always welcome and should be sent to me at [kate.geary@archaeologists.net](mailto:kate.geary@archaeologists.net).

**Kate Geary**  
IfA Standards Development Manager

## 2010 IfA AGM, 4 October

Apart from adopting the two new Standard and guidance documents in interim draft (above), members also agreed minor amendments to the *Bylaw governing Area and Special Interest Groups*. Again this can be downloaded from [www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa](http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa).

The meeting also voted for it to be general practice for IfA to contact its members via email and to supply documents and information through its website. In future AGM and EGM notices will be circulated by email and placed in the members' area of the website. Members will be given the option of receiving documentation in hard copy.

# Scottish archaeological assemblages and museums

Stuart Campbell and Ian Ralston

A new problem has begun to affect Scottish archaeology. For the first time it is proving difficult to find museums prepared to house assemblages recovered from archaeological fieldwork, a problem well known to colleagues in England. Our *Code of Practice* makes plain that such assemblages should be 'disclaimed' and returned to the reporter or reporting organisation. If others are not prepared indefinitely to accept the storage costs of such material, the likelihood is that it will be discarded. All sectors of the Scottish archaeological community need to be aware of this issue, so that a way forward can be sought.

Questions that we need to ask first of all are

- should all this material have been collected?
- should all of it be retained after the final report?
- should it all be allocated to a museum?

Since 2005 the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP) has been responsible for museum allocation of all excavation assemblages from Scotland, the current procedure being to automatically claim every assemblage submitted as Treasure Trove. The prime responsibility is for allocation of artefacts, but other components, such as environmental samples and human skeletal material, have been included, largely by default.

## Unclaimed assemblages

All archaeological assemblages submitted to the Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) are advertised to the Scottish museums, some with a financial incentive from an Historic Scotland box grant but many without. The past year witnessed a significant increase in cases which failed to attract an application from any relevant museum. In such cases, our Code is unambiguous: it is normal practice to disclaim the assemblage with certification to that effect, and leave the excavator with responsibility for dealing with it. Legally, it may simply be discarded.

## Not interesting enough?

TTU has canvassed museums in order to assess this problem from their perspective. Three responses were consistently expressed

- 1 they had insufficient storage space
- 2 there were strong reservations whether some material should have been retained, especially after post-excavation research. Problematic categories included unprocessed soil samples and recent artefacts
- 3 scarcity of archaeological curators within museums meant that many institutions considered themselves poorly placed to deal with such issues

These factors make many museums reluctant to accept excavated material unless the assemblages meet a certain level of interest. One respondent stated that storage and other costs inherent in accessioning an assemblage were often *'not justified by the quality of the material or its research potential'*. Another felt that the continued, unquestioning acceptance of such material would leave museums holding *'boxes and boxes of material which is not ever going to be looked at and definitely will not be displayed'*.

These issues were exacerbated by a lack of direct museum involvement in excavations as they took place. Archaeological curators often did not know about assemblages until these were advertised for allocation, and so had no opportunity to plan ahead or to liaise with excavators regarding what material should be retained. Greater involvement of museums at earlier stages was one suggestion for resolving such issues. However, this raises other difficulties, notably that sites may fall within the collection zone of more than one museum, and different museums may have different priorities.

## Archive depositories?

Others have suggested that regional or national depositories for excavated material might answer archaeological requirements, and these could include the human skeletal material which certain museums now find problematic. Such a way forward would require all sectors of the archaeological community to 'buy in' to it; and we would need to address issues of staffing and funding such centres.

SAFAP and the TTU recognise that it is important to address these problems. To date, we have identified a small number of regional museums (only covering some parts of Scotland) which are willing to act as 'museums of last resort', by accepting at their discretion certain assemblages from their wider catchment areas which have not been bid for by local museums. The National Museums of Scotland has long acted in this capacity too. Further solutions may be found outwith registered museums. For example, TTU is currently establishing a list of institutions prepared to accept certain disclaimed assemblages as teaching or handling collections. This can be provided to owners of disclaimed assemblages, who may choose to use it.

Such responses may reduce the scale of the problem, at least in the short term, but they will not make it disappear. Their impacts are likely too to be variable across the counties of Scotland. A wider solution is needed that addresses the questions we have outlined above.

Details of our operational procedures are accessible in our *Code of Practice* (December 2008), available on both the Treasure Trove and Scottish Government websites.

Stuart Campbell  
Treasure Trove Unit

Ian Ralston  
Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel



Archaeological items recently reported to the Treasure Trove Unit include a Middle Bronze Age palstave from Balfron, a medieval Limoges plaque from Loch Leven and a Romano-British brooch from Glenrothes. Crown Copyright



# LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS – strengthening the Scottish Historic Environment Bill

Jo Robertson

The Scottish Parliament is currently considering a bill to improve the management and protection of Scotland's heritage by amending aspects of existing legislation. IfA is working with other key interest groups to influence the Bill as it goes through Parliament. Umbrella body BEFS (Built Environment Forum Scotland), of which the IfA is a member, endorses the Bill provisions, which closes gaps and loopholes in the current legislative framework, but we still advocate that the Bill could go further.

Described as a 'tightly focused technical amending Bill', it is one of Historic Scotland's initiatives to streamline protection of the historic environment. BEFS particularly welcomes the harmonising provisions which will ensure consistency between historic environment legislation and the planning regime, and align listing and scheduling systems. But in addition, BEFS is asking that the Bill provide for a *responsibility on all public bodies to protect, enhance and have special regard to Scotland's historic environment in exercising their duties*, for we wish to see the historic environment more effectively integrated and embedded into all public bodies. It is widely recognised to be a key contributor to the Scottish economy (over £2.3 billion every year), and yet still listed buildings get demolished and scheduled archaeological sites destroyed. Unprotected parts of our historic environment are even more vulnerable.

We are looking for the Bill to encourage public bodies to protect and manage our historic environment in a way that accommodates and reflects what it is about our heritage that we value and cherish. Since much is not covered by provisions

in the existing legislation, we consider it vital that expert advice is available through the planning process. Whether an archaeological site or battlefield, historic building or conservation area, designed landscape or world heritage site, this is an essential precursor to informing effective protection and management of change.

We are therefore asking that the Bill ensure that *planning authorities have access (and give special regard) to appropriate information and expert advice on the local historic environment in exercising their duties*. In the current financial climate there is concern that expertise (which is already stretched) will be dramatically reduced. Our built heritage is a significant part of what makes Scotland Scottish – a cultural expression in physical form, and an irreplaceable asset which evolves to reflect changing times. We want to ensure that our frontline expertise is equipped to provide effective interpretation of the historic environment in this dynamic environment.

To view the Bill visit [www.scottish.parliament.uk](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk). BEFS will post updates on the Bill's progress at [www.befs.org.uk](http://www.befs.org.uk).

### Promoting good practice – learning lessons

BEFS is gathering examples of where the historic environment has been sympathetically managed, and examples of where things have gone wrong. We want to highlight what is happening on the ground, illustrating how good initiatives come about and learning lessons when the system supports or fails the historic environment. If you know of projects or initiatives that might be relevant, do please get in touch.

**Jo Robertson**  
BEFS Historic Environment Officer  
[jrobertson@befs.org.uk](mailto:jrobertson@befs.org.uk)  
0131 220 6241

## Reasons to be cheerful? Scheduled monuments and the agri-environment

Degradation of scheduled monuments through cultivation is not new and has been aired in various fora (eg TA 63 and 70). What has changed over the past decade – primarily as a result of work underpinning the Heritage Protection Review – is the response of the archaeological community. Just as the current consents regime has been criticised for inflexibility, the default 'revert to grassland' paradigm has also been brought into question. Research sponsored by Defra and English Heritage has suggested new possibilities which challenge the assumption that cultivation always equates to damage. The *Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation* (COSMIC) project, piloted in the East Midlands in 2001-2003 by Oxford Archaeology, developed a method for assessing risk at a site-specific level and options that would enable cultivation to continue whilst protecting archaeological remains. These were field tested by the Department of Soil Sciences, Cranfield University and Oxford Archaeology over a further five-year project ([www.e-a-a.org/wg2.htm](http://www.e-a-a.org/wg2.htm)).

Making a management recommendation is simpler than ensuring its adoption. As a precursor to COSMIC risk assessments on all scheduled monuments, we have canvassed farmers in the East Midlands about the practicalities of introducing recommendations generated by assessment, through an agronomist who is also an active farmer. The evidence suggests that farmers do have a genuine interest in what is on their holding, and will often go the extra mile to protect it.

The figures speak for themselves. Out of 2300 scheduled monuments in England at risk from

cultivation in 2008 (the first *Heritage at Risk* survey), over 800 are now being managed through Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme, demonstrating that agri-environment is an excellent example of multi-agency, multi-objective delivery. Half the monuments taken out of cultivation were placed in Higher Level Schemes on the recommendation of English Heritage or local authority specialists but, crucially, the remaining 400 were entered into Entry Level Stewardship entirely at the discretion of farmers. Including those subject to arable options, 2221 scheduled monuments (12%) now have Environmental Stewardship historic environment options attached, and a further 200 are managed using options relating to other scheme objectives. Altogether, 5795 archaeological sites are being directly managed using historic environment options. Hundreds more have favourable management through objectives such as biodiversity.

The regulatory burden upon farmers and other businesses is now under the microscope. The fact that the Entry Level strand of Environmental Stewardship is delivered by farmers is highly significant. Like all aspects of Government work, agri-environment delivery will be scrutinised in the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, and as Steve Trow discusses (p12), proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy will lead to still further pressures on funding, and re-focusing of priorities.

The collaborative achievements of Environmental Stewardship are something of which the archaeological, conservation and farming communities can all be proud. Together with the new research, this provides us all with confidence to deliver innovative solutions to old problems.

**Vince Holyoak**  
Senior National Rural & Environmental Advisor  
English Heritage  
[Vince.Holyoak@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Vince.Holyoak@english-heritage.org.uk)

Vince Holyoak

Agri-environment schemes have many benefits for archaeology, farmers, wildlife and the public

**Countryside Stewardship in The Avebury World Heritage Site**

**Significant historic and archaeological sites exist here at Galtresmore Farm. For their long term protection from possible disturbance from cultivation, the area is now part of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.**

**West Kennet Long Barrow**, about 450m to the south and dating from 5,500 years ago, is one of the largest and best-preserved chambered tombs in southern England.

**The West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures**, covered about 10 hectares, 300 metres to the east. Dating from around 4,000 years ago to the early Bronze Age, they were discovered by aerial photography although nothing can be seen on the surface.

**The water meadows** which surround you here, were constructed in the 17th century as a means of controlled irrigation to encourage grass growth for early and late grazing.

**Swallowhead Springs**, is an ancient spring, located half way between the Long Barrow and Silbury Hill and has probably been a sacred site for thousands of years.

**Natural History**  
The water meadows provide a habitat for a variety of wildlife.  
The River Kennet running through the meadows is a chalk stream of national nature conservation value, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.  
The area is also important for its farmland bird populations including tree sparrows and lapwings.

**World Heritage Site**  
This ancient landscape is of such importance that it has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (WHS).  
You are standing near the southern boundary of the WHS, which is centred on the Avebury and Stone Circle in Avebury and includes around 2,500 hectares.  
No further information about the Avebury World Heritage Site can be found on the Avebury World Heritage Site website: [www.aveburyworldheritagesite.org.uk](http://www.aveburyworldheritagesite.org.uk)

**Countryside Stewardship**  
Countryside Stewardship is a grant scheme run by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, enabling farmers and land managers to maintain and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and historic diversity of the countryside.  
A special project operates in this area for the protection of archaeological monuments within the World Heritage Site by converting arable land to grassland.

**Galtresmore Farm, Beckhampton has joined The Countryside Stewardship scheme with three objectives:**

**West Kennet Long Barrow**  
Establish a 60 metre margin adjacent to the barrow, remove fencing and convert a 20 metre wide strip to grass around the barrow.  
Enhance the landscape setting and access, and help protect the barrow ditches from damage caused by ploughing.

**Public Access**  
Create new open access to the historic water meadows.

**The Water meadows**  
Manage the meadows without spray or fertilizer to maintain their historic features, promote botanical and structural diversity in the sward and provide enhanced wetting habitat for waders and wildfowl.  
**Arable farmland wildlife**  
Use on meadow tussocky grass margins around arable fields to create hunting habitats for barn owls, nesting sites for farmland birds, habitats for small mammals and invertebrates.  
Provide cover for small mammals, without the use of herbicides, to provide food for a range of farmland birds.  
Establish conservation headlands within the crop to provide summer food for farmland birds and benefit uncommon arable wildflowers.

**Swallowhead Springs**

**THE WATERMEADOWS**

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs **defra**

Winter 2010 Number 78



# Heritage and agriculture: will the reformed CAP fit?

Stephen  
Trow

The hillfort at Meon Hill, Warwickshire, exemplifies the impact of farming and forestry on archaeology. Photograph: English Heritage

Three-quarters of the UK is farmed, making agriculture the single biggest factor influencing the historic landscape and its survival in the archaeological record. Risk assessments such as England's *Monuments at Risk Survey* (1998) and *Heritage at Risk Register* (2010), Northern Ireland's *Condition and management survey of the archaeological resource* (2009) and Cadw's long-term *Field Monument Warden surveys* (2004) have confirmed the pressures of rural land uses. These are far greater than the pressures of development but are not subject to assessment and mitigation through the spatial planning system. The situation elsewhere in Europe, with 40% of its land area farmed and 47% forested, is similar although currently less well documented through strategic surveys.

Archaeologists across Europe should therefore have an interest in the future policy framework for agriculture as dictated by the European Union through its Common Agricultural Policy – the CAP.

### Environmental stewardship

During the 1970s and 1980s the CAP was dominated by measures to boost farm production, resulting in massive intensification, adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment and commodity surpluses. Subsequent reforms addressed surpluses through production quotas and set-aside, and latterly began to address environmental impacts. *Agenda 2000* reforms initiated by Commissioner Franz Fischler provided a significant milestone in the process of change, with the UK leading by example. Resources previously dedicated to production support were progressively switched to environmental and rural regeneration initiatives, significantly boosting environmental farming (agri-environment) schemes that reward farmers for environmental enhancements. Following the launch of the Environmental Stewardship Scheme in 2004, these schemes have funded management and repair of archaeological sites, historic landscapes and traditional buildings situated on farmland.

### Strategic direction

Throughout this process English Heritage led the way in according the historic environment a higher profile in rural land management, providing compelling evidence of need, devising innovative research (TA 63), proposing changes to the legal framework (TA 70) and successfully encouraging our partner agencies to engage in-house heritage expertise. Working closely with Natural England and ALGAO, English Heritage provides the strategic direction for heritage aspects of the schemes and expert advice on designated historic sites. As a result, agri-environment funding provided by Defra and delivered by Natural England plays an important part in addressing risks to designated and undesignated heritage assets.

### Advances not irreversible

The next round of agricultural policy reform takes effect from 2014 and is being actively debated. It is likely to pose serious challenges for historic environment interests. The CAP budget is likely to be reduced, and there are pressures to spread EU resources more equitably to recent member states. There is also pressure to focus funding on climate change and biodiversity. At the same time, renewed concerns about security of the food supply may

intensify production, putting increased stress on farmland and environmental resources. Archaeologists should not regard their recent advances in this sector as irreversible and they need to ensure their concerns are recognised. Much will hang on what economists and environmentalists term the 'public goods' associated with the CAP and whether the cultural heritage is accepted as part of this discourse.

### Archaeologists across Europe

Archaeologists therefore are seeking a voice at the European level. A joint Working Group of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) and Europae Archaeologiae Consilium (EAC - the European umbrella body for national agencies responsible for the archaeological heritage) has been set up to deal with issues arising from agriculture, forestry and rural land management in general. In regard to the CAP, the group has forged important new partnerships with heritage, rural development and land owner interests, including Europa Nostra, the principal heritage NGO at the European level. Together they have produced *Europe's living landscapes: cultural heritage as a force for rural development*, a statement on the CAP, and are using it to promote dialogue with the European Commission and other key partners. The statement (<http://www.e-a-a.org/wg2.htm>) has caught the attention of European heritage agencies and is raising understanding of dangers and opportunities posed by the CAP in countries where the problem has yet to be recognised. Before the end of 2010, the working group will also publish a substantive volume on this issue as *Heritage management of farmed and forested landscapes in Europe* in the EAC Occasional Papers series.

The future direction of the CAP and its implementation in the UK will become clear in coming months. Whether the advances made by archaeologists continue, are retrenched or are rolled back remains to be determined and will have significant implications for how we manage our rural archaeological heritage.

