

SAINT HELENA BUILT HERITAGE PROJECT



DISCUSSION DRAFT

PHASE ONE REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Saint Helena is a British Island Dependency located 1300 miles to the west of Namibia, it has been formally occupied by Britain since the mid 17th century but has been known of since the early 16th. The island has been extensively settled and its landscape managed for much of its occupation, though a decline in its political and strategic significance in the 20th century has lowered the rate of investment and thus the levels of construction and alteration..

The islands fabric has been left in a state of suspension, with much being saved for the sake of economy, and the rest in a gentle state of decline. This low level of modern intervention has left the island blessed with a built heritage of international importance. This heritage includes stunning fortifications, well preserved houses and townscapes, buildings and remains associated with the island's long history of maritime activity, agriculture and industry. Recent, misguided repairs and restoration, combined with the loss of sections of monuments leaving structures open to more rapid decay, are accelerating the loss of elements essential to the significance of the material.

At present there is some good planning policy on the island which gives a framework for the protection of the historic environment, however there is little specific guidance or understanding of significance, both of which are essential if the resource is to be maintained.

The island urgently needs a full Historic Environment Record (HER) to provide a single point of contact with all of the islands historic fabric. This will allow assessments of significance, vulnerability and condition to be made within a solid framework.

Following on from this, Policy detailing acceptable practice and providing guidance on suitable development needs to be created. Finally, pilot projects, demand and funding need to be generated to introduce and sustain a craft skill base for the repair, maintenance and enhancement of the historic environment.

These works, if properly consulted upon amongst the wider island community, will help to generate and maintain a sense of a locally owned and locally distinctive built environment. This will help to secure the valuable historic resource which will undoubtedly be a key element of a tourist economy with the potential to help support the island into its next phase of development.

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The Saint Helena Built Heritage Project (SHBP) was conceived in 2005 as part of the Saint Helena National Trust (SHNT) in partnership with Edmund Simons

SAINT HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

The St Helena National Trust is an independent 'not-for-profit' organisation, launched on 21st May 2002, the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the island, with the following purposes:

- **to promote the appreciation, protection and enhancement of St Helena's unique environmental and culture heritage.**
- **to acquire and hold in perpetuity land of natural beauty or buildings and objects of historic or cultural interest for the benefit of people today and of future generations.**
- **to give the people of St Helena stake in the future of their unique environmental and cultural heritage.**
- **to provide opportunities for enjoyment, education, recreation and spiritual refreshment.**

The Trust is established by Ordinance and unites in one organisation the Heritage Society, the Nature Conservation Group, the Art and Craft Association, the Dive Club, the Farmer's Association, the Fisherman's Association, the Tourism Association and Domaines Français. It is supported by the subscriptions of its members, grants, donations and legacies.

The Trust seeks to protect the islands unique and fragile natural and historic environment, it also advises the St Helena Government on planning and development. Much of the Trust's work has so far centred on the protection of the island's endemic flora and fauna, heritage however is an important element of their work and the Trust works closely with planners and the museum service.

EDMUND SIMONS

BA (Hons) MSt (Oxford) AIFA IHBC

Edmund Simons is head of historic building recording for the AOC Archaeology Group. AOC are one of the UK's leading heritage practices with branches throughout the UK. ES runs the historic building teams based in Edinburgh, York and London.

Edmund has specialised in buildings archaeology since graduating in 1989. He has worked on a great variety of buildings and landscapes ranging from upland and farm surveys to detailed analysis of large and complex buildings. In 1998 ES gained a MSt from Oxford University. His particular interests are medieval and Post-Medieval fortifications, rural churches and the archaeology of kitchens.

He specialises in conservation management plans and clients have included Historic Royal Palaces (the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace), Defence Estates and the National Trust (Hardwick Hall and Tyntesfield House). He has worked all over the UK and for the monastery of Iveron in Greece and directed building recording at the excavations of Zeugma, Turkey.

BEN JEFFS

BSc MA

Ben Jeffs is Director of Blackfreighter, an independent Building Conservation and Archaeology practice based in Leicestershire. Having worked for the Museum of London Archaeology Service and Oxford Archaeology, since graduating from University College London with a BSc in Archaeology, Ben set up Blackfreighter Archaeology and Conservation in early 2003. Blackfreighter provides archaeology and architectural conservation services including design and management of projects dealing with significant historic fabric.

Ben has considerable experience of both traditional and high technology archaeological recording methodologies, including metric survey and large format photography. His masters degree in Building Conservation dealt with the unification of traditional below ground archaeology with standing historic buildings. Ben has a wide range of practical experience in conservation building techniques, particularly Blacksmithing and Woodwork.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

PHASE ONE FUNDING

Funding for the first stage of the project came from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) via the Overseas Territories Project Fund (OTPF), with additional help being given by the Saint Helena Government (SHG) in the form of accommodation on the island and from the SHNT who contributed IT and office space. Funding was also provided by Edmund Simons, Ben Jeffs and Ian Sergeant in the form of donated time and some associated costs.

PHASE ONE PROJECT AIMS

INFORMATION GATHERING

Although St Helena has long been the subject of historical interest, few heritage professionals appear to have visited the island. Many of those who have visited have been primarily interested in one particular aspect (particularly the imprisonment of Napoleon I). As far as could be ascertained no Building Conservator had visited the island in a professional capacity since Crallan in 1973, archaeological input has been restricted to Andrew Pearson of Faber Maunsell who investigated the proposed airport area in 2007. With what little previous work has been carried out there has been a concentration on the recognised internationally important sites of Longwood and Jamestown. The work of Faber Maunsell in the airport area was the first attempt to look at the archaeological significance of a wider landscape and even though it concentrated on an area of semi desert it became apparent that there was potential for significant above and below ground archaeology. Because the available information is largely old and geographically restricted it was essential to make an assessment of both coverage and accuracy. Obviously in the limited time available the team would not be able to produce a full record of the extent, nature and preservation of the islands historic resource, so it was proposed to define the general character of the fabric both visible and potential.

AWARENESS BUILDING AND TRAINING

It was apparent from talking to the SHNT and to locals that there is considerable background awareness of the Historic Environment on the island, however much of it appears to be unfocused and some of it negative. This awareness had also failed to transform its self into any practical steps towards policy and practice.

The involvement of local specialists from a variety of backgrounds is key to both the general raising of awareness of island's heritage, and the formation of policy which will become adopted and locally functional. To begin the process of building a local historic environment team a short training program in archaeological building recording was planned into phase one. This training was designed to provide an introduction to the thought processes associated with understanding built heritage. The aim here was twofold, the provision of a skill set to the island which would begin to allow the inclusion of formalised recording and more in depth consideration within the planning process, and the more general raising of the profile of the historic fabric on the island.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There have been legislative and policy documents produced previously, along with Crallan's report and other discussion documents. These, although somewhat out of date, have been used as the basis of Saint Helena's planning policy, and have fed into the recent Development Plan.

A review of this material was considered essential to a proper assessment of the islands present legislative condition.

PROJECT PLANNING

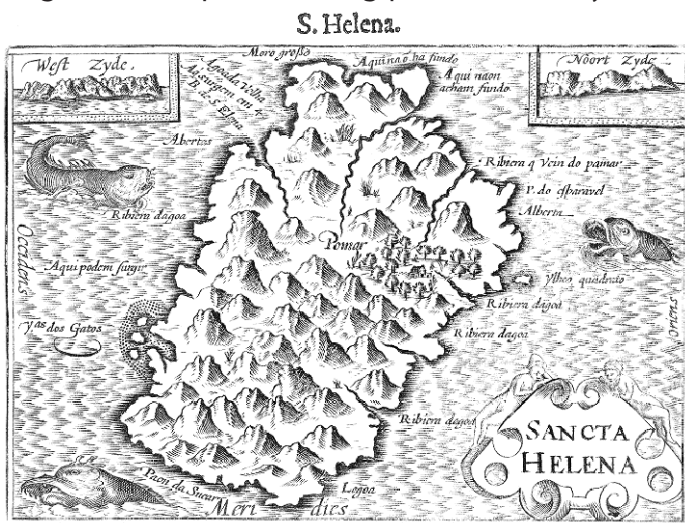
The primary goal of phase one was the production of a coherent set of recommendations combining new and existing policy.

St Helena's extreme isolation at almost the centre of the South Atlantic was historically the reason for its strategic importance and wealth. In modern times this isolation has been a major factor in the islands economic decline and has restricted development. Conversely however, it is this lack of development which has preserved so much of the islands historic and environmental assets. It is hoped that these resources will be of primary importance in bringing prosperity to the island through eco and heritage tourism.

HISTORY

The South Atlantic island of Saint Helena was discovered early in 1502 by Joao da Nova; having found no human inhabitants the Portuguese introduced fruit trees and goats using the island as a source of water and food on return journeys from Asia. Their short visits occasioned the establishment of a temporary settlement and chapel in what became Chapel Valley and is now Jamestown, though the island remained uninhabited aside from occasional wounded or sick crewmen. In 1515 Fernando Lopes escaped from Portuguese custody onto the island, after a pardon for his crimes and a brief visit for a Papal audience he returned to the island where he died in 1545.

