

Incorporating
Conservation News

NEWS LETTER

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Council for
British Archaeology

www.archaeologyUK.org

WINTER GENERAL MEETING 2013: The future of societies 2-3 March, York

Medieval St William's College.
Photo courtesy of York Minster



Our 2013 Winter General Meeting will debate the role of local county archaeological and historical societies in the twenty first century.

The weekend will include a discussion-based programme, behind the scenes tour and networking buffet dinner, held in the medieval surroundings of York Minster's St William's College and fourteenth century Bedern Hall.

Informal, and discussion led, the programme encourages society members from across the UK to explore common challenges and opportunities, and share ideas and good practice. The agenda is designed to stimulate debate on hot topics such as the role of societies in the modern world, the potential for advocacy to speak out on local issues, the implications of digital communications, how to engage wider audiences and broaden membership.

Combining panel discussions, case studies and presentations by experts, the meeting will enable societies to take a fresh look at their role and future direction and how they can contribute to the UK's rich archaeology network. Offers of contributions from societies across the UK are welcome.

The programme starts on Saturday afternoon, with a tour and networking dinner in the evening, followed by a full day of sessions with buffet lunch and refreshments on the Sunday. Tickets are £45 per delegate. A timetable is available on our website. To book now register online at <https://shop.britarch.ac.uk/events/Winter-General-Meeting-2013> or call us on 01904 671417.

Participants can enjoy two of York's iconic medieval buildings, Grade I listed St William's College, in the peaceful precinct of York Minster, and fourteenth century Bedern Hall, originally part of the Minster's Vicars Choral.

Please note that the conference is in St William's College which is only accessible via two flights of stairs (no lift is possible due to the historic nature of the building).

Fourteenth century Bedern Hall



CBA Groups' Network Forum

Friday 1 March

This year's CBA Groups' Network Forum takes place the day before our Winter General Meeting, in the medieval splendour of Bedern Hall in York.

This annual networking event brings together committee members from the CBA Groups to share news, activities, ideas and best practice as well as debating how best to take on the challenges and opportunities for the year ahead.

The lively agenda for the 2013 Forum features case studies from Groups running projects to encourage local participation and discussions on how Groups can involve young people, harness social media and digital publications, and take an active role in advocacy and the local heritage arena. To book places on behalf of a CBA Group, contact Louise Ennis on 01904 671417.

2013 CBA Group programme

Get involved with your local CBA Group to find out more about archaeology in your area. Attend an event, take part in research, contribute to publications or volunteer to help out.

For the latest programme of activities visit: www.new.archaeologyuk.org/events/cba-group-events

DEFENDING BRITAIN'S WARTIME REMAINS

The physical remains of twentieth-century anti-invasion defences from the two world wars can still be seen in Britain's landscapes, but many are unprotected and at risk from agricultural practices, erosion, development and neglect.

Ten years ago, the Defence of Britain project empowered an army of over 600 volunteers to locate, identify and record 17,000 sites UK-wide. Their field observations were collated at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford and made available online as a searchable database via the Archaeology Data Service.

A crucial aim of the project was to identify those structures that might be worthy of protection as 'heritage assets', either as Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments, to ensure that future generations would still be able to explore our fascinating wartime heritage.

The project was greatly assisted by the discovery, as part of a separate English Heritage-funded project, of considerable documentary evidence in the Public Record Office (now the National Archives). The documents included extensive lists of defensive sites that had been constructed during the world wars.

The majority of these sites dated from the Second World War, but a significant number of First World War remains were also discovered. The Council for British Archaeology is now looking to

undertake a new project starting in 2014, coinciding with the centenary of the outbreak of the War, to bring together a more comprehensive database of First World War-related sites and safeguard them for the future.

FACTFILE

Defence of Britain online

Groundbreaking UK-wide project coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology with financial support from the former Department of National Heritage (now DCMS) and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Search the online database of sites at <http://archaeology-dataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/dob/>

WWI remains project

A new project will build on existing work undertaken by a range of local and national organisations to record UK-

wide WWI sites. Keep in touch and get involved by signing up for the Council for British Archaeology updates and newsfeeds service www.archaeologyUK.org

Examples of WWI sites

Military aerodrome at Larkhill on Salisbury Plain – built 1911.

