

Newsletter

NUMBER 14

April 1999



CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION

COTAC is supported by the Heritage Grant Fund, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

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INTRODUCTION

A belated Happy New Year to you all and sorry that it has not been possible to publish this issue until now. Where did 1998 go? Much has been happening in the Conservation world and it is good to have the opportunity to bring you up to date.

We have made some changes to the format for this issue, of which we hope you approve. These include the contents list on this page. In addition we have introduced a news section carrying snippets of recent news in conservation. As ever, we welcome your comment on the topics or format of the Newsletter. We are particularly keen to express your views on matters related to Building Conservation, training, examples of good and bad practice and to include news about your organisation and projects. So please let me have your contributions, ideally word-processed, on disk.

One very sad piece of news is the death of Zibby Garnett earlier this year after a long battle with cancer. She was a wise person and a wonderful colleague. She was a founding member of the COTAC Network and I will remember her enthusiasm, as we planned its launch at the Restorex exhibition in 1993. She was immediately into the thick of things, undertaking with her students on the Conservation Crafts Course at Lincoln to furnish the stand. The resulting design, incorporat-

ing a "trompe-l'oeil" and purpose made "settle" were a credit to the management, craft and design skills of her and her students. She will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to know her. An obituary by Hugh Matheson from the Independent of 5th February is reproduced on page ??.

Please note that we have moved and our new address is included at the foot of this page, telephone numbers remain as before. We also have an **email address: cotac@tcp.co.uk** and a **website: http://homepages.tcp.co.uk/cotac/**. Currently, information on the latter is limited to contact details but we will be building the content over the coming months to include COTAC leaflets, course list, the Newsletters, research papers and other matters of interest.

How many of you, like me, feel that you would like the world to stop for a week while you get organised? Sound familiar? Well we had all better get used to living with uncertainty according to Professor Oren Harari, who proposes that we must embrace chaos if we are to survive in the current turbulent business environment. An article reproduced from *Project Manager Today* explores his thoughts on project management. Many of his comments are equally applicable to any firm in construction or indeed other business in the modern world.

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We include in this issue the first part of a report on the 1998 Conference held in association with the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England in Swindon. The remainder will be in the next issue. The Conference focused on the importance of recording, the uses of modern technology in conservation and its application for training and education. It was also an opportunity to report on progress with the Beta project developing training material. This is particularly significant since it has been produced in co-operation with representatives of the industry in each partner country. The project and the conference were supported by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme of the European Union.

The Conference this year will be held in conjunction with the Building Research Establishment at its headquarters in Garston near Watford, on Friday 5th November. The theme is Profiting from Conservation and the aim is to provide practitioners and owners with tools for evaluating conservation options. It will consider such matters as whole life costing, maintenance cycles, cost effective re-use and repair. We hope to identify related training resources available in the UK and mainland Europe. Again we have significant support from the European Union through the Leonardo programme. There will be opportunities to visit the BRE facilities and see current research projects and techniques particularly relevant to building conservation. An evening reception and a Conference dinner will be followed on Saturday 6th by a study tour in the region. We are assured by those who have made the conference a two-day event that the benefits are only outweighed by the enjoyment. Demand for places is likely to be high so pre-register your interest now by sending or faxing the enclosed form to Robin Rolfe.

At the last meeting of the COTAC Standing Conference, Roger France raised a series of questions about S/NVQs on behalf of the Course Directors Forum. Richard Davies in answering these provides useful clarification of a number

of matters about these new qualifications on page ???. We are pleased to confirm that a partner agreement has been completed between COTAC and Edexcel for higher-level conservation qualifications (Levels 4 & 5). This is based on the principle that the monitoring process will be carried out by appropriately qualified representatives of the respective professions. The aim will be to ensure that there is an effective feedback mechanism and also, as a result of regular reports, a process of constant review. We now await final approval of the three Conservation Qualifications from the Qualification Curriculum Authority.

Also at the last Standing Conference, John Taylor, recently appointed Director of the Building Crafts College gave a comprehensive overview of building crafts training structures in the United Kingdom. This is reproduced on page?.

We are pleased to announce that COTAC has been awarded a five year Training project as part of the King's Cross Partnership (SRB programme). We will include a more detailed report in the next issue but in outline the aim is to offer courses at Foundation and level 2 initially with the opportunity to progress to higher levels. Local, on-site, live training experience is seen as a fundamental part of this work.

We remain a small team, dependent on voluntary support. With the prospects of a number of new initiatives, COTAC is likely to be even more stretched than at present. If you have any staff whose development you feel would benefit from the experience of working with us, we would welcome their secondment. Arrangements can be flexible, but we are looking for commitment to an initial period of at least three months and an input of at least one day per week. Anyone interested please contact Richard Davies at COTAC for more detail.

Best wishes to all our readers for an enlightened lead-up to the new millennium. We look forward to hearing from you. Copy date for the next issue is Friday 25th June.

Graham Lee, Project Manager

CATALYTIC CONVERSION – REVIVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS TO REGENERATE COMMUNITIES'

Written by SAVE Britain's Heritage in association with the Architectural Heritage Fund, the United Kingdom Association of Building Preservation Trusts and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation this publication is a helpful reference for the importance of Conservation as a Catalyst for Regeneration.

Future UK planning policy is dominated by four major concerns:

- to reverse urban decay and revitalise towns and cities as places to live and work;
- to meet the challenge of projected demand for housing – 4 million plus;
- to protect the countryside from harm;
- sustainability.

Fifteen case studies illustrate successful regeneration and series of 9 recommendations encourage the future importance of Conservation.

Copies of the leaflet and further information from: SAVE Britain's Heritage, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ Tel: 0171 253 3500, Fax: 0171 253 3400, email: save@btinternet.com, Web site: www.savebritainsheritage.org The Online register of buildings at risk may be access via this web site.

LOTTERY FUNDS

1 Townscape Heritage Initiative – Heritage Lottery Fund

This Initiative is intended to support strategic action by partnerships of public and other bodies to address problems of disrepair, erosion of quality and under-use of buildings in historic areas of social and economic need where buildings predominate.

It is not applicable to single buildings or groups in the same ownership, rural areas with a built component, urban parks or active places of worship eligible under the joint scheme with English Heritage.

For leaflet, further information and to request inclusion on the "Lottery update" or other publications mailing list contact: Information and Publications Team, Heritage Lottery Fund, 7 Holbein Place, London SW1W 8NR, Telephone: 0171 591 6041, Fax: 0171 591 6271

2 Draft Strategic Plan

The HLF recently released its draft strategic plan for comment. It is topical and focused on education and access for all. HLF's share of Lottery funds is predicted to be £280 million in 98/99 falling to £218 million by 2001/02. This is further subdivided between various initiatives and spending on historic buildings and townscapes is expected to fall from £86 to £53million.

3 Other Lottery Funds

The New Opportunities Fund (NOF) has been established and will derive 16.65% of Lottery funds initially rising to 33% in 2001 following the winding up of the Millennium Fund. Current programmes indicated for the NOF are Cancer Care, Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities, Access to Lifelong Learning.

SCOTTISH CONSERVATION CHARTER

Historic Scotland have issued a draft Scottish Conservation Charter for comment. To obtain a copy please contact TCRC Division/Scottish Conservation Bureau, Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH. Tel: 0131 668 8668, Fax: 0131 668 8669.

BUILDING STONES OF GREAT BRITAIN

A new CD-ROM from British Stone illustrates the granites, limestones, sandstones and slates of Great Britain available. Well illustrated, in full colour with, information on independent test and specification data from the BRE, it is a useful reference for anyone involved with the use of stone. The illustrations complement the permanent display of stones available for view at the Building Centre in London. The CD is suitable for use on Apple Mac or PC with Windows 3.1 or 95 computers. It is available free from British Stone: Kent House, 77 Crompton Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9QH, Tel: 01902 426008, Website: <http://www.british-stone.com>

EUCLID INTERNATIONAL

EUCLID international have been appointed by the Department of Culture Media & Sport and the European Commission (EC) as the official UK Cultural Contact point for 1999. This covers the programmes operated by Directorate General X of the EC including Kaleidoscope, Raphael, and Ariane. They publish application guides for each of the grant programmes and issue a useful Newsletter "Eureka" on other matters of European interest. For further information contact EUCLID, 1st Floor 46-48 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5SD, Tel: 0151 709 2564, Web site: www.euclid.co.uk

YORK CONSORTIUM FOR CONSERVATION AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

Established for just over a year this consortium aims to promote the conservation of material remains of the past in the City of York and its surrounding region. With a membership of 30 individuals and 24 organisations its immediate aims are to prepare a brochure listing member's skills for promotional purposes, the creation of a charitable foundation to promote the charitable aims of the Group, a Training Initiative and a programme of seminars, exhibitions and lectures. We wish this exciting initiative well and will keep you up to date with future developments.

CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Many of you may already be aware of this centre for all matters sustainable in Wales but for those who are not it runs mainly practical based courses in the areas of renewable energy and sustainable building. We will provide more detailed information in the next issue but in the meantime if you require further information they may be contacted: The Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ, Tel: 01654 703743, Fax: 01654 702782. Web site: <http://www.cat.org.uk>

EUROPA NOSTRA AWARD

Chastleton House at Chastleton near Moreton-in-Marsh won one of only 6 prestigious Medals in the Europa Nostra awards. It was presented for the meticulous conservation of the fabric, furnishings and gardens of the Jacobean country house acquired on behalf of the nation to prevent the public sale and dispersal of its historic contents.

ALBERT MEMORIAL RESTORED

First declared unsafe in 1983 when a piece of the cornice fell to the ground, it was covered with Europe's largest free-standing scaffold for eight years from 1990. The scaffolding finally came down in 1998 after thorough £11.2 million restoration directed by English Heritage over four years.

IMAGES OF ENGLAND

The National Monuments Record in conjunction with the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) has been successful in securing a £3.09 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to establish one of the world's largest, free, on-line picture libraries by the year 2002. Images of England, subject of an earlier article in this Newsletter during its pilot phase, aims to create a "point in time" photographic record of England's heritage listed sites. Volunteer photographers from the RPS will comb the country to capture 360,000 images. For more information telephone 01793 414779 or Web site: www.imagesofengland.org.uk

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND (AHF)

The AHF has reduced the interest rate on all new loans to 4% to reflect the fall in bank rate and difficulties facing Building Preservation Trusts. This is the first change of rate in the 23 year history of the AHF. In addition Project Administration Grants have been increased to £4000 from 1st April, Refundable Loan Preparation Grants continue at the present levels and the AHF will once again bear 100% of its own legal costs when contracting new loans and releasing them.

SITES AND MONUMENTS DATABASE: An integrated solution for recording the historic environment

Kate Fernie, Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments for England

At first, Sites and Monuments Records may seem surprising places to find state-of-the-art integrated information systems set to revolutionise the management of the historic environment. Over the last twenty or so years, Local Authorities have struggled to find the resources from national and local sources to establish these records of the archaeological and built heritage.

Based on a system of index cards and paper record maps established by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division, Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) have gradually developed into computerised indexes to extensive archive collections of maps, photographs and reports. Until recently, the paper record maps held the key to accessing the information held in an SMR.

This is now set to change with the development of an affordable new software package for SMRs by exeGesIS Spatial Data Management in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments for England (RCHME) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO). The Sites and Monuments Database simplifies the work of heritage managers by integrating records of monuments and buildings with a Geographic Information System (GIS) and digital images.

The involvement of the ALGAO membership at all stages in the design and development of the Sites and Monuments Database has ensured that this is a genuinely user friendly system. Key information is visible at a glance and the forms incorporate many features that make the task of data input easier. Flexibility is a watchword, as the system accommodates existing data and individual working practices allowing users to move between records, the GIS and images with ease.

