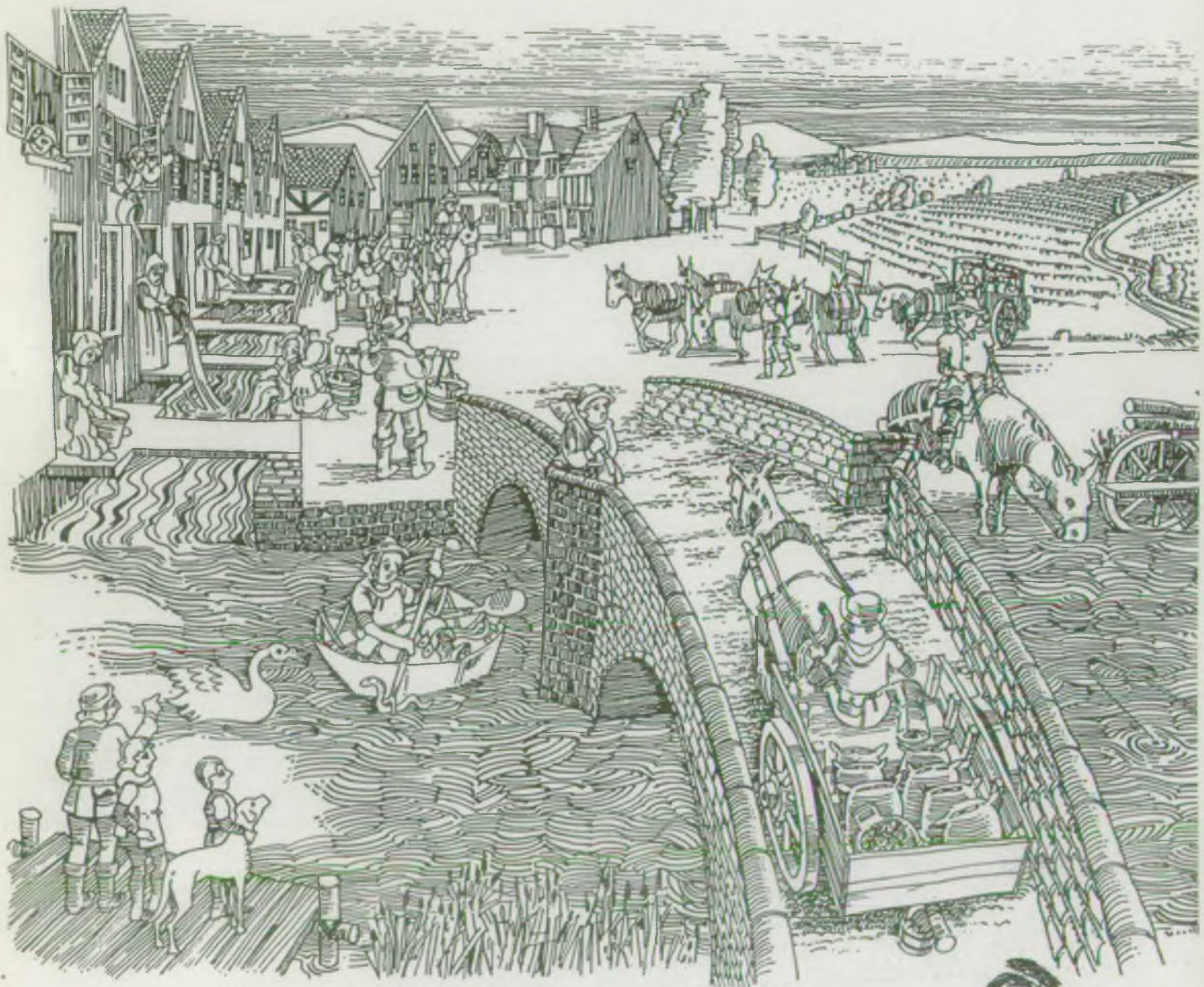


NRA AND ARCHAEOLOGY



COVENTRY HILTON
27 OCTOBER 1994



NRA

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR CONSERVATION STAFF

COVENTRY HILTON

27 OCTOBER 1994

09.30 - 10.00	Coffee and registration	
10.00 - 10.15	Introduction	Paul Raven
10.15 - 10.35	Archaeology issues and NRA Policy	Gill Evans
10.35 - 11.05	Bryony Coles University of Exeter Paradox and protection	
11.05 - 11.35	Kate Clarke English Heritages Roles of statutory bodies	
11.35 - 11.45	Break	
11.45 - 12.15	Ben Ferrari Royal Commission Historic Monuments of England Marine and inter tidal archaeology	
12.15 - 12.45	Richard Kelly Gwynedd Archaeological Trust Historic landscapes in Wales	
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 - 14.10	Syndicate exercise briefing	
14.10 - 15.10	Syndicate exercise - case study	
(15.10	Tea)	
15.10 - 16.00	Syndicate report	
16.00	Summary and close	



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



092095

PROJECT SUMMARY

Whilst the NRA pursues its duty to conserve wildlife and landscape with vigour, less emphasis appears to be given to archaeology. This has resulted in an ad-hoc cumbersome consultation process with consequent adverse effects, including the damaging of both known and unknown archaeological sites.