*Europe's Living Landscapes* underlines the importance of the CAP in terms of heritage and landscapes



### Stephen Trow

National Head of Rural and Environmental Advice  
English Heritage

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(left) The destructive power of cultivation is illustrated by this burial mound on the South Dorset Ridgeway, which survives above ground only where it lies within the roadside verge. Photograph. Stephen Trow



(below) Much of the Roman fort at Ruffenhofen, Germany, has been purchased and is managed using CAP funding. Photograph: Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege-Luftbilddokumentation, Aufnahmedatum, Klaus Leidorf, 2007





# WHAT HAVE THE FARMERS EVER DONE FOR US?

## *The role of land managers and agri-environment schemes*

Victoria Hunns

Farmers in England own over half a million traditional farm buildings, thousands of miles of historic field boundaries and the great majority of archaeological sites. These physical remains – buildings, earthworks, parklands, field boundaries and buried archaeological remains – are fundamental to understanding and communicating human development. However, due to changes in agricultural policy, technology and practice since 1945, more than half the nationally important archaeological sites in England have been identified as at risk from agriculture and nearly half of historic parkland extant in 1918 has been lost.

Fortunately, help is at hand. 'Agri-environment schemes', particularly the current incarnation Environmental Stewardship (ES), provide financial incentives to maintain or enhance management of these historic features. At a basic level, land managers are alerted to the historic interests of their holding and are expected to 'retain and protect' these features for the duration of their agreement. On top of this, a suite of land management options are available which are designed specifically to conserve features through financially rewarding enhanced management or changes to existing farming practices.

### PROTECTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

As other authors in this *TA* show, agriculture and natural processes – many of which can be controlled through land management practices – are two of the greatest threats to archaeological sites, with arable cultivation a particular problem. Monuments in grassland survive better, but natural processes such as scrub and bracken encroachment, erosion and burrowing animals damage 30% of scheduled monuments. By far the greatest land-use issue affecting the wetland archaeological resource is agriculture, and since 1960 the number of wetland monuments that have suffered damage, desiccation and partial destruction is estimated at 7500, mainly through drainage, ploughing and loss of upland peat.

ES options include

- taking sites out of cultivation, or reduced depth, non-inversion cultivation
- scrub management

- management of grazing
- preventing desiccation and rewetting drained areas

Up to October 2010 we know that options in ES have addressed key detrimental indicators for over 23,200ha of monuments in arable areas, 88,000ha of livestock management on grass and over 300 monuments that had suffered scrub encroachment. This year's *Heritage at Risk* identified almost 2000 scheduled monuments actively managed under historic environment options. Research also shows that *all* archaeological sites in Environmental Stewardship have increased protection compared with those in previous agri-environment schemes, as its more positive management reduces monument vulnerability.

### DESIGNED LANDSCAPES AND HISTORIC AREAS

Parklands are also vulnerable to changes in farming and silviculture practices. Key issues include changes in stocking levels, which can lead to under or overgrazing, arable cultivation of former parkland, loss of boundary features such as ha-has and hedges, poorly designed new planting, silting up of lakes and growth of secondary woodland or scrub. Of the 43 battlefields on the national register, 7 are at high risk, one a direct result of ongoing arable cultivation. Opportunities for maintenance and restoration of designed landscapes and historic areas are also offered through ES options. These may

- maintain or restore the wildlife, historic and landscape character of existing and former wood pasture and parkland
- maintain, enhance or reinstate pastoral elements of designed landscapes and historic areas
- fund management plans which evaluate the development of parks and the significance of features and views, and resolve issues before restoration

Currently, more than half Registered Parks and Gardens are in agri-environment schemes.

### HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Traditional farm buildings are the largest category of 'at risk' building on local authority risk registers. Modern farm practices have led to many changes within farmsteads – new machines require larger buildings, animal welfare and hygiene have new building standards and economic pressures may

have caused buildings or steadings to become redundant or amalgamated. ES can

- maintain weatherproof traditional farm buildings to prevent further decline
- restore historic buildings, using traditional materials and techniques and the principle of 'minimum intervention'

Our surveys show that agri-environment funding has been critical in both ensuring the protection of many hundreds of buildings which would otherwise have been left to fall down, at the same time ensuring better quality work to high conservation standards.

The importance of these schemes as tools to protect the rural historic environment cannot be overstated. In England, 59% by area of scheduled monuments and 62% of undesignated monuments identified in a dataset held by Natural England are currently on land under Stewardship agreements. The scale of intervention means that the impact is not limited to individual features but has significant benefits for enhancing and protecting wider landscape character.

There is huge potential here and, with close working between Natural England, land managers and the historic environment sector, we have already made very positive steps towards improving the understanding and protection of our rural historic environment.

Victoria Hunns Senior Historic Environment Specialist  
Natural England  
Victoria.Hunns@naturalengland.org.uk

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Environment Stewardship is funding work to preserve the remains of Barforth, a deserted medieval village in Teesdale. This essential conservation work will protect the bridge, St Lawrence's Chapel, and a medieval dovecote – all listed on the 'Heritage at Risk' register. Photograph: Tom Gledhill, Natural England



Cattle grazing species-rich scheduled earthworks at Castle Bytham, Lincolnshire has benefits for both biodiversity and the historic environment. A special project was also funded to culvert a dyke and stop water eroding the historic area. Photograph: Karen Waite, Lincolnshire County Council



Livestock grazing wood pasture in parkland at Belton House, Lincolnshire. A Parkland Plan is being developed that will inform future restoration work. Photograph: Elaine Willett, Natural England



# Natural England *and* English Heritage:

Published by English Heritage annually since 2008, the *Heritage at Risk* register embraces all designated heritage assets, including a selection of high-risk scheduled sites. It is the Government's first tool for monitoring threats and condition trends, and its adoption as a national statistic enhances the data for comparative analysis. Owners are informed by English Heritage of their asset's inclusion on the register, which encourages efforts for its removal. While the definition of 'risk' and judging the right time of removal from the Register could be interpreted as subjective, it is steadily succeeding as an excellent historic environment management tool. Land use and public policy are two distinct challenges for agencies active in heritage management, and *Heritage at Risk* data create opportunities for strong partnerships to develop, such as between English Heritage and Natural England. Together they encourage integrated historic landscape management, as promoted by the European Landscape Convention, and respond to changes in agricultural policy and technology.

## Incentivising environmental management

Environmental Stewardship is one of the Government's principal means of addressing the declines documented in *Heritage at Risk*, and caused by market failure. The Scheme incentivises the management of land with environmental features in the care of private agricultural businesses or individuals; 70% of such land in England is in an agri-environment scheme. With a £3.9billion programme from 2007-2013 and a suite of specific land management options and capital grants for historic features, the Scheme mirrors the Heritage

Lottery Fund as a grant support mechanism, but this time for privately-owned heritage assets. It operates as a voluntary agreement at Entry Level (ELS) and at a Higher Level (HLS), and is targeted, discretionary and heavily outcome-focused. ELS applicants are guided to manage designated sites or SHINE (Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England) dataset sites notified to them by literature such as the *Farming the historic landscape* series, or by promotional staff. HLS agreements are guided by an audit that includes consultation with the HER, with further advice and hands-on support available.

Reflecting the values that we place on landscape by adopting the European Landscape Convention definition, both designated and undesignated historic assets are considered for Stewardship under approaches developed between English Heritage, Natural England and ALGAO England. This partnership uses *Heritage at Risk* data alongside other datasets to guide Natural England's approach to farmers who hold historic assets that could benefit from Stewardship management. Scheduled monuments under cultivation are assessed as 'high risk'; currently around 10% are under active Stewardship management. Alternative schemes such as English Heritage's Historic Buildings, Monuments & Designed Landscapes (HBMDL) grants prioritise



Thonglands medieval dovecote: Work in progress. Stone-by-stone recording preceded limited dismantling and reconstruction to secure the vulnerable fabric. © Mike Garner, Garner-Southall Partnership

Thonglands medieval dovecote, Shropshire: an evocative ruin but crumbling fast under the ivy. © Mike Garner, Garner-Southall Partnership



# *facing the challenge of risk together*

Sam Barnes



Shittleheugh Bastle, Northumberland, after Stewardship-funded work was complete

urgent works to Grade I and II\* Buildings and Scheduled Monuments at Risk. Basic maintenance such as scrub clearance from earthworks cannot be funded by a HBMDL grant, and instead owners can be offered Section 17 Management Agreements, including capital works up to £20,000.

## Sustainable mechanisms

The successes of ELS and HLS are well documented. Since 2006, HLS has funded over £52m of measures to protect historic features. The case studies below are a testament to landowners' willingness to use agri-environment schemes as a sustainable mechanism to protect historic assets. Nationally, farmers have either taken buried archaeology out of cultivation or limited cultivation depths on 1557 agreements, and a study in the West Midlands found every scheduled monument that was entered into Stewardship had its needs met.

## Traditional skills

The ruins of a medieval dovecote at Thonglands Farm in Corvedale, Shropshire is just one example of a range of *Heritage at Risk* sites protected through both land management options and capital works. A Stewardship agreement has enabled the owners to safeguard the crumbling masonry of this rare round dovecote. Frost damage and ivy threatened to reduce it to rubble, but under the watchful eye of conservation architect Mike Garner, of Garner Southall Partnership, the structure will be safe and

accessible for generations to come. An important aspect of Stewardship is how these projects increase local builders' knowledge and expertise in traditional skills such as lime mortar, skills they will carry with them elsewhere, and Mike Garner was impressed at how useful it was to increase the skills of local craftsmen in conservation expertise.

Similarly, in 2009 the ruinous late 16th-century Shittleheugh Bastle near Otterburn in Northumberland, Grade II listed and a scheduled monument unique in its historic farmland setting, was included in an HLS agreement to fund a repair and consolidation programme, using traditional skills to ensure ultimate sensitivity.

Through *Heritage at Risk* and reciprocal partnership working with Natural England, owners and occupiers now have easier access to coherent advice about the condition and effective management of rural assets, and are aware of appropriate funding schemes. The conservation of landscape character creates opportunities for wider public appreciation of the historic environment, and this work improves the condition of assets through the processes of understanding, valuing, caring for and enjoying our nation's heritage.

## Sam Barnes

Trainee Historic Environment Manager  
English Heritage West Midlands



# COSMIC+: informed protection for rural sites

Robin Jackson and Darren Miller

A trial trench showing remains of a shallowly buried Roman wall. Despite the use of minimum tillage, this wall and associated archaeological remains were suffering incremental damage due to a combination of cultivation and downslope erosion of the light soils in this field. This has now been reverted to pasture as part of the HLS agreement

**Because Natural England can only offer Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements where the management needs of important environmental features are addressed across the whole farm, significant archaeological sites must be protected. It is therefore essential that archaeologists can be confident of the advice they give, which is not always easy with the sort of data we have to deal with. To test methods that will improve standards of understanding and interpretation, archaeologists from Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS), working with landowners and Natural England, have just assessed archaeological sites across four arable farms in Worcestershire, enabling the most vulnerable and significant to be protected through land management options in HLS agreements.**

The sites were typical of those identified along the fertile gravel terraces of south Worcestershire by aerial photography since the 1950s, including ring-ditches, pit alignments and Iron Age and Roman farmsteads. Most were only known from cropmarks recorded in the Worcestershire HER, so their importance, condition and the impact of cultivation were difficult, if not impossible, to assess. This left Natural England in a poor position to negotiate HLS agreements.

### COSMIC or COSMIC+?

Natural England therefore suggested applying the Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC) risk assessment model developed by Oxford Archaeology across the four holdings. This model identifies and scores characteristics (slope, soil type, etc) and management factors (cultivation regime, crop rotations, etc) potentially affecting archaeological deposits. It also scores each archaeological site in terms of survival, vulnerability,

and significance. The scores are combined to produce a risk score that can be expressed at five levels, from minimal to serious. However, Natural England was concerned that the COSMIC model would not always provide sufficient information to underpin negotiation of an HLS Scheme, especially in respect of archaeological significance. As a result, an enhanced methodology was developed following discussions between WHEAS, English Heritage, Natural England and the relevant landowners. This approach is referred to as COSMIC+.

Each project began with data collection and an interview with the landowner or land manager to obtain information on current management. The next stage involved field visits and the excavation of 0.30m<sup>2</sup> test-pits, to obtain consistent information on slope, soil types, and the depths of current and former cultivation. Fifty-six sites were investigated by 220 test-pits. After reviewing and scoring the data according to the revised COSMIC+ model, nearly



half the sites were selected for geophysical survey (by Stratascan Ltd) and sample trenching. The geophysical survey used 30m<sup>2</sup> grids to target specific cropmarks and establish whether smaller and more vulnerable features might be present. The sample trenching used small trenches (less than 20m long) to target specific features and establish their condition and vulnerability. In total, 54 grids were surveyed and 46 trenches excavated. Results from the additional fieldwork were fed back into the model to produce final scores. Each report included clear statements of risk and suitable management options.

### Significant – or not?

As a result of this work, and following detailed negotiations, twelve of the most vulnerable and significant sites have been taken out of cultivation, with either the whole field or the relevant area being converted to pasture or habitats for wildlife. A further eight sites have been protected through changes in cultivation practice such as removal of potato crops from rotations or introduction of minimum tillage. As well as protecting vulnerable sites – including many that would not register highly in any desk-based assessment – the projects identified sites that are less vulnerable than expected, wrongly located or misidentified. For example, fieldwork showed that a site identified as a cursus and protected through scheduling has been misidentified. Without COSMIC+ whole-field reversion would have been required. Now, the field can safely continue in cultivation.

These projects have therefore not only helped maintain a viable rural economy in this area but have ensured that public funds are appropriately allocated. Jake Freestone, Farm Manager at Overbury Farms commented that ‘archaeologists have investigated these sites and our farming methods to provide clear direction on what crops can be grown without causing further damage to this rare and often unseen evidence of past farming communities. We are delighted to protect the heritage of the farm under a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme with Natural



Information from test pits improved our understanding of the relative depths of current and former cultivations and the horizons at which archaeological deposits might survive

England that will provide additional gains for biodiversity and public access and help us work towards ‘Linking Environment and Farming’ (LEAF) demonstration farm status’.

Building on the success of these pilots, COSMIC+ assessments have been commissioned on three further holdings in Worcestershire, Staffordshire and Shropshire, and we hope that this methodology will provide a readily applicable and cost-effective approach to assessing sites where desk-based approaches are unable to provide adequate information.

**Robin Jackson** Senior Project Manager  
**Darren Miller** Project Officer  
Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service  
rjackson@worcestershire.gov.uk

Oxford Archaeology, June 2006: *Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation (COSMIC)*, report for English Heritage and Defra (BD 1704), Oxford Archaeology ([http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=BD1704\\_3762\\_FRP.pdf](http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=BD1704_3762_FRP.pdf)).



This trench showed clearly defined Roman enclosure ditches. These correlated precisely with the geophysical plot and demonstrated good survival of deposits as well as a moderate risk from ploughing. Under the terms of the HLS agreement minimum tillage will ensure that no further damage occurs

COSMIC+

# Natural England *and* World Heritage Sites

There are four World Heritage Sites in the South West Region – Bath, the Jurassic Coast, Stonehenge and Avebury, and Cornwall and West Devon mining. This article looks at two of these.

## Stonehenge and Avebury

Stonehenge and Avebury became a WHS due to their unique concentrations of prehistoric monuments, but many of the monuments had been eroded over time, and successive ploughing rendered many of them barely visible. Consequently, special grants for grass restoration were put in place by Defra in 2002 under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme as part of an exemplary partnership with English Heritage and the National Trust, at a rate 50% higher than the norm. Natural England (then the Rural Development Service) advisers worked with the WHS co-ordinator to promote and implement the project on the ground. Farmers were encouraged to return arable fields to grass in priority archaeological areas and to undertake management to benefit wildlife and the wider landscape, bringing together the cultural and the natural heritage and contributing to sustainable management of the WHS. The aims were to stop plough damage to prehistoric monuments, improve their setting and increase ecological value. Over 340ha were reverted from arable land to pasture at Stonehenge, protecting 75 monuments and enhancing the landscape setting of the Stones. Within the core of the WHS special chalk grassland wildflower seed harvested from Sites of Special Scientific Interest was used. At Avebury over 140ha have been reverted, protecting over 50 monuments. The setting of West Kennet Long barrow in particular has been improved, along with better public access.

When Countryside Stewardship was replaced by Environmental Stewardship in 2005 there were higher payments for arable reversion and new opportunities to protect archaeological features. At Stonehenge & Avebury WHS, a priority target area for Higher Level Stewardship, work focused on scrub removal, protection of monuments from burrowing animals, chalk grassland restoration and re-creation and conservation for farmland birds and other wildlife. With a new major Environmental Stewardship agreement with Peter Bailey of Lake Farm in 2006, we have achieved reversion for the majority of the priority areas highlighted by English Heritage – a total of 176ha.

