

The National Monuments Record

News and events



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
RECORD

The NMR is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes over 7 million archive items (photographs, drawings, reports and digital data) relating to England's historic environment. The following information gives details of web resources, new collections (catalogues are available in the NMR search room in Swindon) and outreach programmes.

NMR Maritime Record

Since 1990, the NMR has been creating, developing and enhancing a record of England's marine cultural heritage, which now forms part of the NMR's national record.

While initially concentrating on shipwrecks, the scope of the record encompasses all sites of archaeological, historical and architectural interest, including crashed aircraft, fishermen's fastenings and isolated finds, as well as the interpretation of drowned landscapes. Currently, there are over 45,000 sites on the database, which is being continually enlarged and enhanced in line with English Heritage's responsibilities under the National Heritage Act 2002. These records are held on a fully searchable in-house database. They include 39 wreck sites currently protected under the 1973 Protection of Wrecks Act, and a number of wrecks and crashed military aircraft protected under the 1986 Military Remains Act.

The maritime inventory is distinctive in that it is fully integrated with information about the archaeological and architectural heritage within the NMR. The record is a highly regarded source of maritime cultural information that forms an essential element in the planning, management and interpretation of the marine cultural resource for coastal and off-shore developments.

The NMR, therefore, provides access to maritime cultural data out to the 12-mile limit – England's Territorial Sea – up to 1945. However, sites of significance are recorded outside these parameters to help English Heritage carry out its new role, and a seamless

approach is advocated out to the continental shelf. To consult this record, please contact NMR Enquiry & Research Services, National Monuments Record Centre, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2GZ; Tel 01793 414600; Fax 01793 414606; email nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk.

Photographs of Stonehenge: MPBW Albums

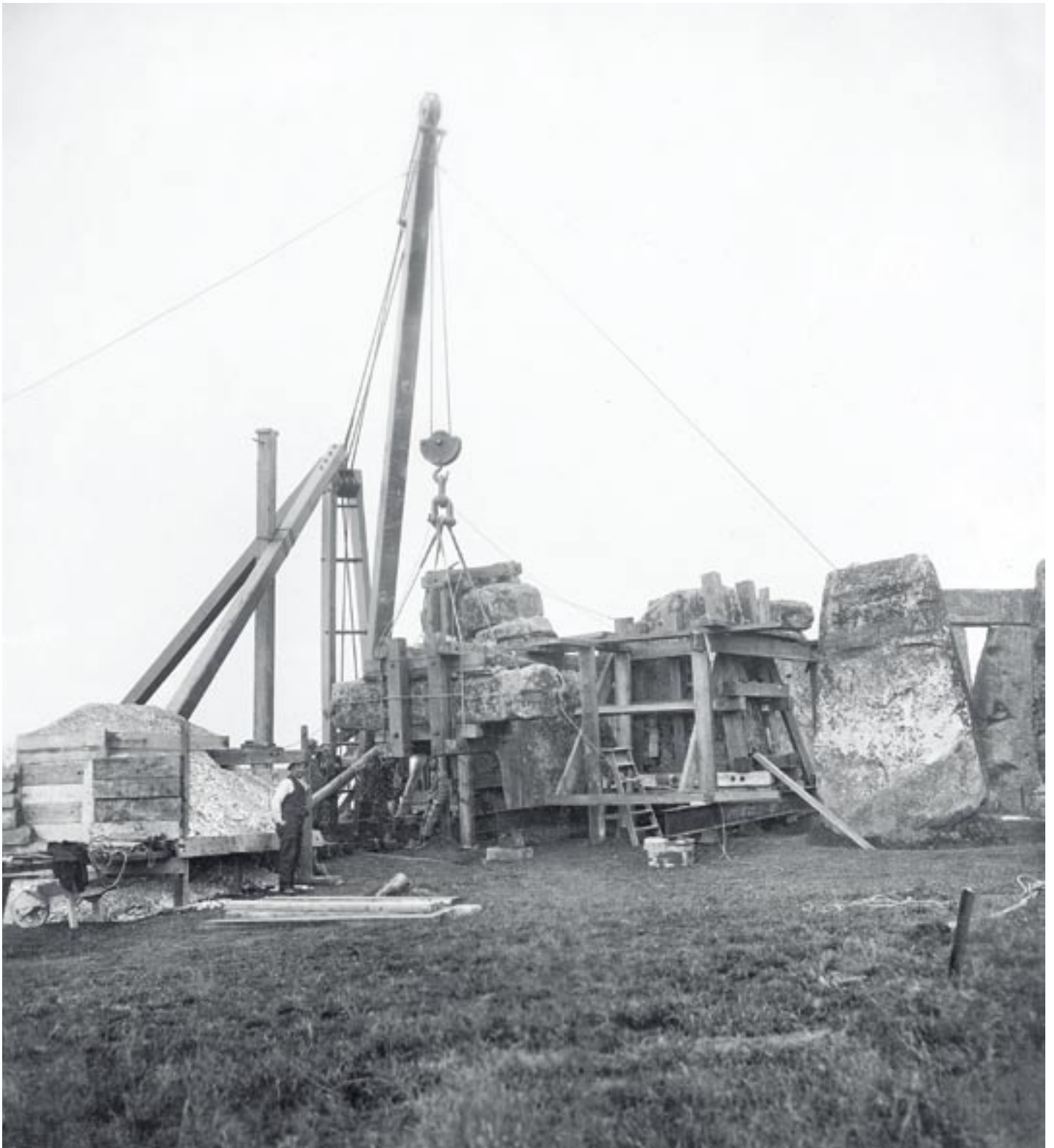
Over 1,800 photographs of Stonehenge, depicting some of the momentous events over the last 150 years, have been catalogued and made publicly available. Assembled into 11 albums and 5 files, these stunning images were taken by and for government bodies responsible for the care and protection of the monument, and they record the condition of the stones and essential works to consolidate and preserve the site.