The Dutch claimed the island in 1645 but it remained without permanent inhabitants it was used by captains of English, Dutch, French origin, as a re-provisioning port; an uneasy



The Earliest Map Of Saint Helena Published In 1598 Within Caert-Thresoor By Barent Langenes



Read's Map Of Saint Helena Published In 1815

truce punctuated by the occasional capture of a merchant vessel. The original Portuguese owners however found the island increasingly dangerous

Despite claiming the island the Dutch never settled it and in 1659 the island was claimed and garrisoned by the English Republic and the English East India Company, under the governorship of John Dutton. After the restoration of the crown the company renamed Chapel Valley James Valley for the then Duke of York soon to be James II and constructed the first sizeable settlement. After a successful Dutch attack in 1673 the island briefly occupied and then swiftly retaken. Soon after this the island was re-granted, by renewed charter, to the English East India Company. To prevent a repeat of the events of 1673 the island was provided with elaborate and extensive fortifications which were added to and modernised well into the 20th century.

Another uneasy truce was held with anchorage tariffs charged and dropped according to favour and allegiance, various taxes in kind including gunpowder and slaves.

1676 saw the first of many distinguished scientific visitors to the island, the astronomer Edmund Halley under Royal patronage, who produced much of his work on the southern hemisphere from the island.

The island remained in the ownership of the East India Company and its successor the United East-India Company until 1834 when it was taken over by the crown. In these years it remained a verdant, highly prosperous stopping off point for merchant shipping.

INTRODUCTION

Island Background

One of the defining moments of Saint Helena's history and the reason behind a massive refurbishment of the defences arrived in 1815. Sent by the British Government with the expectation that he would never leave alive, Napoleon Bonaparte was imprisoned on the island (mostly at Longwood on the east of the island) until his death in 1821. This brief phase of the islands history meant increases in the garrison on the island and the establishment of a permanent naval squadron, as well as the claiming of both Ascension Island and Tristan de Cunha because of fears of a French rescue attempt or reprisal. The islands remoteness lead to two further famous imprisonments, first between 1890 and 1897 Dinuzulu kaCetshwayo, son of the Zulu king Cetshwayo was held, and a few years later during the second Boer War five thousand or more Boer prisoners were held in camps on the island to prevent their release by South African

sympathisers.

The islands economy based on its maritime trade and strategic importunacy continued to be buoyant until the latter half of the Nineteenth century when the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the introduction of steam shipping and the screw driven iron ships of the second half of the century rendered it largely unnecessary as a supply station. By the time Gosse's history was published in the late 1930s the islands economy was suffering from unemployment and very low wages. The establishment of a thriving flax industry partly revived the island's fortunes, and left a surprising legacy of industrial buildings and (less fortunately) hillsides covered by invasive New Zealand flax. By the 1960s however the industry was in serious decline and no flax mills remain in operation today.



Sunset On Saint Helena's Military Past

INFORMATION GATHERING

THE PROCESS

The team visited sites previously identified by the SHNT project team and locals. The team felt that it was essential to get outside of the justifiably well known sites of Jamestown and Longwood and to examine the heritage, island-wide. In addition to investigating historic buildings the team also felt it was important to examine, historical landscapes, field systems, water management features, roadways and the potential for below ground archaeology. The information gathering consisted of meetings with the SHNT, locals and government representative to identify sites for inspection. Some sites were identified for their historic or architectural importance, others were sites under immediate threat or have been scheduled for repair or restoration, others were selected to cover certain site types or geographical areas. Limited investigation in both the UK and St Helena was carried out on the potential of historical sources and archives relating to the island.

The Information gathering was designed to give a rapid assessment of the types, preservation, extent, archaeological potential and significance of the heritage of the island. The possible use and limitations of the sites for interpretation and tourism were also assessed during this phase. Marine archaeological sites were not assessed but were identified as a key part of the island's cultural heritage.

It was beyond the scope of this project to fully record any of the sites visited during the information gathering phase; the main aim being to carry out a rapid assessment of as many sites as possible. A photographic record was taken in digital format and this archive has been kept by the SHNT, in addition a series of large format plates were taken of selected sites and landscapes.

CONCLUSIONS

The selection criteria allowed a considerable section of the island to be seen while moving between sites. Although considerable research was carried out prior to the visit, the extent, preservation and significance of the cultural

heritage far exceeded all expectations. What became clear from examining past work is that outside Jamestown there has been almost no professional and focused consideration of the island's complex and rich past. It was also noted that many of the archaeological remains and landscapes are well preserved but fragile. This state of preservation is largely due to their remaining untouched and unvisited, a factor that must be borne in mind when planning heritage based tourism.

Case studies detailing a selection of sites visited are presented in Appendix 1.

AWARENESS BUILDING AND TRAINING

PUBLIC AWARENESS

During the visit to the island several radio interviews were given covering various aspects of the historic environment and the potential impact of new policy on the islands community. Emphasis was placed on the role of local input and the importance of the proper management of the resource as a potential economic benefit to the island.

It was made clear that the islands heritage is of international significance, not only because of the obvious Napoleonic connection or its outstanding historic buildings, but also because of its considerable archaeological potential, complete managed historic landscapes, military structures and ship wrecks.

As well as the more official public contact the team spent important time on the island talking to interested parties about the work. Both passing on our own enthusiasm for and understanding of their island, and listening to their concerns, plans and suggestions.

INTRODUCTION

Project Outline

TRAINING

Two full days were devoted to training a purely voluntary group of nine individuals, drawn mostly from the government Legal and Lands Department. The training covered basic building survey using simple equipment, the understanding of which is essential to a proper grasp of the process of recording, even with more advanced methods.

Red Roof at Ladder Hill was used as a sample property on the first day, with two teams producing a plan and elevation of the structure. Once the survey was complete the phasing inherent in the structure was discussed using



Professionals from the Island's Survey, Planning and Heritage Sectors Undergoing Training in Buildings Archaeology

the survey as a basis for this discussion. This introduced the group to the range of thought processes necessary to understand the development of above ground structures.

The group was then given a brief introduc-

tion to the context based recording system, the standard for the systematic recording of archaeological sites, as applied to above ground archaeology. This included an outline of the processes of archaeological recording in general and a run through of the potential types of record that can be produced. The final part of the day was devoted to an outline of the archaeological archive, its contents and the uses to which the information can be put once collected.

The second day was based to the east of the Main Street in James Town. This area shows significant evidence of the development of the town, illustrating the progression from the fine frontages of the houses, through to the servant's quarters and kitchens, beyond them to the warehouses and stores for restocking shipping and finally to terraced gardens for provisioning the kitchens and the enjoyment of the occupants. This evidence was discussed and recorded, with a short tutorial on photographing remains of this type.

The training was particularly successful; all those who participated seemed to enjoy the process and left with a better understanding of the archaeological process. The level and range of skills present was encouraging; significant levels of survey, GIS and planning experience within Legal and Lands will prove vital to the success of the project in general.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of literature is summarised in the conclusions of this report, however much work was done by Ian Sergeant on a parallel project during his period on the island. He undertook an update of Crallan's work, and a significant review of the available literature which is attached as an appendix to this report.

Ian's work was highly successful, not only in its review of the present guidance framework, but also in raising the profile of the historic environment on the island.

There are two main groups of historic fabric on Saint Helena, the military and the civilian. It should be recognised that evidence from both may be found over most of the island and neither is confined to Jamestown and its environs.

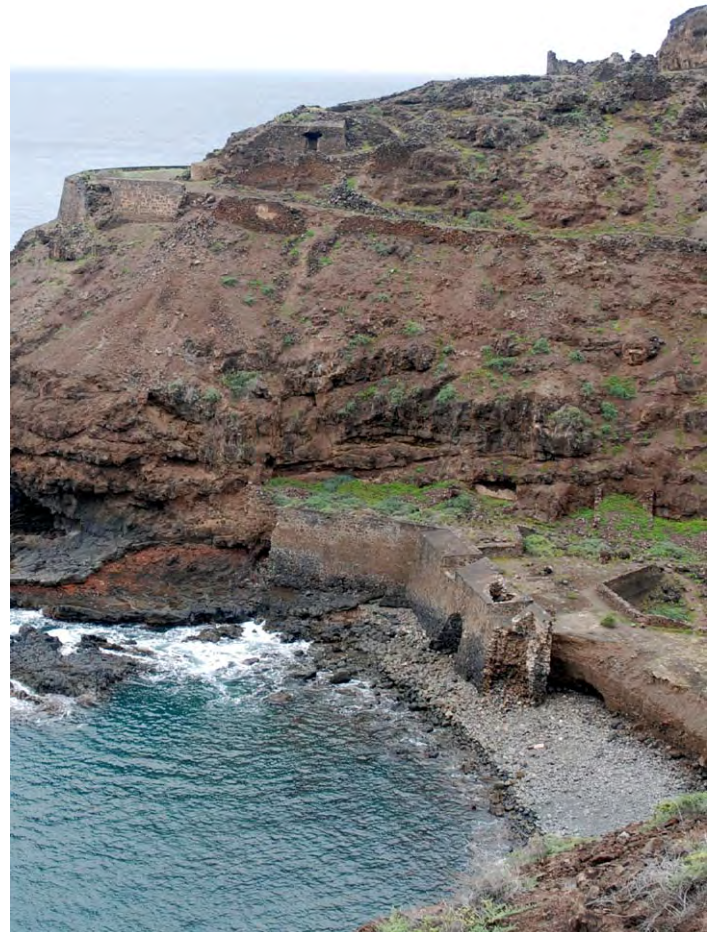
MILITARY

The military constructions should be recognised as an interlinked network, with the connections between the larger sites an integral part of the whole. The large batteries forts and barracks are the more obvious survivals; the revetted pathways, guard huts, water management features and the wealth of buried archaeology inevitably present are less obvious but equally important.