For heritage managers, one useful feature of the system is the ability to look at the area of a proposed development in the GIS and immediately see the distribution of monuments, buildings and previous investigative work. The system allows rapid examination of the detailed monument and event records and assists professional decisions about

the impact of development on the historic environment. Also built into the system are standard search forms that allow users to build up queries simply and to retrieve information in familiar ways, e.g. by name, grid co-ordinate or record number.

The RCHME has provided exeGesIS SDM with the National Heritage Reference Data Set, including the Thesaurus of Monument Types, and this is incorporated into the system. The big advantage of this is that it enables research. Using this system, for example, heritage managers can identify all medieval timber framed buildings with thatched roofs in their areas. The GIS capability can be used to compare the distribution of monuments of differing type, enabling for example a review of the use of different building materials within the study area, or a comparison of the distribution of settlement, industrial and religious sites at different periods within a region.

As the Sites and Monuments Database is based on national and international data standards for archaeological and architectural records it enables the exchange of information between archaeologists and building conservation officers. Some of the authorities that have taken this software have used it to combine their SMR with their Listed Buildings Record and to consider buildings in their period landscape setting. So far, some twenty local authorities across the United Kingdom have taken the Sites and Monuments Database. These authorities will readily be able to interchange data and, as their number grows, the increasing consistency in heritage data will enable exploration of national themes. Perhaps we can allow ourselves a vision of a future in which it is easy to find all surviving examples of a particular monument type, e.g. 18th century tide mills, consider them in detail and assess their significance in the national context.

Further information about the Sites and Monuments Database is available from exeGesIS SDM, Great House Barn, New Street, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys, LD5 0AH. Tel: (01874) 711145

ZIBBY GARNETT

ZIBBY GARNETT was a countrywoman who used her knowledge of all the applied arts that make great houses shine to steer at least two of them into calmer water. Through the Nineties she was immersed in the conservation of decorative arts, first at the Lincoln College of Art and Design and later, after their merger, within De Montfort University.

She was a great self-improver who read for the pleasure of it but found the means to bring most of what she learned to good use. By the time she reached Lincoln she had learned her trade in the dismantling of one of the Dukeries (several ducal houses in a small area of Nottinghamshire) Thoresby, 84,000 square feet of “muscular Victorian eclecticism” by Anthony Salvin. In 1980 it had been passed to British Coal which preferred to be the owner of its problems rather than answerable to others for the subsidence their undermining was causing. By 1988 they wanted shot of it and exercised the right to move the family still in occupation, out of it.

Zibby Garnett was ready having finished a good, but less than half complete, catalogue of the contents and then put method into the selection of what should be kept for use in a new building and what should go for sale. She was, alone, the person prepared to know about each object, the part it played in the overall scheme of decoration and how it related to the remainder. She informed every decision that was later taken to preserve the core collection from several thousand objects.

She was fastidious enough to be offended by a bad fit within a decorative scheme or, equally, by bad planting. She baffled everyone at Thoresby by complaining of the tea roses planted on the terrace which were of obvious vigour and unprecedented display “They are tea roses only hybridised after 1945 and quite out of place in a parterre designed by Nesfield in 1868.” But she was never a bore or pedant. Because her purist tendency was the product of her enthusiasm and excitement in the subject she carried the audience with her. She left Thoresby before the roses had been replanted to join an English Heritage team that was bringing Brodsworth, near Doncaster, back to life after its period asleep. This meant applying the same skills and dis-

cretion to build up, to get the fabric cleaned and replaced, to see the spirit of the place emerge again. Lincoln was an obvious next step. There she made a temporary, freelance assignment into a permanent role. Although her work was chiefly administrative she was, at the least, unusual in having no higher qualifications at all. She had received an education and lifelong values, if few exams in her convent schooling at St Hilda’s, Whitby, while growing up in the NorthEast.

After coming on to the staff at Lincoln she led an HND course and later set up a new research department, the “Centre for Conservation Studies. It was perhaps an obvious choice when De Montfort wanted to take the new school up in the world they should ask Garnett to create from nothing the International links and to set up the student exchanges that would prompt the cross-fertilisation arts education depends on. Through that she found friends in Europe and India and would, had she lived, no doubt have extended this range throughout the world.

She always treated new interests and tasks as a means to make new and proper friendships wherever she landed. This was not a planned career cut short by the cancer that hunted her for 12 years but a journey from one interesting place to another with plenty to get on with as she went. Outside her paid work she was taken up with causes centred on the arts and architecture, although her membership of the Diocesan Synod hardly fits that definition and, here also, in spite of her own modest assessment of her abilities others saw fit to push her into the lead. At home in Norwell, a small red-brick village north of Newark where she came in 1977 with her husband, David Garnett, they gave creative life to many of the interests and principles they shared. They showed how a proper knowledge of plants and their history can lead to an infinitely more stimulating effect than the ignorant motivated only by a sense of colour or immediate impression.

HUGH MATHESON

Elizabeth Pamela Stock, arts administrator: born Newcastle 14 October 1944; married 1971 David Garnett died Norwell, Nottinghamshire 15 January 1999.

THE INDEPENDENT 5 FEBRUARY 1999

MAJOR REPORT PUBLISHED ON TACKLING STEEL FRAME CORROSION

The results of a three-year, £115,000 study into the problems of corroding steel frames of masonry-clad buildings and how to tackle them is now available on CD-ROM for £10.

The research was carried out by Taywood Engineering and Harrison Goldman Design Consultants and the report resulting from it was launched in London to an invited audience of 100 of those in whose hands the nation's built heritage rests.

The report is called *The Prevention and Repair of Corrosion in Masonry Clad, Steel Framed Buildings**. If you are involved in conservation you are likely to find it of great use to be familiar with this publication.

The presentation was preceded by an introduction by John Fidler, in charge of the buildings materials research programme of English Heritage, and John Stambollouian, from the DETR. Stambollouian said at any one time the DETR had some 600 projects running, although the reports resulting from them often got no further than the shelves of researchers. He wanted more of this work to reach the public domain and the Government was working to that end — like the publishing on CD-ROM of this report on steel frames.

Peter Gibbs and Rennie Chadwick, from Taywood Engineering, and Peter Harrison, from Harrison Goldman (also the junior vice-president of Stone Federation Great Britain), spoke about their research and the report.

The subject of corroding steel frames is important because most major buildings over four stories high built since the beginning of the century (or shortly after in London) have steel frames. Although some were built, particularly in Manchester and Liverpool, from as early as the first half of the 19th century — the first was in 1810.

Until World War Two, the masonry around the frames was built tight up to the frame and any gaps filled with mortar. Clinker concrete was often used to infill, and clinker accelerates corrosion of steel.

Nor were expansion joints included. On a 70m frontage a rise of 10°C in temperature can result in 10mm expansion. If that has not been allowed for in the design, something will give, which can allow water to penetrate.

Inadequate maintenance over the years, leading to the failure of lead flashing and asphalt coverings can, again, allow water to penetrate to the steel frame. When the frame rusts it expands and with the masonry right around the

steel, the result is often cracking, displacement or spalling of the masonry.

Corrosion typically occurs in phases. Up to 30 years there is little. Between 30 and 60 years corrosion sets in and after 60 years it starts to become apparent as cracks on the outside of a building.

The solution, apart from demolition, has tended to involve the removal of the masonry, blasting the rust away back to the steel, painting the frame and replacing the facade, leaving a cavity around the frame.

In the report, however, alternatives are explored, particularly cathodic protection (CP), which involves wiring the frame up to a low powered electricity supply to reverse the processes of decay. Taywood have said this can halve the price of stripping and treating.

The latest project to use CP is St Andrew's House, Edinburgh, which was at one time being considered as the home of the new Scottish Parliament, which it was later decided to house in a new building. It is the largest use of CP to date. Taywood say it speaks volumes that the Government is prepared to adopt the technologies developed under these DETR projects.

Tape sealants are also considered interesting and these have been installed in a building in Scotland as a long-term trial and could be the subject of more research and a future report. Likewise, corrosion inhibitors, new products the long term effects of which are still to be determined.

Publishing the report on CD-ROM has the advantage of being inexpensive, but the way it has been programmed means it cannot be printed out, which is a drawback because it would be handy to take parts of it on to site as a check list and to give to operatives.

It is a problem which needs resolving. It makes sense to put a price on the CD to offset the cost of production and restrict circulation to those who actually want it. But how many sales would be lost by being able to print it out? Perhaps about the same number as will be lost to those who will not buy it because of this limitation.

* *The Prevention and Repair of Corrosion in Masonry Clad, Steel Framed Buildings* is available on CD-ROM only for £10 from Michelle Connolly, Taywood Engineering Ltd. Tel: 0181 575 4161. Fax: 0181 575 4044. E-mail: michelle.connolly@taywood.co.uk

HISTORIC BUILDING SITE MANAGERS' EUROPEAN TRAINING

A project carried out with the support of the Commission of the European Communities within the framework of the Leonardo Da Vinci Programme and with the support of the Council of Europe.

AIM

In response to the growing market for the conservation of historic buildings in Europe, the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (FEMP) harnessed the skills of six countries France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain and UK to create a training programme for historic building site managers by international exchange.

PROGRAMME

This programme involved a total of seven weeks training. The initial two weeks, early in the year, were at the Venice European Centre for the Trades and Professions of the Conservation of Architectural Heritage on the island of San Servolo in the Venice lagoon. This was followed by return to their employers and then a four-week placement on site in one of the other countries during the Spring/Summer. Candidates then returned to their employers before a final evaluation week back in Venice towards the year end. Consequently the site managers were able to share knowledge, acquire new skills and benefit their companies with European expertise.

The Course Programme covered the following areas of study for which a certificate was awarded on completion:

- Heritage conservation concepts and techniques.
- The scientific basis of conservation and restoration.
- Traditional techniques and materials.
- Conservation techniques and materials.
- Site management (budgets and materials).
- Quality control.
- Health and safety on the building site.
- Planning and co-ordinating the work.
- Drafting reports.

TARGET MARKET

This training was aimed at site managers involved in the restoration, modernisation, or renovation of historic buildings. The intention was that trainees should have basic technical knowledge and some management experience.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The programme was run by a Management Committee set up by FEMP. This comprised representatives from the six participating countries and its tasks were to:

- Design the programme

- Organise its implementation
- Define the selection criteria for candidates
- Co-ordinate the various components of the project.
- Assess, report on and promote the initiative.

THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR HERITAGE SKILLS

The European Foundation for Heritage skills (FEMP) is a private, not-for-profit organisation established in 1996 at the initiative of the Council of Europe.

Located in Strasbourg, it is managed by a governing board with representatives from the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and the European Parliament, as well as representatives from cultural heritage and business circles. It operates under the patronage of Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, Vigdis Finnbogadottir, former president of Iceland, and HRH the Prince of Wales.

Its purpose is to "foster progress in cultural heritage conservation skills and their transmission". To do this it has set itself a threefold task:

- 1 In-service training
- 2 Information and networking
- 3 Awareness raising for the general public

The Foundation seeks to promote co-operation between existing training centres and organisations.

THE EXCHANGES

This is a Pilot Project. The UK sent three trainees, Peter Dunwell from A.E.Houghton and Son in York who trained at Lisbon Castle and environs, Gavin Douglas from Historic Scotland who trained at Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona, and William Napier from the Scottish Lime Centre who trained at various sites in Florence and Turin.

The two trainees who came to UK were Joao Castico from Portugal and Giovanni Gazzotti from Italy. Their first week in the UK was spent at the Tower of London Environs Scheme, and included visits to English Heritage's Laboratories in Savile Row and Painting Studios in Regents Park, as well as the Albert Memorial, with two mornings at Lambeth College.

