

News from English Heritage

Places of Worship Support Officers

A new funding stream for historic places of worship was launched in December, as part of the on-going Inspired! campaign. English Heritage is offering £1.5 million in grants to organisations that use, manage or conserve numbers of historic places of worship to employ a Support Officer to help look after and make the most of their buildings.

It is up to the partner organisation to draw up its own job description, depending on the particular needs of its historic buildings. No two Support Officer jobs will be exactly the same: some will focus on essential repairs, others on opening churches for tourism or community projects. English Heritage will cover 50 per cent of the total costs of a Support Officer post for three years. It will encourage the professional development of the postholders and jointly agree objectives with the partner organisation but will have no involvement in the day-to-day management of the post.

Support Officers must have a knowledge of the principles of historic-building conservation and a demonstrable interest in England's historic places of worship, but detailed knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture is not essential. They should be excellent communicators, have problem-solving skills, and be able to empathise with the purposes of the relevant faith group.

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The socio-economic benefits of heritage in the National Parks

The heritage of National Parks is fundamental to their character and to the sense of identity of their local communities. It is also a key factor for inward investment and tourism. However, the socio-economic benefits of heritage to the parks have yet to be measured and evaluated in ways that can usefully inform policy formulation and management practice.

In 2007 English Heritage and Cadw commissioned the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucestershire to examine this issue. The research comprised an extensive scoping study involving a literature review combined with various forms of stakeholder consultation, including email and telephone surveys, face-to-face interviews and participatory workshops. The results from this scoping study will be available later this summer on the HELM website at www.helm.org.uk

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Heritage Link's Embracing Difference website

Led by Heritage Link, with funding from English Heritage, Embracing Difference was a two-year programme to develop the heritage sector's capacity to attract wider and more diverse engagement. Running across five regions of England, the programme delivered a series of seminars that encouraged creativity, learning, networking and mutual understanding between different groups. Five practical projects showed that wider diversity can be achieved by voluntary heritage organisations, whatever their resources. A new website bringing together resources, links and information from the programme is available for all to use at www.heritagelink.org.uk/diversity

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HELM training programme 2009–10

Next year's HELM training programme will include events on characterisation, places of worship and Stop the Rot. It will also address the legal aspects of development control and heritage at risk and offer a programme of training on Heritage Protection Reform, including events on local lists, defining special interest, and Historic Environment Records.

Please check the HELM website www.helm.org.uk for more details as they become available. By signing up to the HELM newsletter you will make sure you are kept informed about the training programme as well as other news and updates from English Heritage.

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Taking Part

English Heritage has welcomed the publication of the DCMS's report on Taking Part, the survey that measures the number of extra people participating in culture and sports between 2005/6 and 2007/8 (www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5653.aspx). For the heritage sector, the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 3 target was to increase attendance at heritage sites by three percentage points for each of three priority groups – black and minority ethnic, people with limiting disability and people from lower socio-economic groups.



Launching the Places of Worship Support Officers fund in Manchester were, from left to right, Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage, Andy Burnham, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the Bishop of Middleton.

© English Heritage

The results for the heritage sector are extremely encouraging. More people than ever before are visiting heritage sites, with the greatest percentage increase (11 per cent) being among people from black and minority ethnic groups. The increase is particularly marked for people who also belong to lower socio-economic groups, for those from a mixed-race or Asian background, those who are Muslim by religion, and those who live in Yorkshire and Humberside and West Midlands.

It is too early to explain these results in detail, but the efforts of the whole of the historic-environment sector to encourage wider participation must certainly be a key factor in the very welcome increases. In coming months the survey will be an important source of evidence for further research into what makes people take part in cultural activities commissioned by English Heritage, DCMS, Arts Council England, Museum Libraries and Archives and Sport England as part of the Culture and Sport Evidence (CASE) programme.

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Missing out? Socio-economic status and heritage participation

On 23 March 2009 English Heritage will host a conference about broadening the appeal of the heritage offer, particularly to family groups. As

well as bringing together heritage organisations, commentators, researchers and community groups to investigate the appeal of the heritage offer to families, the conference will see the launch of new research findings from English Heritage into the ways in which education, social status and family background influence the way people think about and respond to heritage.

A day of workshops and seminars will address questions such as:

- How do we broaden audiences to existing heritage sites?
- What can we learn from outside the sector?
- Do we need better representation of working people's history, or a more engaging general offer?
- How do different groups most enjoy engaging with the past, and does the sector recognise these means?
- How important is it to provide a 'family-friendly' offer in order to ensure that an interest in heritage is passed down generations?

Places may still be available for this conference, which is taking place at the London School of Economics New Academic Building at 54 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ.

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The National Monuments Record

News and Events

The NMR is the public archive of English Heritage. It includes more than 10 million archive items (photographs, drawings, reports and digital data) relating to England's historic environment. Catalogues are available online and in the NMR search room in Swindon.