Pendennis Castle had a small WWI garrison and witnessed the capture of infamous spy, Mata Hari, who was captured in Falmouth Harbour trying to escape on a ship.

World War I aeroplane and seaplane station on the South Denes, Great Yarmouth.

Scapa Flow (Orkney) was chosen for the main base of the British Grand (naval) Fleet in WW1.

East Fortune aerodrome, East Lothian, opened in 1915 as a base for aircraft intercepting German airships, with airships based here from 1916.



Educational visit to Gun Site at Eaglesfield Park. Photograph courtesy of Andy Brockman.

THE LONG VIEW - TIME-DEPTH IN CBA CASEWORK

The CBA's casework is not period specific, like that of the Victorian Society or the Georgian Group and very often the 'time-depth' - how various elements, added or subtracted over time, tell the story of the building or site - is a particular focus for the CBA.

Few are the buildings that are a complete set-piece from one given period and designer. Most buildings have been altered in some way and the older the building, the more potential there is for changes to have taken place.

A recent case where the CBA's view of the site history has proved crucial is the extraordinary Stanford Hall Estate and Gardens at Rempstone near Loughborough.

Designed as a country house between 1771 and 1774 for Charles Vere Dashwood the main house went through a number of extensions and changes, growing ever more impressive right up till the 1930s.

Purchased in 1928 by local businessman, philanthropist and avid cricket supporter, Stanford Hall became a huge part of local community life. Cahn's workforce built a lido - complete with grottoes, sports pitches, and sea lion pool. Italian garden and perhaps most spectacularly, a 350-seater theatre, which was designed by C.A. Masey, a cinema and theatre architect most noted for the Phoenix Theatre in London's West End. During the Second War, the estate was owned by the Co-operative Union and used as a college. Since 2001 its future has been in jeopardy and a

number of schemes and owners have come and gone. Viewed completely, with its separately listed parks and gardens, the various structures at Stanford Hall tell a rich and fascinating story over nearly 250 years.

Recent proposals, supported in principal by the CBA, have come from the new owners, Grosvenor Properties, who want to turn the site into the new Defence and National Rehabilitation Centre (DNRC). The CBA has suggested that a full historic landscape assessment, so all the various elements of the site are considered and reflected in the new scheme. Stanford Hall is nothing short of internationally important and the CBA continue to argue that the site's extraordinary and visible time-depth could be a huge asset to its future development and use.

At the Limes Hotel in Needham Market, a longer history is in evidence within a single building, a barn to the rear of the listed hotel that is currently the

subject of an application for conversion to more hotel rooms. Evidence of medieval ventilation holes in the brickwork and medieval roof beams and doors, 18th century classical doorways and lunette windows, 19th century staircases and a 20th century extension all help to explain the building's passage through time as its use changed from an agricultural barn, to stables and then a workshop. The CBA have argued that the unique significance of the barn as a repository for elements that track this 'working-life' of the building, make it more significant than the II* listed hotel. We have suggested the scheme should be refused on the grounds that its historic elements, despite a decent historic assessment, are not being valued in the new scheme.

All historic buildings have a story to tell. By commenting on the significance of the time-depth of any given structure or site, the CBA ensures that planning decisions take into account this archaeological viewpoint.



Stanford Hall at Rempstone near Loughborough

Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk Project

In October 2010 we reported on the innovative Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk project which engaged large numbers of volunteers in an ambitious plan to survey all the heritage assets at risk in the county. Here, Matthew Godfrey, the Senior Project Officer of the scheme, gives us an update.

The Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk project is now at the end of its third year. It is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Lincolnshire County Council and other local authority partners including the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service. The aim was to survey the condition of Lincolnshire's listed buildings, places of worship, registered and unregistered parks and gardens, conservation areas and a sample of unscheduled archaeological sites; in total 9203 heritage assets using volunteer 'heritage stewards'. The information from these surveys will allow the team and project partners to identify 'at risk' trends and problem areas from which a strategy can be developed to address the short- and long-term conservation needs in the county.

