

# News

## from English Heritage

### **Historic Environment: Local Management**

On 31 March, English Heritage launched HELM, its £500,000 national training programme aimed at improving decisions that impact on the historic environment across all aspects of local government and government agencies. The project, which has the backing of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, will help local government understand the significance of the historic environment. It is targeted at decision-makers, including elected members, and officers, including planners, highways engineers and estate managers.

A range of expert guidance relating to historic buildings, archaeology and landscapes is available online from 31 March at [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk). The site, currently in development, contains information on local heritage management as well as technical advice and training activities. We would welcome your feedback.

HELM is part of English Heritage's wider commitment to providing the tools to enable local authorities to manage change in the historic environment and meet the challenges of the 21st century. For further information, email [helm@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:helm@english-heritage.org.uk).

### **Heritage Counts 2003**

This report is an annual audit of the state of the historic environment, published in November 2003 by English Heritage on behalf of the heritage sector. It highlights the contribution England's heritage can make to the nation's quality of life.

Commenting on the report, Sir Neil Cossons, our Chairman, said:

*Heritage Counts 2003 is a guide to the true state of what is arguably England's greatest asset. Above all, it delivers the resounding message that in our small, crowded and ancient country, the historic environment is all around us and that the vast majority, whatever their ethnic, social and cultural background, cares passionately about it. But statistics in the report show that much of our heritage is at risk – despite the evidence of its contribution to core Government policies such as social and economic*

*regeneration, sustainability, social inclusion, tourism, education and citizenship.*

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, said:

*We are the guardians of the past and the trustees of the future... As Heritage Counts 2003 demonstrates, millions of us choose to live, work and relax in historic buildings and landscapes. I want to involve communities more directly in how their historic assets are best safeguarded and preserved. To this end, our Designation Review, which is already well advanced, is looking at a new system of protection that would give people a greater say. I hope it will unlock in the public mind the link between citizenship and heritage. This will only strengthen the contribution the historic environment makes to our education, our economic well-being and our quality of life.'*

*Heritage Counts 2003* takes the form of one summary document, one main data document and nine regional documents. The summary and data documents have been produced by English Heritage on behalf of the Historic Environment Review Steering Committee; the regional documents have been produced by English Heritage Regional Offices in collaboration with regional Historic Environment Forums. Copies may be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk) or obtained free of charge from Customer Services (Tel 0870 333 1181; Fax 01793 414926; [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)).

### **Regional Plans 2003–5**

English Heritage has produced nine *Regional Plans* (A4 12-page documents) that explain what we will be doing in each region from 2003 to 2005. The plans also describe our national strategy and include details of our activities in each region. Practical case studies illustrate our work. Copies may be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)/Around our Regions or obtained free of charge from regional offices or from Customer Services (details above).

### **Ecclesiastical Review**

The long awaited consultation paper on the ecclesiastical exemption from listed building and scheduled monument consent controls,

promised by Government in *A Force for our Future*, has now appeared. The paper follows, and forms part of the Government's wider review of heritage protection, as set out in last year's consultation document *Protecting our Historic Environment: Making the System Work Better*. The paper proposes that the ecclesiastical exemption should continue, but should operate under high-level management agreements to be reached, as appropriate, with each denomination in England. Such management agreements would be in force for a five-year period, after which they should be subject to a thorough review. It suggests that English Heritage might be appointed to the role of validator and empowered to monitor the operation of the exemption. The document can be downloaded from the DCMS website ([www.dcms.gov.uk](http://www.dcms.gov.uk)). The period for consultation lasts until 31 May 2004.

### Chairman's lecture

Sir Neil Cossons gave a public lecture at the Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles, California, on 19 February, one of a series of lectures on international conservation issues. He reviewed current trends and views about communities, heritage and conservation, and explored future options. Recent conservation work in England – part of a wide-ranging review of protection and management of the historic environment – has demonstrated that support for it is widespread, as it is increasingly seen as a key to creating sustainable communities.

### Civic heritage guidance

English Heritage has identified that almost 17 per cent of Grade I and II\* listed buildings at risk of loss from neglect and decay are owned by central and local government. Reorganisation and financial constraints mean that many architecturally and historically significant local landmarks such as former town halls, swimming pools, libraries and assembly rooms are now redundant.