The land will be managed to protect significant archaeological features, enhance the setting of the

Normanton, Lake Down Barrow groups and surviving linear features and create chalk grassland and rough habitats for wildlife. In addition 108ha of land with remnants of prehistoric field systems will be managed under the reduced cultivation depth option. The agreement includes measures to enhance the landscape, benefit farmland birds such as stone curlews, corn buntings and lapwing, maintain and restore species-rich chalk and wet grassland, restore hedges and manage scrub. Robin Standing, RSPB's archaeologist, describes this particular scheme as 'a wonderful example of the interconnection of cultural and natural heritage'.

## Cornwall and West Devon WHS

In addition to annual land management options there are capital grants available in agri-environment schemes. Natural England has worked with English Heritage, the WHS team and the Cornish Historic Environment Service to identify and target priorities for grant aid. Those that are interested in Environmental Stewardship are helped through the application process. Most work revolves around scrub management and consolidation of historic structures, to make sites safe, comprehensible and accessible to visitors – both actual and virtual. Local communities will enjoy more green spaces and visitors are encouraged to explore this aspect of Cornwall.

An early example of grant-aided capital work in the WHS is Deer Park Farm near Luccett. An engine house and associated structures were consolidated and the adjoining open shaft made safe by fencing. Enthusiastic involvement of the farmer ensured the success of educational access here, with several hundred visitors already enjoying guided walks around this otherwise inaccessible small mine. Similar work took place at South Hooe Mine, West Devon, through Higher Level Stewardship, following archaeological assessment and management recommendations by Cornwall County Historic Environment Projects (Colin Buck). Last summer, the pumping engine house and remnants of the winding engine boiler house chimney and related building were revealed and conserved.

**Joy Ede** Natural England  
SW Historic Environment Specialist  
Joy.E.Ede@naturalengland.org.uk

**Dawn Enright** Natural England  
SW Historic Environment Specialist  
Dawn.Enright@naturalengland.org.uk



Wheal Tom (Deer Park Farm, Luccett, Cornwall). Remains of Wheal Tom Engine House, where all features were conserved using traditional methods and lime mortar. Site works included conservation of an arsenic chimney. Photograph: Colin Buck © Cornwall Council



West Kennet after a large buffer of grass was left around the monument. The field to the west has also now been reverted to grass and this has enabled the path up to the monument to be widened, minimising erosion and improving the visitor experience. NMR © English Heritage

West Kennet long barrow, when ploughed right up to the monument. NMR © English Heritage



Cowslips on a disk barrow, with bowl barrow in background. Photograph: Tracé Williams © RSPB



Normanton Down in March 2006, before reversion from arable to grassland. At this RSPB reserve, not only are barrows being preserved, but these monuments are also helping to 'put back' the ancient grassland. Remnant native plant species have survived on the protected and uncultivated barrows and are now spreading out to repopulate reinstated grassland – a wonderful example of the interconnection of cultural and natural heritage. Green hay cut from wildflower rich ancient chalk grasslands elsewhere in Wiltshire is also being spread around the barrows to speed the process of plant colonisation. Photograph: Andy Hay © RSPB



Sanfoin at Normanton Down. Photograph: Tracé Williams © RSPB



Wild thyme & salad burnet on barrows. Photograph: Tracé Williams © RSPB

# Scotland's rural heritage: sites at risk

Jonathan Wordsworth



Tarbert Castle, the largest archaeological site approved for management in 2009/10 under the competitive Rural Priorities Scheme, is being consolidated by Tarbert & Skipnish Community Council. © Crown Copyright, reproduced courtesy of Historic Scotland



Scotland, with two-thirds of the agricultural area of England, looks enviously at support available south of the border. Although we have been successful in restoring funding for repairing vernacular farm buildings (£2.82 million approved for 80 buildings under the higher level Rural Priorities Scheme), most are neither buildings of high architectural interest nor those most at risk. Due to different interpretation of rules by Scottish and EU officials, land managers cannot access agri-environment money for archaeological sites or receive environmental maps showing archaeological sites on their land. This means, for example, that farmers removing cropmark sites from cultivation can only be paid for capital costs of re-seeding or fencing and not for income foregone. As a result, routine management of archaeological sites has become much less attractive. There are currently 42 applications for managing sites under the Land Managers Option Scheme in 2009/10, but as only a quarter of the 28 applications from 2008 have submitted claims the number of actual management actions is likely to be much reduced. A significant extra problem is that there is no requirement for contact with local authority archaeologists.



Local volunteers clearing scrub from Carroll Broch Sutherland. Under current funding arrangements Historic Scotland supports work on an average of 14 scheduled monuments and 8 smaller projects a year. © Crown Copyright, reproduced courtesy of Historic Scotland

## Protection required

The new higher level Rural Priorities Scheme does allow a broader range of activities to be funded and Historic Scotland has seconded an officer from the Inspectorate team to advise Rural Directorate staff and assess historic environment issues. By 2010, 18 archaeological or historic sites had approved management to a value of £1.65 million (two sites claimed the bulk of this, at £1.4m). It is difficult to get the balance right between incentive payments and cross compliance regulation, but greater financial support for management is needed if Scotland's rural heritage is to be properly protected. Future funding and requirements for both basic farm payments and for the Scottish RDP after 2013 remain unclear, but are likely to be reduced.

## Impact of climate change measures

After the Rural Development Programme, mitigation measures to reduce climate change are the main impact on the historic environment from Scotland's current rural policy. These measures have been used to argue for food production over environmental concerns (although only 5% of Scotland's wheat production goes directly into human food production, the rest being converted to animal feed or used in the brewing and distilling industries), massive expansion of forestry (10-15,000ha,

targeted at marginal land where most upstanding archaeology survives) and continuing expansion of renewable energy sources. Already Scotland has the largest terrestrial windfarm in Europe (Whitelees) covering 55 sq km, and this is being expanded further from 140 to 215 turbines. While the focus of expansion has now shifted offshore, renewable technologies continue to change the rural landscape dramatically.

## The historic environment and sustainability agenda

A useful outcome of the Climate Change (Scotland) Bill 2009 has been the commitment to produce a Sustainable Land Use Strategy. Currently out for consultation, this needs to place the historic environment firmly on the sustainability agenda.

The importance of the past, surviving as buildings or in the landscape, is essential to modern place-making. With the growth of community involvement through Community Planning, LEADER, Historic Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership projects, and community projects like Scotland's Rural Past and Archaeology Scotland's Adopt-a-Monument Scheme, there is an opportunity for heritage to become more central to this agenda.



This drystone dyke at Wickerminn Farm, Banchory was examined by Moira Greig, Archaeologist at Aberdeenshire Council in 2010. Using old OS maps and Historic Land Use Assessment mapping she was able to recommend retention of this stone wall as integral to the field pattern of this area. Unfortunately, consultation with local authority archaeologists on removal of landscape features is rarely carried out. © Moira Greig, Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service

(above, top) Dere Street Roman Road being excavated under deep peat to create an access road for expansion to Dunlaw Windfarm in the Scottish Borders. The current extent of windfarms in Scotland can be seen at <http://www.snh.gov.uk>. © CFA Archaeology

(above) Volunteers help restore St Ninian's Chapel as part of the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme. Projects like this are encouraging local people to be aware of their heritage and gain a sense of ownership of their rural landscapes. However, by the nature of their funding the schemes are restricted and cannot be applied universally. © Paul Duffy

Jonathan Wordsworth  
Rural Land Use Advisor  
Archaeology Scotland

# The National Trust for Scotland: *managing archaeological sites*

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that protects and promotes Scotland's natural and cultural heritage for present and future generations. With over 310,000 members it is the largest conservation charity in Scotland, depending for support on donations, legacies, grants and subscriptions. It was established in 1931 to act as guardian of the nation's magnificent heritage of architectural, scenic and historic treasures. It is Scotland's third largest landowner with around 78,000ha of land, which contains archaeological sites from all periods. There are traces of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer camps at 2000 feet up on the slopes of Ben Lawers, Second World War pill-boxes in Glen Coe, and most monument types in between.

## Surveys guiding conservation

Over the last 15 years the Trust, under the instigation of Robin Turner (who has just

moved to RCAHMS) has been undertaking landscape surveys in order to record, protect and promote/interpret these varied historic environments. Individual archaeologists have been commissioned to carry out small surveys, as at Brodick on Arran, and leading commercial archaeological organisations to cover larger areas, such as Fair Isle, as well as full-scale detailed GPS surveys of entire properties and islands in partnership with RCAHMS, as at Canna and St Kilda. At Ben Lawers, the team recorded over 2000 individual structures, and plotted almost 300km of field banks, stone dykes and trackways of a largely post-medieval farming landscape. This new information and understanding now guides our conservation work.

Building upon these surveys, some large countryside properties now have Archaeological Action Plans which summarise the cultural heritage aspects, define a monitoring regime and present actions to mitigate any obvious threats, though many still need this work. Natural erosion and woodland regeneration, rabbit and bracken damage and modern developments are all issues, as elsewhere across the UK.



Clearing gorse from the Iron Age enclosure at Blackpotts, St Abbs



Cutting back bracken and brambles from a ruined house at Burg on the island of Mull



Volunteers repairing a 19th-century sheepfold on Ben Lomond

## Footpaths and the Mesolithic in the Cairngorms

Access to the Scottish countryside, especially mountains, is extremely important, but maintaining footpaths is a never-ending task. While some low-level work is undertaken by volunteers, higher-altitude routes are maintained by a core footpath team, who are aware of archaeological implications. Under the guidance of Trust archaeologist Shannon Fraser, the team recovered Mesolithic flints at the Linn of Dee in the very heart of the Cairngorms: a stunning discovery. More recently they have been re-routing and re-surfacing the main track up the Lawers Burn where it passes through over eighty scheduled post-medieval peat stances – a complex undertaking.

## Abbeys and rabbits

Unfortunately farm animals cause occasional damage, even with conservation tenancies in place. Over the last two years Trust Thistle Camp volunteers (on conservation holidays, see [www.thistlecamps.org.uk](http://www.thistlecamps.org.uk)) have repaired sheep scrapes on the monastic vallum around Iona Abbey. The scars, up to 0.8m deep, have been packed with soil-filled sacks, re-turfed and their positions recorded by survey points. Once the turf takes hold the repairs are difficult to spot and they certainly make a difference to the visitor experience of this special place. Some other Trust islands have more complex challenges. The rabbit problem on Canna has been getting steadily worse. Archaeology Thistle Camps have investigated the damage, with small excavations across 18th/19th century settlement and shieling sites as well as a settlement mound from which Neolithic pottery had been thrown up from burrows. The work identified the types of features most likely to suffer from rabbit infestation, so that appropriate management might ensue. However, eradication of rats from the island in 2007, part of a project to benefit ground-nesting seabirds, has increased the rabbit population. Rabbits might be necessary food for the re-introduced sea-eagle



Thistle Camp volunteers repairing the sheep scrapes on the Iona Abbey vallum

population, but their numbers are far too high. More integrated management is required to strike a balance across the different conservation needs of the island.

Woodland regeneration can also cause problems on archaeological sites, and the natural heritage may clash with the cultural for targeted felling and clearance on important sites. Fortunately, introduction of the Scotland Rural Development Programme allows grants for clearing scrub vegetation from important sites such as the 7th-century Anglian stronghold on the Mote of Mark, by the Solway coast. We hope that management grants for other rural archaeological sites on Trust land will be awarded in partnership with our tenant farmers.

Many other challenges are being addressed. Management of Trust rural sites, like our built properties, relies on partnership with government agencies, Trust staff, farmers, communities and volunteers. Long may those positive relationships grow.

## Derek Alexander

National Trust for Scotland  
Interim Head of Archaeological Services

NTS footpath team repairing the hill track through peat stances on Ben Lawers



All photographs are by the National Trust for Scotland

Derek Alexander

# THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN WOODLAND: THE ROLE OF FOREST PLANS

A Forest Plan is a holistic statement of long-term management objectives. Associated historic environment advice needs to be carefully designed in support of any forestry or woodland proposal large enough to warrant one, and the advice should be pragmatic and prioritised, highlighting the most important sites in language that is easy to understand and making recommendations that are practical to adopt. You cannot really expect foresters to follow it otherwise.

The fine Iron Age hillfort of Bessie's Hill in the Scottish Borders is at the heart of the FCS Forest Design Plan. Its wider setting, conservation management and open views to neighbouring hillforts are all stated objectives



Following harvesting, Borenich ring fort above Loch Tummel will be maintained within open space while the surrounding area is encouraged to regenerate as native woodland



Capo Neolithic long barrow lies in a large clearing within mature pine forest. The long-term plan is to plant and encourage protective open broadleaf woodland, creating an attractive setting and providing shade which will suppress invasive scrub



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) lists requirements and indicators for the sustainable management of all forests in the UK. It guides the decisions of the Forestry Commission for work that requires a licence or receives a government grant. UKFS requires that 'important heritage features are protected' and has as a basic principle of good practice that 'important archaeological sites [are kept] clear of natural regeneration of trees and shrubs'. It requires evidence that

- important sites are clearly recorded
- sound principles for integrating archaeological sites in woodland are adopted
- archaeological sites are protected and damage is avoided
- landscape principles of forest design are used
- the cultural and historical character of the countryside is taken into account when creating new woods and when making changes to existing woods (UKFS 2004, 18)

UKFS is supported by the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), an independent certification standard for sustainable woodland management that is held by most commercial timber producers. Both UKFS and UKWAS strongly encourage the use of Forest Plans.

## FOREST PLANS

Large forestry companies and estates will usually have detailed plans, while smaller operations (such as community woodlands) may not use them formally. Such plans promote good management and demonstrate how land managers can protect the environment (including archaeological sites). The current format for archaeology includes a statement covering 'heritage' that refers to an archaeological survey, which is included as an appendix and may cover the whole or part of the Plan area. The aim is usually to avoid archaeological features and prevent

Matt Ritchie

damage, but further improvements can be gained by integrating significant sites into the forest design, careful harvesting of trees, sensitive replanting and access improvements. Archaeology will always be a small part of forestry proposals but mitigation strategies and detailed management proposals demonstrate environmental responsibility. It is our job to make it easy and attractive for land managers to adopt such measures.

Forest Plans should mention any positive conservation work (eg on scheduled monuments, as agreed with the national heritage agency) and consider issues such as setting. Describing the background context, relevant site details and proposed management recommendations in a clear and concise manner is the responsibility of any archaeological advisor.

## FITTING THE TEMPLATE

An archaeological survey therefore should result in a useful management tool for current and future work, with sites categorised in order of importance (national, regional, local and other). It should not comprise a simple list of uncategorised sites. The survey should identify and highlight important remains and (in effect) preserve by record those of lesser importance. The historic value of existing trees and woodland (such as historic trees, relic systems of land management and designed landscapes) should also be considered. The survey will often form the long-term historic environment foundation for the Forest Plan and is evidence of best-practice management for FC Woodland Officers and UKWAS auditors. The report should be prepared in line with the Forest Plan framework for which it is intended, and archaeologists need to see the proposed Forest Plan template.

To enable advice to be incorporated into the main body of a Forest Plan you need

- a *concise general summary*, highlighting significant historic environment features (a paragraph for the Forest Plan 'Description' section)
- concise details (bullet points) of *significant historic environment constraints and opportunities* (for Forest Plan 'Analysis and Concept' section)
- a *categorised site gazetteer*, with detailed records of all sites of national or regional importance (to



It is important to mark out significant archaeological sites before operations



Although unmanaged, the open broadleaf setting of this lowland broch of Coldoch helps to control scrub growth



Delivering targeted archaeological advice prior to harvesting work close to the walls of the Iron Age dun of Dun Boredale



The Pictish fort of Dun da Lamh in Strath Mashie has its wider setting, conservation management and open views all stated as objectives in its FCS Forest Design Plan

Historic woodland management. Fire-lighting faggots were extracted from the heartwood of this veteran Scots Pine in the 19th century



inform broader Forest Plan design and evidence for 'Survey Data' section)

- appropriate (and realistic) detailed individual *management proposals* for significant archaeological sites (bullet points for the Forest Plan 'Management Proposals' section)

### CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT IN WOODLAND AND FOREST

Detailed management proposals need to address sustainable interventions that are appropriate to the site and to balance the requirements of the monument with forest management and public access issues. Points to remember are

- Although tree roots can damage archaeological deposits (and trees cause extensive disturbance if they blow over), old woodland often protects historic features from more intensive agricultural land use and scrub growth. Generally, the roots of a fully grown tree are unlikely to extend further and, providing the tree is healthy and stable, there is little to be gained from its immediate removal. Exceptions are tree roots which extend to upstanding masonry (where any movement could cause collapse) and trees standing on vulnerable earthworks which provide a less secure base.
- Where appropriate, trees growing on earthworks or close to masonry should be removed by cutting at ground level. Pollarding acts as a growth stimulant, so treat the stumps and leave the root to rot in situ. If removing trees as part of wider forest operations, Harvesting machines will usually have better and safer results than hand-felling. If removing tree(s) as a one-off operation, remember that pollarding / sectional felling / soft felling (using support ropes or felling onto straw bales) can be expensive (p30). Creating a clearing will also encourage scrub growth and increase the risk of wind blow.
- Protect the monument during timber operations, using brash mats where appropriate and planning

Access to Nine Stanes recumbent stone circle is maintained within a brashed and thinned forest setting



Mature conifers within the large Highland hut circle of Dalchork were felled by hand onto bales of straw



The fine Iron Age fort of Sean Craig has been afforded a wide buffer zone and an open aspect



By ensuring archaeological survey prior to large-scale harvesting, the 18th-century remains of Tollie township in Glen Nevis will be preserved



Impressive Second World War coastal defences survive within continuous conifer cover as the Lossie Forest 'coastal crust'

short effective vehicle routes in sensitive areas. It may be best to leave wood to rot in situ (and deadwood provides a valuable ecological habitat).