The most striking outcome from the project is just how much interest it has generated both locally and nationally. During the past three years the project team has trained and recruited over 300 volunteer heritage stewards and held a variety of different events and activities which have been attended by over 1500 people.



Left: Archaeology training at Topholme Abbey. Photograph courtesy of W Thompson.
Right: Places of Worship training at All Saints' church, Hough on the Hill.
Photograph courtesy of N Hamilton.

The project has also been attracting a great deal of interest from further afield including organisations and local authorities wishing to undertake similar projects in their own areas. This is especially important now with the new initiative from English Heritage to survey Grade II listed buildings for inclusion on next year's national heritage at risk register.

The project has taken a co-ordinated approach to the surveys, with volunteers directed towards starting and completing whole parishes as this will serve as a more robust research tool when examining the results on a local authority district-by-district level.

The total number of surveys completed from a list of 9203 is 8645 or 94%. Within this total are 6139 surveys of the county's listed buildings which in reality means that 90% of Lincolnshire's listed buildings have now been examined.

This valuable contribution from volunteer heritage stewards means that Lincolnshire is likely to have a much fuller picture of its Grade II listed buildings than anywhere else in the country.

Lincolnshire Heritage at Risk has been viewed as a pilot for similar projects elsewhere. To enable the project team to share its experience on how to run such a project and the benefits of working with volunteers there will be a national conference on 13 June 2013 at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. More details about the conference and how to book a place can be found on the project website (www.lincshar.org) and also on the HELM website (www.helm.org.uk).

CLOUGH LINKS

Caseworker for Wales, Claire Price, explores Clough Williams-Ellis work in context.

Clough Protection at Plas Hên

When there's a medieval core, and a house built around 1700, sometimes the significance of twentieth century additions get overlooked. But it's the Council for British Archaeology's ethos to consider every era of design equally. In the case of Plas Hên, the twentieth century alterations are particularly important. Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, designer of Portmeirion, made changes to a house which has seen alteration in every century of its occupancy. Clough's "sensitive additions" feature in the list description as part of the reason for its designation at Grade II* level. They definitely should not be forgotten. And yet, a recent planning application fails to assess the significance of any part of this house. The CBA have called for a fuller understanding of the building and Clough's contribution before any work takes place.

Clough Conservation at Portmeirion

The buildings at Portmeirion cannot be valued solely on their own particular architectural or historical merits. All of the 67 listed buildings and the views of the beautiful Welsh coast play a part in Sir Clough Williams-Ellis's creation.



Clough had the vision for a relaxing holiday retreat comprising of a spectacular natural setting and his own architectural designs far before Portmeirion was born. Clough took years searching for the right landscape, crucial to the success of his concept; he decided upon an area of Welsh coast just east of Portmadog which he renamed Portmeirion. From 1925 until the interruption of war, Clough began to make his vision a reality. A second stage of building came in 1954-1976 to complete the village with more of his designs and by relocating decaying structures to his, "home for fallen buildings". Portmeirion is now a very successful visitor attraction. Its success is due to the unique and stunning creations of Clough - from the combinations of classical, gothic and Mediterranean architectural features to the beautiful vistas he designed at every turn, and the landscape he chose to set it all in.

When an application is made for development at this site, the CBA would consider each of these buildings as part

of the wider historic environment, and within the context of Clough's intentions. While the buildings merit individual interest, the impact change would have on the other buildings on the site and the use of the landscape is a high priority for consideration.

The Bristol Colonnade, for example, is one of the features not designed by Clough, but relocated to Portmeirion in 1959. The Colonnade was originally built around 1760 as part of the Arnos Court bathhouse in Bristol; it was moved to Portmeirion after suffering from bomb damage and falling into decay. It has historical interest from its original location and its Quaker patron, William Reeve, but its current significance is also in its role at Portmeirion. The Bristol Colonnade is placed right at the heart of the village and knitted into the location by the vistas to and from it. From this central point, you can see how Clough composed his entire village. The Colonnade retains most of its detailing thanks to conservation work at Portmeirion, but is very much part of Portmeirion fabric now - it even has a carving of Clough's head by Jonah Jones to replace a lost corbel.