Included in the collection are rare glimpses of work in 1919–20 to straighten stones 6 and 7 and their lintel; the re-erection of trilithon 57/58 and stones 22 and 60, together with archaeological excavation by Professor

A wrecked cargo vessel in the Bristol Channel south of Clevedon, 19 February 2000.



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Work undertaken by the Office of Works in May 1919 to straighten and reset the stones of the outer circle of Stonehenge. One of the lintels is being lowered by a wooden crane. Wooden shuttering has been placed around an upright prior to the replacement of the lintel.

Atkinson in 1958–9; and the straightening and resetting of trilithon 53/54 in 1964, also under the direction of Professor Atkinson. Sadder moments, such as the four occasions on which the stones were vandalised by painted graffiti, are also recorded. Perhaps the most fascinating insight afforded by these stunning images is of the ever-changing character of Stonehenge, from the atmospheric monument of the Victorian period and basic visitor facilities (a simple hut) of the first quarter of the 20th century, to the site where the public roamed among the stones and today's World Heritage Site, visited by millions.

A selection of images from this collection appears in Julian Richards' *Stonehenge: A History in Photographs* (English Heritage 2003).

Delamotte's photographs of the Crystal Palace

A rare set of early photographs of one of the most important buildings of the 19th century was acquired by the NMR in 2004. Philip Henry Delamotte recorded the construction of the Crystal Palace when it was moved from Hyde Park to its new home at Sydenham, south London, in 1853–4. The recently acquired set

was taken by Delamotte about five years later and shows the building in full use; it includes views of many of the Fine Arts Courts. The full set of images may be viewed online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder.

English Heritage wishes gratefully to acknowledge that this set was purchased with the aid of the Crystal Palace Foundation and the London Development Agency.

The ELS Project

The Department for Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced the introduction of new environmental protection schemes. The NMR, in consultation with local Historic Environment Records, is leading a project to provide information on archaeological sites that may be eligible for the Defra Entry Level Scheme (ELS). For this project, both the spatial and textual elements of a subset of monuments from the NMR's in-house database have been upgraded. For further details, please contact Louise Goldie: Tel 01793 414725; louise.goldie@english-heritage.org.uk.

Barrows and an Iron Age farmstead preserved as a mixture of crop marks and earth mounds on North Down, Bishops Canning, Wiltshire, 13 April 1988.