The islands military landscape is internationally significant because of the survival of this



Revetted Path Leading To Banks' Battery. These Paths Are An Intergral Part Of The Fortifications And Rare Survival



The Fortified Lines At Banks' Battery, Showing The Wider Landscape Management

complete landscape, including the less obvious smaller structures which complete the picture and allow a considerably level of understanding and interpretation of the islands defence.

KEY MILITARY STRUCTURE TYPES

This is a sample list indicating the range of material present, it is based on our brief visit to the island and therefore cannot reliably express a full typology of the military structures on the island.

- **Fortified Lines**
- **Fixed Fortifications and gun batteries**
- **Barracks and Storehouses**
- **Forts**
- **Military roads and trackways**

CONCLUSIONS

The Resource

DOMESTIC

The domestic fabric of the island is far more complex than is first apparent. The relationship between town and countryside, genteel structures and the grittier working of the island and the ever present shadow of the military lend the place a very specific atmosphere. This atmosphere is only present because of the extraordinary levels of preservation both in terms of specific building survival and in terms of the more ephemeral specifics such as window glass, portable antiquities such as pots and guns, and the wider landscape features such as terraces, land boundaries, isolated housing and water management.

As with the military landscape it is the whole which makes it so significant. There are very few places in the world where the whole landscape is preserved as a unit with little modern intrusion.



Ironwork And Boundary Features Of This Quality These Are Common On The Island



Water Management Has Always Been Important

KEY DOMESTIC STRUCTURE TYPES

This is a sample list indicating the range of material present, it is based on our brief visit to the island and obviously cannot represent a full typology of the domestic structures on the island.

- Large town houses
- Small Houses
- Slave/ servant quarters
- Warehouses and stores
- Mills and industrial buildings
- Government Buildings
- Harbour and dock facilities
- Field systems and landscape features
- Roads
- Water management structures
- Quarries
- Wrecks and marine archaeology

There is a core of local people who already understand a great deal about the islands past, mainly, though not exclusively, focussed around the National Trust. This group have a significant role in both the production of official records and policy, but also in supporting the process and providing one of several routes into the system for locals.

The general enthusiasm of the team for the islands heritage, particularly the areas not previously highlighted by study was met locally with some level of confusion. The local pride in the islands past was evident, but generally the understanding of the extent and importance of the remains is not well developed. The training and radio interviews will hopefully begin to



Looking Down Across Jamestown And The Kitchens Servants Quarters And Warehousing At The Rear Of The Public Facade

address this, especially as the potential for increased development raises the profile of the islands potential resources more generally.



Some Portable Antiquities May Not Be So Portable, Cannon Are So Numerous They Are Not Given Any Real Protection

CONCERNS

Amongst a major and vocal section of the community there is some hostility towards changes in government policy. There has been a significant rise in land prices and a general downturn in the islands economy over the last few years. Large numbers of young people have left the island to work elsewhere; although they are a significant source of income for the island they are finding it increasingly difficult to justify returning. These factors have raised concerns that additional protection for historic fabric will lead to increased financial burden being placed on the islands economy. There has been at least one case in the recent past of an owner refusing to undertake works to a historically significant property because of government restrictions on the scope and manner of these works, which the owner claimed had major financial implications.

CONCLUSIONS

Potential

The heritage of Saint Helena has the potential to become a world class resource for the interpretation of social, political and military history since the seventeenth century. It has elements which can provide exciting and tangible evidence for empire, military conquest and defence, slavery, trade, industry, scientific endeavour and maritime history, even piracy. These links are not fleeting or illusory; they are visible, physical and well documented. They are the sort of links that many tourist sites can only dream of.

Tourism has the potential to be the greatest economic force on Saint Helena. The Natural and Historic Environments are the two main draws to the island, and their protection and enhancement is obviously key to the success of the island as a tourist destination. This has been recognised by the recent development and tourism plans.

The historic environment is of particular importance because it can provide both reasons to come to the island and exciting accommodation for visitors while staying. Accommodation is vital because it will be the main economic contact that visitors have with the island. If accommodation and the historic environment are linked then money will naturally flow from tourism to part of the island's historic fabric; protecting part of the distinctive character of the island and therefore preserving the island's tourist potential.

Much of the historic fabric that is found on Saint Helena is of such quality and preservation that it will require little interpretation. Despite this many visitors will find the array of sites, monuments and antiquities overwhelming without some level of interpretation. This interpretation will require investment and research and must be very carefully considered. If investment is put in place and the interpretation is based on sound research Saint Helena's historic fabric could become a stunning, exciting and educational gem for locals and tourists alike.

WORLD HERITAGE STATUS

The Historic and Natural Environment of Saint Helena is comparable with and exceeds many of the sites presently under World Heritage

Status. There is no doubt that if other requirements such as policy and management are met it would be a successful candidate and would meet criteria for inclusion on the United Kingdoms tentative list.

At the time of writing, November 2007, the Price Waterhouse Cooper report on the World Heritage Sites Review has not been released, so the present position is somewhat unclear. Once this review has been produced and the consultation is complete we will have a better idea of the benefits of becoming a World Heritage Site, and if the UK intends to add to its Tentative List. This should happen later in 2007 or early 2008; with new nominations possibly being invited in 2008/9.

If Saint Helena wanted to pursue this it would need considerable work to its policy framework, and management systems for its historic fabric. The requirements of World Heritage Status have been considered in the recommendations outlined in this document.



There Are A Number Of Large Areas Which Could Have Unrealised Tourist Potential, Even In Jamestown

DECAY

The decay of significant elements of the islands historic fabric has been happening slowly for nearly a century. There are buildings, generally the occupied ones, which have been maintained to a certain level and their decay is somewhat slowed; for the unoccupied structures, domestic and military, the decay is largely unchecked. The concern is that with the unoccupied structures their decay has reached or will soon reach a tipping point where it will rapidly accelerate. The main threat is the action of water, both sea and rain. While a structure is whole and watertight it remains defended from the worst ravages of time, as soon as water penetrates the outer skin it begins to weaken the entire fabric and collapse rapidly follows. Once sections of masonry have collapsed the integrity of the whole is lost and further decay is almost inevitable. This is particularly true for the historic fabric of Saint Helena, much of which is either mud mortar or dry stone construction; these are superb materials, when maintained, but decay rapidly if left undefended.

Unfortunately because of changing economic circumstances, military abandonment and lack of awareness a significant part of the historic fabric is unoccupied, unused and unmaintained. Perhaps more than 50% of all of the historic fabric on the island is in this state.

The condition of the unoccupied structures is so precarious and their extent so widespread that much of the significance of the island could be lost over the next ten years purely to decay.

Even occupied buildings are subject to decay, though more slowly. Maintenance standards on the island are generally poor, because of lack of funds and or awareness of the correct methods or the importance of the process. The low levels of maintenance mean that rainwater goods are left to overflow and leak, paint is not renewed, plant growth is left to flourish in stonework, small repairs are not done. This lack of maintenance means that slow decay even to important occupied structures, including government buildings, slowly robs the island of its historic fabric.

DEVELOPMENT

Development includes any construction process, including:

- **New buildings Infrastructure works, for example roads or drainage.**
- **Repairs and alterations to structures**

Development is essential to any community, new buildings must be built and old ones altered and repaired. Development is a sign of the vitality of a society, without any development it will stagnate and die. Unfortunately development pressure often threatens historic fabric, both by direct damage to the fabric and indirectly through damage to its setting.

NEW BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

There is some pressure for new buildings with 23 plans approved in 2006, and consequently infrastructure works on the island even though the population is shrinking. This pressure is likely to increase if the proposed airport goes ahead. Because of the intensive way in which the island was used historically there are very few places where this work will not impact upon the historic environment, either the setting of buildings and landscape features or buried archaeology.

When small scale these projects may not seem to cause particular harm to the setting or fabric, however the slow accumulation of work can radically alter the islands environment

The damage can be lessened and mitigated by good design and archaeological mitigation; however the locally distinctive vernacular designs of architecture and their associated materials have been abandoned for square concrete construction which is damaging the islands distinctive landscape.

There are several areas on the island where inappropriate development has and is continuing to damage the setting of important historic buildings, and will have impacted upon buried archaeology without appropriate controls. The most obvious area of this development has occurred on Ladder Hill to the rear of the Fort.

CONCLUSIONS

Problems

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

Maintenance, repair and alteration of historic fabric is vital to its continued survival, however when this is done in an inappropriate manner the significance of the structure can be reduced and the repair may cause damage and deterioration to the rest of the fabric.