Each and every one of Portmeirion's 67 listed buildings is unique and carries its own story. But in the CBA's view, many of these buildings would not be listed, or would not survive, without being part of the wider Portmeirion story. They owe a great deal to the vision of Clough Williams-Ellis, and the site management and conservation team that run Portmeirion today. The CBA will always take a wider view of the historic landscape when proposals for their change arise.

From Our Own Agent...

Curious cases in the City

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS) one of the busiest of all the CBA Agents as it deals with the whole Greater London area; its Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee meets monthly and on average comments on some 40 cases each time. Cases vary enormously from small timber frame buildings in the Outer London Boroughs to complex development sites such as Battersea Power Station in the more central areas.

Jon Finney (Chairman) discusses two recent cases; both are oddities involving the demolition of 1960s buildings in the City of London; while the buildings are not of merit, both have interesting "attachments".



Jon Finney



Fleet Building decorative panel designed by Dorothy Annan in 1960

Bucklersbury House by St Stephen's, Walbrook was built in 1954-62. Before construction, Professor Grimes uncovered the remains of a Temple of Mithras on the site and this excited great public interest. However, Grimes was unable to prevent development and a deal was done, with the Temple to be re-erected. This work involved the storage of the Roman stones in a builder's yard and their reconstruction on a raised podium in front of the new office block. The Temple was not rebuilt properly but it was Grade II listed.

The offices are now being demolished to make way for a voluminous Norman Foster block and the Temple is to be sensitively deconstructed and rebuilt close to its original

site. Ironically, it has been found that there are still in-situ remains below ground. The "new" rebuilt part of the Temple will be re-united with these remains; at the proper location, level and orientation, and will be open to the public with an explanatory display. So, a success story.

The Fleet Building, a huge former Telephone Exchange, is near Holborn Viaduct. As before, the loss of the building is un mourned. However, before demolition, EH listed nine decorative panels that had been commissioned to enliven the Farringdon Street elevation. Each is 11' long by 5' tall and each has 40 ceramic tiles designed by Dorothy Annan in 1960 with a theme of Telecommunications, Power and Electricity.

When and where the panels will be re-instated is undecided; the new building is not an appropriate site as its function would no longer reflect the themes of the panels. Our recommended alternatives are just outside the City. The BT Telecommunications Tower would, on Cleveland Mews, provide an excellent site with the Tower soaring up above. Alternatively, the panels could be gifted to Tate Modern for display in the Turbine Hall. A decision is still awaited so, watch-this-space.

A passion for the sea

If anyone doubts that Britain is a maritime nation, they need only to consider the number of sailing metaphors in everyday use, 'sailing close to the wind' and 'all hands on deck' being just two.

Therefore, it is not surprising that following hot on the heels of our most recent publication *Marine Archaeology* our forthcoming book, due out in March, also focuses on our relationship to the sea.

People and the Sea: A Maritime Archaeological Research Agenda for England (£30) considers all aspects of our maritime heritage, from the submerged landscapes created by changes in sea-level over the last million years, to the physical development of the modern coastline, through ports, their hinterlands and associated maritime communities.

The publication investigates the nature of seafaring, its associated material culture as well as people's changing interactions with the sea.



While the focus is on England, the themes explored within the book can be applied to any coastal community, both in the UK and the near Continent.

If you would like to find out more and to place an order please visit www.archaeologyUK.org/books-and-publications

Sites of Memory

A Tour of Westminster's War Memorials. Led by Jon Wright, CBA Head of Conservation. CBA Members £15.00

14.00-16.00 - Saturday 13 April 2013

More information is available at www.archaeologyUK.org/cba-events



SPECIAL OFFER!

Explore York's greatest landmark and one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, with foundations rooted in the nation's earliest history.

Significant HLF funded conservation work is currently being undertaken within the Minster and there is much to do and see on a visit. For example, the Orb is the latest addition, an elliptical treasure house of stained glass, showcasing five examples of some of the world's most important medieval art and, from Spring 2013, the underground chambers, which chart the site's archaeological history back to the Roman period, will offer new interactive displays of the Minster's most treasured artefacts.

Members will receive £1 off admission to York Minster only on presentation of their membership card and discount voucher available from www.archaeologyuk.org/my-cba



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