Fountains playing in the courtyard of the Alhambra Court at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham, south London, were photographed by Philip Delamotte around 1859. The court was modelled on the Court of the Lions in the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Spain.

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Cataloguing our Historic Plans

As part of the NMR's programme to catalogue its historic plans (*Conservation Bulletin* **45, 47**), the drawings for two more sites have now been catalogued. The catalogue of historic plans for Chiswick House and Fountains Abbey can be viewed online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr.

DP004626 © English Heritage: NMR



CHISWICK HOUSE, CHISWICK, GREATER LONDON: Almost 1,500 drawings dating from the late 1930s to 2004, though mostly from the 1960s and 1970s, show the villa and its sumptuous rooms, its restoration and extensions, decorative schemes (particularly the frieze in the Blue Velvet Room) and the gardens and ornaments, with coverage of the restoration of the Cascade, Ionian Temple and Inigo Jones gateway.

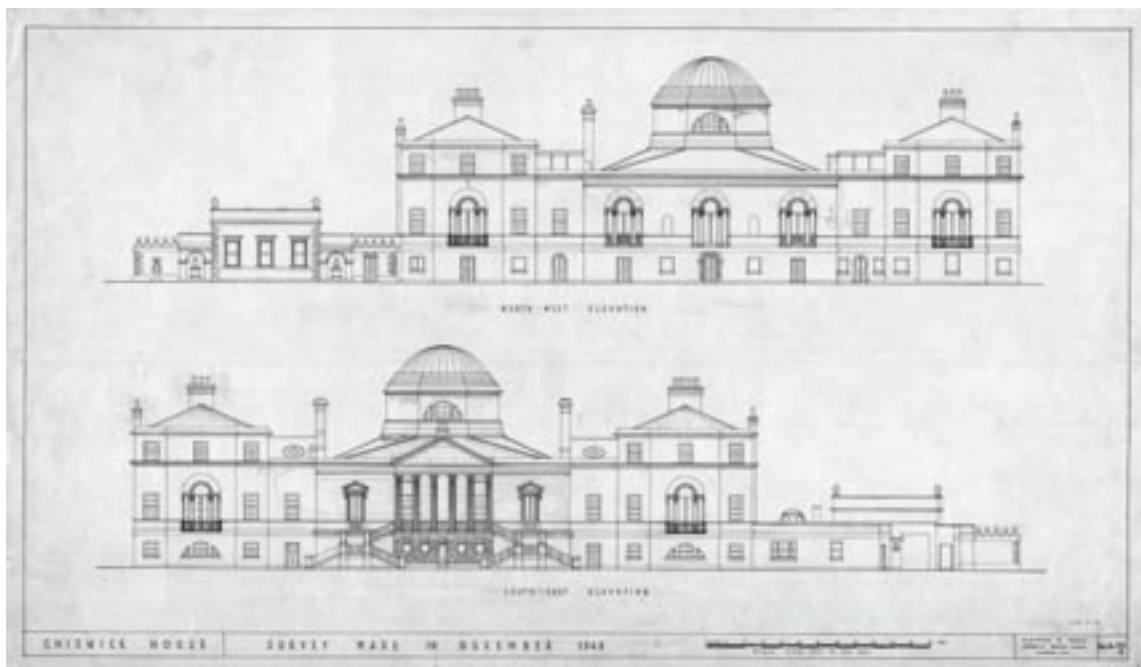
FOUNTAINS ABBEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE: Founded in 1132, this Cistercian abbey was robbed of much of its stone following its suppression in 1539. It now stands as a spectacular ruin, the largest of its type in Europe. Its architectural importance can be fully appreciated in the collection of over 500 plans covering more than 100 years. The collection begins with a series of drawings from the 1870s depicting the church and conventual buildings, including insets revealing the original glory of the abbey. A number of 1980s drawings of sculptures from the Chapel of the Nine Altars focus on architectural detail while a number of photogrammetric surveys from 1995 to 2001 give a more comprehensive view of the site, exploring the fabric of many parts of the abbey.