The aim of Phase 1 of the project was:

- to identify the expected duties of the NRA to archaeology
- establish the present situation within all the regions of the NRA
- to develop a protocol acceptable to all regions and functions, and relevant archaeological organisations, to guide our responsibilities to archaeological sites, features and discoveries.

A desk study was undertaken to identify the statutory duties of the NRA to archaeology, which involved consulting a variety of publications including the Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation and PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning. From this, a number of re-occurring key issues were identified:

- the need to formulate policies and procedures
- the need to establish and maintain channels of liaison and consultation
- the need to provide staff training
- the need to ensure access to relevant data
- the need to consider the effects on archaeology resulting from all NRA activities.

Research was undertaken in the form of visits to conservation staff in all Regions, the holding of a workshop attended by NRA staff and representatives from a variety of archaeological organisations and the distribution of a questionnaire to 52 County and Welsh Trust Archaeologists. From this research the current practices and shortcomings were identified and supported those issues identified by the desk study. It is therefore apparent that the NRA is not fulfilling its statutory duty to archaeology. The following recommendations can be implemented immediately:

- NRA staff to liaise with archaeological bodies at a local and national level
- NRA to improve its public relations within the field of archaeology
- NRA conservation staff to establish an in-house archaeological site database and gain access to other sources of information
- archaeology to be included in all NRA Catchment Management Plans

- the appointment of archaeological consultants to undertake archaeological assessments where appropriate.

Under Phase 2 of the Project, these recommendations must be supplemented by:

- production and implementation of National Archaeological Procedures. It was recognised that there is a need to develop these in consultation with representatives of the different NRA functions and archaeological bodies to ensure that credible and workable results are produced. A series of working parties has been held and guidelines will be produced
- job related archaeological training.

This conference should result in all conservation staff acquiring:

- an increased knowledge of archaeological issues
- an understanding of the impact of NRA works on archaeological sites and remains
- an insight into archaeological organisations and their work
- a knowledge of site designations.

Gill Evans and Rachel Hill
R&D Project Officers

Project record 506/1/W
Project note 289

SYNDICATE GROUPS

Group 1

Richard Kelly
Jane Cecil
Sue Chisnell
Amanda Best
Matt Carter
Candy Avill
Cath Beaver
Cathy Beeching

Group 2

Steve Pedley and Kate Clarke
Peter Barham
Richard Copas
Graham Bird
Amanda Elliot
Chris Catling
Alan Jones
Marina Flamank

Group 3

Nigel Nayling
Alistair Driver
Liz Galloway
Colin Blundel
Jo Lambert
Caryl Hart
Merle Leeds
Jo Harper

Group 4

Ben Ferrari
Lyn Jenkins
Marianne Le Ray
Steve Garner
Andrea Meachan
Paul Green
Carrie Lane
Kim Thirlby

Group 5

John Samuels
Martin Rule
Jill Mackley
Martin Fuller
Val Holt
Gary Murphy
Helen Patridge
Anna Warburton

Group 6

Anthony Firth
Simon Keys
Kevin Patrick
Liz Oliver
Ann Skinner
Andrew Crawford
Richard Green
Teg Jones

Group 7

Gerry Wait
Claire Redmond
David Hickie
Alistair Lavery
Judith Crompton
Robert Pilcher
Gerard Stewart
Lucy Hogarth
Sam Matreves

Group 8

Simon Timms
Geraldine Daly
Richard Hellier
Caroline Essery
Mike Williams
David Webb
Kate Cox
Emma Tidmarsh

PARADOX AND PROTECTION

The paper will begin with a brief survey of wetland archaeology in different contexts around the world, to demonstrate the frequent conjunction of wetland destruction and archaeological discovery. Paradoxically, the best known sites such as those around the Swiss lakes may no longer exist. Others survive in part, protected by a variety of means, and increasingly their protection is seen also as a means of enhancing local wetland wildlife.

Because the protection of wetland archaeology *in situ* will be one of the end results of the current English Heritage wetland surveys, and because of the perceived links with wildlife protection, English Heritage funded a survey of the wetland management techniques currently practised by nature conservation organisations. This has provided a wealth of information on field management techniques, the nature of which will be outlined in order to examine their application to archaeological sites. It has also demonstrated the importance of environmental legislation and related changes in government policies which affect wetlands.

It will be suggested that archaeologists can use conservation legislation as well as conservation field techniques to protect their evidence, and that the most successful protection schemes may well turn out to be those where least is currently known about the archaeology.