Generally when repairs have been undertaken in the last fifty years little regard has been paid to appropriate design or materials. The most prevalent difficulties are joinery ironwork and masonry repair.

MATERIALS, SKILLS AND SPECIFICATION

The government and local people have invested considerable sums in repairs and maintenance of some of the structures on the island. Unfortunately there have been neither the appropriate materials nor sufficient skill available and the work has suffered.

There are evidently some craftsmen who are trying to keep practices like dry stone walling alive without official backing, they are unfortunately few in number and need some training to raise and maintain standards. This skills shortage is causing almost as much damage to the historic fabric as the decay that the work is designed to prevent.

As a by-product of the lack of skills and

awareness of conservation practices there have been no conservation standard building materials on the island since they were lost from general use. Lime mortar in particular is never seen.

These problems are not helped by an absence of good specification of conservation work by either the government or private individuals. Obviously there can be no training or an increase in standards if there is no demand, and the demand seems to follow the available levels of skill. This cycle is denuding the island of its skilled craftsmen and as a result it will inevitably lose its distinctive architectural character.

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

The island has a wealth of historic fabric, ranging from standing occupied buildings to buried archaeology, from grand landscape management features covering large areas, to portable antiquities on a minute scale. This abundance of material is not catalogued either comprehensively or coherently. Perhaps 20% of the island's historic fabric is recorded in one or more of several locations in varying formats.

Even where fabric is noted it is not formally understood. While there is local knowledge of vernacular construction techniques, specifics of lost features or more recent changes and maintenance, this is not recorded or added to in a coherent manner.



Some Sites Have Become Difficult To Access Due To Collapse, Urgent Works Are Needed

CONCLUSIONS

Present Documentation And Legislation

These comments summarise and support those made in Ian Sergeant 'The Built Heritage of St Helena - A Review of the Literature and Recommendations for Future Action' 2007, for a more in depth assessment of the present documentation reference should be made to that document.

The most current and significant document is the Development Plan (SHG 2007), which is encouraging in its specific objectives to:

- **Strongly protect and manage the Island's natural and historic man-made heritage and encourage its restoration.**
- **Recognise the link between economic benefits and the natural and built heritage.**

Throughout the document support is given to the sensitive reuse of historic fabric. Where historic fabric falls into a conservation area, a selected valuable area of the island such as the Green Heartland or is Listed, protection is provided. This protection uses subjective terminology, which is a common practice in such documentation and to a great extent is unavoidable,

able, further specification, definition and policy guidance is required to support these policies. The definition of terms such as alteration and demolition is essential if challenges to breach of the plan are to be successful.

The Development Plan provides an excellent foundation for the protection of the islands historic fabric; it must be followed up with the appropriate guidance.

Considerable reliance is placed upon designation of fabric as either listed or within a conservation area; this is a reliable form of protection only when the designation of fabric is kept up to date and comprehensive.

The tourist potential of the island is recognised and supported, however only a limited number of the larger sites are singled out within the plan. This does not sufficiently recognise the importance of the whole of the historic environment as a vital resource.

The only mention of mitigation within the Plan is the reuse of elements from demolished Listed Historic Fabric. No mention of recording or analysis of lost fabric is mentioned. This omission is certainly because there is no provision for archaeological recording on the island.



Vestiges Of A Mangaged Landscape

To make decisions and their implications more apparent our recommendations have been divided into two sections. The first will provide quantification and understanding of the islands heritage, an essential first step, followed by a solid historic management framework and implementation. This does not imply that either can stand in isolation from the other, without understanding, management is impossible, while without practical advice and implementation quantification remains an academic exercise.

THE HER

One of the key problems outlined in our conclusions was a lack of understanding of the extent, nature and significance of the islands historic resources. To begin to address this issue it is essential that an inventory of every element of historic fabric apparent on the island, either from physical remains or documentary evidence be made.

This Historic Environment Record (HER) will provide spatial, textual and illustrative keys to

the historic fabric of a region. Such records exist for every UK County and are the countries main tool for the understanding and management of cultural heritage. In the UK most HER's have had a long development and may draw on centuries of antiquarian and archaeological activity. In St Helena there has been very limited antiquarian and no archaeological work, consequently even the major sites remain unmapped and unstudied.

In England this system is split for historic reasons into two sections, a sites and monuments record (SMR) covering monuments, small finds and sites of archaeological interest, generally though not always unoccupied, and a register of listed buildings covering occupied structures. This is a legally unsatisfactory system leading to considerable confusion with some sites appearing on both of the registers.

It is proposed that a single register called simply a HER is produced for the island. This will allow a single point of contact for all historic fabric data, combining standing buildings, archaeological sites, monuments and portable antiquities (such as the numerous cannon on the island). This takes the recent English practice a stage further integrating Listed Buildings fully into the HER.

FUNCTION

The Historic Environment Record Audit Specification v.1.23 English Heritage 2007 outlines that access to the HER should:

- Advance knowledge and understanding of the historic environment;
- Inform its care and conservation
- Inform public policies and decision-making on land-use planning and management;
- Contribute to environmental improvement and economic regeneration;
- Contribute to education and social inclusion;
- Encourage participation in the exploration, appreciation and enjoyment of the historic environment.

Providing the HER is adopted as a statutory list, and is supported by a policy framework giving legal consequence to the significance of a site, monument or artefacts inclusion, the HER will



The Ladder, One Of the More Challenging Tourist Attractions

RECOMMENDATIONS

Quantification

form a valuable tool for the protection of the islands unique historical environment. The solid comprehensive base of the HER will lend weight to planning decisions based on historic significance; the process will hopefully be more transparent.

The data will allow conservation efforts and funds to be targeted to the areas of most significant and at risk fabric. It will allow the accurate assessment of development proposals against mapping of sites, allowing impacts to be recognised and mitigated.

With the HER in place a better understanding of the grain of the islands built environment will feed into Conservation and Management Plans enhancing and protecting the islands historic resource for locals, academics and tourists. The product will contribute to the academic understanding of the island and its context, disseminating this information publicly. Both the work to produce the HER and the data itself will raise the profile of the historic environment. The information will be advertised and promoted to the public at large and schools in particular, with access made freely available, either for official planning or consultation or purely interest. The database will provide easy access to information currently available but unadvertised through its content, referencing and bibliographies, it will allow the consolidation of information from disparate sources into a single point of contact. As further information is developed through discovery, recording, analysis and research this information can feed back into the HER further developing the resource.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The creation and ongoing maintenance of the HER will provide opportunities for anyone to contribute information or opinion to the process. This will be enhanced by a process of public consultation when the first draft is produced, with copies available for public view and comment. The HER will not be a static management tool but will be a recourse which can be drawn upon and added to by interested locals, community and school groups and by visitors.



**Heritage, Aesthetic And Environmental Assets
Are Often One And The Same Thing**

STANDARDS

The benchmarks for Stage One within 'Historic Environment Records: Benchmarks for Good Practice' provide a good measure of success. The aim should be for the Saint Helena HER to meet all of the Stage One aims by the end of the initial production of the record. Obviously sections of these benchmarks concerning Organisation Management and Staffing may prove to be more long term goals, meeting the rest of the benchmarks should be feasible.

The background database will comply with the relevant sections of the latest Monument Inventories Data Standard (MIDAS) published by English Heritage:

SELECTION CRITERIA

The assessment of the significance of a site or artefact is a complex process, however if it is to be seen as a useful tool in a transparent process then criteria for selection must be laid down.

Despite recent changes in focus the general criteria for listing in England are still relevant; they state that a listed building should display one or more of:

Architectural design, decoration and craftsmanship; also important examples of particular building types and techniques and significant plan forms

Illustrations of important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history

Close historical association with nationally important people or events

Group value especially where buildings comprise an important architectural or historic group or a fine example of planning e.g. squares, terraces or model villages

These criteria are useful on Saint Helena and should form the basis of decisions; however the more recent thematic listing criteria developed by English Heritage form a more useful model (English Heritage Listing Selection Guides March 2007) It is proposed that the significance section of each record is given a preliminary value on site, and that this is followed up with an examination of each type of monument. A statement of significance will then be produced for each type, giving reasons why each is significant and the salient and important features that each could display. These thematic significance statements can then be used with more general criteria to define significance on a case by case basis.

Even following the process, the three grade significance system is a crude tool, useful for general management. The grading should never be taken as an absolute statement, and reference should always be made to the detailed reasoning for each case.

Local consultation will be undertaken when the draft is available, with comment welcomed on significance and content.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The HER can be established as a complete entity from an initial project fund, a single one off grant from one or more sources. Training and equipment will be provided within this sum to allow the project to continue after the initial project, which is essential to its success and continued relevance.

What cannot be included from one off grants is the in perpetuity resource implications. The HER will require maintenance when the historic fabric changes or new information is discovered. Comprehensive coverage can never be completely achieved and the creation of the HER will be an ongoing process.

There will be a need for some resources to provide long term access to the material for members of the public, although IS equipment will be left on the island for this purpose it will eventually need replacing. Members of the public will need guidance on the use of the software and the data.

The long term costs will not be particularly high but securing these will be a priority.