The second and third weeks were in Scotland experiencing the restoration of Stirling Castle by Historic Scotland, courses at the Scottish Lime Centre, and study tours of conservation projects in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Their fourth week consisted of two days at York with A.E. Houghton and Sons, followed by two days with Linford Bridgeman in Lichfield, including training at the Stoneleigh Abbey project. They attended the COTAC

International Conference in conjunction with the RCHME on Recording at Swindon to round off their stay before returning home.

EVALUATION AND THE WAY AHEAD

All the trainees returned to Venice at the beginning of October in order to evaluate the success of the pilot arrangements, with the final Project Management Meeting

held in Obidos, Portugal, later in October. The aim has been to record experience of the Pilot Programme and agree how the scheme could best be run in future years. Interest indicates future support for the project subject to sufficient funding being available. It is likely to be necessary for substantial financial support to be available to encourage building firms to release their employees and provide the necessary element of financial support themselves.

“WHERE HAVE ALL THE TRAINEES GONE,” asks David Linford

David Linford, chairman of the Lichfield, Staffordshire, building and conservation Linford Group has vacancies for 20 trainees across his operations — and he cannot fill them.

The jobs offer youngsters between the ages of 16 and 23 the opportunity to learn a range of skills from trades to technical management. The vacancies have been advertised in the local press and at Job Centres, but nobody has applied to fill them.

‘I must stress that these are real, long-term jobs on offer with very competitive salaries. And as one of the largest and most respected of local employers we are offering the prospect of entry onto a formal, committed training programme leading to an exciting and fulfilling career.’

David Linford says this is not a new problem, either, but one he has been facing for the past four years at least.

He says the group has an order book worth £8million and, he believes, a rosy future —at least, it has if he can find the people to keep the skills alive.

“Linford’s success is based on our highly skilled, dedicated and experienced workforce, many of whom have been with the company all their working lives,” he says. “We desperately need new, young blood to come in to help us maintain our tradition of building excellence into the next century. I must ask once again: where have all the trainees gone?”

AN OVERVIEW OF BUILDING CRAFTS TRAINING STRUCTURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

INTRODUCTION

This article is based on a presentation by John Taylor, Director of the Building Crafts College, given at the COTAC Standing Conference on 26 November 1998. It summarises the Scottish and National Vocational Qualification (S/NVQ or VQ) system and explores a number of the related packages which could be developed to provide useful frameworks for conservation training. Reference is made to funding arrangements, New Deal and Government plans for the University for Industry (Ufi) which, despite its name, is mainly concerned with vocational training. It also deals with the relationship between the Further and Higher Education sectors and considers the issue of progression from craft to technical and professional qualifications.

UK VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL TRAINING

In England, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) brings together in one organisation the work of two former bodies: the Schools Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ). QCA is thus responsible for: the curriculum for children under 5, the National Curriculum, National Tests for 7, 11 and 14 year olds, GCSEs, A-levels, GNVQ, NVQ and higher-level vocational qualifications. The Scottish Qualification Authority has a similar role in respect of examinations and vocational training in Scotland.

THE S/NVQ SYSTEM

S/NVQ are work-related qualifications, based on standards set by national bodies, mainly National Training Organisations (NTOs), approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, representing each industry sector or occupational group. These standards specify essential knowledge and understanding as well as the practical skills necessary to demonstrate the required competence. Awarding Bodies are accredited by QCA to award specific qualifications and to carry out 'external verification' of approved training centres to ensure that assessment is being carried out in accordance with the national standards.

VQs are made up of Units and Elements. Units are self-standing and may be accredited separately. Each Unit is, in turn, made up of a number of Elements. This modular approach provides great flexibility, enabling candidates progress at their own best speed. When all the required units have been achieved, the whole qualification is awarded.

The VQ system provides for 5 levels of qualification:

- Level 1: Foundation skills.
- Level 2: Operative or semi-skilled.
- Level 3: Craft and skilled operative (The vocational equivalent of A-level).
- Level 4: Technical and junior management (the vocational equivalent of a first degree).
- Level 5: Chartered, professional and senior management (post-graduate level).

CONSTRUCTION VQS

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) acts, inter alia, as the NTO for the traditional building crafts, while CITB and the City and Guilds of London Institute (CGLI) form the Joint Awarding Body for Construction Industry VQs at levels 1 to 3. EDEXCEL with CIOB and the ICE are the awarding authority for the higher Levels (4 & 5) conservation VQs in partnership with COTAC. The list of Accredited VQs includes many specialist qualifications to meet specific needs of current practice. In relation to the traditional building crafts, basic skills are recognised at Level 1 in Wood, Trowel, and Decorative Occupations. Level 2 provides evidence of sufficient competence to work on site as part of a team in the specified craft discipline, for example: Carpentry and Joinery or Stonemasonry, Fibrous Plastering, Wall and Floor Tiling, Painting and Decorating, Glazing. Progression from Level 2 to Level 3 can be achieved in most qualifications. Also, Level 3 provides some hybrid qualifications, for example Building Maintenance, and, for most qualifications, it provides a number of optional units from which selections are made to suit specialist applications, not least qualifications in building conservation.

There are no specialist conservation VQs below Level 3, although some optional modules are being developed for maintenance. Conservation VQs at level 3 have been developed by COTAC in: Wood Occupations, Painting and Decorating, Stonemasonry, Bricklaying and Plastering. A Diploma-level qualification at Level 4 has been developed in Construction Site Management (Conservation) and related work is continuing to gain accreditation for VQs for conservation officers and professionals at Levels 4/5.

KEY SKILLS

Proficiency in Key Skills is a central feature of Government educational policy and mandatory standards are being introduced at all levels, common to all qualifications. Key Skills include communication, numeracy, literacy, information technology, ability to work with others and the need

to understand the processes of learning. Competence in these skills is considered to be implicit in the current range of construction VQs (Brown Schemes), but separate assessment is likely to become mandatory when these schemes are revised. Key Skills are already mandatory in the GNVQ, National Traineeship and Modern Apprenticeship schemes, discussed below.

MODERN APPRENTICESHIPS

The Modern Apprenticeship scheme was introduced in 1993, based on the achievement of a VQ at Level 3, together with appropriate key skills. Training programmes are structured in three stages:

- The Foundation Stage provides a general introduction to the construction industry and health and safety requirements, including procedures for accidents and emergencies, safe use of equipment, protective clothing, risk assessment and both personal and corporate responsibilities. Basic skills, knowledge and understanding are developed to VQ Level 1.
- The Intermediate stage builds on the successful completion of the foundation stage. It includes: the interpretation of drawings, specifications and instructions; knowledge of materials; estimating and an understanding of current legislation, as well as the competencies necessary to achieve Level 2 in the chosen occupation.
- The Final Stage covers the additional skills, knowledge and understanding needed to carry out the complex activities of planning, organisation, monitoring, control and evaluation of operational activities and the maintenance of a safe work environment within given areas of responsibility

The Modern Apprenticeship scheme caters for additional optional modules, over and above minimum requirements. The framework also allows modules to be selected from other S/NVQ or GNVQ, allowing employers greater flexibility than the 'core' S/NVQ alone, to tailor training programme to their particular needs. This would, for example, allow units from different qualifications to be drawn together to provide the basic understanding of several craft occupations alongside a higher level of attainment in a 'core' craft, reflecting the multi-disciplinary nature of many conservation projects.

Modern Apprenticeships are designed for trainees in employment. There are a number of entry routes, but a general requirement is that training should be completed by the age of 25. Typically, in England, Training and Enterprise Council (TEC) funding is available in the order of £300 per quarter for the duration of the training programme (up to three years), with a bonus of £800 for the achievement of VQ Level 3. Employers are expected to contribute by paying wages and by providing relevant site experience.

GNVQ IN CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQ) provide a broader, more academic, base of understanding of vocational areas than NVQ, where underpinning knowledge is related directly to the achievement of practical competence in the workplace environment. They may be delivered in schools or as part of further education at Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

The Foundation GNVQ in Construction and the Built Environment is an excellent package, providing a comprehensive grounding for those seeking a career in the Construction Industry. The scope is illustrated by the following outline of units:

- **Unit 1.** The use and protection of land; conservation of building materials; conservation of energy in domestic buildings
- **Unit 2.** Exploring the use, location and design of buildings
- **Unit 3.** The structure of, and jobs and employment in, the Construction Industry
- **Unit 4.** Contributing to Team Activity (similar units exist in S/NVQ)
- **Unit 5.** Investigate construction craft practices, including basic tools and undertaking a craft project
- **Unit 6.** Drawing equipment and working drawings
- **Unit 7.** Health and Safety
- **Unit 8.** Investigate the growth and development of urban areas in the UK
- **Unit 9.** The science of buildings

NATIONAL TRAINEESHIP

The National Traineeship Framework for the Construction Industry encompasses national criteria laid down by the Department for Education and Employment. The minimum entry age is 16 and, as with Modern Apprenticeships, training should be completed before the trainee is 25. The mandatory outcomes are:

- S/NVQ Level 2 in a construction occupation
- Foundation GNVQ in Construction and the Built Environment
- Certification in Key Skills at Level 1.
- Specified Occupational Requirements
- Employer Options

The last two outputs provide scope for specialist conservation packages. Overall, however, the framework repre-

sents a considerable training commitment, and take up has been limited. As far as is known, no conservation traineeship has yet been adopted.

TEC on-programme funding (typically £390 per quarter) is generally available for the duration of approved Training Plans which fall within the scope of the framework. Successful completion attracts an achievement grant (typically £400).

CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The Construction Apprenticeship Scheme has many of the characteristics of the Modern Apprenticeship, with employers 'in scope' (essentially firms working on site in building construction in the UK) for the purposes of the statutory training levy, being funded by CITB. Apprentices over the age of 25 are eligible for funding under this scheme, although the rates of grant available are reduced.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CONSERVATION

Despite early criticism and acknowledged limitations, the VQ system imposes a comprehensive specification for the standards of practical competence and underpinning knowledge required by industry. The range at the lower levels is however limited and the practical projects are specific e.g. doors and windows, but the experience of the Building Crafts College is that these tasks have to be completed to a very high standard. For example, the marking out, cutting, shaping and assembling of components to produce full-size frames, using hand tools, to tolerances of +/-1mm requires considerable care and discipline. It is the lack of breadth, rather than the standards demanded of the specified competencies, which causes most concern. However, both the Modern Apprenticeships and National Traineeship frameworks provide a way of factoring in the more specialist skills necessary in a particular occupational area, in our case conservation. These frameworks should provide a useful vehicle for conservation training, building on the rather limited core competencies of appropriate 'base' VQs.

NEW DEAL FOR CONSTRUCTION

The New Deal for 18-24 Year Olds aims to help young people who have been unemployed and claiming Job Seekers Allowance for 6 months, to find work and improve their prospects in remaining in sustained employment. The scheme has recently been extended to include those over the age of 25 who have been unemployed for 2 years or more. New Deal provides three stages of help:

- Gateway Provision, which is an initial counselling and guidance service and prepares entrants for the main element of the programme.
- One of four Options, namely: a subsidised job with an employer; full-time education or training; or work on the Environment Task Force or with the voluntary sector. Each option includes an element of education or training.

- Follow-through, to ensure that New Deal entrants are helped throughout their participation
- on one of the options above, to find sustained employment.