- In some cases, unwanted conifers can be ring-barked, leaving the tree standing as dead wood, which is less vulnerable to wind blow and will gradually rot as another valuable habitat.
- Control saplings and scrub by cutting at ground level and treating with a herbicide to prevent regrowth. Scrub may have ecological importance and extensive clearance should be phased. Avoid grubbing out vegetation and uprooting scrub as this can disturb any underlying archaeology.
- Bracken control is an important element of monument conservation management and in some cases is required for better visibility in summer months. However, there must be consideration of whether site-based bracken control is justifiable and sustainable. Where bracken is endemic, the current rhizome mat may only be the most recent of many infestations and long-term management may be demonstrably unsustainable. Bracken control should not be rigidly prescribed.
- Consider controlled livestock access to prevent regeneration (monitoring vulnerable areas such as earthworks for poaching, scraping and erosion).
- Consider enhanced public access. Remember that appropriate candidates should have robust and visible archaeology; good associated history or archaeological story; ready access and sustainable monitoring and maintenance.

*The requirement to protect and manage 'important heritage features' is made clear by UKFS even if it does not necessarily translate into direct grant aid. However, to have their voice clearly heard, archaeologists must provide targeted archaeological advice in terms that foresters understand – advice which integrates easily into the wider analysis of the Forest Plan rather than being consigned to appendices.*

**Matt Ritchie**

Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist  
matthew.ritchie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



Ord hillfort is readily visible within thinned continuous conifer woodland. Access for machinery is controlled when required via an existing break in the rampart

All photographs are © Forestry Commission Scotland



# Soft felling on Comar Wood dun

Brian Duff, Cameron Hall-Gardiner and Matt Ritchie

Comar Wood dun survey. Significant trees for soft felling are marked in orange. Two small post-medieval buildings have been built into the tumble from the dun and its outwork.

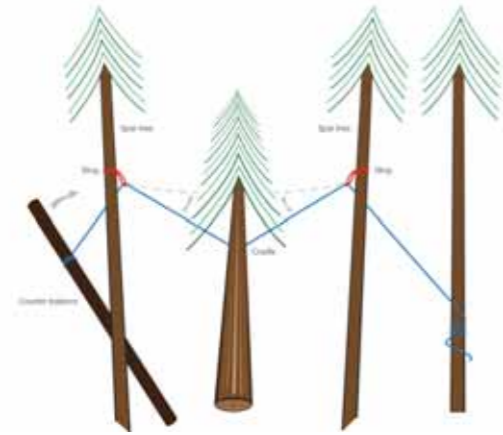
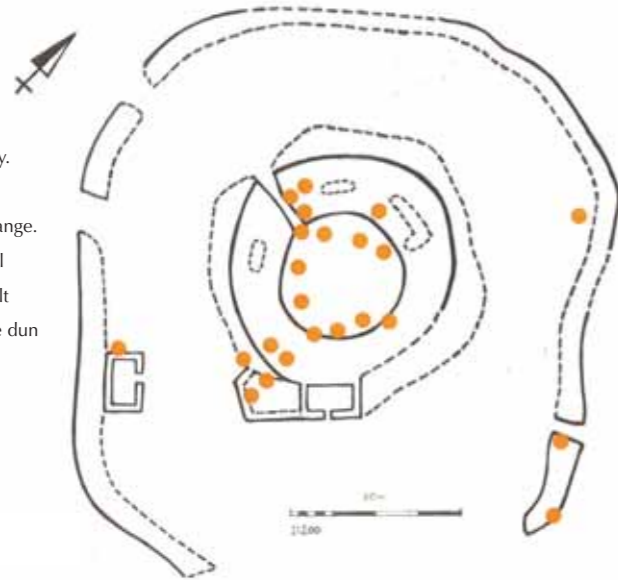


Illustration of soft tree felling

A late prehistoric galleried dun has recently been discovered in Comar Wood, Strath Glass, near Cannich in the Scottish Highlands. The dun measures about 21m in overall diameter and is defined by a massive drystone wall. It has several stretches of wall courses visible both externally and internally, and galleries are visible as depressions within the wall. The thick walls probably supported a single conical thatched roof. A defensive outwork is visible enclosing the dun, although an edge of the terrace is defined by steep rock outcrops. The dun is part of an Iron Age building tradition common throughout the Highlands and islands of Scotland. Such homesteads were a very visible status symbol. While they served to defend their occupants and their grain and stock they also demonstrated land ownership.

The dun is situated within thinned mature Douglas fir that was planted in 1954 and is now due for clear felling. In order to fell the firs within the dun, FCS and Cameron Hall-Gardiner developed a flexible soft-felling technique to avoid any structural damage



Detail of a possible gallery in an arc of the dun wall, before felling work began



Tree surgeon Mike Henry climbing a spar tree to install the sling and cradle rope

via mechanical Harvester processor felling. Trees are felled into a strong rope cradle and slowly lowered to the ground for processing. The cradle is strung between two shackles on slings attached to two spar trees. A counter balance log is attached at one end of the 'arrester rope' which slows the felled tree(s) safely; the other end is wrapped around the trunk of a nearby tree and 'locked off'. The felled tree is then lowered by gradually readjusting the wrapped loose end of the rope and processed at a good working height: where possible, long saw logs are left for later pick-up by Harvester, while in other cases the tree is cut into small pieces and removed by hand.



Trees now supported safely over dun wall and at a good working height for processing



The remaining crown of the tree is then processed in the cradle and removed



The felled trees are lowered to the ground and cut in two, supported on log 'bearers' for support and to prevent damage to the masonry. These long saw logs are left *in situ* for removal by Harvester



Snedding off small branches



The walls of the dun are now clear of trees and timber and have not been damaged by the operation. Only three cradle set-ups were required



In this area several large trees were soft felled and lowered to the ground, creating a protective 'bench' onto which the remaining trees were directly felled. These logs were left *in situ* for removal by Harvester

The flexibility of this felling method protects the archaeological site, reduces unnecessary climbing and lowering methods for the arborist and shortens time spent on site. The recovery of good timber enables the cost of the operation to be offset by sale of timber (mature Douglas firs produce high quality timber).

**Brian Duff**  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Inverness Ross & Skye Forest District

**Cameron Hall-Gardiner**  
Highland Tree Care

**Matt Ritchie**  
Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist

All photographs are © Forestry Commission Scotland

# THE NORFOLK MONUMENTS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

David Robertson

In August 2010 the Norfolk Monuments Management Project celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Since 1990 it has worked to ensure the conservation of Norfolk's rural archaeological remains. The project has been involved with over 6500 sites and has received national recognition as a leader in archaeological management. Its success in developing positive partnerships is widely acknowledged by environmental bodies, local authorities, landowners and land managers.

The project was established as one part of a five-pronged approach to conserve the rural historic environment. The other initiatives with which it works closely are

- *Norfolk Earthworks Survey Project*. Between 1994 and 2000 this project recorded the majority of significant earthworks in Norfolk
- *Archaeological surveys of estates and farmland*. Since the late 1990s NAU Archaeology has provided surveys to help land managers conserve sites under their protection

Earthworks at Wymondham Abbey. The project funded grassland management and fencing between 2000 and 2010. Photograph: Derek Edwards © Norfolk County Council



Two Bronze Age barrows on Harpley Common, managed under a Section 17 agreement between 1997 and 2006. Photograph: David Robertson © Norfolk County Council

- *Rapid identification* surveys of areas scheduled for forestry operations, funded by the Forestry Commission
- *Land acquisition* by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust. Purchasing and long-term leases have ensured protection of earthworks and removal of sites from cultivation

## EARTHWORKS AND OTHERS

Our principal aim has been the ongoing survival, conservation and sustainable management of rural sites in Norfolk, focusing on earthworks although below-ground archaeological remains, historic buildings and landscapes have been covered too. From the start it has included both scheduled and non-designated sites of schedulable quality. Methods include regular field visits, discussions with site managers, provision of detailed historical, archaeological and management information and advice, positive management that is recorded in voluntary Management Statements and outreach work (including talks to bodies such as the National Farmers Union and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group). The project has been overseen by a Committee meeting twice yearly. Representatives of organisations including English Heritage, Natural England, the National Farmers Union and the Country Land and Business Association have sat on the Committee, ensuring that a wide range of expertise has been involved.

## MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS

One important role has been to set up and monitor legally-binding management agreements under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, committing land



The Committee of the Norfolk Monuments Management Project at St Mary's Church, Appleton. Photograph: James Albone © Norfolk County Council

managers to undertake specific works in return for a tax-free grant. The project has set up 187 Section 17 agreements covering 87 sites. These include prehistoric burial mounds, Iron Age forts, a Roman town, deserted villages, moats, castles and religious sites. Grazing, scrub clearance, tree surgery, control of burrowing animals, stock fencing, repairs to damaged earthworks, earthwork surveys and interpretation panels are among the works supported.

Over £177,000 of project grants have been issued by Norfolk County Council, all funded by English Heritage. Agreement specific grants range from £200 to £5995. During agreement terms (normally five years) the condition and progress of management are monitored through regular visits, and at only three sites have the aims of agreements not been met.

## AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES

Since its inception the project has been involved with agri-environment schemes, providing advice on sites that should be included in Countryside Stewardship agreements. Since 2005 the project has been consulted on nearly 500 Higher Level Stewardship applications, covering over 6300 HER records and 79,000 hectares of land. One strength of these schemes has been their landscape approach. Section 17 agreements necessarily focus on individual sites, but agri-environment schemes cover complete holdings. As a result, they can encompass a number of monuments, whole historic landscapes and landscape features.

The project has achieved much over the last twenty years. Over the forthcoming years the principal aim will remain the same, but we will concentrate on sites at medium or high risk in English Heritage's recent *Heritage at Risk* project. Although at-risk sites have always been a priority, this publication will concentrate efforts.

Considerable thanks are due to the many land managers and committee members who have been involved since 1990. Without their support and dedication, the project would not have been the success it has.

**David Robertson** Rural Archaeologist  
Historic Environment Service  
Norfolk County Council  
david.robertson@norfolk.gov.uk

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Interpretation panels at Godwick deserted village, designed and installed under a Section 17 agreement. Photograph: David Robertson © Norfolk County Council



Grassland management under a Section 17 agreement at a shrunken village at Shouldham. Photograph: David Robertson © Norfolk County Council

# Managing the historic environment on County Farms in Cambridgeshire

Quinton Carroll

One of the less known responsibilities of local authority archaeologists is to advise on the curation of heritage assets owned by the authority. The 2010 *Government Vision on the Historic Environment* was clear that the public sector should set an example of best practice through stewardship of its own assets, although to do so engages with arguments over appropriate use of public funds.

Cambridgeshire County Council has the largest farms estate of any local authority, and throughout this it promotes access to the rural environment, enhances wildlife benefits, and conserves the historic environment. The estate includes over 540 entries in the county HER, including nine scheduled monuments. The Historic Environment Team advises the estate on matters relating to archaeology and the historic environment. This role ranges from enquiries from tenants about individual sites, advising on environment Stewardship schemes, running outreach events and monitoring the condition of scheduled sites. In a typical year we will advise on plough

depths, deal with irrigation schemes, plan rabbit control and advise on conservation projects.

## Investigation and preservation

We are fortunate in that an archaeological survey of the entire estate by Tim Malim was funded by English Heritage and published in 1990. This reviewed the (then) SMR data for the estate and undertook investigative fieldwork (field-walking and excavation) on selected sites. Each farm had a report on its archaeology together with management recommendations. This formed the basis for future management of the estate, and is a useful reference point to assess the impact of 20 years proactive management.

## Education and access

As a direct result of this survey, and with the active support of County Farm managers and English Heritage, all scheduled sites on the Estate were investigated sufficiently to assess both their archaeological date and character and the effects of ploughing, scrub invasion and other potential damage. Subsequently, Farm Management Plans were created that removed most scheduled monuments from arable cultivation, controlled scrub, improved and encouraged public access, erecting interpretation boards and arranging public visits and educational activities. Various environmental improvements, especially those which benefited wildlife, were possible as part of this work. Principal monuments that benefited from this regime were

- Stonea Camp. This Iron Age fort in the Fens, adjacent to the Roman town excavated by Tim Potter, was extensively trial-trenched before banks and ditches (previously levelled by post-War ploughing) were partially restored and the whole area reverted to pasture. There were extensive programmes to improve wildlife interest and to explain its value to the public. The site is now part of the geocaching network and feedback from this shows the value of the presentation work
- Car Dyke. The only section of this Roman canal that survives as an earthwork rather than a drain had become very overgrown and the plough was encroaching on both sides. After excavation, scrub clearance and wide grass strips helped both preservation and access, and significant further work is planned under Higher Level Stewardship
- Devils Dyke is the largest though not the longest

Anglo-Saxon earthwork in Britain, and also a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), as chalk downland. In addition to massive programmes of clearance, sufficient pasture was reinstated in adjoining fields to support dairy sheep, which became part of a long-term management regime. Since 2001, the Dyke has been part of a project to reinstate chalk grassland varieties

- The Roman Road near Wandlebury hill fort, a section of the route known as the *Via Devana*, is preserved as a green way. Again, measures included vegetation control, buffer strips and on-site interpretation and, in this case, the use of traffic restriction orders
- Worts Meadow, Landbeach contains a moated site and the earthworks of a shrunken village, with well-documented history
- Giants' Hill, Rampton was an Anarchy-period castle, again with adjoining village earthworks. Scrub clearance, better public access and interpretation and continuation of grazing regimes were all that were needed for good management on these two sites, with associated environmental improvements. These last two sites are also at the heart of their villages, and are prized open spaces

## Research and reporting

Today, we maintain control over the estate insofar as requests for archaeological work or metal detecting have to be referred to farm managers. We do not ban all activities such as metal detecting, but we believe that any investigative activity should be done in accordance with due process and appropriate rigour, so requests must be accompanied by research aims and methodology. We have dealt with metal detecting requests, geophysical surveys, fieldwalking, excavation and even requests to investigate crashed Second World War aircraft. We insist that any activity reports to the HER and/or the Portable Antiquities Scheme, and creates an archive. Outreach, access and interpretation are still important aspects of our work.

Scheduled sites on pasture often become havens for wildlife. We are currently consulting on adoption of Worts Meadow, Landbeach as a Local Nature Reserve. Getting to this stage has been an challenge, with competing and sometimes conflicting requirements arising from the status of the site as a scheduled monument, its significance as a local amenity, wildlife interest and use by the tenant farmer. We are monitoring the development of Worts Meadow as a LNR with interest, for it may prove an

Stonea Camp in 2003, showing earthworks, some of them restored, managed as sheep-grazed pasture in an arable landscape. Photograph: Ben Robinson

effective way in managing, protecting and promoting other sites in rural areas.

As for the bulk of the assets of the estate, we work with the tenants, farm managers and other interested parties, making use of Environmental Stewardship schemes where possible to ensure ongoing conservation of the assets under our ownership.