Outreach

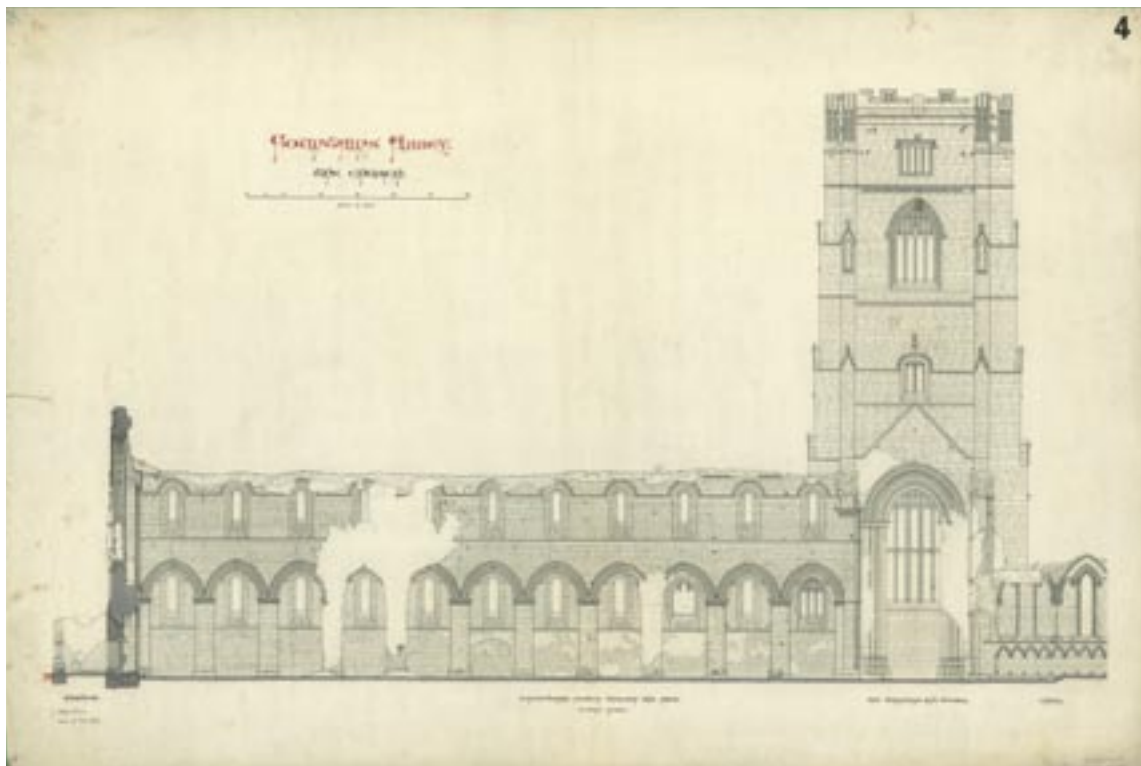
A varied programme of workshops, tours, lectures, weekly classes and events is designed to help participants make the best use of NMR resources for work, research or personal

North-west and south-east elevations of Chiswick House from a survey made by the Ministry of Works, November 1948. The drawing is dated 4 January 1949.

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A longitudinal section through the largely 12th-century monastic church at Fountains Abbey with its 15th/16th-century tower. It is signed by J Arthur Reeve and dated 1876.

interest. Short introductory tours of the NMR Centre are available, and for those wishing to explore the resources in more detail, study days are organised on a number of different themes.

Living Story Project

The outreach programme at the NMR seeks to extend services to audiences not currently benefiting from mainstream provision. Work within the local community of Rodbourne in Swindon has formed the first phase of this programme, enabling the NMR Outreach Team to pilot an approach that will be developed with other community groups.

The Living Story Project enabled a community to explore the history of its locality

by linking buildings, streets and landscapes to the people who formed, lived and worked in them. Flexible learning activities were developed that took account of individual needs and preferred learning styles. Participants (none of whom had used an archive before) shared memories, created a community photographic collection, undertook archival research and studied local buildings. They produced a number of exhibitions and two short films, immensely popular with Rodbourne residents.

For further information about the Living Story Project and NMR Outreach, please contact Jane Golding: Tel 01793 414735; Fax 01793 414606; jane.golding@english-heritage.org.uk.