New guidance – *Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets* – has been published by English Heritage, and endorsed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to help local authorities secure the future of these local landmarks. Aimed at key decision-makers, the guidance covers a range of landmarks from town halls, archaeological remains and listed buildings, to conservation areas, historic landscapes, cemeteries and

battlefields. It encourages local authorities to know what they have, understand its condition and potential and take a positive and strategic approach to its management, including finding new uses for buildings or disposing of them to provide a sustainable future.

Managing Local Authority Heritage Assets: some guiding principles for decision-makers may be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk/policy](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/policy) or ordered free of charge from Customer Services (details above).

### Sustainability Forum

According to the Bruntland Report (1987), sustainable development 'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.' English Heritage's original Environmental Forum, set up in 1999, aimed to formulate, implement and review our environmental policy. Since then, the Government has broadened the concept of sustainability to include economic and social as well as environmental issues.

Last year, the Executive Board agreed that English Heritage should develop a policy to cover the Government's concept of sustainability, to re-name the Forum and to ensure that its membership reflected the wider issues it will consider.

The Forum, which meets quarterly, has three main roles: to develop proposals, to monitor and report, and to promote their implementation. The aim is to embed the ideal of sustainability throughout English Heritage so that it is evaluated in terms of the cost to the organisation and the benefit to the historic environment.

For more information, please contact David Drewe (Tel 020 7973 3597).

### Building crafts

The UK's historic environment is under threat because of a shortage of skilled craftspeople. As the construction industry increasingly adopts system-building methods, such as the use of prefabricated units and stick-on bricks, so the teaching of traditional building skills, as well as new methods of repair, declines within the Further Education sector across the UK. Yet according to the 2001 *English House Condition Survey*, 21 per cent of the total number of dwellings in the UK were actually built before 1919; it estimates that some 69 per cent of dwellings of all ages have at least some fault to the interior or exterior

fabric. Repairing historic buildings requires familiarity with traditional building methods and techniques if the work is to be done sensitively and appropriately.

So there is work to be done, provided that we can interest people in learning traditional crafts and deliver higher standards in workmanship through appropriate training. To tackle this problem, English Heritage and the Government's Sector Skills Council for the construction sector, CITB-ConstructionSkills, have created the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG). The first task of the NHTG will be to commission region-by-region research to discover where the critical skills shortages actually are, and then to work with employers and Further Education colleges to deliver the necessary training.

CITB-ConstructionSkills has produced a careers brochure to help show young people what is entailed if they decide to follow a career in one of the traditional building crafts, the qualifications they can attain and examples of the subsequent career paths of people in the sector. If you would like a copy of *Building Conservation and Restoration*, please contact CITB-ConstructionSkills (01485 577 577) or English Heritage's Customer Services (details above).

### RIBA Affiliate membership

Key resources of The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) are now available to a wider range of people with an interest in the historic environment, following the launch of its new class of Affiliate membership. The RIBA provides a unique forum for a wide diversity of people and is dedicated to the betterment of the built environment. The RIBA has raised the profile of architecture with the public and is working with the Government and its agencies on promoting good design.

Affiliate membership is open to anyone with a professional or personal interest in architecture. Benefits include a free subscription to the RIBA Journal and free use of the RIBA library, Information Centre and online services. The RIBA also has a new partnership with the v&a, which will provide much greater access to its combined world-class collections of architectural drawings and archives. A new architecture gallery for the public at the v&a will also open. For more information, please contact Sandy Lopes (marketing@inst.riba.org; Tel 020 7307 3626).

### Charter for planning and development

English Heritage is committed to improving the quality and delivery of advice for those involved in changing or influencing change to the historic environment. Enclosed with this issue of *Conservation Bulletin* is a copy of our new charter explaining our role in the modernised planning system and what clients can expect from English Heritage. To receive further copies, or to discuss the implications of the charter, please contact any English Heritage regional office. General enquiries about the streamlining of our advisory services for planning and development should be addressed to Anthony Streeten (anthony.streeten@english-heritage.org.uk).

### Conservation Bulletin

The new format of this issue is the result of a strategic design review by Boag Associates Ltd, who consulted widely with internal and external stakeholders, and the editorial board. We are grateful for everyone's comments and advice during various stages of the review. The new design is intended to strengthen the presentation of policy, best practice and news, and this issue will be the first to appear on the English Heritage website (www.english-heritage.org.uk).