Contact the NMR at:

NMR Enquiry & Research Services, National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ

tel: 01793 414600

fax: 01793 414606

email: nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk

web: www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr

Online Resources from the NMR Heritage Explorer

(www.heritageexplorer.org.uk)

The *Heritage Explorer* website is designed for education users. It gives teachers and learners access to more than 3,000 inspiring NMR images specially selected for their educational relevance, which can be searched using keywords related to the curriculum. Access to images is augmented by ready-prepared resources for use in the classroom, in particular activities for use with interactive whiteboards.

Contact: Mary Mills, tel: 01793 414892

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PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk)

PastScape is the publicly accessible online version of the national database of monuments maintained by the NMR. The website has recently undergone

extensive redevelopment to improve searching capabilities and results.

In addition to these major changes to the structure of the site we continue to work on targeted projects to improve the content of our records on particular types of site or monument. Two such projects, described below, give a flavour of the sheer variety of themes covered by the website.

Logboats

A small project was undertaken to enhance the existing record of logboats within the NMR's database. In total, 139 records were amended to bring them up-to-date and improve their ease of retrieval. Out of a total of 55 prehistoric boats, it turned out that 21 belong to the Bronze Age; another 9 are dated to the Roman period and 15 to the early and post-medieval periods. The remaining 59 artefacts lacked dating evidence. This high number of undated logboats is perhaps not surprising because 107 of the 139 examples were found between the 18th and early 20th centuries, before the advent of modern dating techniques, and at least 79 have since been destroyed or lost.

South Shoreditch commercial buildings

A project has recently been completed to enhance NMR records of Victorian and 20th-century commercial buildings in the South Shoreditch area of London. This district was traditionally the home of the furniture industry and associated trades including upholsterers, cabinet ironmongers, varnish-makers and timber suppliers. Nearly 200 records have been created from a number of



A group of children playing in a lane near Dinton in Buckinghamshire, the older children looking after the younger ones. Taken by SW Newton in 1904, the photograph is just one of the many thousands of images accessible through the NMR's Heritage Explorer website.

© English Heritage.NMR.AA97/07509

Built in the Italian style, this late 19th-century office and warehouse building at 125–130 Shoreditch High Street, London E1, is just one of the 300,000 listed buildings recorded by volunteer photographers as part of English Heritage's Images of England project.
© J. Callon, IoE 425985



sources including English Heritage's 2004 architectural investigation of South Shoreditch commercial buildings. This NMR enhancement project is important in providing public access to a significant part of London's commercial and industrial heritage and maintaining a permanent record of an ever-changing and developing cityscape.
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ViewFinder

(www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder)

ViewFinder is an online picture resource drawing on the NMR's national photographic collections,

with more than 70,000 images available. Currently, the emphasis is on the images of John Gay, a prolific freelance photographer who was most active between 1945 and the 1970s. His work features buildings, people, animals, rural life and landscapes, and he was often commissioned by architects to record their projects. Some 20,000 of John Gay's photographs are now on *ViewFinder* and new material is being added quarterly.

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Search English Heritage Archives on line

Discover photographs and archives of England's buildings and historic sites.

Soon you will be able to search the catalogues of some of our photographic and other archive collections online. You will also be able to see online photographs and order copies.

The new website is being designed for:

- architectural historians
- local and family historians
- people interested in house history
- anyone interested in finding out more about England's architectural and archaeological heritage.

We would also value your comments on the first release of the site, to help us make it better for all our users.

For further information, or to express an interest in taking part in the site evaluation, contact:
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Dry-stone walling is one of the traditional craft skills on which practical conservation of the historic environment still vitally depends. This photograph by the prolific freelance photographer John Gay was taken in Gloucestershire in about 1950. It is among 70,000 of his fascinating pictures that are being made accessible through the NMR's Viewfinder website.
© English Heritage.NMR
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Legal Developments

Accidents can happen

Mike Harlow, Legal Director, *English Heritage*

It is a commonly held misbelief that health and safety law has gone bonkers; that it requires zero risk and allows for zero adventure. In fact, while the principles have ebbed and flowed a little, the law has always been pretty balanced and rooted in common sense.

A recent case of a ricked ankle in Ripon Cathedral serves as a reminder to us all, and perhaps most importantly, consultants and insurers, that it is not the responsibility of a property owner to make visitors totally safe. That is, after all, unachievable. It was unfortunate that Jennifer Hunt turned her ankle over while descending into the crypt. She stepped into a depression typical of the uneven stone surfaces of such old buildings. But was it the fault of the cathedral or an accident without blame?

Quite properly the cathedral had undertaken a health and safety risk assessment for visitors. It had concluded that no handrail was necessary down the stairs and no signage was needed warning of the uneven floor. There was a one-way system in operation, presumably to prevent overcrowding and jostling on the stairs.