A guidance document, *New Deal in Construction*, has been prepared by the Construction Confederation and CITB. It sets out a New Deal programme for the construction industry which can be delivered at a local level throughout the UK. It is based on the employment option, with a minimum training requirement of one full day per week or its equivalent during a six-month period of subsidy. During this period, New Deal will pay employers £60 per week towards wage costs, and £750 towards training costs. The main problem with this scheme is that six months is woefully inadequate for training new entrants to S/NVQ Level 2, and candidates have to progress on to other schemes to continue with their training. The CITB grant scheme provides one possible source for those employed with firms "in-scope". Other options include the Modern Apprenticeship and National Traineeship routes. Not surprisingly, perhaps, one of the main concerns has been the quality and motivation of candidates coming forward under New Deal.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The master builders of the Middle Ages understood the structural elements of buildings and their mechanical behaviour, they appreciated the principles of good design and they had the practical skills to undertake or direct the work in hand. In modern terms, the medieval master builder embodied the skills of the architect, the engineer and the craftsman.

Generally, these traditions have been lost and probably only continue to exist within the conservation community, where a sound knowledge of practical skills must be combined with an understanding of both the structural history of a building and the design factors which contribute to its particular character.

Very significant barriers still exist between further and higher education. In part, these are a legacy of early industrialisation, when craft skills became associated with demeaning manual tasks in appalling conditions. In the post-industrial age, there is a need to encourage young people once more to take a pride in creating things with their own hands.

Craft training is also at a disadvantage due to current funding arrangements. Degree students will have course fees paid (except for £1,000 which is now means tested), and receive Local Authority maintenance loans/grants, whereas Government funding for Further Education meets only a fraction of the costs of most craft training and students are normally left with no support for living expenses. It is hardly surprising that many Further Education Colleges prefer to concentrate on courses which can be delivered in a classroom rather than expensive

workshops and that many potential craft training students will be lured by softer-option degrees and the best grants.

Some Further Education colleges are now collaborating with universities to offer hybrid degrees, encouraged by the more favourable funding regime in Higher Education. This raises interesting questions about the distinction between the two sectors. For example, where is the line to be drawn between, say, a furniture design degree and a furniture-making craft course? Even the Government now uses the term 'vocationally orientated degrees'. Furthermore, some degrees are now offered on a modular basis, removing the time pressures associated with a traditional university education. On the other hand, the underpinning knowledge requirements of, for example, Stonemasonry at S/NVQ Level 3 include the geology and sources of stone, complex geometry, the classical orders of architecture and a strong grounding in site management and general construction practice, which go a long way towards the contents of some diploma and degree courses.

In principle, greater interaction between Further and Higher Education is to be encouraged, but artificial barriers to a logical progression from craft to professional levels must be removed. The author strongly believes that higher levels of craft skill must go hand in hand with appropriate academic training to re-establish the traditions of the master craftsman. There is potential here for the expansion of availability and development of the COTAC/City & Guilds Master Crafts course.

UNIVERSITY FOR INDUSTRY

The University for Industry (Ufi) is a Government initiative to bring new learning opportunities to the home, the work place and the community. It will be launched in the year 2000. It is aimed essentially at adult learners, and it will use new technology and a network of learning centres, to promote learning ranging from basic skills of literacy and numeracy to specialised technical skills and business management. The Government envisages that it will play a key role in improving the nation's competitiveness by raising peoples' skill levels and employability.

A draft corporate plan has been produced. The key elements of Ufi will be:

- The promotion and marketing of learning, particularly through the use of broadcasting and IT;
- An enhanced Learning Direct, national learning helpline;
- Ufi learning materials, either commissioned by Ufi itself, or existing ones which Ufi will endorse;
- A network of franchised learning centres operated by partnerships throughout the country;
- Learning support, delivered through learning centres and on-line;

- Regional services to support learning centres, and to undertake strategic analysis of skill needs with local partners;
- Evaluation, quality assurance, research and development;
- An effective delivery system based on information and communication technologies.

Clearly, this is an initiative of enormous significance, particularly in specialist sectors such as conservation, where local demand in any one area might not be sufficient to create the critical mass needed for existing training providers to offer the training required. At the very least, it will be a powerful medium for promoting conservation training opportunities, and there should be a role for COTAC in facilitating development of appropriate learning materials and a number of other areas.

CITY & GUILDS SENIOR AWARDS SCHEMES

In discussion on higher level skills, it should be remembered that City & Guilds offer Senior Awards at four levels:

- Licentiate (LCGI), comparable to under graduate study
- Graduateship (CGGI), comparable to a First degree
- Membership (MCGI), comparable to a Masters degree
- Fellowship (FCGI), which recognises the highest level of professional achievement

The qualifications recognise the professional experience and skills of senior staff. These Awards fall within the scope of the Higher Education sector. In passing, it is also interesting to note that funding for Higher National Certificates and Higher National Diplomas recently passed from the Further to the Higher Education sectors.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, despite their limitations, S/NVQs do provide sound building blocks within the construction industry, and a number of existing schemes already provide opportunities for building on these skills to create packages to meet the requirements of the conservation sector. Furthermore, new opportunities are now appearing on the horizon. It is hoped that COTAC will be in a position to undertake further development work, in concert with appropriate partners, on both the qualifications and the supporting materials required to meet the needs of the sector. The most urgent requirement is to provide clear progression routes for individuals seeking a career in conservation.

John Taylor, January 1999

A WOODLAND CHALLENGE

As part of our continuing quest to expand and develop new and interesting courses at South Birmingham College that would both appeal to industry and captivate students imagination and enthusiasm, we had been looking into the current trend for timber framed buildings and in particular traditional timber framed construction. However, one of the major drawbacks was that of the material costs involved in running such a course. We already had quite a lot of the specialist tools and a timber frame building on site, as well as specially trained staff, thanks to a previous course in Restoration. However, large sections of green oak do not come cheap and with a limited budget things were looking very bleak and that so easily could have been the end, and would have been, but for a chance meeting with Graham Hunt and Terry Merchant of the Forest of Mercia.

In 1990 the Forests for Community programme was launched by the Countryside Commission with the Forest of Mercia being established as one of three leading forests, with a further nine to follow. These community forests were intended to cover large areas on the edges of towns and cities where major environmental improvements will create well wooded landscapes for wildlife, work, recreation and education.

Their main objectives are:

- Protection of existing landscape of historical, archaeological or visual interest.
- Regeneration of the countryside around towns and cities.
- Establishment of a supply of local timber and the development of timber based industries.
- Provision of new opportunities for educational use.

However, they have come up against one or two problems, not least of which was a skill shortage and they were looking for both students and volunteers to help them along the way, which all fitted in very nicely with what we were trying to set up at South Birmingham College.

Three years ago, we were just coming to the end of a very successful two year course sponsored by a Euroform bid to develop and run a course for Restoration of Timber Framed Buildings and I was looking for a supply of willow to enable us to train the students in wattling techniques. Terry was extremely helpful and within twelve months we had formed a strong partnership.

In return for green oak and wattles to run our courses

from their managed woodland, we were asked to design and build a shelter in their exhibition wood alongside the Stafford County showground.

The idea was simple. He said 'to construct a 4½m × 4m × 3m high timber framed building from green oak, cut from the woodland, and erected during the two days of the show. This would help develop an awareness for woodland management within the local farming community, as there was a sizeable amount of woodland grant approvals not being taken up. And in the long term educate the landowners in the viability of a commercial return from their woodland.'

Never one to turn down a challenge we set about working out how it could be done, although at times it felt more like 'challenge Anneka' than a college project.

It proved to be extremely successful and by the end of the show in May 1996 there was the shell of the timber framed building residing in Berry Wood next to the showground. Although not all the construction was purely traditional it had the feel of rustic charm that we had set out to provide and we had managed to raise it in two days. In fact, several of the timbers had been still growing in the wood at the start of the show and had been felled, drawn up through the wood by heavy horse, to the woodmizer portable sawmill for conversion into sawn sections. At this point we took over and fashioned them to fit into the building.

The following year we returned to find the building just as we had left it and proceeded to infill the panels using traditional wattling techniques. We also took templates of two openings to allow us to make a couple of arched windows back at the college, using some more oak from the woodland, and these were fitted the following year.

It was about this time I became aware of the interest we were starting to generate and the potential that projects like this could have for generating future courses. I found myself talking to many landowners, farmers and members of the general public, many of whom said "Oh yes, I watched you put the building up last year and I thought I would come back down and see how you were getting on. Could you build me one of those? I have a wood on my land. Would you be interested in building something like this for me?"

By this time the project seemed to have gathered a momentum all of its own, although not yet generating money in its own right. We had at last covered all our costs thanks largely to the sponsorship of the Forest of Mercia and had received free timber to be used back at the college.

Then in January of this year while at a meeting with the Forest of Mercia to discuss this year's show, I was asked to tender for the design and building of an entrance way/come lych gate to highlight the approach to Berry Wood. The

main part of the entrance was to be constructed and put into place prior to the show, while the roof structure was added after, thus allowing the public to view the construction work underway.

The timber was to be green oak and again it was to be in keeping with the building already under construction on the woodland site. Phase 1 was for the design and construction of one lych gate with the possibility of a further five to follow in Phase 2, these later five being used to advertise the entrances to the New Forest. The idea was that they would be situated at key traffic islands around the woodland.

By this time we had quite a few students wanting to get involved with the project, many of whom having already worked with me on the woodland shelter proving themselves more than capable. I even had three students who had left the previous year take time off work to come and work with us at the show.

We started off by creating a framing ground in the workshop, then marked out and cut all the components. From there we dry assembled the main structure to make sure everything fitted OK and dismantled it ready for transportation to site.

Once on site we re-assembled the frames using wooden pegs to hold the joints and ensure a tight fit. We then raised each frame into place and positioned it into pre-dug holes in the ground. The cross rails were then added and all draw bore pegs driven home. That left the roof structure, which was to be part constructed beforehand in our workshop and finished off during the show, then lifted into place later by forklift for health and safety reasons.

This year's show was again very well received, as was the new entrance to Berry Wood. The work also continued on the shelter with an oak shingled roof being put on, so we will no longer have to rely on the weather to keep us dry next year.

Although our initial challenge has been successfully accomplished, I feel this is only the start. Indeed, we are already looking at a series of notice boards with shingled roofs to be installed at points of interest at key woodland points and the possibility of much bigger things to come, but as they say, "that's another story"

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for all the support and help received while working on this project from the Forest of Mercia and in particular Graham Hunt and Alison Fisher and to all the students who have worked on the project without whom none of it would have been possible.

Simon Winder, Lecturer at South Birmingham College

PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

No. 1 Timber frame shelter complete with shingled roof

No. 2 Work underway on the roof during the show

No. 3 New window arches being fitted around wattled panels

No. 4 Lych gate framework ready to receive roof structure

No. 5 Completed lych gate

No. 6 Framework under construction in workshop

No. 7 Framework being lifted into position prior to show

Construction Industry Board PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION IN 1998

At last summer's meeting of the Board the member bodies confirmed that they wish to see the CIB continue for at least another three years to implement the 1994 Latham Report. There will be a major emphasis on measuring improvement. Sir John Egan briefed the Board on his report which offers a major boost to the campaign to improve the industry's performance.

The Productivity and Cost Improvement panel has produced free fact sheets on a number of themes include partnering, benchmarking, value management, standardisation and preassembly. These have been extremely well received and a series of workshops on these topics were run in conjunction with the Construction Productivity Network.

The Good Practice Panel focussed on the active dissemination and implementation of the CIB's six Codes of Practice and guides for effective project procurement. It has produced a summary, Good Practice is Good Business, and supported a series of CPD videos. It continues to promote case studies of good practice and track its uptake. Early surveys suggest many more organisations are using these Codes of Practice than was realised.

CRISP, the Construction Research and Innovation Strategy Panel has produced a database of known research projects, which the CIB has been very pleased to endorse as an excellent single source of information on the latest ideas coming through. It can be found on the web at <http://www.crisp.rdg.ac.uk>.