Bryony Coles, Reader in Prehistoric Archaeology at the University of Exeter, began work in wetland archaeology in 1970. From 1973 to 1989 she was co-director of the Somerset Levels Project with John Coles. From 1991 to 1993, she held a British Academy Research Readership in Landscape Archaeology, to study the exploitation of Britain's changing rivers and wetland in prehistory. She has recently completed a survey of wetland management for English Heritage. Bryony is the author of a range of books and papers on wetland archaeology and aspects of environmental archaeology.

NOTES

THE ROLE OF ENGLISH HERITAGE

'Conservation' is a much abused word, and can refer to anything from paintings to porpoises. From the point of view of English Heritage, conservation is about the care of the historic environment around us. This paper will introduce the role of English Heritage in the conservation of heritage, the relevant policy framework and the procedures which NRA staff are likely to encounter.

Kate Clarke, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, West Midlands Team, English Heritage

NOTES

MARINE AND INTER TIDAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In 1989 'Heritage at Sea' was published by the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee (JNAPC), a group representing a range of archaeological interests and organisations. The document made a number of proposals directed at the better protection of archaeological sites under water. While it would be quite wrong to date concern for submerged archaeology from this event, it did perhaps signal a phase of more concerted effort dedicated to improving treatment of the resource. The JNAPC has also produced a Code of Conduct for Seabed Developers which provides guidelines for the proper consideration of archaeology in advance of development.

Recognition of the need for improved management of submerged and coastal archaeology has been accompanied by appreciation of the fact that effective management will depend on access to data about the location and character of archaeological deposits. Accordingly, 1922 saw the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (RCHME), the national body of survey and record, commence compilation of an inventory of archaeological material in the coastal waters of England. In 1993 English Heritage and the RCHME agreed to jointly sponsor a review of inter tidal archaeology and associated management issues - opportunities for integration of archaeology with other elements of coastal zone management have been a particular focus of attention.

In this presentation, a brief introduction to sources of information about archaeology in the coastal zone will be offered. A distinction will be drawn between sources of data about archaeological material in the coastal zone and sources of advice about the management or curation of the archaeological resource. Some organisations both hold data and exercise a management function but this basic distinction is a useful one to bear in mind.

There is a great deal of archaeological data available but it is not all accessible at one point of enquiry. This presentation will focus on records curated by professional archaeologists. This is not because data held elsewhere is in itself invalid, rather it is because without professional interpretation even the best information may be rendered useless.

Ben Ferrari is Head of Maritime Recording at the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England, the national body of survey and record. He is responsible for managing the compilation of the national inventory of maritime sites. Before moving to the RCHME he worked for the Archaeological Diving Unit and was involved in the assessment of sites proposed for designation under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. He has recently submitted a doctoral thesis which considers the protection of archaeological deposits in the marine environment.

NOTES

THE WELSH APPROACH TO HISTORIC LANDSCAPES: THE JOINT CADW:

WELSH HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES REGISTER OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPES IN WALES

In response to the Government's 'green' White Paper, 'This Common Inheritance' published in 1990, a joint Initiative was pursued in 1993/94 by Cadw and CCW with sponsorship from ICOMOS UK (the International Council of Monuments and Sites) and the support of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, to look at the feasibility of defining and compiling a Register of historic landscapes in Wales.

The Initiative recognised from the outset that the whole landscape is historic and broad criteria were drawn up to assess the range and nature of historic interest within the present landscape. Because of the limited time available, a top down approach was adopted and over a hundred specialists were invited to list areas which, assessed against the Initiative's criteria and their own expertise, formed landscapes of special historic interest in Wales. The lists were amalgamated into a single list and the most highly ranked landscapes to emerge were selected as the basis for the Register of Historic Landscapes.

The Register is advisory only and is non statutory. It will be published by Cadw in 1995-96 and its purpose will be to guide and inform owners, planners, developers or anyone with an interest in the land on the management and protection of areas on the Register. The Register will also help raise awareness about historic landscapes and inform people's enjoyment of their landscape heritage.

The joint Initiative has now been extended for a further two years to develop an evaluation system that will grade more fairly the historic content and value of any landscape, and also to look at potential management strategies across a wide range of historic landscape types in Wales. Mechanisms of sustainable change must be identified to maintain landscape vitality without consequent loss of historic character.

The presentation will describe the Initiative's work to date, its methodology and some of the issues it now faces, including the continued integration of heritage interests into the mutual concerns of the sponsors and other bodies involved with the conservation of the natural and historic environment. A copy of the Initiatives 'Interim Report on the First Year's Work' will be made available to the NRA.

Richard Kelly is Principal Archaeological Officer (Contracts) with the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust and is currently on secondment in the role of Historic Landscapes Project Officer with CCW. He is an experienced landscape archaeologist having undertaken and published several reports on archaeological field surveys and excavations throughout Gwynedd. He is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