## Quinton Carroll

Historic Environment Team Manager  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Quinton.carroll@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

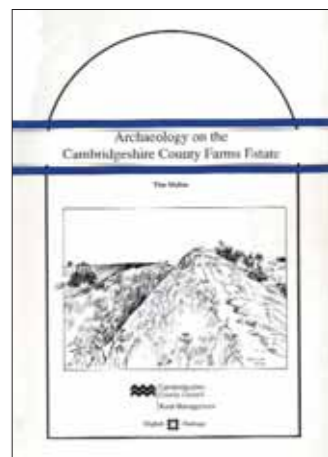
The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 (DCMS 2010)  
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/property/estate/farms/>

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/archaeology/>  
[www.heritage-gateway.org.uk](http://www.heritage-gateway.org.uk)

*Archaeology on the Cambridgeshire County Farms Estate*, Tim Malim. Cambridgeshire County Council 1990



A Bronze Age barrow at Haddenham in the Cambridgeshire Fens (pale area). This is how eroded earthworks become in this environment without positive management. © Cambridgeshire County Council



English Heritage supported survey work and this publication in 1990, leading to extensive archaeological conservation work on the County Farms Estate



Stephen Macaulay (Oxford Archaeology East) explaining their Anglo-Saxon past to local school children on Devils Dyke. © Cambridgeshire County Council



Tree management on a more overgrown stretch of Devils Dyke. If mature trees are blown over they cause huge damage. © Cambridgeshire County Council



# LANDSCAPES OF OPPORTUNITY: a new Golden Age for designed parklands?

Margaret Nieke



A Summer Pavilion at Dalton Park © Landscape Agency

## MANAGEMENT PLANS

We start with management plans, prepared by external experts and containing the history of the site, comments on current condition and recommendations for management. These are essential frameworks that allow us to target resources and phase works throughout an agreement, in particular helping us understand which key historic phase to focus on. The next steps depend on a partnership involving owners, the local Historic Gardens Trust, Natural England and English Heritage. Parklands which are designated 'At Risk' are a particular focus of attention. Work varies: standard options allow reversion of arable to parkland grass and better management of existing pasture. Trees can be managed, with surgery programmes or replanting as required. Tree guards and better fencing provide protection from grazing livestock.

## VANBRUGH'S DESIGN

Special project work, normally funded at 80%, can also be wide-ranging. Our largest regional project is Castle Howard, an early 18th-century landscape which was on the At Risk register because of major problems with built structures across the park. After detailed discussion with English Heritage, we funded repairs to the Stray Walls, part of Vanbrugh's original design. The partnership between the Estate, English Nature, English Heritage and the local authority led to a prestigious Heritage Award by the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2010.

## MAGICAL PROJECT

Heritage at Risk is also behind our work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, which includes the 18th and 19th-century park of Bretton Hall, suffering badly from incremental development and neglect. Happily the Sculpture Park, which sets out to challenge, inspire, inform and delight through presentation of modern and contemporary art, has now taken over management of a larger area of the historic park, and

a sympathetic future appears assured for Bretton Hall itself. Updating an earlier management plan allowed us to highlight new opportunities and inspired us to support a magical project designed to open up lakeland areas, hidden for over fifty years. This winter, major woodland works designed to re-introduce parkland vistas will begin in earnest. These will be followed by conservation of grottoes, follies, a boat house and cascade. All will be open to the public via new woodland and lakeside walks which will be full of wildlife and new art-works.

## STANWICK OPPIDUM AND OTHER DELIGHTS

At Dalton Park in East Yorkshire the management plan indicated major and immediate repair to the Summer House, a key element of this rococo park. We caught this in the nick of time, for the facade was on the brink of collapse. At Temple Grounds in Richmond the historic walkway through this 18th-century *ferme ornée* is in the final stages of repair, and at Bramham Park the winter will see ha-ha repairs and works to re-line and repair the pond which feeds 18th-century water gardens. At Risby near Hull the 17th-century earthworks of an abandoned house and garden will be surveyed in detail, and the listed park at Forcett Hall, containing earthworks of Stanwick *oppidum*, is poised to join the scheme, with plans to restore a rustic lake-side grotto surmounted by a snail mound. Next year the landscape at Plumpton Rocks painted by Turner, Girtin and Hodges will hopefully come into stewardship.

Parks do not have to registered to merit our attention. At Baldersby Park, laid out to complement Newby Park, the first neo-Palladian villa in England, work is about to begin to repair a canal, obelisk, ha-ha and enclosing wall. At Thornton Watlass a small 18th-century park overlies earthworks, mostly medieval but with hints of earlier garden designs. At Rounton an Arts and Crafts garden, laid out to complement a Philip Webb house, will be surveyed and studied.

## OUR GREATEST PARKLANDS

All around the country great parklands are being enhanced through our schemes. In the West Midlands Capability Brown's first commission at Croome in Worcestershire has seen wholesale reversion to pasture, facilitating reinstatement of tree clumps specifically placed to frame key vistas, including the newly-restored serpentine lake. Grant aid for repair of follies and two John Nash observatory towers unlocked the acquisition of these buildings by the National Trust. At Stoneleigh Park, one of Humphrey Repton's most important commissions and presented in his Red Book for the park, has been revitalised. At Scotney, Syon Park, Knole and Petworth we are embarking on wide-



ranging repairs. In the East Midlands Chatsworth and Burghley are among many parks being managed, whilst in the North East Croxdale and Chillingham Park are under restoration. In the South West Corsham Park has an exciting range of proposals and in the North West, at Gisburn Park, the management plan has just confirmed that this unregistered park was by Robert James, 8th Baron Petre of Writtle (1713-43), a much neglected landscape designer. Whilst we have much excellent work in hand the future does not look so rosy. We await this autumn's spending round announcements with baited breath, but are confident that we have already made a significant impact on these landscape delights.

## Margaret Nieke

Historic Environment Specialist  
Natural England, Yorkshire and Humber Region

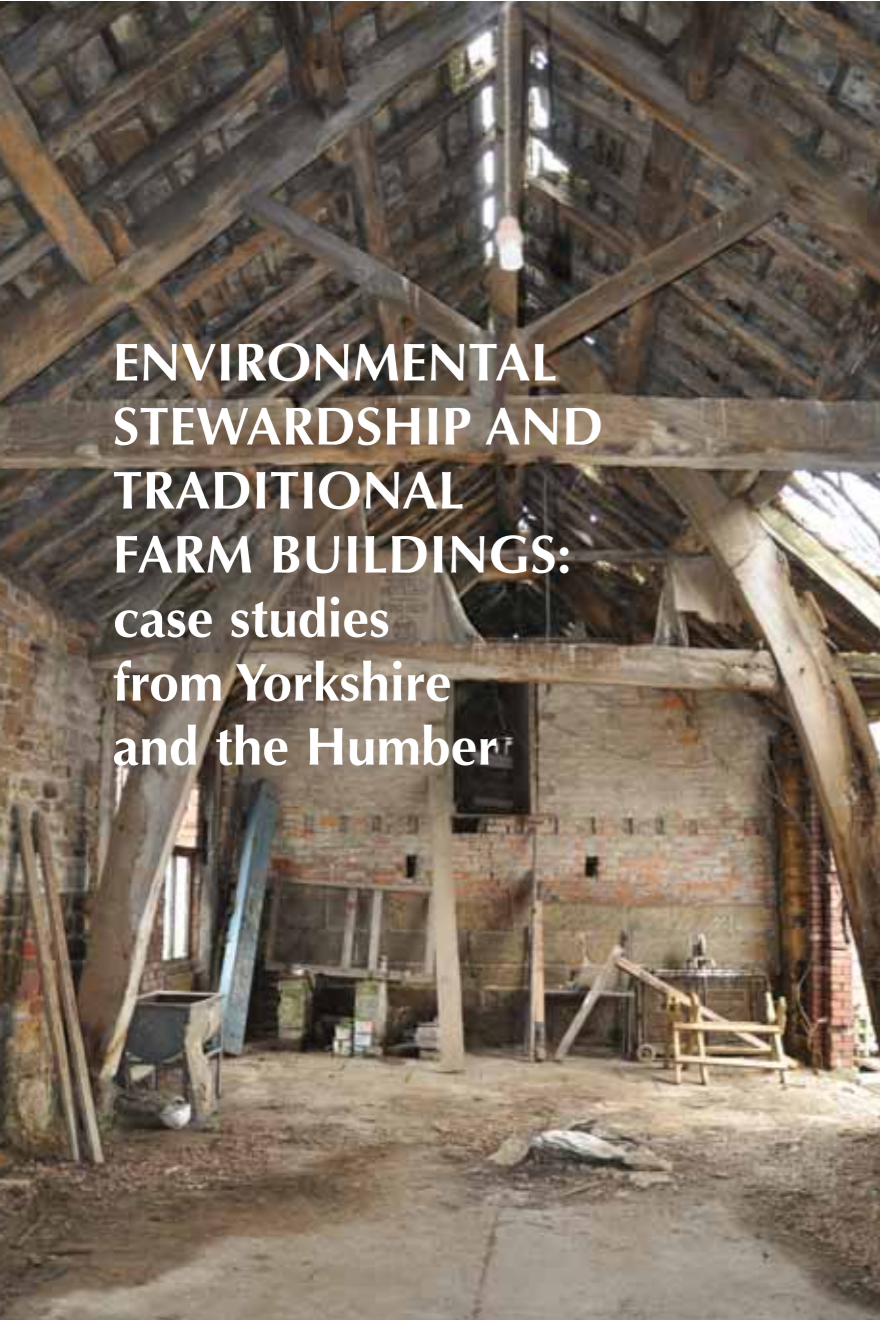


Site owners survey repair of the Green Walk at Temple Grounds, Richmond.  
Photograph: Margaret Nieke

Obelisk and silted-up canal at Baldersby Park.  
Photograph: Margaret Nieke

Repairs to the Stray Walls at Castle Howard.  
Photograph: Margaret Nieke

The early years of the 21st century may in future be seen as a Golden Age for historic parklands in England thanks to Environmental Stewardship. Parklands had become a diminished and vulnerable resource, highlighted by recent work which charts significant losses in the 20th century. With adoption of the European Landscape Convention it is imperative that we protect and enhance those that do survive. Historic environment work remains one of the five main drivers of Natural England's current schemes, and as most rural parks are managed as agricultural land we can secure their future through standard land management options or special repair projects. It is important here to note the longevity of our works – our schemes give parklands life for another 150 years and more. Parklands also contribute to landscape, biodiversity, public access and other key environmental objectives, qualities which make them important targets for our schemes.



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND TRADITIONAL FARM BUILDINGS: case studies from Yorkshire and the Humber

The cruck-framed interior of New Hall barn, its timbers dating to 1529

Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme has a substantial track record in rescuing and repairing traditional farm buildings. This work is essential for retaining some of our most important agricultural buildings in use and in unconverted condition. These case studies on current projects give a flavour of work in progress. In England, we currently have some £8m a year to spend on individual repairs, targeted at the needs, importance and appropriate end-use of individual structures. Our key aim is to repair structures so that they can continue in traditional agricultural use. The scheme is not a stepping stone to adaptive reuse, which rules out work on some redundant buildings.

## Cruck-framed barn

At New Hall Barn, South Yorkshire, works on a cruck-framed barn are nearing completion. Few cruck-framed structures survive in unconverted form across South Yorkshire, and this example is within a small area of the Dearne Valley still readable as a historic landscape; an unusual survival in an area much changed by post-medieval coal working and recent reclamation. The barn was in urgent need of repair; the owners had spent ten years seeking funding and the roof would probably not last a further winter. The final persuasive factor was that the owners were running a successful educational programme, introducing local children to the farming regime, history and ecology of the site. Traditional repairs would allow the barn to be used as the base for educational visits. HLS could meet 80% of repair costs and the Country Houses Foundation came to the rescue with the remainder, the first time they had funded an HLS repair project.

Careful professional assessment and recording further confirmed the importance of this building. Dendrochronology indicated that the timbers were felled in the winter of 1529, and they are still in their original positions. Similar dating from a former mill, another element of the original complex, confirms a flurry of building activity in the early 1530s, chiming nicely with documentary history. Further work on the revealed roof structure tells us that the barn was thatched for some 200 years before being strengthened and given a stone covering. It is the latter which will be repaired, but we hope to have illustrations showing earlier reconstructions. Works should be completed this December and the owners are excited at the prospect of opening it for pre-arranged educational and heritage group visits. Other timber-framed structures currently being repaired include Horkstow, Lincolnshire, thought to be the location, in the 1750s, of horse dissections by George Stubbs. At Octon on the Yorkshire Wolds a Grade II\* cottage, latterly a farm workshop, is identified as the last unaltered pre-enclosure cottage on the Wolds, and we hope to work on this next year.

## Re-roofing barns

Heritage at Risk issues often drive our work. At Colburn Hall near Richmond we are about to repair a medieval hall, built around 1300 and thought to have been a medieval court house within a manorial complex. Latterly used as a barn, the hall is thankfully eligible for HLS funding. On Holgate Moor, North Pennines, a large two-storey stock and hay barn in a prominent landscape position is currently receiving a new traditional roof thanks to HLS funding. In approaching upland barns we have to target cases particularly carefully, for funds are too



Colburn medieval hall, near Richmond, Yorkshire, dating to about 1300 and thought to have been a court house

limited for the volume seen under older Classic schemes. This example is highly visible in a landscape which has seen little change over recent centuries. The asbestos roof failed dramatically during a recent winter storm, and HLS provided the best opportunity to retain this significant landscape survival. We are currently trying to solve a perennial problem in these areas – lack of suitable traditional roofing materials. There are few reclaimed materials in the region and only one major northern quarry able to produce new roofing flags. Improved sources of suitable materials are something we need to address nationally, or be overrun by inappropriate imports or reconstituted products.

## Horses for the Western Front

Later farm buildings are also of interest if demonstrative of land holding and agriculture of the age and area. At Myton on Swale near York our attention was drawn to a Victorian model stud farm, built on an industrial scale in 1870. Model farms were key elements of the late, mechanised, mixed agricultural landscapes of Yorkshire. This example highlights the fashion for horse-breeding, training and racing in Yorkshire at this time. Built by Major Miles Stapylton to indulge his passion for trotting ponies, the stud farm is part of a holding which includes an architect-designed model farm based on plans promoted at the Great Exhibition of 1851. During the First World War it was used as a collection and training centre for horses moving out to the Western Front. Over 9000 horses passed through it, brought from as far as Canada. During the Second World War the horse boxes were used for secure storage of foodstuffs. Both complexes remain in a single agricultural ownership and the model farm remains in day to day use, with basic maintenance supported by small HLS payments. The stud farm declined to the point at which there were major concerns about its future. The scale of the complex a double



Holgate Moor barn, near Barningham, a dramatic landscape feature with a roofing problem

courtyard surrounded by 32 stables and tack rooms, a covered exercise yard, and water tower and power room complex, was daunting, but fortunately there were sufficient funds available to tackle it. With increasingly restricted budgets such works in the future will be phased throughout a ten-year HLS agreement. A large colony of several species of bats in the water tower were a particular challenge and kept our ecologists busy, but licensed building works have ensured their security too.

Like New Hall Barn, the repaired Stud farm will be an element of an excellent educational project. Its history alone covers many elements of the National Curriculum and is linked to study of farming, the environment and farmland birds. As works on the agricultural buildings near completion the owners can turn their attention to former domestic elements of the original complex. These are ineligible for HLS funding but our contributions have effectively enabled repair of the whole complex.

The projects we have tackled in recent years will make a significant contribution to the vulnerable resource of traditional buildings. Time will tell if such work can continue; but we are already gearing up for intense discussions with Defra and European agencies about future options.

## Margaret Nieke

Historic Environment Specialist  
Natural England Yorkshire and Humber Region



Myton on Swale, a Victorian model stud farm, built on an industrial scale in 1870, showing the ornate water tower and adjacent stable range



Kilpeck panel, designed and produced by SS Crome Associates and Sam Wilson

# Public access to the historic environment

Imogen Sambrook

Natural England has a vital role in opening up routes and managing the historic environment. In addition to conservation work, Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements enable landowners and farmers to take up options that make archaeological features on their land accessible, safe and interesting to visitors and passers-by.



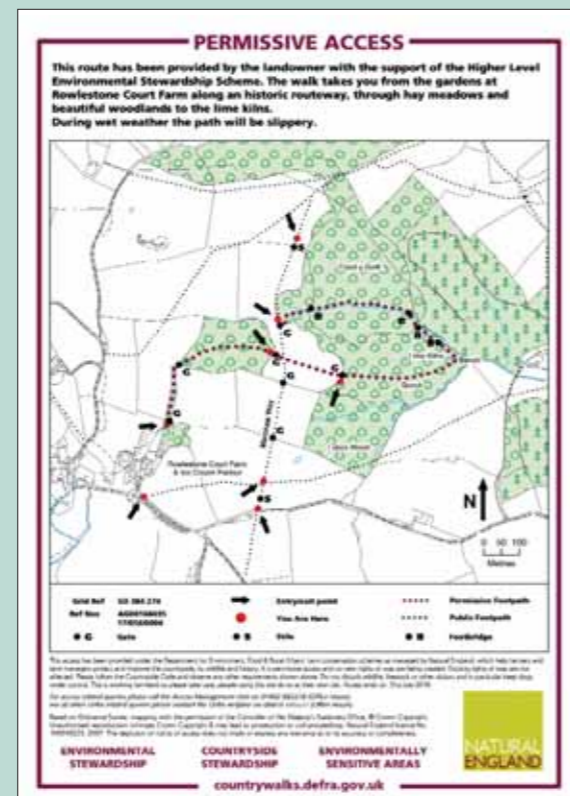
Rowlestone access. Maps provided by Natural England and supplied on site show walkers where they can access permissive routes and rejoin public rights of way

Rowlestone panels, designed and produced by Red Kite Environment

Such agreements include permissive routes, often linking bridleways and public footpaths, which provide open access through, around or over historic features. Capital works are also included. These provide for removal of damaging scrub and management of other threats, as assessed by English Heritage. This may involve a change in management of overlying or surrounding land, such as arable reversion. Subsequently, the feature may be safe and accessible, but still incomprehensible, and so Natural England funds exciting interpretation projects for earthworks and structures, from Norman motte and baileys to 20th-century mining sites. Even casual passers-by can thus understand the history and archaeology before them. These are a few typical projects that have been undertaken recently.