#### Building conservation masterclasses; Professional conservators in practice

A collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, sponsored by the Radcliffe Trust. Each course is an intensive combination of lectures, demonstrations and practical exercises (£515 residential; £410 non-residential). For further information, please contact West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester PO18 0QZ; Tel 01243 818294; liz.campbell@westdean.org.uk; pat.jackson@westdean.org.uk; www.westdean.org.uk

**West Dean College  
near Chichester, West Sussex**

# Books received

- Allen, Geoffrey *et al*, *Hydraulic Lime Mortar: For stone, brick and block masonry*, 104 pp, Donhead, 2003, ISBN 1-873394-64-0, pb, £20
- Bankart, George, *The Art of the Plasterer (facsimile of 1908 original with amendments)*, 368 pp, Donhead, 2002, ISBN 1-873394-51-9, hb, £65
- Brown, Sarah & Strobl, Sebastian, *A Fragile Inheritance: The care of stained glass and historic glazing – a handbook for custodians*, 68 pp, Church House Publishing, 2002, ISBN 0-7151-7600-5, pb, £9.95
- Collings, Janet, *Old House Care and Repair*, 208 pp, Donhead, 2002, ISBN 1-873394-61-6, hb, £25
- Cunnington, Pamela, *Caring for Old Houses* (revised edition of 1984 *Care for Old Houses*), 256 pp, Marston House, 2002, ISBN 1-899296-17-4, pb, £14.95
- Earl, John, *Building Conservation Philosophy* (3rd edition of revised 1996 original), 230 pp, Donhead in association with the College of Estate Management, 2003, ISBN 1-873394-56-x, hb, £37
- Jones, Gwen, Lake, Jeremy & Martins, Susanna Wade (eds), *Rural Regeneration: A sustainable future for farm buildings (Papers of the Historic Farm Buildings Group 2002 Conference)*, 47 pp, The Historic Farm Buildings Group, 2002, ISBN 0-9517503-2-1, pb, £9.50
- Kilburn, Mike, *London's Theatres* (Foreword by Zoë Wanamaker CBE), 160 pp, New Holland, 2002, ISBN 1-84330-069-9, hb, £24.99
- Lavédrine, Bertrand, *A Guide to the Preventive Conservation of Photograph Collections*, 312 pp, Getty Publications, 2003, ISBN 0-89236-701-6, pb, £34.50
- Leonard, Mark (ed), *Personal Viewpoints: Thoughts about painting conservation*, 128 pp, Getty Publications, 2003, ISBN 0-89236-698-2, pb, £22.95
- Maekawa, Shine & Elert, Kerstin, *The Use of Oxygen-Free Environments in the Control of Museum Insect Pests*, 224 pp + CD-ROM, Getty Publications, 2003, ISBN 0-89236-693-1, pb, £45
- Oxley, Richard, *Survey and Repair of Traditional Buildings: A Sustainable Approach*, 224 pp, Donhead, 2003, ISBN 1-873394-50-0, hb, £39.50
- Prizeman, John, *Houses of Britain: The outside view* (Foreword by HRH The Duke of Gloucester; new edition of 1975 *Your House: The outside view*), 134 pp, Quiller Press, 2003, ISBN 189916367-0, pb, pb, £14.95
- Scott, David A, *Copper and Bronze in Art: Corrosion, colorants, conservation*, 520 pp, Getty Publications, 2002, ISBN 0-89236-638-9, hb, £53.50
- Smith, Major Percy, *Rivington's Building Construction* (facsimile of 1904 revised edition of 1875 original), 1376 pp (3 vols), Donhead, 2004, ISBN 1-873394-66-7, hb, £99.50
- Swallow, Peter, Dallas, Ross, Jackson, Sophie & Watt, David, *Measurement and Recording of Historic Buildings* (2nd edition), 224 pp, Donhead, 2004, ISBN 1-873394-62-4, hb, £35
- Teutonico, Jeanne Marie & Matero, Frank (eds), *Managing Change: Sustainable approaches to the Built Environment* (4th Annual US / ICOMOS International Symposium 2001), 214 pp, Getty Publications, 2004, ISBN 0-89236-692-3, pb, £38.50
- Watt, David & Colston, Belinda, *Conservation of Historic Buildings and their Contents: Addressing the conflicts*, 128 pp, Donhead, 2003, ISBN 1-873394-63-2, pb, £20
- Weaver, Lawrence, *English Leadwork, Its Art and History* (facsimile of 1909 original), 288 pp, over 400 illustrations, Donhead, 2002, ISBN 1-873394-60-8, hb, £60