Ms Hunt sued for her personal injury claiming a breach by the cathedral of its duty under section 2 of the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. That duty is to take such care as in all the circumstances of the case is reasonable to see that the visitor will be reasonably safe in using the premises for the purposes for which he is invited or permitted by the occupier to be there. It is critical to note that only *reasonable* steps have to be taken to see that people are *reasonably* safe. You do not have to take every last measure to ensure absolute safety.

The judge acknowledged that very old buildings have uneven floors. ...it was reasonable to assume that people would take care when placing their feet in a place of such antiquity.

Ms Hunt lost her case. The judge acknowledged that very old buildings have uneven floors. He said no additional signage was necessary to warn of a risk of falling as it was reasonable to assume that people would take care when placing their feet in a place of such antiquity. The absence

of a handrail posed no real danger as the stairs were narrow.

This is only a first-instance decision and since it is in tune with other personal-injury cases away from the historic environment it is perhaps unremarkable in legal theory. But I do think it is vital that owners and advisers are reminded of where the law stands. There is always a natural tendency towards more protection. Some of the pressure comes from consultants and insurers whose direct self-interest is never served by placing the risk in the middle ground. Increasing protection also results from ignorance – a half-baked and risk-averse understanding of what is required in this day and age to discharge one's duties.

I am sure that Ms Hunt's accident could have been avoided if the cathedral had been altered. So it does not look kindly to be suggesting that protection should go so far and no further, as to do so is to suggest that we tolerate injuries in favour of less clutter and a more pure visitor experience. But the law, at least, recognises that there is no such thing as absolute safety. Accidents will always happen. The cost of attempting to avoid any risk is harm to the historic environment itself, sometimes irreparable, and a loss of enjoyment by the visitor.

Only *reasonable* steps have to be taken to see that people are *reasonably* safe. You do not have to take every last measure to ensure absolute safety.

Any decision to alter a building or site requires a balance to be struck between conservation and pressures for change. The difficulty with decisions involving safety is that the words 'safety first' tend to float by, putting it on the moral high ground. The Ripon case emphasises that safety is not a trump card. It is still a balance. The question is: what can the visitor reasonably expect? With an old building they can generally expect standards to be less than those of the 21st century. That is not to say that they should be prepared for real dangers or look out for real surprises, but they can expect a building to be what it is – worn, unusual, uneven and interesting. ■

New publications from English Heritage



Twentieth Century Architects

RIBA Publishing, English Heritage and The 20th Century Society have jointly commissioned a new series, Twentieth Century Architects, which examines the work and influence of some of the century's significant architectural practices. The following two titles will appear in April and books on Aldington, Craig & Collinge and McMorran & Whitby will be published in August. The series will be essential reading for architects, students, architectural historians and modernist enthusiasts interested in learning more about the 20th century's most successful British practices.

Powell & Moya

Kenneth Powell

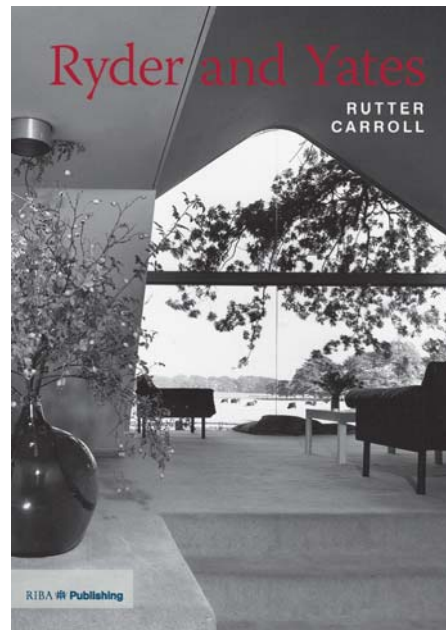
This is a comprehensive and engaging account of one of Britain's most significant post-war practices. Founded in 1946 by Philip Powell and Hidalgo 'Jacko' Moya, the practice rapidly established a reputation for 'humane modernism'.

Structured by building type, this book reveals the principles of design particular to Powell & Moya, and tells how they were at the forefront of hospital design, brought modernism to the ancient universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and designed one of London's most successful post-war housing schemes, Churchill Gardens. The book is lavishly illustrated with images from the Powell & Moya archive and stunning new photography.

PUBLICATION DATE: April 2009

PRICE: £20.00 + £2.00 P&P

ISBN: 978 | 85946 303 | Paperback, 160 pp



Ryder & Yates

Rutter Carroll

The outstanding work of Ryder & Yates, the pioneers of the modern movement in the North-East, is chronicled by Rutter Carroll, an architect from Newcastle upon Tyne. Formed in 1953 by Gordon Ryder and Peter Yates and heavily influenced by Le Corbusier and Berthold Lubetkin, the practice's uncompromising modernism put it in stark contrast to its contemporaries, and it quickly established a reputation for innovative and highly individual buildings situated almost exclusively on Tyneside. Images from the Ryder & Yates private archive illustrate the text.

