

Challenges for the countryside

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

A turning-point for the uplands?

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

The uplands are valued for different things by different people and they are among our most highly designated areas. Centuries of interaction between man and nature in this rugged environment have produced landscapes of unparalleled quality and interest. The

layers of landscape evolution are writ large in the ancient walls, vernacular buildings and earthworks of the open countryside. As conservationists we can seek to protect the artefacts of this cultural history, but the extent to which we, or anyone, can protect the ways of life currently associated with them is another question.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Declines in wild flowers, bird populations and natural tree growth in the uplands are familiar problems but other environmental issues are now coming to the fore. Concerns about water resources have been heightened by recent winter shortages in the South-East and water is increasingly being recognised as a precious asset that needs to be valued and carefully managed. Conversely flooding is set to be

a growing problem with climate change predicted to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. In the uplands, however, the widespread introduction of moorland drainage combined with the canalisation of many rivers has hastened the passage of freshwater through catchments, starving groundwater, impacting on archaeological deposits in wetlands, increasing the risk of flash flooding and aggravating diffuse pollution. We have to re-learn the techniques of using land to absorb, control and manage floodwater – a valuable service upland land managers can provide for the nation as a whole.

CO₂ emissions and carbon storage are rightly high on the political agenda and we are all encouraged to do our bit to reduce our environmental footprint. The peat soils of the UK, most of which are found in upland areas, lock up more carbon than all the woodlands of Britain and France added together, so protecting peat from desiccation and erosion now takes on a new urgency in addition to its vital role in protecting evidence of the past. Recent research suggests that bracken rhizomes also store significant amounts of carbon, which is released when the plant is eradicated. This, together with the potential prohibition of the use of Asulox for its control, may force us to re-think how we approach this over-successful native of lower upland slopes and its impact on archaeology, grazing and biodiversity.

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

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

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

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

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

Historic farmsteads

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

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

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

buildings and their settings.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

This assessment framework is now being developed in consultation with land managers, planners and other key partners in North Yorkshire and the South-East region. Image-based

character statements are being prepared as a core part of a web-based product that will inform the identification of key farmstead and building types in their landscape and national context. As well as assisting the targeting process, these will inform the pilot development of character-based local-plan policies and help owners, land managers and local authorities to align an understanding of historic farmsteads and landscapes with their sensitivity to change.

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

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

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

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Rural places of worship

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

English Heritage actively encourages strategic overviews in two ways in Solution 2 of the Inspired! campaign (www.english-heritage.org.uk/inspired!). First, we have part-funded diocese-wide studies of churches so as to establish their architectural quality and consequently, the scope for acceptable alteration. Second, we are also offering to part-fund and train 'historic building support officers'. Their exact function will vary according to local needs and any partnerships that might be

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

created—for instance, with regional rural organisations. Initially, these officers will need to establish which congregations and listed buildings require active support from their denominations and outside bodies to achieve a sustainable future. They can then advise and guide the projects, possibly in partnership with others looking for premises or by getting a major repair and re-ordering programme under way. New partnerships and a degree of open thinking will be needed if these focal historic buildings are to re-establish their value to their community and so survive for future generations to use.

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Affordable rural housing and the historic environment

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

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



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

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

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

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

Corporation to local scheme providers.

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

The challenges facing rural World Heritage Sites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Minerals extraction and the historic environment

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

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

Recently developed English Heritage policy on mineral extraction and the historic environment reflects these aims under three headings:

- the historic significance of mining and quarrying sites and landscapes
- the impacts on the historic environment that can be caused by mineral extraction together with advice on appropriate mitigation measures
- the need for, and supply of natural stone and other materials required to conserve the historic environment and maintain local distinctiveness.

The legacy

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

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

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

Impacts and mitigation

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



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

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

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

Nevertheless, more effective approaches to mitigation are being developed, both for terrestrial and marine-dredged extraction (see Cole in this issue, p. 40). Dialogue between heritage professionals, mineral planners and the minerals industry is needed to ensure mitigation meets sector standards, as well as the test of 'reasonableness' required by the planning process. It is particularly important for these sectors to continue to develop strategic approaches to understanding the significance and distribution of historic sites and landscapes in order to ensure effective protection for the most significant sites and to limit the cost of compliance for the industry. Areas actively under discussion include: approaches to the pre-determination evaluation of land proposed for extraction; measures to ensure that the numerous 'old minerals permissions' (granted between 1948 and 1982) comply with modern requirements for safeguarding the historic environment and mitigation; and the appropriate restoration, end use and aftercare of former extraction sites.

Natural building and roofing stone

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

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

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

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

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