The Construction Minister had announced details of the Construction Best Practice Programme to improve the communication of general management best practice and the CIB's approved outputs in particular. CIB oversee the programme along with the DETR and information is available from the Programme Management Unit at BRE on 01923 664232.

Work to improve the image of the industry continues with the second National Construction Week planned for 19-25 April 1999 and the other initiative, the Considerate Constructors Scheme, now has over 450 sites registered. Since the launch, 25 outstanding sites have received National Awards, resulting in considerable trade and regional press coverage for the winning companies.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT AND THE DEATHWATCH BEETLE

EEC funded research on deathwatch beetles initiated on behalf of English Heritage in 1995 has now been completed by Ridout Associates. This project was undertaken because current remedial treatments of wood boring beetles are costly, destructive and rarely successful. It was therefore desirable that alternative methods of beetle control should be developed.

The project was entirely successful, and results were published in various scientific journals and at a number of seminars and conferences during 1998.

The more important findings include:

- Deathwatch beetle populations remain viable at timber moisture contents of 10-12% although the number of emerging adults is likely to be small. Beetle numbers increase rapidly if prolonged water penetration occurs.
- Spiders are the most important predators, and will help to control the population if the number of emerging beetles is low.

- Beetle activity can be identified by a range of techniques including the use of surface applied sensitive microphones to detect characteristic feeding sounds.
- Both sexes of beetle fly readily if the air temperature exceeds about 17°C, and both sexes are attracted to light.

Results from the research have been incorporated into an Integrated Pest Management protocol which:

- Evaluates the problem.
- Depletes the beetle population by allowing natural predation and removal by trapping during the adult dispersal stage.
- Restricts conventional chemical treatments to timbers where the beetle density is high.

For further information please contact Ridout Associates telephone 01562 885135 Fax: 01562 885312

CAPITA TO RUN CONSTRUCTIONLINE

Construction Minister Nick Raynsford MP has awarded the partnership contract to run Constructionline to Capita Business Services.

Constructionline, an on line register of approved construction contractors and consultants, is currently used primarily by central Government. Capita have been given a seven year concession to run the service and plan to invest over £750,000. The aim is to triple the number of firms on the register and increase the number of clients fivefold over the first three years.

The initial investment includes upgrading the service's IT infrastructure and setting up a national telephone helpline (0870 240 0152) to answer queries and help firms and clients to use the system.

Constructionline currently serves over 200 public sector clients, ranging from the Ministry of defence to local authorities and housing associations and contains information on around 11,000 contractors and consultants quali-

fied to work on public sector projects. The service will continue to be free of charge to public sector bodies.

Firms which have been successfully assessed according to their financial, managerial and technical abilities can register on the database for fees which begin at £70. The service will operate from three locations, London, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Nick Raynsford said, "Constructionline is an important element in our drive to improve quality and efficiency in construction. There is enormous potential for a rapid expansion of the system throughout the public sector and among large private sector users. We will be exploring the scope for the system to become involved in taking forward the Combating Cowboy Builders initiative."

Capita Chairman Rod Aldridge said, "The service addresses some of the cost and quality issues raised by Sir John Egan in his recent report." *Rod Aldridge, Chairman & Chief Executive of The Capita Group Plc*

WINSTON CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

Funded travel opportunities for study projects

Each year the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers opportunities for British citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession or particular interest. In doing so they widen their experience, make contacts abroad and bring back knowledge to this country to the benefit of their work and the community.

Readers may remember reports in previous issues by Keith Saunders, a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust

Fellow, of his travels and research in Europe and the USA looking at Building Conservation Training.

These Travelling Fellowships are available to applicants of any age and from all walks of life, irrespective of academic or professional qualifications. To apply for information contact the Trust on Tel: 0171 584 9315. Fax 0171 581 0410 or e-mail: office@wcmt.org.uk. They also have a website: www.wcmt.org.uk.

Director Appointed to Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC)

Congratulations to Richard Davies, COTAC's Director, on his appointment following a selection interview to the Building Regulations Advisory Committee for two years.

The invitation was made by the Secretary of State at the

DETR in recognition of Richard's ability to bring to the Committee his considerable expertise in, and experience of, historic buildings; together with his practical knowledge of problems of conflict between the Building Regulations and the re-use of historic buildings.

NEW NAME FOR MUSEUMS TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Museum Training Institute formerly the Industry Lead Body and Industry Training Organisation for the Museums and Galleries heritage sector was appointed as one of the new National Training Organisations last year. Its mission is “to enable museums, galleries and heritage organisations to achieve their objectives by developing the full potential of their governing bodies, staff and those who work for them.” MTI receives core funding from the Museums and Galleries Commission.

On the 17 November it changed its name to the Cultural Heritage National Training Organisation (CHNTO). It identifies its core functions as: to identify the skills needed in the sector and how they can be achieved, to take a lead in developing qualifications based on national occupation

standards and to ensure that employers views on training and education are heard.

The new awarding body with responsibility for museums, galleries and the heritage are Qualifications for Industry Ltd. For more information on this contact Peter Lassey at CHNTO.

For further information contact:

Cultural Heritage NTO, 1st Floor, Glyde House,
Glydegate, Bradford BD5 0UP.

Tel: 01274 391087.

Fax: 01274 394890.

Email: kathryn@chnto.co.uk

Web site: <http://www.chnto.co.uk>

CITY OF SCULPTURE

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY is backing the people of Lincoln in a bid to establish the historic city as an oasis of excellence in sculpture.

The City of Sculpture initiative, which will boost the county's culture, education and economy, aims to develop a collection of public sculpture for display throughout the city.

Partners in the venture, which will provide a showcase for talented creators from schoolchildren to international artists, say Lincoln is the ideal architectural and historic backdrop for displaying sculpture.

Support from artists, organisations and people of the city has been overwhelming and plans are now underway to run competitions, seek sponsorship and select suitable sites for sculpture.

Anyone interested in supporting the venture should contact:

Prof. Vincent Shacklock, Faculty of Art and Design,
Chad Varah House, Wordsworth Street,
Lincoln LN1 3BP

Telephone: 01522 512912

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Query post-
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really be
LN1?

A RETURN TO CRAFT SKILLS?

In the most advanced industrial countries such as Germany and Italy it is no longer conceivable to promote industrial development to the detriment of crafts. The co-existence of these two production methods and ways of thinking is now largely recognised as an absolute necessity for a modern economy.

On the architectural level, however, strong ideologically-motivated resistance to this coexistence persists. Balanced development requires a profound change in mentality and the abandonment of outdated creeds that remain anchored in an industrial and collectivist teleology. It must be remembered that in the genesis of artistic and architectural modernism the founding myths were established in a complete break with the past. The rest was pronounced prehistory: 'There is no going back.' Some events and some works were elevated to the rank of paradigms for a new humanity, for a necessarily all-industrial modernity. Anything that does not go along with the mainstream of this sectarian vision of modernity is disqualified as historic and superseded.

The break with, and historicisation of, the past become a means of auto-definition, of domination and exclusion. Industrial ideology establishes itself as the sole productive and creative force of modernity. Consequently, traditional architecture's language, its system of representation and, indeed, its very technology are excluded from the industrial future and hence from training. The immense capital of know-how held by building-related craft-trades — truly a monument of practical intelligence with an enormous potential for production, invention and education — is disparaged as a pre-industrial and historical phenomenon and, as such, banned from technical training and economic practice and retained merely as a subject for archaeology and arts and crafts history courses. Artisan know-how is reduced to a simple level of theoretical and historical knowledge. Thus we are faced not only with a scandalous reduction in the productive capacities of society as a whole but also with the radical impoverishment of basic democratic choices relating to vocations and trades and, more generally, with the means of human self-expression. As a consequence, the artisan practices necessary for traditional

architecture have been accorded the status of marginal or amateurish activities based primarily on self-training.

The immense demand for traditional architecture which manifests itself in all free-markets and democracies must, for the time being, be satisfied with products of inferior quality or with ersatz and superficial copies. The development of this market in terms of both quantity and quality has been seriously curbed, if not totally blocked, by a general lack of adequate training and teaching facilities and of normal institutional representation.

It is now obvious everywhere that even the most energetic and imaginative industrialisation policies will not result in full employment. In any case, full employment is not and cannot be an objective of industrialisation — it is simply not within its aims and competence.

The 'all-industrial' economy is now faced with problems of structural unemployment which it is unable to avoid or resolve. We therefore have to accept that a large part of building in the future will not be implemented by further industrialisation but, of necessity, by traditional artisan methods of production. This represents a considerable source of employment and, above all, self-employment. Today the most serious obstacle to the development of modern craftsmanship in the building industry is not found among users nor in the nature of crafts and trades, but in the ideological — even theological — deviations of modernist mysticism and sectarianism.

Industrial ideology and metaphysical collectivism have devastated artisan methods and instruments of training and teaching and, indeed, artisan culture as a whole: it is this out-dated ideology that slows down and often prevents its partial reconstruction.

Industrial education methods produce specialised, dependent labourers, thinkers and consciences. How else can we explain the fact that manual work has become an unaffordable rarity in those very OECD countries that count more than 60 million unemployed hands?

Leon Krier's latest book *Architecture — Choice or Fate*, in which this essay appears, is published by Andreas Papadakis Publisher (208pp, £24.95).

SPECIAL INSURANCE FOR LISTED BUILDINGS

A new insurance scheme, designed for the owners of listed residential properties, is available from Commercial Union. Recently launched, it is run in association with the property insurance specialist Simply Listed and provides cover for listed buildings and their contents.

One customer with a Grade II listed half-timbered Tudor house dating back to 1490, took out his policy after seeing an advertisement. He commented that he found out about the insurance after seeing it in a brochure, which arrived through the post. Initially regarding it as junk mail, the word 'listed' caught his eye so he investigated further.

Previously insured with Frizzell, he found that the new policy gave the same cover but for just under £100 less. It provided £250,000 worth of cover for an annual premium of £317 including insurance premium tax.

There are 366,500 listed buildings in England and Wales, 60% of which are in residential use. Household cover

starts at £25,000 and includes accidental damage cover.

In the event of an emergency, policyholders can call Europ Assistance's 24-hour emergency telephone line. Europ Assistance can then provide access to Specialist contractors who are trained to deal with emergencies relating to listed buildings.

If the fabric of the building is damaged, the client's property will be restored to its previous condition and a wide range of professional advisers with knowledge of the conservation regulations applied to listed buildings are on hand to ensure that repairs are correct.

Ian Frater, marketing manager for Commercial Union, said: "The scheme is designed to protect both listed buildings and their owners' contents. As the name suggests, Simply Listed deals only with insurance for listed buildings, so clients will receive a service tailored to meet their needs."

DETR - Output & Employment in Construction

Type of Output Value Year's Growth Fourth ¼

Growth compared to Third ¼ '98 Fourth ¼

Growth compared to Fourth ¼ '97 Total volume of work during year £62 billion +2%
0% -1% Total volume of new work +1% +2.5% Total volume of repair & maintenance 0% -
1% New private housing -7% -14% New public housing work -27% -35% New infrastructure
+13% +1% New private industrial sector +2% +2% New private commercial -2% +18%
New public non-housing excluding infrastructure +10% +16% Public housing, repair & maintenance
-1% -6% Private housing repair & maintenance -4% -7% Public non-housing repair & maintenance
+5% +3% Private non-housing repair & maintenance +2% -2% Total employees
in employment Jan '99 -1% 0% Total employment including self employed Jan '99 -1.5% -
3.5%

Notes: The private commercial sector accounted for a large share of the 2% growth in overall construction output. The results maintain the high level of activity following the sharp peak in the first quarter of '98. Figures for individual sectors can be affected by exceptionally large contracts.