PUBLICATION DATE: April 2009

PRICE: £20.00 + £2.00 P&P

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Played at the Pub

Arthur Taylor and Simon Inglis

Aunt Sally in Oxford, Toad in the Hole in Lewes, bagatelle in Chester, quoits in Darlington and bat and trap in Kent – they sound like relics of a bygone age, and yet contrary to popular belief the pub games of Britain live on. Traditional games such as nipsy (the poor man's golf), played by Barnsley miners, may have died out in the 1990s, but new games emerge all the time so that nowadays regulars are just as likely to be entering pub quizzes – the first quiz league was recorded in Bootle in 1959 – or playing pool (which arrived via Australia during the 1960s) or petanque (brought over from France). Fashions may move

on but find any decent pub and the chances are that there are games to be played.

Played at the Pub is not only beautiful to look at and overflowing with interesting stories it is also an informative guide, copiously illustrated with contemporary images taken by English Heritage's own specialist photographers.

PUBLICATION DATE:

April 2009

PRICE: £14.99 + £2.00 P&P

ISBN: 978 1 90562 497 3 Paperback, 144pp

Britain's Oldest Art: The Ice Age Cave Art of Creswell Crags

Paul Bahn and Paul Pettitt

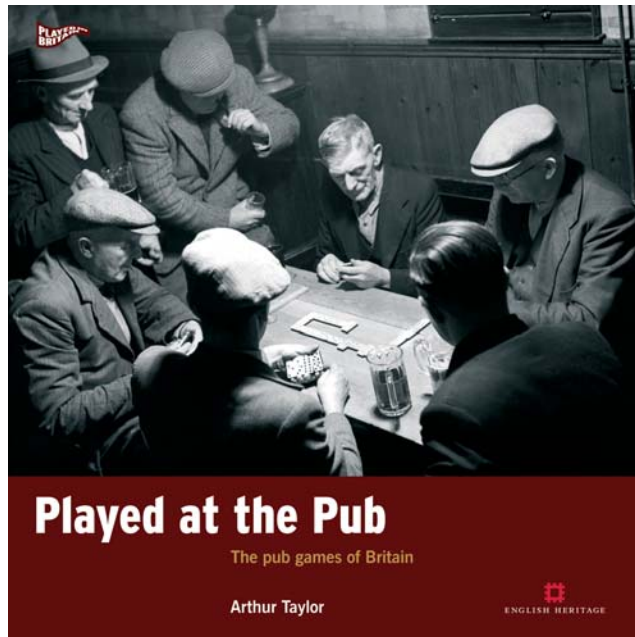
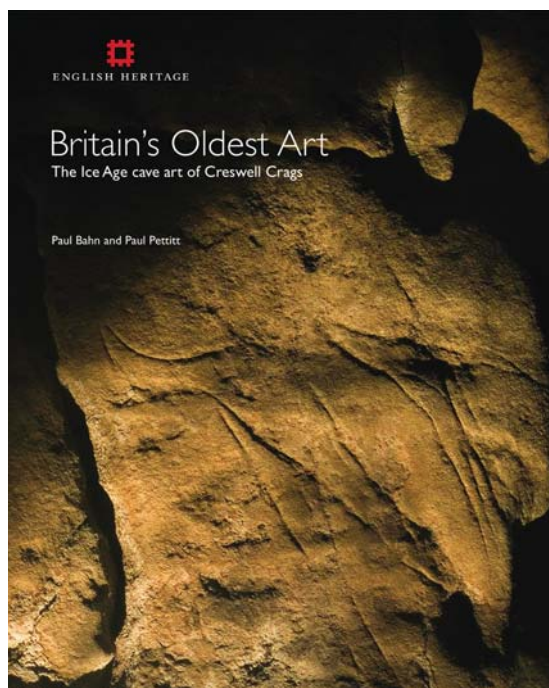
In 2003 Britain's first Ice Age cave art was discovered at Creswell Crags on the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire border, a limestone gorge honey-combed with caves and smaller fissures that was among the most northerly places on earth to have been visited by our ancient ancestors.

The book starts with the discovery of the art, places the Ice Age archaeology of the crags in a national context, draws on continental parallels and details the scientific verification of the art. It concludes with a chapter on the national search for other examples of Ice Age cave art. It is illustrated throughout with atmospheric images of birds, deer, bison and horse and provides a definitive list of the motifs, each with a photograph, line drawing and full description.

PUBLICATION DATE: March 2009

PRICE: £14.99+ £2.00 P&P

ISBN: 9 781 84802 025 2 Paperback, 128 pp



SPECIAL OFFER

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