Jamestown Fills The Contour Of Its Valley, Hemmed In On All Sides

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management

TIMETABLE

What follows should form a second stage of works after the Heritage Environment Record is completed. While some work towards the recommendations below could be undertaken prior to a HER it would be unwise to take this too far. An understanding of the relative significance, threats across the whole island is necessary before funding is committed. While a project design has been outlined for the HER this has not been possible for the management phase; the recommendations are wide ranging and will need to interface properly with a number of government and non government bodies on Saint Helena and elsewhere, as well as requiring significant public support only available through early consultation.

As soon as the HER is produced, a brief or project design for the Framework should be undertaken. This should provide a detailed description of the work needed to produce the document and its extent. It should highlight resource implications and standards by which the completed product can be assessed.

PRINCIPALS

The key principals for the management of an historic resource are outlined in 'Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment' Second Stage Consultation English Heritage 2007

The historic environment is a shared resource

Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment

Understanding the heritage values of places is vital

Significant places should be managed to sustain their values

Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent

Recording and learning from decisions is essential

Although only a draft consultation these are principals that should guide any attempt at managing an historic resource, particularly one as important and fragile as Saint Helena. Regular reference should be made to these in the production and use of any policy.

NEED

While it is encouraging that the development plan recognises the importance of the protection of the historic environment, as well as its role in the economic regeneration of the island, there is little in the way of practical policy to facilitate either of these goals.

The HER outlined above will go some way towards the protection of the resource, however its significance, condition and vulnerability statements will need to be consolidated and translated into firm policy. This process is done through the framework of an island Conservation Management Statement



Before And After, Rather Unsympathetic Hard Cement Pointing, This Sort Of Repair Is All Too Common

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

OUTLINE

A conservation management framework provides an outline of the significance of a structure or area. It gives details of what is significant and why, with notes on particular features, materials or relationships which are important. In the case of Saint Helena it should provide mapping of key areas, define the character of each area and note the elements that make up that distinctiveness.

As part of the significance statements it would be useful to provide a suggested prioritised list of structures and areas for attention. Although the order that attention is received can not and should not ever be set in stone it would be useful to use the scores from the HER to assess significance, condition and vulnerability and indicate the most urgent works needed. This process would be helpful for both crown and private properties.

The management aspect of the framework should include sample specifications and policies to maintain the significance and distinctiveness of each area outlined in the first section of the statement.

FUNCTION

The purpose of the conservation management framework is to refine the outline policy within the Development Plan and provide statements which can be used as policy guidance during the planning process. It will research and provide evidence for acceptable use, design and materials based on patterns of development and local distinctiveness.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

While the Island Conservation Management Framework provides general area based assessment and policy, which should prove sufficient for the majority of management situations, the production of individual Conservation Manage-

ment Plans for the more important buildings and larger complexes should be encouraged. A Conservation Management Plan would provide a project specific assessment of significance, with indications of the elements of the design and fabric which are part of this significance. It would outline practices and policies for the retention of significance, directly feeding into the design stage of the project. Ideally a Conservation Management Plan would be commissioned prior to a formal planning application, and form part of the submission along with the designs. For crown properties it would be useful to commission Plans for all of the



The Mud Mortar And Plaster Of This Wall Have Been Skimmed Over With A Fine White Lime

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major buildings setting out significant elements, key aims and strategies for the achievement. This process should be done according to both the priority list produced by the Conservation and Management Statement, and the likelihood of imminent works.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

There is consideration of Heritage implications within the planning process on the island, backed by the Development Plan, however this is not formalised. The codification of a system for the assessment of heritage impact would make the planning process more open to public scrutiny.

IDEAL PROCESS

The applicant should be encouraged to consult the Development Plan, the HER and the Island Conservation and Management Statement prior to their application. They should make their own assessment of the impact of the development based upon the policies and significance statements. Help should be given freely for smaller projects if requested, large projects with more significant budgets should obtain professional guidance. It should be apparent from this assessment if the projects impact will be generally acceptable or not.

If the application proceeds, the applicant should be advised of the likely level of evidence required to allow the Planning Committee to make their decision. This, depending upon the proposed works and the significance of the fabric that may be impacted, may include a brief Conservation Statement for the historic fabric, an accurate as existing set of drawings, a full Conservation and Management Statement or simply photographs or a site visit.

The applicant should indicate within the project design and drawings, how they intend to limit the impact of the development on the historic environment, and how it meets the policies and guidance in the Conservation and Management Statement. Where impact is unavoidable strategies should be presented for its satisfactory mitigation through archaeological record and careful management.

The application is submitted with the evidence requested, the committee decide if they have sufficient evidence to make their decision. If further evidence is required they can request documents be provided. A decision should only be made once the committee are satisfied that:

- **They understand the scope of the works and any potential impacts**
- **They are aware of the significance of the fabric involved in the works**

The scheme is then assessed based upon the success or otherwise of the proposals in safeguarding the significance and distinctiveness of the historic environment, and its compliance with policies from the Development Plan and Conservation and Management Statement. Conditions should be applied to any permission detailing inspection and mitigation works necessary.

MITIGATION

Historic fabric will inevitably be impacted by development; even replacing damaged historic fabric will remove important information and reduce the significance of related fabric. Where significant material is lost, damaged, covered over, temporarily revealed or its context is removed, the process should attempt to mitigate the loss of information through Archaeological Record and or reuse relocation of fabric. At present there is no formal process for assessing the need for, commissioning and undertaking this work. This is an essential part of protecting the significance of Saint Helena's Historic Environment.

A policy should be produced setting out the circumstances when Archaeological Recording would be required, as well as sample briefs for different levels of record.

SKILLS DEMAND

Without traditional skills and materials it will be impossible to repair and maintain the historic fabric. At present there is a considerable pool of workers involved in general construction on



Even During Restoration Of Buildings Like Hutts Gate Valuable Evidence Will Be Lost And This Loss Must Be Recorded

the island (10% of the employed population as of 2003/4), though most of this is focused on modern construction techniques; the materials available match this approach.

There are a number of individuals who have interest in more sympathetic construction, a few of whom have some skills in the islands vernacular tradition. What is lacking is a framework within which training, materials and guidance can be obtained, and the demand created to retain and reward the skilled workforce. There are three key areas where demand could be generated:

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

As we have outlined in phase one there is a lot of built heritage which falls outside of the traditional building definition. Boundary walls, fence lines, road surfacing, drainage lines, ditches, hedges, any intervention which evidences

human interaction with the island is to some extent significant.

Much of the repair work to road boundaries, surfacing and monuments is undertaken under government contract, with considerable funds having been allocated in the past. If specifications were included in these contracts to require traditional techniques, an ongoing need for these techniques would be created on the island. It would also be worth considering the permanent employment of a team of craftsmen to provide long term continuous maintenance to government structures.

Even where new work is undertaken through government funding consideration should be given to the use of traditional and vernacular materials, methods and styles. This approach will not only produce more suitable new architecture but will also further increase the pool of skilled contractors and labour on the island for works to historic fabric.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION WORKS

While a great deal of the historic fabric is in government ownership a proportion of it is also owned privately. This privately owned stock is often in poor condition and will require repair. Almost all of the new build on the island is privately undertaken and happening at a fast pace, this development brings finance and impetus to the islands construction industry. There will be three main generators of demand within the private sector:

LEGAL

(See planning system above) obviously this is a thorny issue and will need careful local consultation; the present system is a source of some conflict even with its minimal scope. As demonstrated in phase one there is much that can be done to improve the public perception of the historic fabric and the reasoning and methodologies behind its preservation.

Despite this occasionally poor reception, where buildings are listed under the current procedure, there is a requirement for sympathetic repair. The Conservation and Management Plan will generate and recommend accepted specifications, generating a need for a workforce capable

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of meeting these. This process will be reinforced by the HERs extended coverage across the island and the increase in the protected Historic Environment Fabric.

FINANCIAL

This could take two forms, a more traditional grant scheme focused on the repair and maintenance of historic fabric, and a less traditional system to allow the grant aid of works to unlisted structures and new work using traditional materials and vernacular styles of construction.

Public Perhaps the single most important generator of demand for traditional skills will come from a general awareness of the significance of the islands heritage amongst its population. The Saints are already understandably proud of their island; this pride combined with a greater understanding of the built heritage could lead to increased demand for traditional construction both in new build and for the repair and maintenance of historic fabric.

Ideally all three of these drivers operate cooperatively

TRAINING AND IMPETUS

Once the demand is in place for traditional construction and building recording skills on the island, with suitable specifications in place to monitor the quality of work, the training may have sufficient impetus to maintain its self, however to start the process a structured training program will be necessary. This should be fed by the Legal, financial and public driven projects, with the addition of at least one large funded flagship project. Ideally two projects should be considered, one to provide scope to teach skills necessary for the recording and consolidation of monuments and infrastructure features and another to provide building restoration experience.

The main aim of these projects would be training; however they would also provide a useful indication of the potential of such projects to eventually generate income for the island, through tourism and through targeted subsidy



TOURISM

INTERPRETATION PROJECTS

The museum is the main focus for interpretation of the islands rich history and has recently been refurbished with new displays and an area for temporary exhibitions. The other main museum space is at Longwood which concentrates on presenting aspects of the Emperor's imprisonment. There are isolated examples of interpretation including display panels at the unfortunate development at Sandy Bay.