## Kilpeck Castle

Kilpeck Castle near Hereford has separate environmental stewardship schemes that cover the site of the castle itself and a surrounding medieval village. Natural England has opened up the castle tump and its inner earthworks for public access and is using sheep to limit scrub growth, ensuring there is no scarring of the feature and that the earthworks are managed in a sound and sustainable way. The site also boasts some impressive interpretation, with an aerial view of the earthworks and castle, a brief history of Kilpeck, and reconstructions of the site in late medieval times. Natural England is currently working with English Heritage and Herefordshire County Council to look at options for funding stabilisation of the remaining masonry works atop the castle motte.



## Rowlestone Court Farm

This rural dairy farm on the Herefordshire border attracts a great number of families with its ice cream parlour, campsite and adventure trail. In the heart of some beautiful woodland there is a limekiln with two tunnels and an interesting lip, unusual for limekilns of this area. It is assumed the lip was designed to stop water dripping into the tunnels during the firing process. Through an HLS agreement, Natural England has assisted in setting up permissive access through this site and the woodland, past the limekiln and other features which include a motte and bailey castle. Again, interpretation is aimed at engaging walkers of all ages, interesting them in the history of the site (not just the ice cream), and making them aware of the sensitive environmental management of the farm.

## Chillington Model Farm

Chillington Hall and its associated historic parkland contain the wonders of a typical Capability Brown designed landscape. One feature is a model farm near the main hall. The agreement holder for this environmental stewardship scheme has set up educational access onto the site, whereby groups of students and interested parties can tour the site and gain an understanding of its operation in the 18th century. There has also been restoration work (part-funded by Natural England) to make safe and stabilise the buildings in various ranges of the complex (see p46 for a full account). Natural England worked again to ensure visitors gain a good understanding of all the features of these historic buildings by providing detailed interpretation of the main aspects of the model farm and to the background of the parkland and hall in general.

A full list of countryside permissive routes can be found on the countryside walks register at <http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/>.

Imogen Sambrook Natural England  
Imogen.Sambrook@naturalengland.org.uk

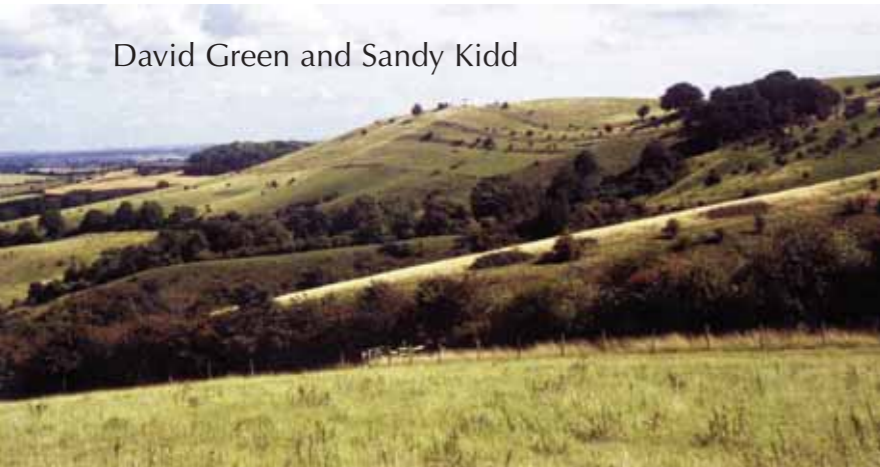


Rowlestone Limekiln Tunnels. These dual tunnels are built into the hillside and sit below the melting pot, which would have been layered with charcoal and limestone before heating

Chillington panel, designed and produced by SLR Consulting and Caroline Malim

# Historic Landscape Characterisation in the Chilterns

David Green and Sandy Kidd



Chalk downland on the Chiltern scarp at Hexton, Hertfordshire © Chiltern Conservation Board

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 833 km<sup>2</sup>, stretching across Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. AONB designation is given to Britain's finest countryside, landscapes of high quality for which the primary purpose is conservation of 'natural beauty', a term that includes flora, fauna, historical and cultural associations as well as scenic views. Individual designated historic sites, important though they are, cannot do justice to this concept. In order to better understand the contribution of historic landscape to the Chilterns, the Chilterns Conservation Board and English Heritage sponsored Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeological Service to undertake the Chilterns Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Chilterns HLC).

## METHODOLOGY

The first step was to produce a character map for the AONB, reconciling county HLCs for Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire and mapping the Oxfordshire Chilterns. As with other HLCs, the methodology is GIS based, using historic maps and aerial photographs to chart landscape change and continuity over a 200-year period. The GIS database records other attributes such as loss of field boundaries since the 19th century, place names and boundary shapes that provide clues to origins and forms of earlier landscapes.

This approach enables 'time depth' analysis, showing the contribution that three periods have made to shaping the countryside. The oldest landscapes (ancient woodland, historic settlements and old enclosed fields) pre-date the 18th century and cover 45% of the Chilterns. Landscapes of the 18th and 19th century, typically parliamentary enclosures and

designed landscapes, cover 23%. Landscapes of 20th-century settlements, prairie fields and pony paddocks make up the remaining 32%. The project also analysed the distribution of scheduled monuments and sites from historic environment records against the historic landscape data. Unsurprisingly, historic settlement and downland showed the strongest positive correlations. Secondary woodland also scored highly, a surprise until we realised that it often lies on formerly open common and downland. Commons, ancient woodland and parks and gardens also showed positive correlations.

An innovative dimension of the Chilterns HLC was a series of pilot deepening projects on important aspects of the local landscape. The topics chosen for these studies were: woodland, the built environment and roads and trackways. The latter topic is an often-overlooked aspect of the historic environment, even though many rural routes are hundreds or even thousands of years old.

## HERITAGE VALUES AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Chilterns HLC study experimented with English Heritage's *Conservation Principles* as a means of recognising what is more or less significant about the historic landscape. Whilst there are established criteria for assessing the significance of elements of the historic environment which are eligible for statutory designation, these are not applicable to the landscape scale of an AONB. Conservation principles provided an approach for assessing significance by looking at the different heritage values

- **evidential value** is the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. Typically it relates to archaeological evidence in the form of earthworks, buried remains and built structures. It includes landscape patterns and relationships, evidence for historic woodland management practices (coppices etc), the flora of hedgerows or environmental evidence for past landscapes preserved within wetlands
- **historical value** derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. This can be through illustrating aspects of history or prehistory or through association with famous people, events or movements. In the Chilterns historic values might be displayed through

illustration of historic woodland practices (eg saw pits), or the association of designed landscapes with famous owners or designers

- **aesthetic value** can reflect conscious design or the fortuitous outcome of the way a place has developed. Parks and gardens and polite architecture most obviously reflect design whilst the attractive combination of historic fields and woods or open vistas across downland owe more to fortuitous circumstance
- **communal value** derives from the meaning of a place to people and can relate to commemorative, symbolic, social or spiritual values. Villages, community or religious buildings will tend to display strong communal values, as too may landscapes with good public access such as downs or commons

The Chilterns Historic Environment Group assigned heritage values to historic landscape types. Members were asked to independently rate these on a simple three-point scale for each of the four values. Individual scores were averaged and moderated by the group to give an agreed outcome.

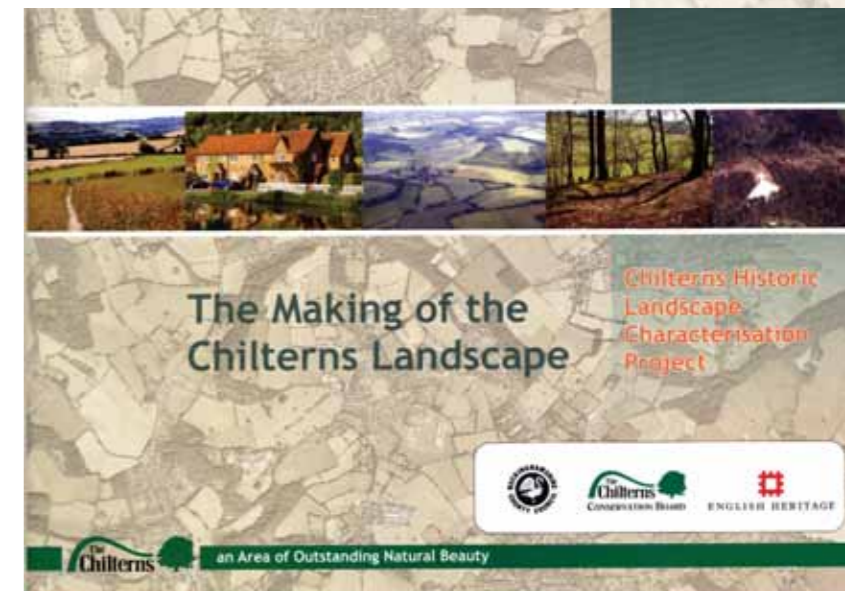
Consideration of the heritage values then allowed a 'statement of significance' to be drawn up, a high level statement of what the historic environment contributes to the Chilterns AONB and therefore what special characteristics are most worthy of conservation and enhancement.

Chilterns HLC will be an essential information source for the Chilterns AONB Management Plan as well as a resource to inform future land management, development plans and planning decisions. The HLC will help identify areas that could benefit most from landscape conservation or restoration initiatives and also be a useful resource for community based projects. Its first major test has already emerged with the announcement of plans for the new London to Birmingham High Speed Railway.

A published summary is available from the Chiltern Conservation Board, and the full technical report can be accessed from their website. For further details contact office@chilternsaonb.org or see www.chilternsaonb.org.

**David Green**  
Historic Characterisation Officer

**Sandy Kidd**  
County Archaeologist  
Buckinghamshire County Council



An illustrated report for the public

HLC Type	E	H	A	C	Significance
Downland	Red	Red	Red	Red	High
Parks and Gardens	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Settlement (Historic Cores)	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Ancient Woodland	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Wood Pasture	Red	Red	Red	Red	
Fossilised Strips	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Medium - High
Meadows	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Water Meadow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Watercress Beds	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Commons and Heaths	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Assarts	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Medium
Enclosure (Crofts)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Pre 18th Century Sinuous Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Riverine Landscape	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Coaxial Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Allotments	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low - Medium
19th Century Recreation	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Canals	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Orchards	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Government and Civic Offices	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Parliamentary Enclosure	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Parliamentary Enclosure Modified Boundaries	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Pre 18th Century Irregular Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Post Medieval Military	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Relict Open Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Replanted Ancient Woodland	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Secondary Woodland	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Hospitals, Schools and Universities	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
19th Century Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Pre 18th Century Regular Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
20th Century Recreational Areas	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Airfields (Civil)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Industrial	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Unimproved Land	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Recreation (Golf Courses)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Settlement (20th Century)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Water (Reservoirs)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
20th Century Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Coniferous Woodland	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Utilities	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
20th Century Prairie Fields	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Pony Paddocks	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Motorways	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Industrial (Mineral Extraction)	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Disused Mineral Extraction	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	
Nurserys and Glasshouses	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	Low
Caravan Parks	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	

E = Evidential H = Historical A = Aesthetic C = Communal

Matrix of heritage values © Chiltern Conservation Board, Buckinghamshire County Council and English Heritage



# An Eisteddfod and a Roman fort: contamination by tents

David Hopewell

*Twelve years' survey work in North Wales have revealed an extensive Roman military landscape but have also highlighted problems of magnetic contamination from temporary events on archaeologically sensitive areas.*

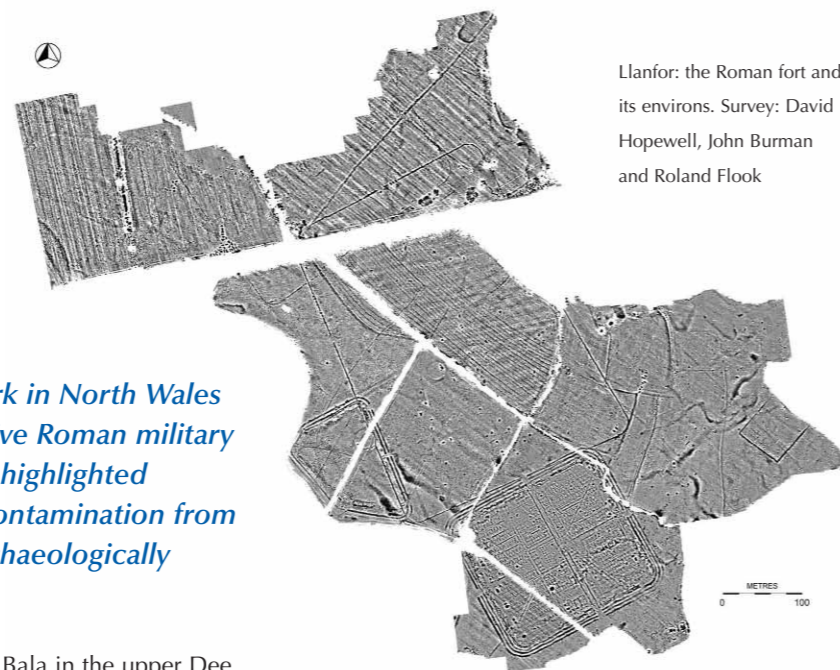
Beneath featureless fields near Bala in the upper Dee valley in North Wales lie a Roman fort and military complex, discovered by Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography as a parchmark in the dry summer of 1976. The site was subsequently scheduled. In 1997, when a National Eisteddfod was planned here, it was thought this would have little effect on archaeology because erection of tents and a pavilion would result in only a small amount of shallow ground disturbance. But Peter Crew, Snowdonia National Park Archaeologist, commissioned a magnetometer survey of the area which revealed a wide range of Roman features including a polygonal defended enclosure, temporary camps, *vici*, and one corner of a fort.

## ■ Remarkable detail

A comprehensive fluxgate gradiometer survey by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, partly under the auspices of the Cadw grant-aided pan-Wales Roman Fort Environs Project and partly during mitigation work for a second Eisteddfod in 2009, discovered an extensive Roman military landscape and included a high-resolution survey of the Roman fort. The results were remarkably detailed, showing all the buildings down to the level of post-holes. Forts of this type are rare and were often built over by later structures; this was the first time that a complete plan had been

recovered in such detail. This was achieved without disturbing the buried remains in any way.

However, these later surveys revealed an unexpected problem when areas surveyed before the 1997 Eisteddfod were re-surveyed in 2009. Many



Llanfor: the Roman fort and its environs. Survey: David Hopewell, John Burman and Roland Flook

thousands of ferrous objects had been deposited in the topsoil, the resulting scatters of strong magnetic responses masking weaker archaeological anomalies. It had been expected that some litter would find its way into the topsoil but the extent of magnetic contamination was unexpected. Cadw was understandably concerned, and a grant-aided project was set up to find out more about the problem and provide mitigation. It was realised that the 2009 event would add more contamination so all significant areas of archaeology were resurveyed at high resolution before its potential was further reduced, and when two test areas were re-surveyed after the Eisteddfod it was demonstrated that this had definitely occurred.

## ■ Thousands of screws

The nature of the magnetic material was investigated by using the magnetometer as a ferrous metal detector and by analysis of soil samples. The problem was found to be two-fold. Larger but less frequent magnetic anomalies were produced by debris left in the topsoil, from general litter such as cans and ring pulls to scaffolding clamps, electrical earth stakes, discarded tools and pegs, but the majority seemed to be derived from dismantling the site, as opposed to litter from the Eisteddfod itself. These frequent but scattered objects did not seem to correspond to the dense scatters of magnetic dipoles on the surveys. Analysis of soil samples revealed thousands of wood screws both in the turf line and in the plough-soil, where wooden stages and floors had been dismantled. They had presumably been removed using powered screw-drivers and left where they had fallen.

The work at Llanfor highlights an often overlooked management issue of archaeologically-sensitive rural

areas. Geophysical survey, being unintrusive and relatively cheap, is routinely used to determine the extent and nature of sites. Temporary events and other activities (including archaeological excavation) may compromise our ability to retrieve information in this way. Management recommendations usually specify that ground disturbance should be minimised and monitored but do not consider the possible impact on remote sensing.