For further information telephone: 0171 890 3020, Public Enquiries Unit: 0171 890 3000

DETR

ENGLISH HERITAGE AND RCHME TO MERGE

English Heritage and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England have been operationally amalgamated with effect from the 1st April 1999, following a proposal by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in July 1998. The plan is based on proposals contained in the DCMS's Comprehensive Spending Review last year. English Heritage Commissioners have been appointed Commissioners of the RCHME and the full legal merger will be completed when parliamentary time has been made available.

The merged body will continue to be known as English Heritage, with RCHME and the National Monuments Record forming a key part of the English Heritage Conservation Group under Director of Conservation Oliver Pearcey. The National Monuments Records will continue to be based in Swindon and will retain its distinctive identity. RCHME survey teams in York, Cambridge and London will be co-located with EH's new regional offices over time.

The plans have proceeded with the support of both organisations, and the reason for the merger is one of long-term strategy and planning, not short-term cash savings. Says RCHME: "The Royal Commission welcomes this proposal as an opportunity to create a more effective, efficient and forceful lead body for the historic environment. Its success will depend on the protection of the RCHME's critical mass of academic and professional skill, its unique archival resources and the established identity of the National Monuments Record within the new enlarged organisation."

The enhanced organisation will focus on four key aims: the protection of the historic environment; increased physical and intellectual access to its riches; improved understanding and enjoyment of the built heritage; and the effective management of resources.

These changes will not affect Scotland and Wales where the Royal Commissions will remain separate from Cadw and Historic Scotland, respectively.

COTAC S/NVQs QUESTIONED

In November 1998, a series of questions were presented to a meeting of the COTAC Standing Conference by Roger France on behalf of the Course Directors Forum. The following is an attempt at answering some, but not all of the issues raised. Of the questions that are not covered here, some relate to decisions that have yet to be taken. Others, such as those raised by T Hyland's 1994 article on Competence Education and S/NVQs, are matters for the specialists in general education theory (not an area of competence claimed by the author).

What are the origins of the Qualifications and the Qualification Curriculum Authority (QCA)?

The concept of National Vocational Qualifications was initiated by the government in the mid 1980s and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was set up in 1986. Since then, in 1997, NCVQ has been merged with the Schools and Curriculum Assessment Authority (SCAA) to form QCA. Now, the main aim of QCA is to oversee the development and implementation of a coherent national framework of qualifications working closely with National Training Organisations (NTOs), employers, teachers, lecturers and trainers who deliver education and training programmes.

As a regulatory body, QCA is charged by Government with the responsibility of maintaining standards in education and training. This will necessitate interaction with NTOs, awarding bodies, schools, colleges, training and assessment centres, and other national representative bodies, regulatory and quality inspection organisations such as OFSTED.(1)

In what way do the aims and intentions of the QCA differ from those of: 1. institutions of higher education; 2. the chartered environmental professions?

There should not be any conflict of interest. It is accepted that, in the development of S/NVQs, the starting point has been the employers' requirements. Initially, the suspicion was that the aim was to by-pass educators and trainers. Experience has shown this not to be the case

Chartered construction professional institutes are fully involved and have been working on higher level S/NVQs from their conception. For higher-level conservation qualifications, there has been consultation with the RIBA, RTPI and RICS throughout the process of development and support has been expressed from each for the results now proposed.

In what ways is the QCA a preferred body for the identification of standards of excellence, when other certifying bodies exist?

From the terms of reference (quoted above) it will be noted that distinctions are made between "developing a coherent national framework", awarding qualifications and acting as an assessment centre.

The overview is taken by QCA who accredit and monitor all NVQs, as does the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) for SVQs north of the border.

Awarding Bodies, such as the City and Guilds Institute, and Edexcel (formed from the former BTEC and London University examining board), organise the implementation and delivery of NVQs. This includes the responsibility for "centre approval" and quality assurance. In all cases, the awarding bodies rely upon partnership with the relevant professional or technical bodies that represent the different sectors. Thus for higher-level conservation qualifications, COTAC is a partner with Edexcel, acting as the forum for discussion between interested professional and other institutions.

The colleges, as approved centres, recruit and manage the candidates. They retain the responsibility for guiding the students in their development of knowledge, understanding and competence.

What are the problems identified by COTAC that the provision of S/NVQs at the higher levels are designed to solve?

Perhaps the single most important objective has been to ensure conservation takes its proper place in the framework that now exists for the Construction Industry as whole. A re-orientation was needed, breaking away from the industry's preoccupation with new build. In the new climate of concern for sustainability, a shift is needed that encompasses care of the existing built environment. Our view has been that Conservation provides a well-tested set of ethical standards and professional skills for the effective maintenance and adaptation of the existing built infrastructure.

Thus we see the S/NVQ system not so much the solution to a problem as an opportunity. It is the vehicle, supported by Government, for a coherent set of national standards. This allows the conservation discipline to be seen in its proper perspective by relating it to a coherent definition of the overall role of the construction industry.

A common set of national standards has been produced by practitioners supported by the professional institutions. These standards act as benchmarks, defining the services that can be expected by the clients/ consumers.

Why are S/NVQ certifications necessary when registers of professional competence are being developed by the RICS and the RIBA, as have criteria for membership of

the new Institute for Historic Building Conservation?

The S/NVQs are intended to support such initiatives, not duplicate them. This has certainly been the attitude of the IHBC and of those responsible for running the registers for architects and surveyors. The fact that it has been possible to relate the skills of each discipline to the others has been particularly useful in clarification of roles. Hopefully, S/NVQs will help to increase the numbers of applicants for specialist registration.

Why are S/NVQ certifications necessary when specialist postgraduate courses exist?

These are two different things. The S/NVQ represents a national standard while the courses are a means of reaching it. The postgraduate courses may contribute to the attainment of an S/NVQ or be aimed directly at it, providing the necessary underpinning knowledge and relating it to live practical experience. The colleges retain their independence and may choose their own targets.

What is a separate set of certifications going to provide?

The purpose is to provide benchmarks that the statutory authorities, professional institutions and the general public can examine and, if necessary, over time modify. S/NVQs are subject to regular review.

How do the proposals for conservation S/NVQs relate to the other QCA frameworks (i.e. nursery schools up to "A" level)?

These are all part of the policy of successive Governments to create a clear pathway for progression through education and training. The spectrum includes life-long learning, CPD, and mid-career specialisation such as the Conservation S/NVQs.

What is the response to criticism by the RIBA and the RTPI that high level NVQs are not appropriate for high level professional activities?

The initial caution of some sectors has not been sustained. The whole S/NVQ system has been modified as a result of experience. Now, the RIBA, along with others, is actively engaged. There are developments in both the graduate and post-graduate fields. The RTPI has given its blessing to the Conservation Consultancy (Level 5) S/NVQ.

How do the proposals for conservation S/NVQs at levels 4 and 5 (for consultants, control and site management) relate to other levels in each subject?

For site management, Conservation is a direct development of an existing, non-specialist S/NVQ.

For Conservation Control, the IHBC chose to develop its standards for the "new" profession using the S/NVQ methodology and, as such, was able to relate them to the other high level standards that were being developed at the same time.

Conservation Consultancy followed the precedent creat-

ed by the Construction Project Management level 5 S/NVQ, as an option for post-graduate, mid career specialisation, open to a range of professional disciplines. Candidates may be architects, engineers, landscape architects, town planners or surveyors, all of whom will already possess the core skills of their specialism, at a level accepted by their respective institutes for chartered membership.

Which organisations will undertake validation or review and with what frequency? What is the cost and who pays?

There are all the layers of control that one would expect. QCA is the final authority, providing the initial approval for any NVQ (with the SQA doing the same north of the border for SVQs) and calling in each qualification for review at the end of its accreditation period, usually at 3 or 5 year intervals. This is all at no direct cost to those concerned.

The Strategic Forum of Construction NTOs will now be responsible for oversight of the industry as whole, although at present the situation in respect to the UK Construction Industry is in flux. Currently, players include the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the Construction Industry Council (CIC). The former organisation is funded by a levy on the industry and the latter by member subscriptions, although their costs do not bear directly on the training providers or the candidates.

An awarding body submits the S/NVQs for national approval and is responsible for operations in relation to each qualification subsequently. For the awards that we are here concerned with, the two bodies are Edexcel and SQA. They invite colleges and other training centres to operate the S/NVQs, within a prescribed framework in order to establish consistency. There is an external validation process, requiring visits to colleges at a minimum of once a year. The awarding body is also responsible for recording the candidate registration and for issuing the final award. This is a charge to the candidate, and until final approval is received from QCA it cannot be confirmed but is likely to be in the order of just below £100.

COTAC's agreement with Edexcel and SQA is based on the principle that the monitoring process (external validation) will be carried out by appropriately qualified representatives of the respective professions. The aim will be to ensure that there is an effective feedback mechanism and also, as a result of regular reports, a process of constant review. The cost of the latter exercise will be born by the institutes and COTAC.

Colleges are responsible for monitoring the progress of each candidate, once they have registered, and for the consistency of their own internal systems. The costs of this process are born by the colleges and passed on to the candidates in the usual manner.

If holders of S/NVQ 5 in Conservation Consultancy are regarded as being equivalent of professional status, will continuing professional development be required?

Yes, as with all disciplines. In fact, it is possible that candidates will choose to pick off one unit at a time as the means of attaining the overall qualification. This must be one of the best methods for organising one's personal CPD agenda.

With respect to the assessment of applicants for an S/NVQ, what processes are involved and how are they organised?

This is entirely a matter for the college to decide. Presumably each will wish to continue the traditions that they have evolved as a result of experience. The outputs required by the VQ system relate to evidence of experience or a simulation of direct experience as well as an understanding of the underlying knowledge that this demands; very like the RIBA Part 3 examination.

How much will the attainment of a S/NVQ cost individual applicants and their sponsors?

This will be a combination of charges, the fee charged by Edexcel of about £100 noted above plus the fee charged by the training establishment, yet to be confirmed.

Why is full documentation not yet available?

The process of development that led to a submission to QCA and SQA was the result of protracted consultation. However, until finally approved the product remains the property of the sponsors; that is CISC.

Once approved, responsibility for dissemination passes to the Awarding Body.

How much has been spent by COTAC since 1992 on developing NVQ proposals?

The development process for the S/NVQs was funded in part by Government through the DFEE and heavily subsidised in terms of time and effort by organisations and

individuals. In overall terms CISC has calculated that this subsidy has been in the ratio of £7 to each £1 provided by Government. To this must be added the cost of associated overheads that have been provided by various institutions, including English Heritage, Historic Scotland and, as hosts of the trial reviews, CIOB.

What are the outcomes of the trials held in December 1996?

As previously reported, the results overall were considered to be satisfactory. There were criticisms of the content and of the accessibility of the language. These resulted in further review and modification prior to formal submission to CISC. The S/NVQs were approved by CISC in September 1997, subject to the finalisation of the Awarding Body arrangements. This final stage, including the submission to QCA and SQA, has taken much longer than was expected.

What are the predictions of income and expenditure for COTAC should the current proposals be implemented?

COTAC will be proposing representatives to act as external verifiers. This will be done through consultation with the Members of the Standing Conference. As such there will be the basis for feedback and review. It is unlikely that there will be any financial benefit for COTAC from this process. It is hoped that practitioners and lecturers as well as professional institutions, client representatives and the statutory authorities will be actively involved in this process, again, at no cost.

Richard Davies

(1) *Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. An Introduction (COM/97/892)*

ENGLISH HERITAGE CHAIRMAN LAUNCHES BUILDING CONSERVATION MASTERCLASSES AT WEST DEAN COLLEGE

On 29 September, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, Chairman of English Heritage, officially opened the Old Dairy Workshop at West Dean College and launched the new programme of Building Conservation Masterclasses for 1999. The College runs the courses in partnership with English Heritage and the adjacent Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, where some of the teaching takes place.