Although outside of the main scope of the team's work it became apparent that there were many other sites which could be developed for heritage interpretation. These include both civilian and military sites, particularly those which are accessible and frequently visited but have no on site interpretation (e.g. High Knoll Fort). Part of the survey training carried out by the team was on the 18th century detached kitchen at Broadway House, Jamestown. There is an immense worldwide interest in recreating historic food and even a small building such as this could be easily refurbished and used for demonstrations of cooking historic and local

dishes. Such a facility would allow an opportunity to present the story of the domestic slaves of Jamestown at this period and provide a wonderful focus for education and tourism. .

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The resources for the HER are discussed under a separate section; this covers only the implication of the management of the historic resource.

Comparison

In an English Borough of equivalent size to Saint Helena the density of highly significant Historic Fabric, particularly unoccupied monuments is usually considerably lower when compared to the population. The condition of the buildings in an English County is perhaps always considerably better.

This places a burden on Saint Helena far beyond that which its size would suggest. In England a Borough would have at least one full time planner solely responsible for Historic Fabric. They have assistance from numerous ancillary staff and fellow planning officials, national bodies who own and maintain many of the larger monuments and many are still hard pushed to cope. Saint Helena has no staff dedicated to the protection of its historic fabric. The job is left largely to individuals on a voluntary basis and the National Trust, with limited funding and staff resources.

SHORT TERM RESOURCES

Establishing the systems needed and producing the initial data to run them can be done from single project funding. With the requirements defined and broken down into projects which can bid for funds from various sources.

Training and equipment to run the longer term projects can also be provided from the same sources.

Even individual restoration, conversion and tourism development projects can be set up from project budgets.

MEDIUM AND LONG TERM FUNDING

There will inevitably be longer term costs and ongoing resource demands if the systems proposed are put in place effectively.

PLANNING

The planning system will have to consider the new policy documents along side existing legislation when applications are made. Advice will have to be given concerning the new policies and procedures. Larger quantities of material will have to be dealt with for applications concerning historic fabric.

Policy and guidance will have to be reviewed, possibly on a yearly basis until major repairs are complete, especially if development accelerates due to increased visitor numbers.

Considering the proposed large scale developments on the island, including the airport and hotel, it is likely that the planning load will increase without Historic Environment concerns; increases in resources to cope with this may meet the needs of the historic environment without further investment. This will need careful assessment.

ARCHIVE

There will be an increase in the quantity of archive material generated from construction records, planning applications and archaeological mitigation works. These will have to be catalogued and maintained long term. Data may be submitted in a number of formats including digital information which presents its own storage and maintenance problems.

MAINTENANCE

When crown property has been restored or consolidated it will require regular inspection and maintenance in order to protect the fabric and consequently the investment.

The total ongoing costs will vary according to the organisation of the work between bodies and individuals, the more compact the management structure the cheaper the ongoing costs. Many of the resources needed are already in place however the agreement, support and cooperation of those who fund and provide these will be essential to the ongoing success of the management, and therefore to the preservation of the Islands precious Historic Environment.

The following case studies are intended to give the reader an overview of the sort of historic fabric typical on Saint Helena. They have been selected during the teams visit to the island as broadly representative of the key groups of fabric.

The details here are by no means a detailed record of each structure, merely an overview of the key features. From the assessment of each structure the most important elements apparent to inspection were selected for discussion, with further research these may become more or less significant and the inclusion of material in this summary should not be taken as any evidence of significance or otherwise.

It is hoped that the reader will be left with a general impression of the beauty, significance and condition of the islands historic environment.

BACKGROUND

There are a number of large plantation houses throughout the central part of the island. Although St Helena was never a plantation based society (unlike many of the Caribbean colonies), it was blessed with rich soils and a climate suitable for growing a variety of crops. The climate on the island also ensured that animals such as pigs, goats and cattle could be reared with relative ease. The products of these plantations fed the island and also were an important element in the re-supply of ships. During the 19th and 20th centuries the production of New Zealand flax became an increasingly important element of agriculture before going into a dramatic decline in the 1960s.

Some of the plantation houses and larger farms of St Helena are still in use as private dwellings. Many of these houses are the centres of small estates with housing for slaves or labourers, field systems, reservoirs, farms and ancillary buildings. A number of these larger houses are abandoned and are either ruinous or in a state of decay. Teutonic Hall was selected for a visit as it is a good example of a recently abandoned large house.



HISTORY

The house appears to be 18th century in origin and retains much of its early appearance, though there is little secondary history for most of these domestic structures. As elsewhere on the island there may be primary records for the house and its estate, an examination of historic mapping would also be a useful exercise.



TUETONIC HOUSE

A Country Estate In Decay

DESCRIPTION

Teutonic Hall lies in the centre of the island on the north side of Alarm Hill. Since abandonment much of the estate and garden has been reclaimed by semi tropical vegetation. The house itself has suffered severe termite attack which has rendered the interior unsafe.



The main house is a two storey structure with an elegant low façade overlooking the valley to the north. At the rear of the house are a number of outshots and accretions which relate to kitchens and service rooms. Ancillary buildings, walls and even a disused swimming pool all lie around the house but are covered by thick vegetation. The house retains its elegant sash windows. Unfortunately due to its unsafe condition the interior was not inspected but it was possible to see that evidence of former decoration and layout survive in a decayed state.



SIGNIFICANCE

In the early 1970s Crallan was already alarmed at the state of decay of some of the island's larger houses. Despite a few notable restorations the situation remains much as it did nearly 40 years ago and many of the larger houses are now ruinous. Their estates often survive as the islands main settlements and the islands distinctive gate piers are the most obvious remnants of these large landholdings.

Teutonic is a good example of a medium sized large farmhouse or small plantation house. Architecturally it is rather simple and has survived without the later accretions or alterations seen on many other houses. These country houses are perhaps the most attractive buildings outside of the historic core of Jamestown and their loss may prove detrimental to future tourism plans.



BACKGROUND

The site known as Banks battery is actually made up of a number of different fortifications which lie to the east of Rupert's Valley and defend a shallow landing place and valley some three miles west of Jamestown. The battery actually consists of the late 17th century King William's Fort, an eighteenth century defended line across the valley, a limekiln and the spectacular cliff batteries at Buttermilk Point. As well as the fortifications themselves the remains of several buildings and an impressive network of terraced trackways and paths all form part of the complex.

HISTORY

Denholm has provided a detailed outline history of the site based on historical and map evidence. The earliest known activity on the site is the 1670s battery followed by the half moon battery in 1690. Between 1700 and 1740 the heavily fortified lines were added. By the late 18th century half moon batteries for traversing carriages were cut into the cliffs around Buttermilk Point. By the late 19th century the site had become obsolete, photographs from c1850 show the last muzzle loading guns still in positions at their embrasures. In the 20th century the 18th century valley lines themselves have suffered heavily from coastal erosion and only the sides of the revetment wall remain.



DESCRIPTION

The complex is perhaps most easily reached via a narrow pathway, running along the cliff from Rupert's Valley. This pathway was completed before 1815 to allow greater communication between the defended valleys on this stretch of coast. As such it should be regarded as an element of the lines and it is highly probable that in an emergency it would have been used to provide an additional tier of defence. This pathway has been cut by the rather brutal insertion of the fuel plant in Rupert's Valley and has suffered from lack of maintenance and in places from severe collapse. In places it has almost entirely vanished whilst other sections are in relatively good condition. Where the path is intact one can see that it was once at least 2m in width, although in other places it is now almost vanished. It is revetted on the cliff side by a substantial dry stone wall. This had a



BANKS BATTERY

Clifftop Fortified Complex

continuous dry stone parapet which survives in places but does not reach its full height.

The pathway leads down to into Bank's Valley and to the lines of c1700-1740. Most of the western side of the lines have been washed away by the action of the sea. Locals report that the scale of this decay has increased in the past few years and that large sections have collapsed. The missing section was largely the old wall of the lines which revetted a platform behind built of sand and large stones. The limestone gun platforms and cobbled surfaces of the terreplein survive behind the missing wall. On the west wide the large floodwater arch remains almost intact, with gun platforms and embrasures above.

Ruinous buildings survive behind the lines, these are marked on historic maps as a barracks and cookhouse and historic photographs show them in use. On examination however these buildings have both mud-plaster and mud-mortar and in construction and an early date for their origin may be a possibility. On the west of the site are two well preserved magazines, which are part cut into a rock overhang.

On the hill behind the lines lies a ruinous lime kiln, this was built after 1787 when a layer of shells were discovered in the area. These shells were a precious source of lime, on an island



which is entirely volcanic and the kiln was built to process them on site. The kiln is stone built, with a central brick chamber. The remains of numerous bivalve shells throughout the site must relate to this (now lost) bed of shells. This is one of only two known limekilns on the island; the other at Sandy Bay has been almost entirely rebuilt during a recent redevelopment.

Above the lines lies the half-moon battery proper. This fortification was first built in c1690 and despite later amendments it retains much of its early appearance. The battery is a large open platform retained by a well built stone wall and topped with a cobbled and paved surface. At the rear of the battery is a revetment wall against which lie the remains of buildings.