Mitigation can be straightforward. In the case of temporary events

- good quality survey should be carried out before activity commences
- contractors need to be aware of the problems and make sure that ferrous objects are not discarded during construction and dismantling
- a comprehensive clean-up operation is essential

It is clearly possible to utilise archaeological sensitive areas for many activities without affecting buried remains or the potential to retrieve information about them. But management of archaeological sites has traditionally concentrated on problems of ground disturbance – increased awareness of the negative effects of magnetic contamination on modern remote sensing is clearly overdue.

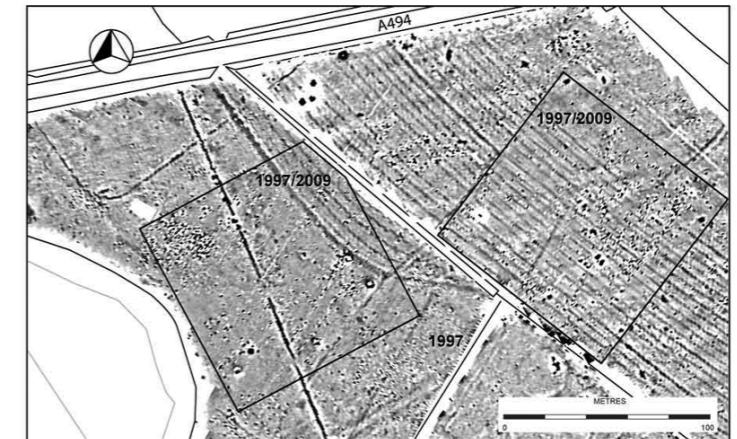
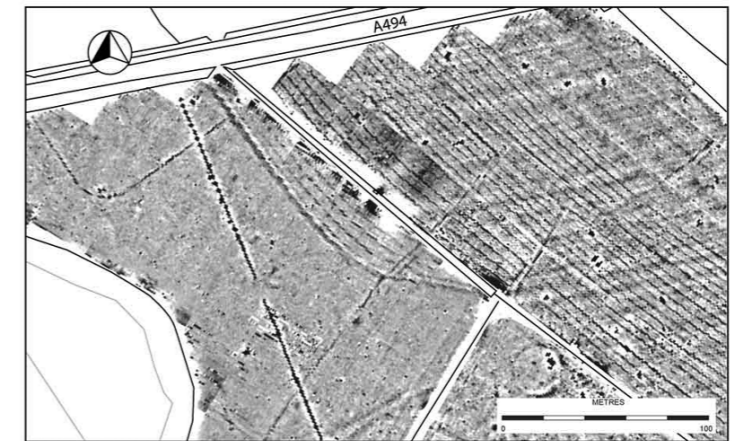
**David Hopewell** Senior Archaeologist  
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust  
Craig Beuno, Garth Road  
Bangor LL57 2RT  
dhopewell@heneb.co.uk

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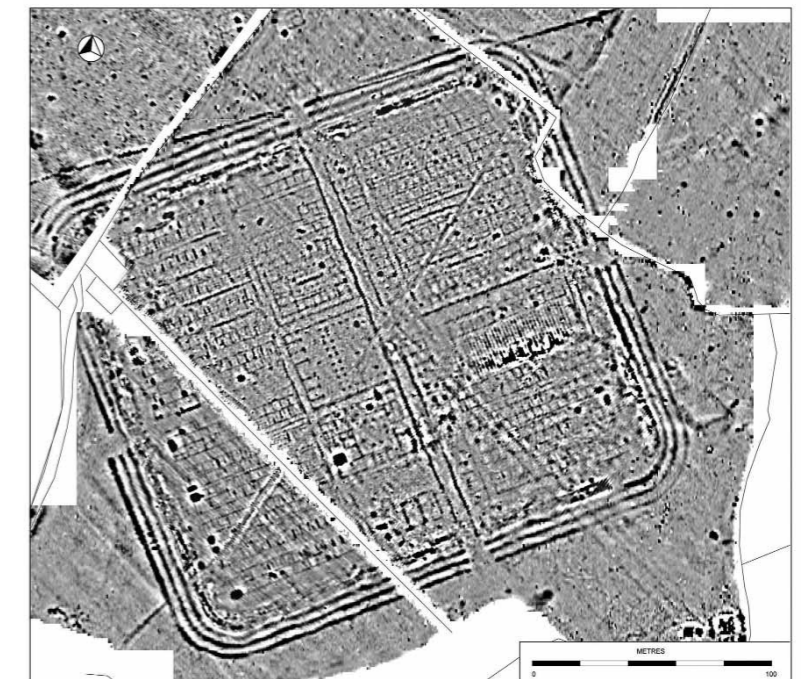


Crowds at the 2009 National Eisteddfod of Wales. Photograph: David Longley



1997 and 2009. Top: Llanfor fluxgate gradiometer survey: Part of the site before the 1997 Eisteddfod. Survey: Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and Engineering Archaeological Services

Bottom: Llanfor fluxgate gradiometer survey showing magnetic contamination after 1997 and sample areas after 2009. Survey: David Hopewell and Roland Flook



High resolution survey of the Roman fort. Survey: David Hopewell and John Burman

Fluxgate gradiometer survey at Llanfor Roman site. Photograph: Roland Flook





# Archaeology and conservation on a post-medieval estate: Chillington, Staffordshire

Paul Belford and Kate Page-Smith



The dovecote at Chillington after conservation in 2010. Photograph: Horsley Huber Architects

With over 800 years of practice, the Chillington estate is already adept at managing the rural historic environment. Recent work has included new visitor amenities and conservation of an impressive early 18th-century farm complex. Nexus Heritage was appointed to work on this multi-disciplinary project in 2010 by Horsley Huber Architects on behalf of the landowner, John Giffard. The work is funded by Natural England under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, and will continue into 2011. It was important to bring together a range of archaeological approaches and also strategies for future management and interpretation.

## Landscaping and rebuilding

Owned by the Giffard family since the 12th century, Chillington estate was emparked in 1511. Within a few years the Norman hall had been replaced by a quadrangular Tudor mansion, 'remarkable for the various forms of its windows and chimneys'. A decorated floor tile from this phase was found during excavation of service trenches. The house was modernised from 1724, with a new wing probably designed by Francis Smith of Warwick; these additions included a brewhouse, dairy and an elaborate octagonal dovecote housing over a



Informed conservation in action. Photograph: Nexus Heritage

thousand doves which provided meat, eggs, feathers and guano (possibly for gunpowder). The landscape changed too, as the village was moved to accommodate a new approach to the hall, with a long avenue. Groundworks for recent constructions encountered redeposited kitchen waste associated with the 1720s' landscaping, along with early 18th-century clay pipe fragments apparently hidden under a slab – was covert smoking hastily concealed from the client during building works? From the 1770s the park was remodelled by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and James Paine, in the process creating the largest serpentine lake in Brown's oeuvre. A watching brief on drainage trenches in the park revealed some of Brown's landscaping techniques, importing and mixing of different sands and clays to create or enhance earthwork features.

The house was rebuilt in the 1780s under Sir John Soane, who removed all Tudor fabric but retained 1720s' additions. Demolition rubble associated with this phase included a large deposit of 18th-century wine bottles of nine different types, predominantly from the 1770s and 1780s, with an average date of 1779. Were these bottles left after celebrating a project milestone? At the same time the farm complex was extended, using styles which complemented the Hall. Around the dovecote were arranged stables, tack rooms, a smithy, hay barns, machinery and livestock sheds and a malt house (still largely intact). Later additions included a 19th-century Dutch barn and a



Details of graffiti in the West Range. (a) an early 'horseless carriage' (b) an aircraft bombing a house (c) a typical palimpsest of potato-related graffiti, in this case showing some of the varieties planted between 1906 and 1916. Photographs: Nexus Heritage

steam pumping station. The buildings were continually altered to accommodate changing farming practices, and provide evidence for agricultural history on the estate.

## Graffiti

We were also able to record important detail relating to functional and social uses of the buildings. One example was extensive graffiti in a hay barn. With dated inscriptions ranging from 1858 to 1959, the



Some of the 24 wine bottle necks recovered from late 18th-century landscaping layers

graffiti record potato harvests and other cropping regimes. Personal graffiti include a 'horseless carriage' and a bombing raid.

Work at Chillington is ongoing. Management by Horsley Huber Architects has encouraged close communication and good feedback between all professionals, contractors and estate staff. Historic building recording has accompanied the conservation programme, and continues to inform approaches to repair and interpretation. Our archaeological approach has complemented that of other professionals, and we have contributed to understanding the estate's past management of the rural landscape to help it deal with changes in the future. The next 800 years are sure to be just as interesting.

Paul Belford Nexus Heritage  
Kate Page-Smith Nexus Heritage

Modifications and adaptations: the South Range, showing two phases of blocked archways, and later inserted doorways. Photograph: Nexus Heritage



# Rural conservation areas

Sandy Kidd

Conservation areas have been with us since 1967 and today form part of the fabric of heritage protection, with over ten thousand designations across England, Scotland and Wales. They are 'areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. Uniquely for a statutory heritage designation, the local planning authority normally bestows conservation area status. Legal effects are relatively modest, providing control only over complete demolition of buildings, works to trees and a duty to pay 'special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance' of the area in planning matters. Further controls can be secured by revoking selected 'permitted development rights' (often unpopular and perceived as administratively burdensome). One great value of conservation areas is the opportunity to engage local communities with their heritage.

## Archaeological contributions

Until recently designations have suffered from compartmentalisation of archaeological and built conservation professions, and as a result many conservation areas are focused on clusters of historic buildings. Recognition that archaeological sites and historical open spaces can also contribute has been patchy, and the potential contribution of archaeologists has not always been appreciated. The present emphasis on a holistic approach to the historic environment should encourage a new look (see *Conservation Bulletin* 62, 2009). Experience in



Crafton medieval earthworks from the air. © Michael Farley

the Aylesbury Vale District of Buckinghamshire has shown that, by working with forward-looking conservation and planning teams, archaeological evidence and perspective have much to offer. I should be clear that I am using the term 'archaeology' not in the narrow technical definition used in PPS5 but in a broad sense, including the study of landscape and settlement patterns.

The following examples illustrate how consideration of archaeology and historic landscapes has influenced the definition, description and management of conservation areas in Buckinghamshire.

## Bierton

In 1991 five small conservation areas were designated in this linear village on the outskirts of Aylesbury, picking up pockets of historic buildings. A new description prepared in 2006 included settlement pattern analysis and archaeological evidence, which improved our understanding of the settlement's development. Most significantly, historic landscape characterisation identified locally rare and well preserved 'fossilised strips' (long narrow hedged fields) that related to historic properties and tied together formerly disparate pockets. A ghastly discovery was that 18th-century travellers avoiding the rotting corpse of a convicted murderer hung on a

gibbet created a short-cut path which still runs through these fields.

## Buckingham

Desk-based assessment and evaluation of one urban redevelopment site clarified the distinct historic character of different parts of the site. Dating of property boundaries distinguished the medieval town with its burgage plots, and also a Victorian garden with listed summerhouse. Suggestions were made as to how development proposals could respect these historic characteristics.

## Crafton

Described as 'a sleepy rural hamlet', Crafton was designated a conservation area in 2002. This designation is unusual in containing only a single listed building, its character and extent being largely defined by earthworks of a shrunken settlement, the result of a radical re-organisation following purchase by Lord Rothschild in the 1840s and his creation of a stud farm. House platforms, enclosure banks and ridge and furrow patterns can be related to surviving hedgerow patterns and together define the appearance of the area. At appeal, plans for residential conversion of a field barn were rejected because of harm that this would have caused, including damage to ridge and furrow earthworks.

## Hulcott

The conservation area, designated in 1989 and reviewed in 2010, is in a small quiet village set around a green, with a scheduled moat sitting next to the medieval church. Although the HER also contained a fishpond and mill in nearby fields the full significance of these features only became apparent from the research of a local amateur archaeologist. Her study showed how the moat, fishpond, mill and meadow formed a coherent and attractive group of water management features. An added bonus was that the seasonally flooded meadows provide a valuable habitat for water birds. With this evidence, the district council endorsed a major extension into open countryside, tripling the conservation area. An application was made to put the meadow into Environmental Stewardship, which we strongly supported.

Conservation areas are therefore a valuable vehicle for improving awareness and management of the historic environment in a holistic way. As archaeologists we should broaden our perspective, using skills in understanding the deep history of places to engage with conservation areas and their management. This engagement should extend to using desk-based assessments and evaluations to inform the planning process. Provided with evidence-



A barn in Crafton, surrounded by ridge and furrow © Chris Welch, English Heritage

based interpretations developers and local authorities will be better able to understand what to preserve or enhance.

Ideally, conservation area legislation should explicitly refer to archaeology, but there is much good that can be achieved within the existing framework: the more we demonstrate the value of an integrated approach the more we will win hearts and minds and eventually achieve legislative change.

## Sandy Kidd

County Archaeologist  
Buckinghamshire County Council

Hewitson N 2007: *Conservation Areas: the Law* A paper based on a presentation given to the Civic Trust for Wales/IHBC Conference *Conservation Areas in Crisis?* [http://www.civictrustwales.org/conf\\_june07/presents/hewitson\\_caic0707.pdf](http://www.civictrustwales.org/conf_june07/presents/hewitson_caic0707.pdf)

Conservation Area Assessments for Bierton (2008), Crafton (2005) and Hulcott (2010). Aylesbury Vale District Council

Alterations to the conservation area boundaries in Bierton: © Aylesbury Vale District Council



Hulcott, showing the layout of a moat and fishponds during the medieval period. © Aylesbury Vale District Council





Dutch archaeology still seems quite stable. A sluice gate of a watermill at Schellinkhout, West Friesland, The Netherlands. Photograph: ARCADIS Nederland BV

In September 2009 a session at the European Association of Archaeologists' (EAA) conference in Riva del Garda heard papers on the effects of the global economic crisis on archaeology. Some say that this was an unrelenting litany of misery, but it was in fact an illuminating exploration of ways that our sector was responding. Many of the papers, plus additional material from invited contributors, have now been published (see below). The session deliberately did not just look at the impact upon jobs in archaeology, although this theme was picked up by several speakers (not least this writer), but contributors were also asked to discuss impacts on research funding, policies and legislation relating to archaeology, and on public outreach activities.

## today and tomorrow

Kenneth Aitchison

### Sharp drop

As reported in TA 72 (K Aitchison, p20), there was a sharp drop in people working in commercial archaeology in the UK in autumn 2008. Since then, numbers have roughly stabilised (October 2010), with the situation remaining volatile – the start or end of one big infrastructure project will have an immediate knock-on effect. In 2009, the second wave of job losses, those outside the commercial sector, hadn't yet begun, but these are now happening. One paper looks ahead to the forthcoming impact of the crisis upon academic archaeology in the UK, but we now know that the crisis will also seriously affect local and national government's work in the historic environment.

### Varying fortunes

In Ireland, there was a huge reduction in archaeologists – 80% – as the credit crunch stopped speculative building work just when NRA's road-building programme came to an end. Unlike in the UK (so far), several substantial companies had to cease trading. However, coincident political changes have had further significant effects on archaeological practice in countries such as Hungary and Poland, where a shortage of companies able to carry out archaeological projects is becoming critical. The volume also includes the first comprehensive account in English of commercial archaeological practice's short history in Russia.

### Exceptions?

The Netherlands appeared, and continues to appear, to be the one country where a commercialised, client-focused system is being impacted relatively little by the situation, and it was in that country where EAA met again in Den Haag in September 2010. Speakers in several sessions discussed where archaeology in different countries is now. France's semi-state INRAP system is facing increasing competition within the delivery of applied archaeology, and while Dutch archaeology continues to be relatively unperturbed, it is noticeable that across the border in Belgium, Dutch companies are no longer working in Flanders as they had before.

The editors of the volume are planning to repeat the exercise in 2011, to see how economic forces have continued to affect archaeology and to take the opportunity, after the shock of the first years of crisis, to explore and present positive options for change.

### Highpoint

We are also planning to survey the full range of archaeology in as many countries as possible by repeating the *Discovering the archaeologists of Europe* project. Previously, that project collected data on archaeological employment in twelve countries at a time when British and Irish archaeology were in their pomp – but that became a snapshot taken at the highpoint, just as the news came that Northern Rock was collapsing. The July 2007 house price peak came in the very week that UK data were collected. As there had not yet been any effect on archaeological practice, the majority of respondents in ten participating countries were anticipating growth (exceptions were Germany and Austria). *Discovering the archaeologists of Europe 2*, collecting data in 2012-13, will probably not have exactly the same partners, and we hope to bring in others – such as Spain, Poland and possibly France. It will be looking at the world from a different perspective and asking some new questions. The focus on unending growth has gone and we need to think more carefully about archaeology's value to society, not just in terms of employment.