Speaking at the launch, Sir Jocelyn said: "There is a growing crisis in the shortage of craft skills in the United Kingdom's construction industry. There are not enough high quality training opportunities for professional, technical and crafts people in the practical hands-on aspects of building conservation. This is indeed ironic when the building maintenance and repair sectors are currently enjoying a boom period on the back of the lottery programmes and until very recently a relatively buoyant economy. Employers are not investing in vocational training. Consequently, specialist traditional building skills are at an all time low and furthermore, post-vocational and continuing education generally lack many of the specialist competencies to deliver high quality practical training in the field. It is for this reason that English Heritage was especially pleased when The Edward James Foundation and West Dean College agreed to take on the role developed by English Heritage some years ago at Fort Brockhurst, of providing high quality practical training in the repair and conservation of historic buildings. What is more, the type and standard of courses on offer here at West Dean are unique and deserve to appeal to a very wide body of inter-

ests in this country and abroad."

The 1999 programme, following on a very successful inaugural season, includes the most popular courses and expands the range of subjects to cover the conservation and repair of traditional materials such as plasters and renders, historic brickwork, and flint buildings. There is also a specialist course on cleaning masonry. The Old Dairy Workshop is now fully operational with a large workshop housing the 'ruinette'. This is a purpose-built masonry structure exhibiting many of the faults of historic buildings on which students can practise repair techniques using traditional materials. A lecture room and a laboratory in the same building enable the courses to offer a unique combination of practical work and lectures including opportunities for close study and analysis of material. Facilities for the teaching of timber and some other courses are available at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum. Residential accommodation is provided in the College, or adjacent buildings.

New courses are already being planned for the year 2000. These will develop the existing courses and extend the range of subjects covered to provide much needed training in practical building conservation.

Further information is available from: West Dean College, West Dean, Chichester, P018 0QZ. Tel: 01243 811301 Fax: 01243 811343 E-mail: westdean@pavilion.co.uk. Web: <http://www.westdean.org.uk>.

Technical Advice Notes (TANs)

We continue with the review of the Technical Advice Notes issued by Historic Scotland as an occasional series of advice leaflets on practical and technical issues, which arise in the care and conservation of historic buildings and monuments in Scotland. They provide guidance on the principles involved in a particular issue and are not intended to be used as prescriptive documents or as specifications on site.

TAN 3 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR TIMBER SASH AND CASE WINDOWS

This particular Note is designed to inform Historic Scotland staff and others when considering proposals or requests to alter traditional sash and case windows or to replace them with windows of modern design.

By considering the range of performance standards currently applicable to any type of window and evaluating the performance of traditional sash and case windows against these standards this Note concludes that:

- Traditional sash and case windows can provide modern standards of comfort and convenience
- Many existing sash and case windows require no treatment other than good regular maintenance.
- Where feasible, the upgrading of existing windows and the fitting of an effective weather-stripping system is likely to provide the most cost-effective solution to commonly occurring problems.
- Straightforward double glazing of traditional sashes is not in itself a solution to most of the problems. Effective weather-stripping is essential if performance is to be substantially improved.
- The provision of weather-stripping in conjunction with secondary internal windows will provide the highest standards of performance under all categories.
- Safety and security requirements can be met by original windows supplemented where necessary by modern fittings.
- Where replacement of original windows is unavoidable, and suitable off-the-shelf replicas are not available, initial costs of historically correct designs may be higher than for other (unacceptable) types. However full life cycle costs in use for timber sash and case windows are likely to be less than for replacement windows of other types and materials.

In the case of listed buildings or buildings in conservation areas, listed building consent or conservation area consent

should be required where works would involve a change in the appearance of the windows.

TAN 4 THATCH AND THATCHING TECHNIQUES: A Guide to Conserving Scottish Thatching Techniques

Recently, the term “thatch” has come to be used in a restricted sense which belies the wide diversity of natural materials that have in the past provided indigenous roof coverings for Scotland. This lack of vernacular sensitivity has been exacerbated by the use of alien materials and imported construction techniques. Such a combination of factors has led to considerable loss of local character and traditional building forms.

This is not a new phenomenon: it is, rather, the continuation of a process which started at the beginning of the last century when “alternative” roofing materials such as slate and tile became more readily and economically available. Consequently, many roof forms changed in appearance and now it is only with careful examination and interpretation of the remaining built evidence that these changes can be traced. Surviving examples of Scottish thatch have, therefore, a significant place in Scotland’s inventory of historic buildings and should be cherished accordingly

This Technical Advice Note sets out to present sound guidance on the topic and is intended for use by all those likely to encounter this aspect of Scottish traditional building where information is scant. Rooted in Dr Walker’s academic research the Note develops the authors’ analysis and interpretation of a considerable number of Historic Scotland grant-aided thatching projects around the country. It offers, therefore, a unique insight into the variety of historic Scottish thatches and thatching techniques.

Through promoting a greater understanding of the various materials which have been used – and how they were used – owners, practitioners, planners, decision-makers, education training providers and others can benefit from the guidance. Through this shared insight, it is hoped that one of Scotland’s richest and most varied vernacular techniques can be more widely appreciated.

TAN 5 THE HEBRIDEAN BLACKHOUSE

When I first encountered the Hebridean Blackhouse at No 42 Arnol, Lewis, during the early 1970s, I was about to enter a close association with a building which was to last almost 25 years.

As a Property in Care of Historic Scotland on behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland, the Blackhouse has been maintained by the state since 1962. It was my privilege to

lead that programme for over 10 years. During that time the sophistication of the building's design and its functionalism always impressed.

It had been restored from its ailing state and given a major new lease of life as a visitor attraction. It was, however, kept as intact as it could be so that its purpose, characteristics and form could be readily appreciated by all those who viewed it.

As with all buildings, the cycle of routine maintenance occasionally gives way to the need for a more omnibus overhaul. Such a need arose during Spring/Summer 1990 when a full programme of works had to be devised and pursued. This approach also provided an ideal opportunity to undertake a fuller and more intense analysis of the structure and its detail than was possible during the major 1960s work programme.

By combining practical hands-on experience with academic research and analysis, this Guide sets out to present a deeper understanding of an extremely cultured piece of architecture, despite its outward appearance. It is offered to practitioners as an aid to interpretation and understanding in anticipation that it will provide an effective model for others to follow in the care and preservation of similar indigenous building types.

TAN 6 – EARTH STRUCTURES AND CONSTRUCTION IN SCOTLAND: A Guide to the Recognition and Conservation of Earth Technology in Scottish Buildings

My first serious encounter of the use of clay as a structural material occurred during the late 1960s when, as an architectural student, I undertook a study of farm buildings in upland Angus. Until that point my awareness was limited by a lack of knowledge and understanding. Hitherto, clay had only been recognisable as a structural material through illustrations of vernacular buildings from the middle east and it took me some time to recognise what the mortar materials were in the partially collapsed buildings that I was studying.

With a greater understanding came the recognition that, in addition to vernacular buildings, a broader use of earth structures were also to be found in major architectural and civil engineering projects.

As an international material, earth provides the ultimate "green" construction substance. However there remains a considerable amount of professional ignorance and misunderstanding of the material. And, with so many other traditional construction techniques, we are currently in the process of having to relearn much of what we were once familiar.

Survey and analysis can help, but the best experience will be gained from undertaking experimental work in connection with historical studies. In an attempt to relearn some of the lost techniques Historic Scotland initiated an experimental earth structure research project in 1996. At three

sites around Scotland (Culzean, Battleby and Fort George) test walls and panels have been constructed. These will enable us to monitor, over time, weathering mechanisms, moisture movement and sinkage.

Inevitably, such an approach is a great simplification of what was an infinitely variable use of the material around the country. But it will enable us to start exploring this significant material in a serious manner. Through relearning from analysing emerging faults, and the techniques used in undertaking the building and repair work, it is anticipated that we will eventually be able to offer a greater understanding and awareness of the traditional craft skills required to effectively work with the various mixes.

This Technical Advice Note, the sixth in the series, attempts to provide a preliminary look at what the material is, and how it was used. It also tries to set the scene in such a way that earth, in all its forms might be used to a greater extent in the future. Through building upon the knowledge amassed through Dr Walker's long standing academic studies, and practical Historic Scotland casework experience, the intention is to help professionals, and education and training providers, working in the field of architectural conservation in Scotland gain a better understanding of what is involved.

It is also recognised that the TAN's content will have an international significance. Perhaps, for the first time, this will enable the Scottish perspective to be taken into account along with that from other countries where a greater understanding of the material is much more acute than here.

INGVAL MAXWELL
Director, TCRE

For further information on TCRE's publications, other services and to order, contact: TCRE Division/Scottish Conservation Bureau, Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH. Tel: 0131 668 8668, Fax: 0131 668 8669.

English Heritage Launches New Technical & Scientific Journal for Building Conservation

English Heritage launched a new series of Research Transactions last summer to make more widely available the scientific results of its strategic technical research programme.

The inaugural volume on *Metals* covers research on cast iron, underside lead corrosion, lightning protection, cathodic protection, lead conservation and cleaning of wrought iron. Three further volumes on *Stone and Mortar*, *Earth* and *Timber* are under preparation. It is intended to publish Transactions irregularly up to four times per year

as and when there is sufficient information available on a particular topic. Future issues are planned on *Thatch* and *Architectural Ceramics*.

Metals is available for £30 or as a Special Offer the first four volumes for £95 a discount of £25 from James & James (Science) Publishers Ltd., 35-37 William Road, London NW1 3ER, Tel: 44 (0)171 387 8558, Fax: 44 (0)171 387 8998.

Conservation-led Regeneration

A useful report published last autumn by English Heritage sets out its role in conservation-led regeneration. It demonstrates that conservation offers real value by providing a key to the future prosperity of many run-down areas of our towns and cities. It traces the organisation's and its predecessor's track record in regeneration from the Conservation studies of Bath, Chester, Chichester and York in 1966 through Town Schemes, conservation area grants, Conservation Area Partnerships, to today's HERS scheme (see previous article). Well illustrated with pictures of many of the projects, the leaflet and further information are available from Customer Services, English Heritage, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB, Tel: 0171 973 3434.

Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)

A new scheme to succeed Conservation Area Partnerships as English Heritage's primary vehicle for conservation-led regeneration has recently been launched. It will make funds of £15 million available over 3 years commencing in 1999/2000. Concentration will be on neighbourhood businesses, employment-generating activities which form the focus for community prosperity, and locations where area-based assistance with building repairs will encourage local employment, homes and inward investment.

Directly relevant to the government's priorities this initiative demonstrates that conservation-led change has a vital role to play in the social and economic regeneration of our urban and rural areas.

New funds in the first year will be targeted by selective invitation at the most deprived areas of England which have not benefited from other conservation-led regeneration schemes. Close working with local authorities to address their needs and harness their commitment through matched funding will be essential.

Bidders will be required to have a wider area based strategy that co-ordinates and embraces the following key objectives:

- to rescue significant groups of grade II listed buildings

or unlisted buildings in conservation areas which are at risk and make a significant contribution to local character and townscape;

- to reinforce, revitalise or renew the economic base of the area;
- to foster re-occupation of under-used upper floors of high street properties;
- to assist with building repair costs to sustain the broader social economic contribution made by neighbourhood businesses and expand employment and residential accommodation to meet local needs.

Schemes will run for 3 years. There is no upper limit for grant offers but the majority are expected to be less than £100,000 to secure a broad impact across the country. Invitations were sent out in January with submissions due in 6 months; bids assessment over the summer with offers being made in October.