Above the gun battery lie the ruins of several domestic buildings one of these appears to be a small guard house which controls the approach from a terraced roadway heading along Banks Ridge. As with the other roadways in this area this is an impressive structure with a well built dry stone retaining wall.

Immediately to the east of the battery lie the spectacular remains of the Buttermilk Point batteries. These were built after 1778. The batteries are made up of upper and lower circular gun positions linked by pathways which have been deeply cut into the Cliffside. The



BANKS BATTERY

Clifftop Fortified Complex

uppermost position retains the stone runners for a traversing carriage and has a small expense magazine. The lower positions are reached by a series of very steep stone steps and at intervals iron tackle rings are set into the walls. The lowest level is reached by ladder through an underground magazine the entrance of which is a well proportioned arch with rusticated keystone and voussiors.

Significance

St Helena is exceptionally rich in military remains and the complex at Banks must be amongst the most important of this class of monument. The presence of fortifications dating from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries and their long history of active use all add to the significance of this complex. The site is of considerable historical importance in that it saw action on more than one occasion and was for a long time a calling place for all ships visiting the island.

Despite some recent attempts at consolidation Banks remains largely untouched. This means

that the site has great archaeological potential both in its standing buildings and in below ground deposits.



HIGH KNOLL FORT

A Mountain Fortress

BACKGROUND

Few fortifications in the world can have such an apt name as High Knoll Fort; it is perched on an precipitous rocky crag to the south of Jamestown and has almost vertical cliffs on all sides. The positioning of the fort in this location was to protect Jamestown which would be vulnerable to any landward attack particularly from the rear. The fort was also seen as a suitable place of refuge for the population in the event of Jamestown falling to an enemy attack and would have acted as a redoubt until any invader had been expelled.

The fort is made up of a loopholed wall enclosing the flat area at the top of the knoll. It is entered through a gateway on the west wide which now leads to a large open area. On the north of the site is a round tower surrounded by the curtain wall. On the south side is a semi-circular block with casemated accommodation below a loopholed parapet wall.



HISTORY

Much is known of the history of the fort although we have identified many additional documents relating to the site in the Public Record Office, Kew. The earliest known structure on the site was the round Martello tower on the northern part of the knoll. This dates from 1790 and was constructed by an order of Governor Brooke. This mounted large guns which would have covered the approaches to Jamestown and Ladder Hill Fort. Several old prints show this tower in the distance, clinging to its eminence and with a number of pitched roof buildings at its base.

The fort was later enhanced by the addition of the loopholed wall, gateway and southern casemated accommodation. As an inscription over the gate demonstrates this work was in place by 1876 and was designed to act as a refuge for the island's population in the event of invasion.

DESCRIPTION

The fort was visited as part of the project and it was immediately apparent that (as elsewhere on the island) the phasing was far more com-



HIGH KNOLL FORT

A Mountain Fortress

plicated than the known history would suggest. The Martello type tower survives in seemingly good condition, encased within 19th century structures. The wide embrasures for the original armament may be traced around the top of the tower. This earlier level has been overlain by a later 19th century level which has emplacements for guns of traversing carriages protected by a sloping stone and concrete glacis. At the rear (south) side of these later emplacements an expense magazine was built with sliding iron doors (the runners of which remain). Ammunition hoists at the rear of this magazine led to the magazine proper in the tower below. It was noted that the tower and its surrounding structures had several phases of addition and repair.

The southern casemated barracks are exceptionally well preserved and still retain features such as fireplaces and military signs relating to their occupation. There is evidence of phasing as well as evidence of decorative schemes and finishes. The 1870s gatehouse retains the lintels for iron gates and also part of a complicated drawbridge mechanism remains in situ.

There are few other obvious upstanding features on the interior, there are however a number of walls, ramps, earthworks and footings of buildings. As elsewhere on the island surface finds include glass pottery and ironwork which is weathering out of the earthworks. These features in the fort interior may be related to the later 19th century work but there is a strong possibility that they may either protect or contain the remains of earlier structures. Similarly, the west side was once ditched, although this has now been almost entirely filled. The potential for archaeological deposits within the ditch area is high. These may include the abutments and perhaps elements of the missing drawbridge.

SIGNIFICANCE

It was outside of the scope of this phase of the project to carry out a full analysis, but it we feel that the history of this building is far more complex than one would at first imagine and that its development and significance is only poorly understood.



HIGH KNOLL FORT

A Mountain Fortress



High Knoll Fort is in a beautiful location and overlooks some of the island's most dramatic views. It is a favoured destination for both visitors and islanders and is a popular spots for picnics and visits. The Martello tower is also used as a base for a Cable and Wireless communications mast and as such is regularly visited and maintained.

The fort has undergone a considerable maintenance programme in the last thirty years unfortunately this has been somewhat misdirected and has mostly consisted of the widespread and almost random application of cement mortars and renders. This has had a detrimental impact on the fabric which in places is clearly

being damaged by water action. The adverse affect of the cement has been made worse by the extremely exposed and damp location. In addition some parts of the curtain wall have been rather crudely rebuilt with rough rubble walling. The general tidying up of the site, the replacement of railings, minor vandalism and setting fires and the unrestricted access of vehicles are all having an adverse impact of the fort and its archaeology. Soon after the Phase I visit a section of the curtain wall was blown by a severe storm, this section was seemingly part of a recent poor quality rebuild.

High Knoll Fort is certainly already one of St Helena's key tourism sites. Although it has suffered from some poor conservation work there is clearly much here of archaeological and historical importance. Continued un-focussed repair or maintenance, unrestricted vehicle access and increased visitor numbers may all have an effect on the historic fabric.



BROADWAY HOUSE

An 18th Century Town House

BACKGROUND

Broadway House is a not untypical example of one of the larger townhouses of Jamestown. It sits on a prominent position and has a rather grand and elegantly proportioned façade facing the street. The ground floor of the house is currently occupied by the St Helena national Trust and the upper floors are used as private office space by a newspaper publisher. The house was used as the base for Phase I of the project and as such it was an ideal subject for investigation in its own right.

HISTORY

Jamestown's Main Street is quite rightly regarded as the jewel of the islands heritage. The street is lined on either side with fine townhouses and commercial buildings. Although it is often regarded as being Georgian the street contains elements ranging from at least 1700 to the present day and there is a possibility that at least some of the buildings have a seventeenth century origin.

Crallan dates Broadway House to the late 18th century, based on historic map evidence and on surviving features.



DESCRIPTION

The main building is a rectangular plan of three bays, across two floors and a half cellar, under a hipped roof in corrugated iron. The roof sits behind a parapet divided from the façade by an un-moulded string course set into the render and defining the limit of the moulded quoins to both front corners; the render is of a considerably later date than the original construction, probably post dating the white ant attack when the window lintels were replaced. Despite this it appears from the window reveals that the building was rendered when first constructed. The building retains what may be primary sash windows of two sashes each of six panes, these certainly predate the termite attacks and are glazed with cylinder glass. It seems that much of the pre 1900 joinery in Jamestown was made from native hardwood which resists all but the most concerted termite attacks.

The front door is accessed up a short flight of steps, resurfaced and possibly rebuilt, bounded by simple iron rails; the railings are wrought iron rather than mild steel with a rolled section hand rail ending in simple flat forged scrolls. The railing uprights are square section tenoned and riveted through the handrail, including both decorative lateral braces and boot scraper. The railing design is so simple as to be un-datable, however it is not inconsistent with having been made around 1800; the railings to the cellar are much later.

In common with many of the Jamestown buildings the windows to both ground and first



BROADWAY HOUSE

An 18th Century Town House

floor are unusually tall, rising well above the door casing on the ground floor; this lends the buildings an elegant appearance. To the rear of the building are two unattached ranges of two stories under single pitched corrugated iron roofs. These ranges form a small courtyard giving access to the main buildings ground floor via steps and to the cellar via a gated passage running the full depth of the main house. The two rear buildings seem to have been servant and domestic accommodation, with one building housing a disused kitchen hearth, and the only chimney in any of the three buildings. Within the courtyard there is considerable evidence for alteration, including rebuilds to both ancillary structures as well as various scars for demolished structures.

SIGNIFICANCE

On the surface Broadway House may seem much like its contemporaries in Britain, there are however several differences perhaps the most immediately noticeable of which is the lack of any heating provision in the rooms and the



exceptional height of the ceilings. Both of these adaptations are found throughout Jamestown and are an adaptation to cope with the climate.

The survival of probable service rooms beneath and to the rear of the main house is of exceptional interest. Although these buildings are clearly multi phase and have been altered in later years the survival of an 18th century kitchen and outbuildings is just as relevant to the story of the site as the main house. The relationship of the house and its domestic buildings with the warehouses and pathways behind is also of great interest. The pattern of polite housing with servant quarters behind and commercial development behind that is seen throughout Jamestown and is an important remnant of the islands maritime past.

In portraying the history of the island to both locals and visitors it is essential that fragile buildings such as those to the rear of Broadway House be retained, conserved and studied. Such buildings would also present ideal opportunities for display or interpretation space to represent the lives of not only the merchants but also the capital's slaves and workings classes.



PROJECT DESIGN

Heritage Environment Record

Saint Helena has a wealth of historic fabric which is at present lacking quantification, awareness and successful management; the first stage in remedying the present situation is the provision of an Historic Environment Record (HER). This document provides an outline of a project to produce a full HER which will fulfil the most recent international standards.

COVERAGE

The HER will cover the whole of the island from the time of discovery, including any significant structures, buried archaeology or portable antiquities which are apparent either through site observation or documentary evidence. The coverage from this project will encompass all of the well known sites of significance, all those appearing on historic mapping for instance, and as many lesser known sites as can be included within the time

The islands maritime heritage will also be included, however extra underwater survey is not proposed and local knowledge and previous records will be used to provide the data for records out to a twelve mile limit around the island.

THE DATABASE

The data will be collected in hand written forms and checked for accuracy before entry into an access database. The information collected will comply with the Monument Inventories Data Standard (MAS) published by English Heritage, where these are appropriate. The data fields may be amended on site to better cope with local nuances; however they will include at least the following:

Unique Number

An automatically generated unique sequential number, providing a single reference point for each site, monument or portable antiquity.

Name

The local, historic and official names of each site, monument or portable antiquity

Record type

The type of monument for example: Domestic Structure, Buried Archaeology, Landscape feature, Small Find etc. Secondary and tertiary types can also be recorded in cases where a single location performed multiple functions, for example domestic structures with an ancillary industrial use.

Description

A basic description of the site, monument or portable antiquity.

Main photo

A single view chosen to best represent the site, monument or portable antiquity, either a complete view of a small find or a sample of a larger site.

Related monuments

The reference numbers of related sites, monuments or portable antiquities, for example field boundaries associated with a plantation house.

External References

Sources of information external to the database, for example published sources, specialist finds reports, archaeological excavation reports or building records. This can also include photographic or illustrative work. Obviously with unpublished sources reference will have to be made to archive placement.

Key Dates

The dates of construction, disuse, repair, alteration, burial etc. if known.

Main Materials

The main materials involved in the construction of the site, monument or portable antiquity, for instance stone types. This list should be formalised with standard terminology as it is created.

Date first registered

The date the site, monument or portable antiquity was first entered into the SMR

Date of last Update

The most recent update to the information

Significance

A significance score of 1 – 3 based on formal criteria, with 1 being the most significant. Any site, monument or portable antiquity included on the SMR is assumed to have some significance and will be rated within this range.

Significance notes

Notes detailing why the site, monument or portable antiquity has been included in the record and justifying its grading position.

Condition

The overall condition of the site, monument or portable antiquity graded 1 – 10 with 1 being

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perfect condition. This should be assessed against as standard for each monument type. It is obviously pointless to grade buried archaeology against a scale for occupied structures or small finds.

Condition Notes

Notes detailing why the condition has been assessed at a particular point on the scale.

Vulnerability

This 1 – 10 scale assesses how vulnerable the structure is to change from decay or alteration.

Vulnerability Notes

Details of the threats to the object and a justification of the grading.

Grid Reference

The island grid reference, obviously a decision of which projection to use will need to be taken before work begins as several are presently in use.

Notes

General notes that do not fit into other areas

TERMINOLOGY

One of the most useful benefits of a data set is the ability to search through the results, this is dependent upon coherence. If terminology is not standardised then the database will not function as it should. A search for 'stone dwellings' will not return results recorded as 'rock houses', for instance.

The database design will prevent some of this confusion, using lists to select from; however it cannot produce completely coherent results on its own. For this reason the production of a locally specific set of recognised terminology should form a key part of the quantification phase.

While there are British thesauri of materials and monument types produced by the National Monuments Record (NMR) reference and other bodies, these are not of great use on Saint Helena. Materials are very different, with a significant number of common types not evident on the island, and island specific materials such as volcanic mud mortars used widely; also monument types related to island life and certain military features are not present in the NMR lists.

The Island specific thesauri will include terminology for:

- **Monument types**
- **Materials**
- **Descriptive elements, such as window and door typologies etc.**

REFERENCES

To allow easy citation of reference material external to the HER a database of reference and bibliography will be prepared. Every source that is referred to in the HER will be listed in a database made available with the HER. References will be given unique numbers used instead of full citation. This will provide a useful resource in itself, concentrating reference material access in one place.

To increase the coverage of this database, some time has been allocated within the budget for time and copies of information from the National Archives

SURVEY

Solid three dimensional coordinates for each site, monument or portable antiquity are essential if the relationship to the island and to other HER entries is to be assessed.

METHODOLOGY

Each site, monument or portable antiquity will be marked in three dimensions within an island coordinate system. The entities will be marked as either a single point for small objects or sites of less than a square meter, or polygons illustrating the line or boundary of larger entities such as paths or buildings. Each entity will be survey with the site number attached as a property of the data to allow easy transfer to the GIS system. Ideally for such a large mapping project a differential GPS system would be used with the addition of a local base station to increase accuracy. The costs are included in the project but kept separate for consideration. It may be possible to part purchase the equipment with another project or the Saint Helena Government as the equipment will considerably speed up the collection of data for their own land survey. If this equipment is purchased, full training will be included in the project.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The system will take the form of a GIS linked database allowing for information to be entered into a standardised form to produce searchable results. Generally where the data set is small enough it is best to stay with widely available software; for this reason databases have been designed to work in Microsoft Access.

Since ArcView GIS systems are already in use on the island it would be sensible to continue this and use the existing mapping as the base for the HER. New layers could easily be generated with new survey work providing the additional data needed.

The project will include the purchase of a suitable Desktop Server with Microsoft Server 2008 and Peripherals for use by the project during the works and to be left on the Island as an access terminal for the management of the resource after the project is complete. Software will include a single license for Microsoft Office 2007 and a single license for ArcGIS 9.0, as well as ArcGIS web publication software, This system will allow the distribution of the information throughout any attached network via sharepoint server or ArcGIS viewers, without additional expense or risk.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

MORTAR ANALYSIS

AIMS

From an initial inspection it appears as though there are a variety of mortar types used on the island. Different mud and lime and sand combinations are present. The mortars may be distinctive to regions of the island, and are certainly distinctive to the island itself. Analysis of these mortars is necessary to confirm these observations and to assess the content and replication possibilities.

This project will hopefully feed both research into the use of local materials and experimental work to replicate these mortars for repair, maintenance and possibly new build work in sensitive area.

METHOD

Wherever historic mortar or plaster is encoun-

tered and samples are feasible they will be taken and catalogued to allow a reference collection of mortars to be examined. These will then be either examined on site or returned to England for analysis. This analysis will be made available on Saint Helena.

PRODUCT

The product will consist of an Access Database of Sites, Monuments and Portable Antiquities, an Access Database of References and ArcGIS points and polygons referenced to the database. All project information will be provided on CD, and set up on the project computer.

ACCESS

Access will be provided via the project computer for update and maintenance purposes, all other access will be read only. A single desktop will be provided if none is available within the National Trust Offices for public access to the information. This access will be free of charge, with a small charge made for printouts.

Training will be provided for National Trust and Government staff on the correct use of the software for accessing the material.

STAFFING

DATA COLLECTION

DATABASE

Data collection requires understanding of historic fabric, architectural history and archaeology, as well as data collection skills. These skills and knowledge are not available locally, however if the project is to be successful they must be available following the work. To this end it is proposed that two teams gather the majority of the information, composed of a British Archaeologist and a Local who will assist and be given training as the work progresses.

SURVEY

There is considerable expertise in land survey

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Heritage Environment Record

on the island; Legal and Lands have the necessary equipment and staff to produce quality mapping and transfer the information to ArcView GIS systems for linking to the Access database.

If the purchase of GPS equipment proves possible training for at least one member of the Legal and Lands Team will be provided during a four week survey programme.

It is proposed that two members of Legal and Lands be provided and paid for by the project subject to timetables and availability.

Management and Consultation

Project management will be provided by a team of three British Specialists, one full time for the duration of the project to provide management and assistance with the production of the HER, and the others for a shorter period of time to provide management assistance and consultation on the Military Structures.

All specialists will assist with data collection while on the island; provide IT support, data entry and training as necessary. The specialists will bring as wide a range of project experience as possible, allowing the numbers of staff to be kept to a minimum due to transport costs.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The level of IS knowledge on the island is not known at present, the system proposed can be established and supported by the British Team, however long term support will be necessary. This may require some training and paid time for an island based IS specialist.

Ongoing Work

Ideally a person would be trained and available for a fixed term. Possibly one day a week for two years to maintain and update the HER

There will be some ongoing IS maintenance needed maybe one day every two months to provide support.

TOTAL PROJECT STAFF

The total non island staff at any one time should be no more than five, falling to three for some points in the project.

This level of non island involvement may have to increase depending upon the availability of personnel on the island who are willing and able to participate. It would be inadvisable however for there to be no local involvement since the

data will need to be maintained after the initial project.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Availability of Island Staff and costs related to their involvement in the initial project and the ongoing work

Access to private sites, permissions and the legal position if refused.

Legal framework, adoption of the policy document must be secured

Project funding and ongoing costs

COSTS

Costs are not fixed as the program of works and its overlap with existing island services and personnel will need to be ascertained before firm costs can be given. Preliminary costs are available but are not included here; these costs will be made available during discussion to allow the areas of uncertainty to be outlined.