### No common approach

We have shown too that there is no common approach to European archaeology as a practice. Every country has its own systems, and some (in particular Spain and Germany) have complex regional legislatures that mean there are multiple structures within one state, offering varying degrees of protection for the archaeological resource and varying levels of opportunity for archaeological practitioners. No one system has proved invulnerable to macroeconomic forces; while some argue that the commercialised delivery in the UK and Ireland contributed to the impact of the crisis upon archaeology, that only appears to be the case because those systems created so many opportunities and jobs in the first place. Sometimes the market gives, and sometimes the market takes away.

But there is plenty of scope for high-quality, professional archaeology to be undertaken across Europe, as the concepts that archaeological remains are an environmental resource and that the polluter must be held financially accountable for their actions are embedded across the continent. It is on this basis that whenever and wherever there is development, there will be potential for work that employs

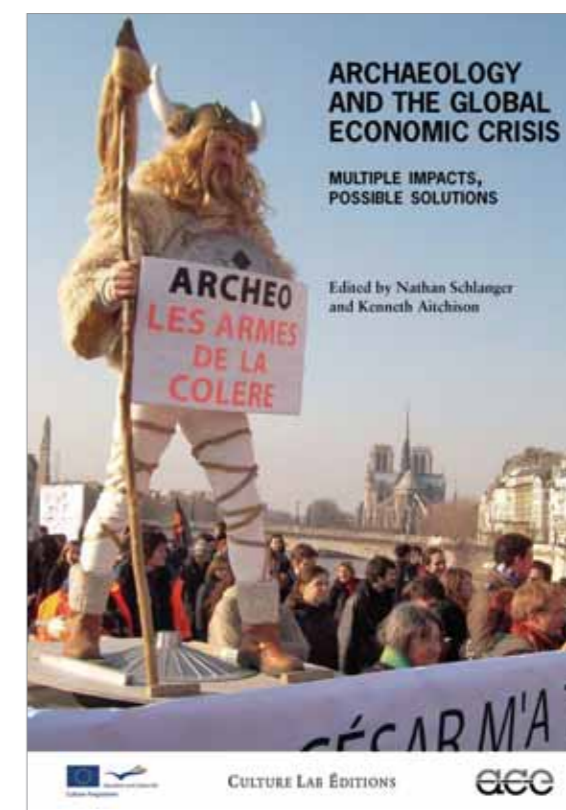
archaeologists and produces knowledge that will benefit society.

### Kenneth Aitchison

Executive Director of Landward Research Ltd  
Chair of the EAA Committee on Professional Associations in Archaeology  
kenneth.aitchison@landward.eu

Nathan Schlanger and Kenneth Aitchison (Eds) 2010:  
*Archaeology and the Global Economic Crisis: multiple impacts, possible solutions*

For free download, see <http://ace-archaeology.eu/fichiers/25Archaeology-and-the-crisis.pdf>.



In August 2010 English Heritage published draft guidance on *The setting of heritage assets*, and IfA submitted a response. This article takes stock of progress towards a comprehensive and accepted approach to the setting of heritage assets. My personal enlightenment began in 2002 when a client asked if I 'did setting'. Clearly there was little theoretical framework and no practical methodology, despite the concept being well established in legislation. Faced with this vacuum we did what everyone else did and made things up, guided by useful concepts from landscape and visual impact assessment and Simon Collcutt's 1999 paper in the *Journal of Planning Law*. Good progress has been made since then.

The key step has been acceptance that there is a problem. In 2002 I was assured by staff at a national heritage agency that there was no need for additional formal guidance. Now we accept that terms need to be defined, concepts agreed, criteria established and best-practice methodologies promoted, especially after the *Planarch* report on the treatment of cultural heritage in EIAs in 2005 exposed our failure to address setting in impact assessment, and as contradictory and unpredictable decisions from public inquiries on wind farms highlighted confusion over basic concepts.

One outcome from a session on setting at the 2007 IfA Conference in Reading was an informal Setting Working Group, which in 2008 issued a review document and a call for action. This recognised the need for top-down (policy and formal guidance) and bottom-up (technical guidance on best practice) routes. There has now been real progress on the top-down route. In Scotland the historic environment policy framework has been entirely overhauled and draft guidance was issued by Historic Scotland for consultation in 2009. In England we have updated policy on setting in PPS5 and its Practice Guide, and draft guidance from English Heritage. We have enough to see where the top-down route is heading. We are in the world of the 'heritage asset' and all assets can have a setting, and also in the world of *Conservation principles*. Impact on setting will be

measured by the extent to which change enhances or degrades the value of the asset.

Now we must make progress on the 'bottom-up' route, to resolve detail around assessment criteria and methodologies. Setting needs to become a normal part of our workload, with working practices that allow us to deal with it in a consistent and routine manner. I hope that IfA will take the lead but we need techniques that work for the historic environment as a whole, so organisations such as IHBC and the Garden History Society must be involved. We also need a UK-wide solution that recognises the legislation, policy and guidance of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Any volunteers?

#### Stephen Carter

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd  
Edinburgh EH6 5HE

*The setting of heritage assets: English Heritage guidance. Consultation Draft*  
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/heritage-assets-draft/>

Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2002) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (second edition)

Collcutt S 1999: 'The Setting of Cultural Heritage Features', *Journal of Planning Law* (June 1999), 498-513

Lambrick G & Hind J 2005: *Review of coverage of cultural heritage in Environmental Impact Assessments*. Oxford Archaeology report to Kent County Council for Planarch 2

Lambrick G 2008: *Setting Standards: A Review*. Report by IfA Working Group on the Setting of Cultural Heritage Features

'*Setting Standards*' Call for Action. Report by IfA Working Group on the Setting of Cultural Heritage Features

*Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) July 2009* <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-july-2009.pdf>

*Managing Change in the Historic Environment 2009* <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/managing-change-consultation-setting.pdf>

Setting needs to become a normal part of our workload, with working practices that allow us to deal with it in a consistent and routine manner.

## WALES/CYMRU

IfA Wales/Cymru held a conference on *Renewing the Research Framework for the archaeology of Wales* in Bangor on 16 and 17 September, with introductory plenary sessions for each theme followed by parallel workshops. Sessions and the debates they sparked can be continued by registering for the discussion forum on the Research Framework website at <http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html>. All those with an interest in the archaeology of Wales, or the development of research frameworks, are encouraged to visit the site and contribute to the debate.

## IFA FINDS GROUP

Stephen Brunning, editor of the next IfA Finds Group Newsletter, is looking for new material. If anyone has conference reports, site summaries, book reviews, papers or any other relevant articles they wish to be included, please send them, preferably by email to [stephen\\_0902@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stephen_0902@yahoo.co.uk) or by post 1 Reddings Close, Mill Hill, London NW7 4JL. Copy is needed by 31 November 2010. It is hoped to have the newsletter sent to members in January 2011.

## VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY IFA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Following an outline proposal, it is proposed to press ahead with formation of this new IfA Special Interest Group. Initial purposes are

- to provide a recognised voice within IfA
- to promote adoption and implementation of IfA Standards by voluntary and community archaeologists (and the organisations to which they belong)
- to advise Council and its Committees
- to provide guidance and assistance to ensure that voluntary and community archaeologists have the competence to carry out archaeological research to the highest standards
- to promote discussion

The SIG will be open to all, not just IfA members, but the proposal to IfA Council needs to be supported by fifteen IfA members. If you support the establishment of this SIG please email Suzie Thomas at CBA ([suziethomas@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:suziethomas@britarch.ac.uk)), indicating your support and noting whether you are an IfA member.

We hope to hold the inaugural meeting at the IfA conference in Reading (13-15 April 2011).

## SCOTTISH GROUP

At SGIfA's AGM at Edinburgh University on the 15 October the outgoing Chair Ellen McAdam presented the Groups new 5 Year Plan, highlighting its commitment to training and professional support to IfA members in Scotland. She called for development in administrative support for the Group and for lobbying IfA's Reading office for a permanent member of staff for Scottish Affairs. Short talks around the theme of *Creating Opportunity* began with Taryn Nixon (Museum of London Archaeology) outlining the goals of the Southport Group in response to PPS5. Kirsty Owen (Historic Scotland) talked about grant-aided research generated through Historic Scotland's Properties in Care Division. Robin Turner (RCAHMS) shared his thoughts on sustaining the archaeological profession in Scotland through partnerships, and Simon Gilmour (Built Environment Forum Scotland) discussed the potential impact of the Historic Environment (Amendment) Scotland Bill.

The next Scottish Group short course will be an introduction to archaeological survey techniques, on 2 December 2010 in Edinburgh. For more information and booking please download a form from IfA's website, and return it with cheque/purchase order for £60 to IfA Reading office.

Daniel Rhodes was co-opted as Chair for the year ahead.

*Details of the Scottish Group and minutes from the AGM can be found on the IfA website.*

## New members

### ELECTED

#### Member (MIFA)

Lorrain Higbee  
Guy Kendall  
Mark Kinsey  
Daniel Ratcliffe  
Isobel Thompson

#### Associate (AIFA)

Fay Pegg  
Charlotte James  
Iain McIntyre  
Louise Robinson  
Colin Shepherd

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Steven Boscott  
Tom Dommett  
Patrick Dresch  
Hayley Goacher  
Moises Hernandez  
Hayley McParland  
Jacob Warrender

#### Affiliate

Katie Asselin  
Darren Baker  
Robert Brown  
John Clayton  
John Downham  
Helen Gilbert  
Judith Haigh  
Steven Lake  
Nathalie Marini  
Richard Milwain  
Laura Parkin  
Andrew Souter  
Ashleigh Vellet

#### Student

Tiffany Brownell  
Laura Cogley  
David Dearlove  
Joanne Gould  
Edward James  
Elaine LaCoss  
Charles Leigh-Smith  
Gail Mackintosh  
Robert McIntosh  
Alexis Nolan-Webster  
Liam Powell  
William Pyne  
Helen Vowles  
David Walsh

### TRANSFERS

#### Member (MIFA)

Oliver Gardner  
Mark Hewson  
Stephanie Knight  
Gordon Malcolm  
Robert McNaught

#### Associate (AIFA)

Fiona Fleming  
Peter Leeming

#### Practitioner (PIFA)

Phredd Groves  
Hayley Roberts

#### Affiliate

Alistair Byford-Bates

#### Hon Member

Jack Stevenson

### NVQ COMPLETERS

The following candidates have all been awarded the NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in Archaeological Practice Level 3 since January 2009.

Andy Coutts PIfA  
Donald Reid AfA  
Julie Lochrie AfA  
Lindsey Buster PIfA  
Steven Milne PIfA  
Paul Bowen PIfA  
Sarah Botfield  
Johanna Roethe  
Shona Williams  
Victoria Lambert AfA  
Ben Jervis PIfA  
Mary Harvey  
Lara Bishop  
Hannah Waugh  
Richard Watts Affil

#### Carrie Hearn MifA 1009

Apologies to Carrie Hearn. A long-standing MifA, she recently transferred to Affiliate grade. Thanks to confusions in our database she entered the New Members page (TA 77) as a new member with Affiliate status, her 15 years' membership ignored. We are of course very pleased that she is staying with us despite her new role.

#### Michelle Statton

Apologies too to Michelle Statton, whose name was printed incorrectly as Stratton in TA 77 (p35).

## Members news

### Jack Stevenson MifA 182, Hon MifA

Jack Stevenson, who retired this summer from RCAHMS, became our latest Hon MifA at October's AGM. Jack joined RCAHMS in 1974 as a field investigator, then headed up the National Archaeological Survey and the Afforestation Land Survey before becoming Head of Archaeology and, most recently, Head of Survey and Recording, a role which encompasses all RCAHMS work on survey and recording of the historic and built environment. He has contributed to many RCAHMS volumes, written articles on prehistoric archaeology and field survey and produced *Glasgow, Clydeside and Stirling* in the Exploring Scotland's Heritage series. He has been Treasurer and Vice President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and is now President of Archaeology Scotland.

He has been a strong supporter of IfA since 1984, was on the first committee of the Scottish Group, and served as IfA Hon Treasurer 2001–2006.

Jack Stevenson



### Paul Belford MifA 5339

Paul Belford joined the team at Nexus Heritage in September, after more than ten years as Head of Archaeology at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. In his time at Ironbridge, Paul directed various projects in the World Heritage Site and further afield (on occasion going to Bermuda in pursuit of industrial archaeology), in the process discovering the oldest English steel furnaces as well as working on many significant post-medieval sites around the UK.



Paul Belford

### Robin Turner MifA 67

After over 17 years with the National Trust for Scotland, Robin Turner has taken up a new role as Jack Stevenson's replacement in RCAHMS (Head of Survey and Recording). Robin joined NTS in 1993 as their first full-time archaeologist, and set up a programme of survey and recording on Trust properties. Archaeology is now a key subject in the Trust's Conservation Services division (p24) and has greatly added to the understanding of many of Scotland's most interesting places. Among his many achievements were setting up successful partnership projects such as the Ben Lawers Historic Landscape Project, Scotland's Rural Past, and the nomination of St Kilda as a dual World Heritage Site, on the basis of both its natural and cultural heritage.



Robin Turner

### Kenneth Aitchison MifA 1398

In October Kenneth Aitchison left IfA, where he had been Head of Projects and Professional Development since 2001, and became Executive Director of Landward Research Ltd. This company is committed to influencing change that will improve the quality of opportunities and the experience of working in the heritage, cultural and environmental sectors. It undertakes research on ways that individuals and employers can become more skilled, knowledgeable and capable, concentrating on the gathering, analysing and dissemination of labour market intelligence. Kenny is also completing a PhD at the University of Edinburgh in contemporary archaeological practice and employment in archaeology. His new email address is [kenneth.aitchison@landward.eu](mailto:kenneth.aitchison@landward.eu), with the website [www.landward.eu](http://www.landward.eu).

Kenneth Aitchison



# S Obituaries

**Jon Hiller BA MifA 2213**  
1964 - 2010

Jon Hiller developed an interest in archaeology through his father's RAF postings to Malta and Naples. He graduated in Economic and Social History from Leicester University in 1985, and joined Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1987. Jon ran Oxford Archaeology's small works department for several years, and looked after important contracts with Historic Royal Palaces and the Royal Household. He was a principal author of major publications, including the English Heritage monograph on

Camber Castle (2001) and OA monographs on Alchester (1991), Witney Mount House (2002) and Abingdon Spring Road Cemetery (2008). Many other books, articles and reports bear his name, but as a skilled 'finisher' (a rare skill in archaeology) he worked on hundreds more, patiently shaping and



Jon Hiller

correcting even the most unpromising efforts until they made sense. Always generous with his knowledge, Jon excelled at training and encouraging others, whether in the field or in post-excavation. He could also be wickedly funny, once rewriting OA's excavations at Abingdon as 'Apocalypse Then': 'I love the smell of loam in the morning, it smells of victory.'

Jon's first wife, Alyson, died in 2004, and he was later remarried to Sharon, who survives him. Jon was a gardener, a guitar player and music lover, a Manchester City fan and a cricketer – he was a founder member in the early '90s of the OAU cricket team which still plays other archaeological teams. On 8 August 2010, after a tied match against Cotswold Archaeology, the Jon Hiller Champagne Moment was inaugurated. Cricket aside, my abiding memory of Jon is from *Time Team's* Big Royal Dig at Buckingham Palace in 2006. Amongst the hubbub, Jon sat on a bucket by a trench, quietly and thoroughly getting on with the most important thing – recording the archaeology. He left only friends at OA, and we will miss him.

*Dave Wilkinson*  
Oxford Archaeology

**Paul Williams Pifa 1788**  
1958 – 2010

Paul Williams worked in the automotive industry when he left school, moving to Ironbridge in the late 1980s to restore classic cars. Here he developed an interest in archaeology, attended an evening course run by Shropshire Archaeologist Mike Watson and was offered a 'training for work' placement with Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service. Finding a natural aptitude, Paul started an Archaeology BSc at Bradford University in 1995.

After graduation, Paul worked for Marches Archaeology in Clun, Shropshire, before moving to Worcestershire in 2000 to work for the County Council's Historic Environment and Archaeology Service (WHEAS). Paul was a popular addition to the team and supervised large excavations such as the Wyre Piddle bypass, in addition to watching briefs and field evaluations. He became enthusiastic about historic buildings, attending a building conservation course at Avoncroft Museum. In 2002, Paul

established Mercian Archaeology and Historic Buildings and built up a growing list of clients, who warmed to his enthusiasm, knowledge and modesty. He also continued local society projects, working with Worcestershire Archaeological Society on excavations at Hewell Grange in Tardebigge and on building surveys for the Dodderhill Parish Survey Group.

Those who knew Paul will sorely miss him, and our thoughts go out to his wife Della and his family.

*James Goad, with contributions from Mike Watson, Stephen Price, Chris Patrick and Derek Hurst*

Paul Williams