Project reports for Partners in Technology: Project Number: C1 39/3/2866 Specification for Materials and Treatments of Thatch

The final report for this project is now available in two volumes:

Volume 1 Fire and Thatch

The work reported here, based on predictions from mathematical modelling of heat transfer around chimneys and measurements taken on thatched roofs, indicates that while the majority of thatch fires are chimney related, it may not be fires in the chimney or sparks from the chimney that start the fires. Thatch fires can be associated with particular usage patterns of enclosed multi-fuel burning stoves. It has been shown that houses with a deep thatch and a central chimney with a single brick skin are most at risk. Easy to recognise warning signs of potential problems have been identified. Recommendations are made that provide a strategy to reduce the risk of fire in a thatched property. The application of chemical fire retardants has been examined. A number of developments as a consequence of the project are described.

Volume 2 Longevity of Thatch in Relation to the Surface Properties of Straw

This study is concerned with identifying those characteristics that can be used to quantify the potential for durability in cereal straw used for thatching. The resistance to decay and degradation of wheat straw is directly related to the integrity and barrier properties of the cuticular layer and

the ability to rapidly shed water. Methods for measuring the performance of different straw have been examined.

Optical and scanning electron microscopy have been used to examine stem surfaces and structure. Differences between straw samples through variety, environment, husbandry and post harvest treatments have all been identified.

Elemental analyses, using X-ray spectroscopy has made it possible to identify and locate silica bodies (phytoliths) distributed on stem surfaces. The change in relationship of phytoliths and trichomes at the nodes has been explored using this technique. New insights into the relationship of wax, trichomes and phytoliths have been achieved.

___ Copy(ies) Volume 1 @ £40 per copy inclusive of postage.

___ Copy(ies) Volume 2 @ £50 per copy inclusive of postage.

Remittance by cheque only. Please make cheques payable to RHM Technology Ltd.

To order copies of the report please complete the form and return to Mrs M Sanders at: RHM Technology Ltd, Lincoln Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3QR, Telephone (01494) 526191, Facsimile (01494) 428080.

EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, COURSES

OPEN MORE DOORS FOR HERITAGE OPEN DAYS '99!

Heritage Open Days '99 when hundreds of buildings throughout England which are of architectural, cultural or historic interest open their doors to the public for free is to be held on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September 1999. Many of these buildings are not usually open at all or otherwise charge for admission.

Co-ordinated by the Civic Trust and part funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the event forms part of European Heritage Days in which over 40 countries participate. There are similar events in Scotland throughout September, in Wales and Northern Ireland on 11th and 12th September and in London on 18th and 19th September.

In 1998 over 600,000 visits were made to the 1700 properties and events which took part across England. A vast range of buildings opened including central and local government sites, castles, mills, swimming baths, factories, caves and tunnels, private houses and churches. A number of gardens opened for the weekend and there were also events such as town walks, talks about specific sites – even a celebration of seaside history!

For further information and/or to register your interest in taking part contact:

Diane Clements, The Civic Trust,
17 Carlton House Terrace,
London, SW1Y 5AW
Telephone 0171 930 0914 Fax 0171 321 0180
email: pride@civicornist.org.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS

incorporating a Special Session

The Revival of Dresden

22–24 June 1999

Dresden Germany

Organised by

*Wessex Institute of Technology,
Southampton, UK*

*Technical University of Dresden,
Germany*

Sixth International Conference

STREMAH 99

*Structural Studies, Repairs and
Maintenance of Historical Buildings*

13TH INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE TECHNOLOGY OF STONE CONSERVATION

Thursday–Friday, 15 April–2 July 1999

The course has an interdisciplinary approach and is addressed to all professionals involved in the conservation of historic stone material. Organisation: ICCROM (Rome) in collaboration with the UNESCO Venice Office, Venetian Superintendencies and the University Institute of Architecture of Venice (IUAV).

Address: ICCROM Training & Fellowship Programme Office, 13, Via di S. Michele, Rome, Italy
Tel: 39 06 585 531 Fax 39 06 5855 3349, e-mail: training@iccrom.org

2ND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL AND URBAN CONSERVATION (ITUC 99)

Thursday–Friday, 13 May–25 June 1999 Rome

The workshop is meant to assist individuals to improve their ability to manage historic cities and territories.

Organisation: ICCROM

Address: ICCROM Training & Fellowship Programme Office, 13, Via di S. Michele, Rome, Italy
Tel: 39 06 585 531 Fax 39 06 5855 3349, e-mail: training@iccrom.org

REVERSIBILITY - DOES IT EXIST?

Wednesday–Friday, 8–10 September 1999 London

Conference

Address: Sara Caroll, Conference Organiser, Department of Conservation, The British Museum,
Great Russell Street, London WC 1B3 DG, United Kingdom
Fax 00 44 1 71 3 23 86 36, e-mail: conservation@british-museum.ac.uk

CROSS-PROFESSIONAL BUILDING CONSERVATION CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE ALL THE PROFESSIONS

The third National Conservation Conference will feature speakers from the main professions involved in building conservation – in keeping with the cross-professional emphasis of the event. 'Conservation: Building the Future on the Past' will explore how conservationists can continue to evolve a working conservation philosophy and develop techniques.

Up to 300 conservation professionals are expected to attend the day-long Conference which will be held at RIBA Headquarters, 66 Portland Place, London W1 on Thursday 13 May. RIBA President David Rock will welcome the delegates to the Conference, to be chaired by the eminent architect Donald Insall.

Speakers will include:

ALAN BAXTER, Consulting Engineer to the Dean and Chapter of St Pauls Cathedral and in charge of masterplanning and engineering at Poundbury

STEPHEN BOND, Chartered Building Surveyor and consultant to Historic Royal Palaces; Director of the regeneration scheme for the environs, Tower of London

GEORGE FERGUSON, Chartered Architect and Managing Director, Ferguson Mann, Bristol

JUKKA JOKILEHTO, Finnish architect and Assistant to the Director General of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Rome. Author of *The History of Architectural Conservation*, to be published by Butterworth-Heinemann later this year.

The Conference is organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) South East Region and Associated Professional Seminars.

It is supported by the Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation (COTAC); English Heritage; the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation (IHBC); the National Trust; the RIBA; the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS); and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB).

Sponsors of the Conference include *The Architects Journal*, Sinclair Foundry Products, The Traditional English Conservatory Company, and Ventrolla Ltd.

If you would like to attend the National Conservation Conference, fax Linda Neusten, 01892 513865 to request an application form.

COURSES AVAILABLE FROM NETWORK MEMBERS

BOURNEMOUTH JOINT CENTRE

Bridging Certificate for Studies in Conservation – 12 weeks
DipHE/BSc(Hons) in Building Conservation Technology
Heritage Conservation – Dip. 2 years full time, BSc 1 further year after Dip.
MSc/PGDip in Architectural Stonework Conservation – taught 1-year course
Other short courses:
Various stone restoration and conservation courses at Weymouth College Conservation Unit.
Timber-frame repair, charcoal burning, gauged brickwork, cleaning leadwork, at Weald and Downland Museum.

Lime courses at the Lime Centre at Morestead near Winchester.

BUILDING CRAFTS AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Short 1- to 2-day and 6-month Conservation courses for tradesmen at various training institutions throughout the county in: historic brickwork, joinery, timber frame, wattle and daub, flint, external rendering and stucco and leadwork.

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LINCOLN SCHOOL OF APPLIED ARTS & DESIGN

Access Certificate to HE, Conservation & Restoration – 1 year + various
MA in Architectural Conservation – 1 year full time, 2 years part time
MSc in Conservation Science (taught at Leicester & Lincoln) – 1 year full time, 2 years part time
MA in Conservation of Historic Objects – 1 year full time, 2 years part time
BA(Hons) in Conservation & Restoration – 3 years

DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY LEICESTER

MA in Architectural Conservation – 1 year full time, 2 years part time. Includes Architectural History, Conservation Law and Policy, Repair and Re-use of Historic Buildings, Garden History and Conservation.
MSc in Conservation Science (taught at Leicester and Lincoln) – 1 year full time, 2 years part time

LAMBETH COLLEGE

Short courses in the following: Restoration of Plasterwork, Restoration of Masonry, Stained Glass and Leaded Light Work, Graining and Marbling Techniques, Decorative Paint Effects, Trompe l'Oeil, Oil and Glass Gilding, Restoration Skills for Masons and Joiners. Lengths vary from one full week to one day per week for 5–10 weeks.

Mastercrafts courses for City and Guilds/COTAC Diploma are now available in a number of major craft skills including plastering, carpentry and joinery, sheet and cast metalwork, surface decoration and masonry – 2 years full time.

Entry requirements: Advanced craft certificate or NVQ Level 3 or substantial industrial experience.

PLYMOUTH UNIVERSITY

PgDip/MA in Architectural Conservation – 1–5 years part time.
CPD – various subjects of interest in conservation.

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM COLLEGE

Contact:

Carol Ryan, Bournemouth University,
Department of Conservation Sciences, Dorset House, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB. Telephone: 01202 524111. Fax: 01202 595255

Contact:

Mr A MacLaren, Chief Executive, Building Crafts & Conservation Trust, Kings Gate, Dover Castle, Dover, Kent CT16 1HU. Telephone: 01304 225066

Contact:

Mrs Z Garnett, Co-ordinator, School of Applied Arts & Design, De Montfort University Lincoln, Lindum Road, Lincoln LN2 1PF. Telephone: 01522 895076 Fax: 01522 895137

Contact:

De Montfort University Leicester, Centre for Conservation Studies, 12 Castle View, Leicester LE1 5WH
Tel: 0116-253 2781

Contact:

Mr L Conway, Head of School, Vauxhall Centre, Lambeth College, Belmore Street, Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JY. Telephone: 0171-501 5010. Fax: 0171-501 5490.

Contact:

Mrs L Watson, Conservation Course Co-ordinator, Plymouth School of Architecture, Hoe Centre, Plymouth, Devon PL1 2AR. Telephone: 01752 233600. Fax: 01752 233634.

Contact:

Mr M. Cook,
South Birmingham College

NVQ Level 3, Restoration and Conservation in Brickwork, Carpentry, Plasterwork and Leadwork – 36 weeks full time.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF YORK

The Centre for Conservation Studies has for nearly a quarter of a century been running an educational programme including:

MA Conservation Studies (Building Conservation) – 1 year full time taught; 3 years, 1 term per year.

Short courses: Courses contained within the MA programme: 1–4 days, detailed programmes available.

BARTLETT SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

University College London

MSc Refurbishment Management – 44 contact days plus residential management weekends and part-residential intensive module on understanding refurbishment design, taken in 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time, including writing a research report. Can be spread over 5 years taken as a modular degree. Can be taken as a Diploma in 9 months (excludes the research report).

(Formerly Hall Green College),
Cole Bank Road, Birmingham
B28 8ES. Telephone: 0121-694
5000. Fax: 0121-694 5007.

Contact:

Mr Peter Burman,
Director of Conservation Studies,
Institute of Advanced
Architectural Studies, University
of York, The King's Manor, York
YO1 2EP. Telephone: 01904
433987. Fax: 01904 433949.

Contact:

Mr Peter McFadzean-Ferguson,
Course Director,
Refurbishment Management MSc,
Bartlett School of Graduate
Studies,
University College London,
Gower Street, London WC1E
6BT.
Telephone: 0171 391 1738/380
7777 Ext 5912. Fax: 0171 916
1887.
E-mail: bartlett.pgclerk@ucl.ac.uk

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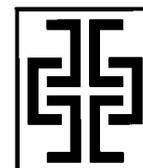
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and forward to:

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429 Oxford Street
London W1R 2HD
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Fax: 0171-973 3656

Any other suggestions for articles for inclusion or improvements to future issues:

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COTAC

CONFERENCE
ON TRAINING IN
ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVATION