

# Understanding to Record Recording to Understand

## *Improving the investigation and recording of heritage buildings in Aotearoa New Zealand*

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## Executive Summary

The investigation and recording of heritage buildings is undertaken for a variety of reasons in New Zealand; including for research, heritage management, and for the purpose of documenting changes to heritage buildings prior to modifications or complete demolition. Each context has its own purposes, mandate and issues. This report focusses on the issues and possible solutions (recommendations) to improve the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand within the contexts that involve changes to heritage buildings that are driven by legislation:

- ‘Buildings archaeology’ undertaken as part of archaeological authorities under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* (HNZPT Act) prior to the demolition of pre-1900 buildings (defined as ‘archaeological sites’ under the Act)
- Documentation of scheduled heritage buildings as a condition of a resource consent under the *Resource Management Act 1993* (RMA).

This research, funded by the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Trust, has helped to clarify the issues facing the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand, and provided the opportunity for the author to travel to England, to learn from academics and practitioners in the field of building recording how these issues have been addressed there. The outcomes of this research, in particular the recommendations put forward, will hopefully help to move the recording of New Zealand’s heritage places to a position where this is recognised, supported, made accessible, and undertaken by trained professionals.

Through conversations and a survey with heritage practitioners, the following **five issues facing the documentation of heritage buildings in New Zealand** were identified:

**Purpose:** The reasons for recording heritage buildings before they are demolished or modified is not well understood by the public and owners, who are required to pay for the recording. There is a perception that our buildings are not old or important enough and that investigations do not add to our understanding of heritage buildings.

**Framework:** The framework for historic heritage in New Zealand provides limited mandates and guidance for the investigation and recording of historic heritage. The two primary

legislations (RMA and HNZPT Act) do not adequately address recording requirements, there is no national direction, guidance is not fit-for-purpose, regional and local councils lack capacity and resources, and there is limited support from professional heritage bodies.

**Knowledge:** There currently are gaps in the training and professional development opportunities provided in New Zealand that teach the investigation and recording of heritage buildings. There is also a relative absence of published resources about New Zealand's built heritage and the results of building recording.

**Tools:** There is a lack of knowledge around the different types of methods and tools that can be applied to the investigation and recording process and how they are best used. These tools can include standard recording forms, architectural drawing techniques and packages, sampling and analysis, direct recording techniques, and digital recording.

**Access:** The information gained from the recording of heritage places is often difficult to find, access and use. Records produced are physically held in different locations, distributed across several databases and recordkeeping systems, they are difficult to search, and there is limited publication of findings in journals, books and other media.

The research in England was undertaken in May 2019 and involved visits and conversations with the following: two academic institutions which teach the investigation and recording of heritage buildings (University of York, Cambridge University), the national body that provides guidance and support (Historic England), two archaeological consultancies with dedicated buildings archaeology units (Oxford Archaeology, Museum of London Archaeology), and the professional body that supports buildings archaeology (Charter Institute for Archaeologists).

The following **key learnings emerged from the visits in England:**

The **purpose** of building recording can be supported in several ways:

- Communicating the role of heritage as a public good
- Moving beyond physical fabric and focusing on the stories that buildings can tell
- Connecting people with their heritage and involving them in its documentation

A **framework** that supports the recording of heritage places should consider the following:

- Fostering a holistic management of historic heritage
- Incorporating recording requirements within policy documents
- Developing research questions that fill gaps in our knowledge about heritage places
- Tailoring the scope and content of investigations to each place
- Strengthening the conservation principles for recording
- Supporting the professionalisation of the heritage sector

**Knowledge** to support the investigation and recording of heritage places can be fostered in the following ways:

- Tertiary programmes that prepare students for professional practice
- Professional development opportunities that provide basic and more specialised training in investigative and recording techniques
- Acknowledging the contribution of a range of professionals
- Supporting research on heritage buildings and publishing this

Some lessons on the **tools** that can be used for the investigation of heritage buildings:

- Standard recording forms can be useful in some instances
- All methods and tools should be fit-for-purpose and achieve the required outcome
- Standard tools and methods are often the best and most cost-effective
- Laser scanning is useful for recording complex or inaccessible buildings and spaces
- Sampling needs to be undertaken for the purpose of analysis

**Access** to the information produced as a result of investigations of heritage places can be improved by:

- Strengthening mandatory systems for the deposition of records
- Establishing consistency in where and how records are deposited
- Standardising terminology within reports and on databases
- Developing intuitive online databases that signpost records
- Building a digital platform for the aggregation of grey literature and digital data
- Making information and data accessible for research purposes and the public

Drawing on the key learnings, and knowledge of the current framework of heritage systems in New Zealand, **nine recommendations** are put forward to improve the investigation and recording of heritage buildings:

- (1) Increasing publication of investigations and engaging in outreach
- (2) Undertaking further research into issues and solutions (New Zealand and overseas)
- (3) Preparing a discussion paper based on the results of further research (2)
- (4) Improving the current guidance as per the further research (2) and discussion paper (3)
- (5) Developing a national direction for recording through a national policy statement
- (6) Encouraging a professional heritage sector through networking and regulation
- (7) Developing a research framework to focus investigations and recording
- (8) Improving information systems for archaeological sites and heritage places
- (9) Incorporating building recording into tertiary degrees and professional development

I have already shared the learnings and experiences of my research with fellow heritage practitioners through professional forums, such as talks and conference presentations, as well as one-on-one conversations (see Appendix Three). I will continue sharing my learnings through these channels, and through other media such as presentations and publications to a wider audience. I am keen to be involved as either a driver or participant with some of the recommendations that I have put forward below. I expect that this report, and its recommendations, ignite further discussions amongst heritage practitioners in New Zealand and within the agencies and professional bodies that govern building recording.

## *Acknowledgements*

Thank you to the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Trust for the opportunity to not only travel to England, to learn from academics and practitioners first-hand, but also for the opportunity the fellowship has provided with engaging the heritage sector in New Zealand around issues facing the documentation of our unique heritage structures.

Thank you to my manager Mark Lindsay (Heritage Manager, Wellington City Council) who allowed me to embark on this research trip so soon after having commenced my new role as heritage advisor. Thanks also to my colleagues, Moira Smith and Lara Simmons, for accepting my absence and their interest in my field of research.

I am grateful to my previous employer, New Zealand Properties Limited, for drawing me back into the world of archaeology and in particular buildings archaeology.

A big 'thanks' to all those New Zealand based heritage practitioners that I interviewed, who provided feedback for the online survey and who lent me their ears (and brains) when I wanted to test some ideas.

I am very thankful to my two peer reviewers, Dr Dawn Cropper and Amanda Mulligan, who provided their experienced professional eyes over the final draft of this report.

A massive 'thank you' to all those who I met in England during my research trip, and who provided me with insights and ideas that have shaped my learnings and recommendations. Special thanks to Dr Kate Giles for her initial recommendations of who I should visit and speak to, Esther Robinson-Wilde for being a guide, friend and contact 'away from home', and Dr Adam Menuge and his wife Sarah and son Wilf for providing me with a lovely home base, conversations and home cooked meals during my time in and around Cambridge.

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# 1. Introduction

New Zealand is a young country on the global scale. The buildings which exist today that illustrate our unique history consist of remnants of early Māori houses, the houses built by early settlers, and buildings that have been constructed more recently that tell us something about our architectural style, society and history. Our built heritage is investigated and recorded for a variety of reasons including to understand the building for its ongoing management, undertake research, or to document the building before it is modified or demolished. Both non-professionals and professionals undertake building recording. Depending on the reason for recording, the record that is produced can encompass anything from purely photographs to a more detailed record which includes historical research, written descriptions, drawings, plans and statements of significance. Some of the records produced are publicly accessible, to varying extents, with most being held by building owners or 'hidden' in the recordkeeping systems of organisations.

I have been working within the heritage sector for nearly twenty years, and in the last five have been involved directly or indirectly with the recording of heritage buildings, either as an archaeologist documenting pre-1900 buildings prior to their demolition, or as a heritage advisor within a local council mandating the recording of scheduled heritage buildings before they are modified. From my own experiences and conversations with my colleagues it became clear that there are gaps and discrepancies in the knowledge and practice of building recording which is resulting in the outputs of the recording, the reports, being of varying scope and quality. This motivated my application to the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Trust in 2018 to meet with heritage practitioners and academics in England, where there is a long-established tradition of building recording.

As I began to explore the issues around building recording associated with archaeological authorities and conditions of resource consents in New Zealand, I soon realised that the issues identified went beyond these two contexts of recording. Practitioners involved in assessing buildings for listing, preparing conservation reports and plans, and those undertaking research also face some of the same issues and frustrations. To avoid broadening the scope of my research too far, I have focused the identification of the issues and opportunities on the recording that is undertaken as part of an archaeological authority and as a resource consent condition (Section 1.2). It is also these two contexts that have direct regulatory drivers and

involve irreversible changes to heritage buildings. Finding solutions to these issues became the focus of my conversations and site visits in England. However, as the overall aim of my research is to improve the investigation and recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand more broadly, some of the issues I have identified are present in other contexts of recording, and given that the ultimate purpose of any investigations is to understand a building or a place, some of the key learnings and recommendations within this report can be applied to other contexts in which the documentation of our heritage places occurs.

This research is just the beginning, we need to start having honest and open discussions within the heritage sector about the issues with building recording that this research has highlighted, and how these could be tackled. We need to look beyond our shores to other countries that either face similar problems or have found solutions to these. I like to think of this report as a conversation starter.

### ***Some definitions***

I have chosen to look at the recording of buildings as these are the focus of most of the documentation of above ground heritage, both in New Zealand and England. However, many of the learnings can be applied to documenting broader heritage structures (such as bridges, walls, monuments) and landscapes (such as entire sites and complexes). As such, I have used the term ‘heritage places’ where the approach I am discussing can be applied to more than just buildings.

The term ‘heritage buildings’ includes everything from pre-1900 buildings (considered as archaeological sites), those listed by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (Heritage New Zealand) and those scheduled by local and regional councils. I am using the broad definition of ‘historic heritage’ as defined in Section 2 of the *Resource Management Act 1991* (RMA) which includes, amongst other things, historic sites/structures/places/areas and archaeological sites.

The process of building recording is referred to by practitioners by a range of terms including ‘buildings archaeology’, ‘building recording’, ‘archival recording of heritage buildings’, ‘investigation and recording of heritage buildings’ and ‘historical building recording’. In this report I have chosen to use the term ‘buildings archaeology’ where this applies to recording being undertaken by archaeologists, and either ‘building recording’ or ‘investigation and recording of heritage buildings’ in all other contexts.

## ***1.1. Contexts of Recording Heritage Buildings in New Zealand***

Before discussing the findings of my research, and to provide an overview of the purposes for which buildings are document, I want to briefly outline the four main contexts in which the recording of heritage buildings occurs in New Zealand: research, heritage management, documenting changes, and preservation by record. Whilst there are cross-overs between these, in terms of the agencies and practitioners involved and the legislative and non-statutory mechanisms driving them, currently these operate largely independently from one another with few theoretical or practical connections made between them. I would argue that these silos are arbitrary and should be broken down given that the overarching aim of all recording is to increase our knowledge and understanding of New Zealand's built heritage.

### ***1.1.1. Research***

Heritage places are investigated by a range of professionals, such as conservation architects, building scientists, archaeologists and architectural historians, for the ability of investigations to tell us something about a building's date of construction, development, form, architectural features and materials (Bowman & Arden, 2004; Cochran, 1980; Coutts, 1977; Gatley, 2008; Isaacs, 2015; Salmond, 1986; Thornton, 1982, 1986). Some heritage professionals and scientists are also involved with more detailed investigation of building materials and what these can tell us about where these materials came from and dates of construction (Boswijk & Jones, 2012; Isaacs, 2009). All these resources are a basis for understanding historic buildings and structures in New Zealand and are frequently used by those documenting them.



**Figure 1. Left: Dr Gretel Boswijk (University of Auckland) sampling timber from the Tawhiao cottage, Mangere Bridge (Martin Jones, 2012). Right: Paul Cummack inspecting the plaster on the former Whitcoulls Building, Lambton Quay, Wellington (Paul Cummack Conservation Ltd, 2015).**

### ***1.1.2. Heritage Management***

Heritage buildings are also investigated and recorded to manage them. Heritage assessments, undertaken when a building is proposed for listing or scheduling, identifies the heritage fabric and values that are important to preserve. Conservation plans also identify the heritage fabric and values of places but build on this by including policies and actions (such as repair schedules) to inform the long-term conservation and restoration of the place.

All heritage places that are listed by Heritage New Zealand and scheduled by local or regional councils, which are all offered protection through the RMA, should be documented to understand their significance and fabric (the reasons they are listed) so that these can be preserved and managed when modifications are proposed through the resource consenting process. This information is captured in a heritage assessment report. Heritage New Zealand prepares an assessment report for every place that is proposed for listing, which involves both archival research and physical investigations. The reports are produced by heritage professionals such as conservation architects and historians. Whilst this process rigorous process should also be followed by councils for every place that is scheduled on their regional or district plan, in practice this is not the case. Outside of the main centres, where there are dedicated heritage advisors and resources to undertake more detailed heritage assessments, the heritage schedules of smaller councils often consist of minimal information, frequently only comprising of the name, address and date of the scheduled item (these are often referred to as ‘drive-by-listings’). Where heritage assessment reports have been completed, these are held by Heritage New Zealand and councils. Heritage assessment summaries for places listed by Heritage New Zealand are available on the online [Heritage New Zealand List/Rārangi Kōrero](#), whilst only some council’s publish their heritage assessments online, such as the [Wellington City Council Inventory](#).

Another way to manage heritage places, which sits outside a regulatory framework of the RMA, is through conservation plans. These are frequently completed for publicly owned heritage places, such as properties managed by Heritage New Zealand and the Department of Conservation (DoC) but can also be commissioned by private owners of heritage buildings. They are mostly produced by heritage professionals using the internationally recognised approach in “The Conservation Plan” (Kerr, 2013).

### **1.1.3. Recording Changes**

When changes are made to heritage places, especially those that are listed or scheduled (recognised as having national or local heritage significance), these should be recorded. Whilst there is currently no direct regulatory requirement to document changes to heritage places in New Zealand, this is captured in the principles of most international and national charters for the conservation of historic heritage. *The ICOMOS<sup>1</sup> New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value 2010* (ICOMOS NZ Charter) states that:

*“Evidence provided by the fabric of a place should be identified and understood through systematic research, recording, and analysis. Recording is an essential part of the physical investigation of a place. It informs and guides the conservation process and its planning. Systematic recording should occur prior to, during, and following any intervention. It should include the recording of new evidence revealed, and any fabric obscured or removed.”* (Principle 12)

There are two main instances in which the recording of modifications to heritage places occurs in New Zealand; as a condition of a resource consent involving changes to listed or scheduled heritage buildings, and within the context of modifications to heritage buildings in private or public ownership irrespective of whether a resource consent is required<sup>2</sup>. The first is driven by a regulatory mechanism (the RMA) whilst the second is not.

As part of a resource consent, a condition on building recording can be stipulated when a heritage building is modified. This is at the discretion of the council granting the consent and practice varies between councils. Whilst some require only photographs to be taken, others request a more comprehensive record, which may include the purpose for recording, a significance statement, and plans. Whereas some councils will state that an expert in heritage conservation must undertake the recording, in many cases this is left to the consent holder to implement, some of whom undertake the recording themselves. The record that is produced becomes part of the documentation associated with the resource consent for the building and is lodged with the consenting authority.

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<sup>1</sup> International Council on Monuments and Sites

<sup>2</sup> The heritage schedules of most councils only protect the exterior of buildings, meaning that resource consent is only required if the outside of the building is changed. Interior changes frequently do not need a resource consent.

Within the context of work on heritage places outside of a resource consent, the practice of recording changes and documenting these in a conservation record (or conservation report), is largely in the hands of the conservation architect and the building owner. Whilst modifications to heritage places in public ownership, such as places managed by DoC and Heritage New Zealand, are generally documented to some level, given their national mandate of heritage protection, work on private properties is less systematically recorded. Of the few conservation reports I have seen, these vary greatly in terms of their scope and content. The record that is produced is frequently only held by the building owner and referred to like a maintenance plan when work is being undertaken.

#### ***1.1.4. Preservation by Record***

All buildings that are recorded under an archaeological authority (the equivalent to a resource consent but for archaeological sites) pre-date 1900 and are demolished upon completion of the record. The report that is produced is the only evidence of the building that survives, an outcome that is referred to as ‘preservation by record’. The primary legislation governing archaeological sites, the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* (HNZPT Act), establishes the pre-1900 cut-off date for what is legally defined as an archaeological site (Section 6), and determines that whilst all other sites are to be recorded if they are modified, buildings only need to be recorded if they are demolished in their entirety (Section 42).<sup>3</sup>

It is predominantly archaeologists that record buildings under an archaeological authority. In this context the process of recording is referred to as ‘buildings archaeology’, which is defined as “the application of archaeological principles of systematic recording, analysis and interpretation of standing buildings or ‘above ground archaeology’” (Giles, 2014). Since the buildings are to be demolished, the process of investigation is highly intrusive, involving the peeling back of layers (walls linings, floor coverings) to gain an unimpeded perspective of how a building was constructed, the materials and techniques used, and the function of different spaces. The buildings archaeology report, which may also include the findings of below ground excavations undertaken after the building is demolished, is lodged with Heritage New Zealand, the owner and a local archive. As of April 2019, an estimated 265 reports which including building recording have been lodged with Heritage New Zealand.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Whilst prior to the 2014 amendment of the Act, buildings defined as archaeological sites were recorded when they were modified, including when they were relocated, this was determined too difficult to administer given the huge number of both interior and exterior building modifications that occur on a regular basis (The New Zealand Archaeological Association, 2012).

<sup>4</sup> Based on data provided by Heritage New Zealand on issued archaeological authorities between 1976 and 2019.

The systematic recording of pre-1900 buildings under the archaeological authority process became more well established in the early 2000s, mostly within the context of major infrastructure developments which necessitated the demolition or relocation of pre-1900 buildings (Campbell & Furey, 2007). During this period the recording of buildings was undertaken by a small group of archaeologists who were either trained in buildings archaeology or who were self-taught. It was at this time that Heritage New Zealand published the first edition of the guidance on the “Investigation and Recording of Buildings and Standing Structures” (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 2006) to help inform and structure how archaeologists record buildings. Over the last two decades there has been a steady increase in the number of buildings recorded under the archaeological authority process, with a peak in 2010/11 as a result of the Canterbury earthquakes, an increasing number of property developments, and greater awareness of the legal requirements for recording.



**Figure 2. Documenting an Oamaru Stone house (c1870s), Archaeological Site J41/179, Oamaru (New Zealand Heritage Properties Ltd, 2015).**

## **2. Issues and Opportunities**

Through my experiences as an archaeological consultant and heritage advisor I have seen first-hand the issues with building recording but also the potential for investigations to reveal new information. I was initiated into the practice of buildings archaeology as an archaeological consultant in Dunedin (2015 to 2018). This involved drawing on my knowledge of stratigraphic recording from my archaeology degree, familiarising myself with books about New Zealand's heritage buildings, measuring and photographing everything from entire elevations to joinery details, taking samples, monitoring the demolition of the building, and producing a report compiling the findings. I gained an appreciation of the potential of buildings archaeology to reveal information about a building's history, construction, materials and the lives of the people that lived there.

Upon reviewing a range of buildings archaeology reports, I noted a wide discrepancy in their scope and quality. Subsequent conversations with fellow archaeologists revealed a similar, and somewhat informal, induction into the practice of buildings archaeology, and a shared recognition that we need to do better by the buildings we are recording. Several underlying issues were voiced which represented the proverbial 'tip of the iceberg'; ranging from a lack of professional development opportunities, limited resources, a lack of clear guidance to the constant battles around explaining the purpose of building recording to clients in order to obtain the resources necessary to undertake this work.

These conversations with my colleagues, and the desire to improve the recording of buildings under the archaeological authority process, motivated my application to the Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Trust. By the time that I was notified of my successful application in October 2018, I had transitioned to my current position as senior heritage advisor at the Wellington City Council. In this role I became exposed to some of the other contexts in which the recording of heritage places occurs; such as recording conditions in resource consents, heritage assessments and conservation plans.

After receiving the fellowship and commencing more in-depth discussions with colleagues working in the heritage sector, I noted that similar issues existed in some of the other contexts in which building recording occurs. My research scope began to look like it could expand dramatically. I made the decision to focus on the two contexts of recording that are mandated through a regulatory process and involve irreversible changes to heritage places; buildings

archaeology and the recording of a place that can be required through a condition of a resource consent. It is also these contexts that I have direct experience with. However, given that the ultimate purpose of the record, to allow people to understand the heritage place, is at the heart of all building recording, and the processes and tools of investigation are broadly similar, I believe that many of the learnings from my fellowship research can be applied to the other contexts in which heritage places are documented in New Zealand.

## 2.1. Methodology

Prior to leaving for England I wanted to explore the issues with buildings archaeology and the recording mandated by resource consents beyond just my experiences and the informal conversations with colleagues. I reached out to fellow practitioners by placing notices in the 'Archaeology in New Zealand' journal, the Archaeologists' newsletter circulated by Heritage New Zealand, and I emailed the distribution list of heritage planners in New Zealand. I used these channels to get the word out about my fellowship and the research I was undertaking, asking for feedback, insights and questions that others might have. I conducted interviews with archaeologists and heritage practitioners to gain their views on building recording and the issues they see (see Appendix One). After compiling the findings from this initial research, I gave a presentation to the Wellington Archaeologists Group, fellow archaeologists, and Heritage New Zealand staff on my findings before opening up the floor to discussions around "what do we do well" and "what can be improved" (Figure 3).

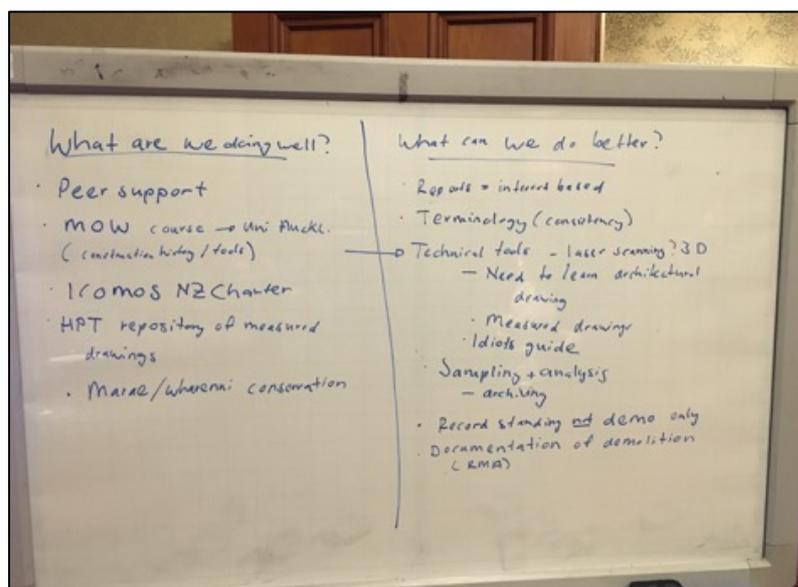


Figure 3. Comments gathered during the presentation to members of the Wellington Archaeologists Group and Heritage New Zealand, Antrim House, 16 April 2019 (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).

Based on this research of building recording in New Zealand, the voices of archaeologists were the loudest. The tenor of responses was “good that someone is looking into this!” and “we want to do better and we want to know how!”. The responses from heritage planners and advisors were less overwhelming; based on my current knowledge of the heritage sector within regional and local councils, this is likely to be a result of the small number of heritage advisors working within councils and the range of backgrounds and experiences.

After returning from my trip to England, I published an online survey to gain a quantum of the range of contexts in which the recording of heritage building occurs in New Zealand, by whom, for what purpose, the scope and guidance utilised, and the usefulness of this. I also wanted to canvas the demand for a professional development course on understanding and recording heritage buildings given that the lack of such training was identified as a key issue. A link to the survey was sent to the membership of ICOMOS New Zealand, the New Zealand Archaeological Association (NZAA) and the distribution list of heritage planners. A total of 55 responses were received. As with the findings of my pre-departure research, archaeologists formed the greatest percentage of respondents (36%) followed by conservation architects (15%) and heritage consultants (13%).

## ***2.2. Issues***

Based on the results of my research, I have grouped the issues into five themes:

- Purpose
- Framework
- Knowledge
- Tools
- Access

However, it should be noted that in many instances the issues under each theme are interconnected and should not be thought of in isolation. Combined, these issues have led to the current situation in New Zealand in which building recording is under-valued (purpose), under-supported (framework), inaccessible (access) and conducted by those with limited training (knowledge) and experience in the range of methods and tools that can be applied (tools).

### **2.2.1. Purpose**

The reasons for recording heritage buildings before they are demolished or modified is not well understood by the public and owners, who are required to pay for the recording. There is a perception that our buildings are not old or important enough and that investigations only reveal “yet another standard feature of a common cottage or villa”

When questioned by the general public and clients as to why a pre-1900 building needs to be recorded, the responses of several archaeologists is “because the building is an archaeological site and has to be documented by law”, or “the investigation of the building can add to our understanding of nineteenth century New Zealand houses”. Whilst some accept this others are less understanding, questioning the value of recording ‘stock-standard’ buildings and how this information is communicated beyond the report that is produced. Several archaeologists find that these questions not entirely unwarranted, given that the recording of the building’s physical fabric often reveals little more than what is already known from published sources.

To counter this, some archaeologists have started a call for the profession to move beyond pure architectural recording and to investigate what buildings might tell us about more intangible things like identity, social class and meaning (Petchey & Brosnahan, 2016).

On the other hand, within the resource consenting context, there is an understanding amongst heritage practitioners that heritage places should be recorded if they are modified, based on the principles of the ICOMOS NZ Charter. However, as with the archaeological authority process, communicating this to the resource consent holder (applicant) and the planner issuing the consent is often fraught with similar issues. This is where a clear understanding and communication of the purpose for recording is crucial.

### **2.2.2. Framework**

The framework for historic heritage in New Zealand provides limited mandates and guidance for the investigation and recording of historic heritage. The two primary legislations (RMA and HNZPT Act) do not adequately address recording requirements, there is no national direction, guidance is not fit-for-purpose, regional and local councils lack capacity and resources, and there is limited support from professional heritage bodies.

Heritage New Zealand manages the archaeological authority process through the HNZPT Act. Whilst archaeological sites can be afforded protection under the RMA, very few sites are scheduled on district plans. If they are, these are mainly below-ground, reflecting the ethos that all things ‘archaeological’ are beneath the surface and anything ‘old’ which is above ground is considered ‘historic heritage’.<sup>5</sup> As a result, pre-1900 buildings that are not scheduled are solely regulated under the archaeological authority process.

The HNZPT Act sets out both the requirement to obtain an authority and limits who can do the necessary work. The approval of archaeologists to undertake the recording of any given site, including a building, is based on Section 45 of the HNZPT Act. This stipulates that the person “*has sufficient skill and competency, is fully capable of ensuring that the proposed activity is carried out to the satisfaction of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and has access to appropriate institutional and professional support and resources*”. With few consultant archaeologists with formal training in buildings archaeology, those with some previous experience in recording buildings are frequently assigned as the approved archaeologists, with institutional and professional support (if any) coming from fellow practitioners, and resources are limited to architectural reference books, a measuring tape, camera, a saw and a crowbar.

As per Section 46(g) of the HNZPT Act, the values of the site to be modified need to be understood. Whilst the consultant undertaking the investigations for the assessment that accompanies the authority application should look at a broad range of heritage values, such as historical, technological, architectural and cultural values (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 2019), these are frequently skimmed over. The focus is mostly on archaeological values which include rarity (how unique is it), contextual value (is it associated with other sites), amenity value (can the site be used for public interpretation or education), and information potential (can archaeological investigations reveal further information). Arguably, this is a narrow focus for sites in general, but especially for buildings, which are largely intact and visible when assessed and which can help us to understand some of the other and more broader values associated with heritage places.

When granting an authority, Heritage New Zealand imposes conditions that must be fulfilled (HNZPT Act, Sec. 52). For authorities which relate to above ground structures and buildings,

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<sup>5</sup> Note that the RMA specifically includes archaeological sites in their definition of historic heritage.

a level of recording based on the archaeological values is recommended by the consultant and confirmed by the Heritage New Zealand archaeologists. These levels are set out in the guidance document on building recording (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, 2018), Level III being the highest and Level I the lowest, with an associated checklist of the recording methods to use (photographs, plans, written accounts, samples) and to what level of detail (limited, detailed, or comprehensive). There are inconsistencies as to how these levels are determined and applied. Whilst some Heritage New Zealand archaeologists stipulate one level of recording for all parts of a building and for all recording methods, some require different levels of recording for different parts of a building (for example, parts of the building that post-date 1900 may be recorded at a lower level) and for the different recording methods applied (for example, photographs and plans should be of a higher level than written accounts).

Nearly all archaeologists that I interviewed expressed issues with the guidance from Heritage New Zealand. Some stated that the levels of recording are too broad, the terms used for the amount of detail required for each level of recording are vague, and that what is required for each building cannot be adequately captured within three generic levels. As a result, several archaeologists, particularly those working within larger consultancies, have developed their own guides and associated recording forms and report templates.

Compared to the archaeological authority process, the RMA is even more desperately in need of a central framework. There is no central agency or mechanism that mandates the recording of heritage buildings that are modified under the resource consenting process. Powers to manage historic heritage under the RMA are delegated to national, regional and local authorities. At the national level, there is currently no National Policy Statement for historic heritage which, amongst other things, could include policies for documenting heritage places. This absence of a national direction for historic heritage has been noted for some time (Carrie, 2002). At the regional and local level, the district plans of councils focus on broader policies and objectives for assessing resource consents to modify heritage places. It is only through conditions on resource consents, which are at the discretion of the person assessing the effects of the proposal (heritage advisor or planner) that conditions on building recording are stipulated. Whilst over 50% of the 55 respondents to my online survey undertake building recording conditioned by a resource consent, I suspect that most of this is undertaken within the larger centres where there are dedicated heritage advisors that mandate this condition.

Where a condition for recording is included on a resource consent, there is no nationally consistent guidance that is applied. Whilst the Heritage New Zealand guidance on building recording was developed for all contexts of recording, in practice the extensive scope and level of detail (even for a lower level of recording, Level III) is not considered suitable for the smaller and more prescribed record required for resource consents. Several heritage practitioners that I interviewed prefer the simpler scope of photographic records for resource consent conditions modelled from those produced by heritage agencies in Australia (Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, 2013), or have developed their own recording conditions. In addition, not all council's stipulate that a heritage professional should undertake the recording, leaving the documentation to non-professionals, such as the consent holder, builder or architect.

Whilst there is some support provided by the two main professional bodies for heritage practitioners, the NZAA and ICOMOS New Zealand, this is limited by resources (time, money) and the shortage of skilled practitioners in historic heritage in general and building recording in particular. Membership of both is voluntary, with only ICOMOS requiring some level of experience in heritage conservation for its full members. There is no formal accreditation system for either the NZAA or ICOMOS. In terms of guidance, the NZAA site recording handbook (1999), which provides advice for field recording techniques, requires updating to reflect current best practice in archaeological recording in general. There is also no guidance provided in the handbook for building recording. ICOMOS International provides some generic guidance on recording of buildings, monuments and sites (ICOMOS, 1990, 1996).

### **2.2.3. Knowledge**

There currently are gaps in the training and professional development opportunities provided in New Zealand that teach the investigation and recording of heritage buildings. There is also a relative absence of published resources about New Zealand's built heritage and the results of building recording.

The vast number of practitioners currently involved in the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand have no formal training in this field. Similarly, new practitioners coming into the field are often doing so without formal training.

Buildings archaeology is not taught within tertiary archaeology courses, and there are currently no regular professional development opportunities on this topic provided in New Zealand. As stated previously, the knowledge that archaeologists draw on when undertaking building recording is that available in published reference books, guidance provided by Heritage New Zealand, and information supplied by fellow practitioners.

In terms of conservation architecture, more training opportunities are available within tertiary institutions. This includes the University of Auckland's Master of Heritage Conservation degree, which teaches some aspects of building recording, and the heritage conservation courses offered by the School of Architecture and Museum and Heritage Studies at Victoria University in Wellington.

In terms of professional development, the NZAA have provided two workshops on building recording in the past (2012, 2013), with the workshops which have been provided or promoted by ICOMOS NZ focusing on more specialized conservation techniques. No workshops or training for building recording is currently planned by either.

A consistent message from almost all interviewees is that further training and professional development is needed, both within the tertiary and vocational sector. 89% of survey respondents stated that they would be interested in a professional development course (61% yes, 27% maybe).

It is widely acknowledged that the published sources on New Zealand's built heritage require updating with new information that has come to light. Several of those that I interviewed lamented the absence of more thematic reference sources, such as volumes dedicated to timber construction, brick and stone buildings. Some have called for a synthesis of findings from published and unpublished sources to gain a better understanding about what we know of New Zealand buildings on a regional, typological and thematic level.

#### 2.2.4. Tools

There is a lack of knowledge around the different types of methods and tools that can be applied to the investigation and recording process and how they are best used. These tools can include standard recording forms (field forms), architectural drawing techniques and packages, sampling and analysis, direct recording techniques (such as hand drawing, measured survey, photography) and digital recording (laser scanning, photogrammetry).

With buildings archaeology, where there is one chance to gather as much information as possible before a building is demolished, gaining a detailed understanding of the building using a consistent approach and a wide range of tools should be the norm. In the absence of detailed ‘how to’ guidance, within either the Heritage New Zealand guidelines or the NZAA’s site recording handbook, some archaeologists have developed their own recording forms to document elevations, rooms, and structural and joinery details. This is mostly done by larger consultancies that are more well-resourced and where a large number of staff are involved in building recording to help standardise the information that is produced.

Most heritage practitioners, especially conservation architects and archaeologists, are relatively familiar with how to undertake measured surveys, annotated sketches and basic photography. Beyond these fundamental skills there is limited knowledge of more advanced photography, photogrammetry<sup>6</sup>, three-dimensional laser scanning<sup>7</sup>, and the use of architectural drawing packages (such as CAD<sup>8</sup>) that can produce high quality plans of buildings using standard architectural conventions. Many of the people that I interviewed were particularly interested in a better understanding around the usefulness of digital tools.

It was recognised by several heritage practitioners that the sampling of building materials and their subsequent analysis needs to be improved given that all levels of building recording require sampling. Whilst building materials, joinery, nails and wallpapers were frequently sampled, often no subsequent analysis is undertaken. Whilst there are reference collections for wallpapers held by institutions in Auckland<sup>9</sup> and Wellington<sup>10</sup>, and services for dendrochronology are available through Auckland University, these are underutilised.

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<sup>6</sup> The use of photography to survey and measure a building.

<sup>7</sup> Scanning a building to produce an accurate three-dimensional computer-generated model.

<sup>8</sup> Computer Aided Drawing.

<sup>9</sup> A collection of 2,000 wallpapers held by Heritage New Zealand are housed at Highwic, Auckland.

<sup>10</sup> The Perry Martin Hill collection of historic wallpapers is housed at the Faculty of Architecture and Design, Victoria University of Wellington.

### 2.2.5. Access

The information gained from the recording of heritage places is often difficult to find, access and use. Records produced are physically held in different locations, distributed across several databases and recordkeeping systems, they are difficult to search, and there is limited publication of findings in journals, books and other media.

Reports produced as a condition of resource consents are submitted to the client and the council who has granted the consent. These reports are then associated with the record for the property held by the consenting authority and are generally only discoverable if the property record is searched. In the best-case scenario, the reports are added to the collection of an archive and are searchable through their database. Unless the reports are added to an archive's collection, they remain effectively hidden in the recordkeeping systems of councils.

Archaeological reports on the other hand are submitted to the client, a local archive and to Heritage New Zealand, where they are added to the [Archaeological Reports Digital Library](#), which is keyword searchable. Whilst archaeologists frequently use the archaeological reports library, very few members of the public are aware of its existence. The lack of consistency in the terminology used by archaeologists, especially when it comes to describing architectural features, and the absence of detailed metadata associated with each report, limits the searchability between reports.

In addition to the archaeological report, each site that is investigated is also entered on the NZAA's site recording database ([ArchSite](#)). This captures the basic details about each site (location, extent, date, ethnicity, site type, features, brief description, condition) and photographs can be added. The data entry fields are more applicable to below-ground sites and the search function is limited to the archaeological site number, region or street address.

Very few buildings archaeology reports exist outside of the digital library and the information that is summarized within ArchSite, with only some archaeologists publishing their findings in journals (Coutts, 1977; Petchey, 2017; Petchey & Brosnahan, 2016) or through other online channels, such as the "[Christchurch Uncovered](#)" blog by Underground Overground Archaeology Ltd.

### ***2.3. Opportunities***

From this preliminary survey of the issues with the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand, it is evident that changes need to be made. We need to gain clarity around the purpose of recording and how to communicate this more effectively amongst ourselves and to our clients and stakeholders. At a national level we need to improve the guidance around recording heritage places and the access to training and professional development opportunities. At a procedural level, there are further developments required in terms of systems, the processes applied, the tools used and how we store, access and disseminate the findings of building recording. This is not an insurmountable task. New Zealand is a small country with a dynamic heritage sector that consists of a relatively small professional community who are willing to admit that improvements need to be made. The Government has also recognised the gaps in New Zealand's heritage protection systems, and the public are increasingly becoming interested in their past.

It is against this backdrop that my Winston Churchill Fellowship research is positioned. The aim of the research trip was to step outside of New Zealand to explore how another country with a more developed heritage sector approaches the recording of heritage buildings, and to gain insights into how the issues facing the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand could be tackled.

Whilst there are several countries that I could have visited, I chose England due to the well-established buildings archaeology and architectural history courses taught at the Universities of York and Cambridge. I was also interested in visiting Historic England, the equivalent of Heritage New Zealand, to learn how they structure their advice and training. Given that the guidance by Heritage New Zealand is largely drawn from that produced by Historic England, I was interested to find out how the guidance is applied there. I also met with members of the Buildings Archaeology Group of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CiFA), who timed their AGM for when I was in London, to gain an understanding of how this organisation supports its members and promotes best practice standards in the field of building recording. I met with buildings archaeologists and archivists within two leading archaeological consultancies, Oxford Archaeology and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), to learn about the processes, tools and the databases they employ. Whilst at the University of York, I visited the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), the only accredited

digital repository for heritage data in the UK, to learn how they acquire, store and make accessible the reports and digital records of building investigations.

Most of my visits involved conversations with the primary contact for each organization as well as other heritage professionals that I was introduced to. During my visit at the University of York, Cambridge University and Historic England, I was also taken on field visits to see buildings where investigative projects had been undertaken and to meet with other heritage professionals working directly or indirectly with building recording. Appendix Two provides further details for each institution and organisation I visited, the primary and other contacts made, and key experiences.

### 3. Key Learnings

The canvassing of issues facing the recording of heritage buildings prior to my research trip provided a basis for the questions that I explored during each of my visits. For a number of these visits I also shared a presentation I had prepared on New Zealand's built heritage, the various contexts of recording, and the issues with the documentation of our buildings. This proved invaluable in communicating the situation in New Zealand and opening up constructive discussions on what aspects of the English approaches to building recording could be applied in New Zealand.



**Figure 4. Left: Sharing my presentation on the recording of heritage buildings in New Zealand at the AGM of the Buildings Archaeology Group of the CIfA, London. Right: Discussions with some of the committee members of the Buildings Archaeology Group (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).**

In England, the recording of heritage places occurs in similar contexts as in New Zealand. There are legislative drivers and non-statutory mechanisms (such as conservation principles) which govern the documentation of heritage places prior to modification (under the planning process) and for management purposes, investigations and recording of heritage places is undertaken by a range of consultants within the private sector and for a wide variety of reasons. There is a considerable amount of information about England's approach to building recording in published sources. However, conversations with those who are working within these systems was invaluable. The face-to-face conversations, personal connections, and the site visits enabled me to gain a deeper and more practical understanding of how heritage buildings are documented in England.

This section outlines the key learnings from my research trip under the five broad issues that face the recording of New Zealand's built heritage: purpose, framework, knowledge, tools

and access. Given the wide remit within which building recording occurs in England, and the many experiences and field visits that informed my research (which were not always strictly associated with documentation for modifications or demolition), each section includes broader learnings on building recording beyond those that may be directly applied to the archaeological authority and resource consenting context in New Zealand. Each section concludes with some brief ‘take-home notes’ drawn from the learnings under each theme. These notes are intended to indicate a direction, rather than specific recommendations (which are detailed in Section 3.1) on how each issue could be tackled in the New Zealand context.

### ***3.1. Purpose***

For a variety of reasons, including the extensive time depth of England’s history there is a more widely accepted need to protect and appropriately manage the places that physically embody this heritage than there is in New Zealand. Public heritage organisations generally undertake the best practice recording of heritage places as a matter of course, and several heritage building owners have also adopted this approach. Within the planning process, when an owner needs to commission the preparation of documentation to accompany a planning permit or to record a building as changes are made, the costs and time involved may often be questioned. Just as in New Zealand, heritage consultants in England need to engage their clients not only with the mandatory process for recording, but also to make a case for the building’s heritage values. The purpose for documenting heritage places is established on the basis that historic heritage has importance for all, buildings can tell us stories about the past, and links need to be created between heritage places and the individuals and communities connected to them.

#### ***3.1.1. People-centred heritage***

Conservation principles are the overarching ethos in which the documentation of heritage places occurs in England, both within the contexts of management and when modifications for adaptive reuse are made. These go beyond the simple reason of “we need to conserve this place to endure for generations” to a more holistic approach that situates heritage places within the broader natural and cultural environment and recognises the importance of people’s engagement with them.

Two of the six conservation principles that guide the work of the National Trust, which looks after over 500 historic places throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, are focused

on integrating the conservation of the natural and cultural environment (integration), and benefitting society and gaining support (access and engagement) (The National Trust, 2009). Of the six conservation principles informing the work of Historic England, the public body that provides advice on the care and management of England's historic heritage, two acknowledge the importance of public involvement; the historic environment is a shared resource (Principle 1), and everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment (Principle 2) (Historic England, 2008). These principles guide all aspects of the work of these organisations and can be seen in practice by the ways in which the public are at the centre of many decisions that are made and programmes that are implemented.

### ***3.1.2. Buildings tell stories***

Beyond a building's physical fabric, investigations can also reveal something about a building's history, use and the lives of the people that lived there. Rather than being static, heritage places should be viewed as palimpsests, having layers of history and meaning, both tangible and intangible. It is these stories of heritage places that interest the public and 'pull' them into understanding the reason for the recording.

For example, in his PhD research on 18<sup>th</sup> Century buildings in York, Matt Jenkins focused on the concept of building biographies, demonstrating a link between the form and fabric of the building and the ways in which people used the space (Jenkins, 2013). During my time in York we visited the York Assembly Rooms, constructed in the 1730's as a venue for a variety of social events. Matt's research demonstrated how the large interior space, with columns reminiscent of elm rows, functioned much like the grand gardens which were a popular venue for gatherings of the elite in 18<sup>th</sup> Century England. He is hoping to recreate some of these events within the Assembly Rooms to give the public a sense of how the building, which is currently used as a restaurant, originally functioned.

### ***3.1.3. Community engagement***

The engagement of interest groups in the documentation of heritage places not only assists those charged with recording places and develops skills for recording amongst interest groups, it also connects local communities with their heritage places and bestows a sense of public ownership. The public's understanding of a heritage place can also create an awareness of its significance and mobilise the community's involvement in its ongoing preservation.

For example, The CITiZAN project ([Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network](#)) lead by the Museum of London Archaeology, involves working with local volunteers to record heritage sites along England’s coastline which are subject to erosion and rising sea levels. Volunteers are taught how to document places and add them to the online database (Figure 9, left).

Also, Vernacular Architecture Groups throughout England are actively involved in the documentation of buildings within their counties. Several of the groups are well organised and associated with retired or active heritage professionals. As part of their [Early Urban Buildings project](#), Historic England provided groups with training and tools to undertake the documentation of some of the earliest buildings within their towns and counties (Figure 5, right). Several volumes have been produced detailing the unique architectural traditions of a variety of towns (Rosen & Cliffe, 2017).



Figure 5. Left: Volunteers from the CITiZAN project documenting the Coastguards watch house at Orford Ness Suffolk, Suffolk (Lara Band, MOLA). Right: Volunteers carrying out the survey of the Guildhall in Chipping Norton as part of the early urban fabric survey (Historic England, DP172791).

The **purpose** of building recording can be supported in several ways:

- Communicating the role of heritage as a public good
- Moving beyond physical fabric and focusing on the stories that buildings can tell
- Connecting people with their heritage and involving them in its documentation

### 3.2. Framework

The research trip was invaluable in allowing me to understand the heritage system within England and how the recording of heritage places is woven into the processes that are established. Whilst there are similarities with the heritage systems in New Zealand, the

heritage sector in England is more well-established, better resourced, and provides a national direction for heritage management. What is recorded about a building and how is not only based on the purpose of the record, but also the heritage values of the building.

### ***3.2.1. Holistic concept of heritage***

Historic heritage encompasses places that have value. These values fall within four broad categories defined by Historic England: evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal. All places are assessed against these tangible and intangible values, be they archaeological monuments and sites, buildings, structures or historic landscapes. There is no differentiation between what is considered ‘archaeological’ and what is considered ‘historic heritage’ and there is no cut-off date. All places that have one or more of these values are considered heritage assets and part of the historic environment, the latter is defined as:

*“All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora”* (National Policy Planning Framework, 2019, annex 2).

The historic environment can include; scheduled ancient monuments, which are sites or places considered to be of national or international importance; listed buildings and places, which are of national importance and are scheduled by Historic England (much like the role of Heritage New Zealand), and non-designated heritage assets, which consist of all other places that are identified by local authorities. Whilst scheduled ancient monuments are managed under separate legislation<sup>11</sup>, listed heritage places and non-designated heritage assets are managed under the planning framework. Whilst this is similar to the situation in New Zealand, the important differentiation is that what is considered ‘archaeological’ and what is considered ‘historic heritage’ is managed as part of the historic environment and under one system, the National Policy Planning Framework (see below) rather than two different regulatory systems (RMA and HNZPT Act).

### ***3.2.2. National direction***

Whilst each territorial authority in England operates under local and district plans, much like in New Zealand, these are informed by the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), established in 2012. The NPPF is updated on a regular basis and sets out the government’s

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<sup>11</sup> The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

economic, environmental and social planning policies. Section 16 outlines the government's policies for conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraph 199 directs local authorities to:

*“...require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.”*

As a result, all listed building consents and planning permits for non-designated heritage assets include the requirement to document the place to be modified. The required form and details for recording are set out in a brief or written scheme of investigation for each planning permit, which includes information about the place, the reason for creating the record, the areas to be investigated and the level of recording needed, which draws on the four levels defined by Historic England (Historic England, 2016).

Whilst church buildings belonging to five denominations<sup>12</sup> within England are exempt from the planning provisions of the local authorities as per *The Ecclesiastical Exemption Order* 2010, the appropriate care of their buildings is governed by the *Care of Cathedrals Measure* 2011. These two pieces of legislation require each church to have a cathedral architect (or surveyor of fabric) and archaeologist to oversee any modifications to the church and grounds, undertake general maintenance, keep records of all work undertaken, and produce a survey of the church every two years.<sup>13</sup>

### **3.2.3. Research questions**

A consistent message that has come through from everyone that I talked to is that research questions, together with the purpose of the record, should underpin all building recording. This focuses the investigation and provides a structure for the interpretation section of the report. The detailed research undertaken in the early stages should form the basis for developing the questions, which should focus on the gaps in knowledge about the place, “what do the available sources not tell me about the place?”, and broader questions about the context of the place or type of building, for example “how is this place different or similar to other buildings of this type?”.

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<sup>12</sup> The Church of England, The Roman Catholic Church, The Methodist Church, The Baptist Union of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church.

<sup>13</sup> Sections 26 and 27, *Care of Cathedrals Measure* 2011.

Despite the usefulness of research questions being recognised, to date there is no national or complete regional research framework for the historic environment in England. Instead, where research questions are included within briefs for planning permits, these are often not well formulated and draw on generic rather than specific questions. This is also the case in New Zealand, where research strategies and associated questions are only required for archaeological authorities that will impact a site which has the potential to reveal significant information about New Zealand’s historical and cultural heritage.<sup>14</sup>

Historic England is currently developing a set of research frameworks hosted on digital platforms, that have a regional focus which outlines the extent of knowledge about the built environment in each region, and identifies the gaps that future research and investigations can fill. Three regional frameworks are currently being developed through collaboration with universities, local authorities, heritage professionals, and advocacy and community groups (Historic England, 2020b). The research questions are not intended to be fixed and instead should be adjusted through further research and when new information comes to light. It is intended to be a “living research framework” (Lane & Roethe, 2019).

#### ***3.2.4. Tailored recording***

The type of investigations and reports produced depend not only on the purpose of the record, but also on the historic heritage value of the place and the extent to which this will be modified. Whilst this roughly reflects the situation in New Zealand, in both the archaeological authority and resource consenting contexts, in England the approach is more nuanced and allows for the tailoring of investigations and recording to suit each heritage building.

A desk-based assessment (DBA) is the first step for almost all building recording projects. These involve aggregating the information about the heritage asset and rely on the available published and historical sources about the place and previous investigations that have been undertaken (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). If the building is to be impacted by proposed works, and/or is complex or highly significant, a more detailed specialist assessment may be required, which often involves physical investigations. All applications to modify a heritage place require a heritage statement that draws on the information compiled from the

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<sup>14</sup> Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, Section 52(2).

DBA and any specialist assessments, and determines the level of impact to the place of the proposed development.

If consent to modify a heritage place is granted, recording conditions are included in almost all instances. These are documented in the brief or written scheme of investigation that is associated with the consent, this sets out the level to which the building will be recorded, how and by whom. Flexibility is often integrated into the briefs to allow for more detailed investigations if significant information or fabric is revealed during works. The levels of recording determined by Historic England (Historic England, 2016), with Level I being a basic visual record to Level IV encompassing a comprehensive analytical record, are used as a guide rather than a definitive list of investigations to be undertaken and documents to be produced.

Generally speaking the levels of recording work relatively well within the planning context, especially as there is an understanding that these are for guidance purposes only, with the written scheme of investigation forming the primary condition of recording which is tailored to each heritage place. However, some of the heritage professionals that I talked to would like more specific guidance on *what* and *how* to record, similar to the situation in New Zealand, to assist less experienced recorders such as new graduates or volunteer groups.

### ***3.2.5. Conservation principles***

The demolition of a heritage building is a rare occurrence in England given the heritage protection systems in place. The majority of building investigations are undertaken as part of the planning process when a place is modified to allow for its ongoing use. Conservation principles underpin not only the scope of work that is undertaken, often with an emphasis on minimum intervention, but also how this work is done. The need to understand the fabric and heritage values of a place prior to undertaking changes, and to document all work, is second nature for all of the heritage professionals I talked to, who referred to the articles on recording within several ICOMOS charters.<sup>15</sup>

At a national governance level, the six conservation principles developed by Historic England have been embraced by the wider heritage sector, including some of the local authorities,

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<sup>15</sup> *The Venice Charter* 1964 (Article 16), *The Burra Charter* 2013 (Article 26.1 & 32) and the *New Zealand Charter* (Article 12)

professional advisors and property owners that I talked to. In addition to the two principles mentioned in the previous section (Section 3.1.1), which focus on the public role of conservation, the remaining principles build on those outlined in the international charters: understanding the significance of a place is vital; significant places should be managed to sustain their values; decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent; and documenting and learning from decisions is essential. The heritage management practices that have emerged from this basis, which sit alongside any planning requirements when changes are made, include building surveys to understand fabric and values and the development of conservation plans.

### ***3.2.6. Professional heritage sector***

With a well-developed and largely professional heritage sector, the documentation of heritage places is for the most part undertaken by individuals with relevant training and experience. Training programmes on how to document historic heritage are provided by tertiary institutions as well as national and professional organisations (detailed in Section 3.3) and there is access to a wide range of tools and resources to accurately document heritage places (Section 3.4). Professionals involved in the investigation and recording of historic heritage include archaeologists (with training in buildings archaeology), architectural historians, conservation architects and building surveyors.

Accreditation systems have also been established. The Register of Architects Accredited in Building Conservation ([AABC](#)) includes over 400 building conservation accredited architects who are assessed on their qualifications, portfolio of work completed over a five year period and their understanding of conservation principles. The Buildings Archaeology Group of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) have developed a [Specialist Competence Matrix](#) for practitioners involved in buildings archaeology to determine the desired level of knowledge and experience for the three levels of professional membership (Practitioner, Associate and Member).

Despite this solid basis, inconsistencies still exist in the quality, content and scope of building reports. Those that I have spoken to attribute this variation to several factors, including the difference in approaches to building recording undertaken by professionals from a range of backgrounds (architects versus archaeologists), variations between different local authorities, and the absence of conservation officers and county archaeologists in several local authorities

as a result of the UK Government's austerity programme following the global recession in 2010.

A **framework** that supports the recording of heritage places should consider the following:

- Fostering a holistic management of historic heritage
- Incorporating recording requirements within policy documents
- Developing research questions that fill gaps in our knowledge about heritage places
- Tailoring the scope and content of investigations to each place
- Strengthening the conservation principles for recording
- Supporting the professionalisation of the heritage sector

### ***3.3. Knowledge***

There is an extensive body of knowledge in the English heritage sector on the investigation and documentation of heritage buildings which emerged in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and continues to grow, albeit more slowly following the recession. This has developed through the establishment of tertiary training programmes, professional development courses, government bodies and organisations mandated to govern the historic environment, and various advocacy groups and professional bodies that support research on historic places.

#### ***3.3.1. Tertiary training***

There are several tertiary programmes on offer in England that teach the investigation and recording of heritage buildings. These courses are mostly at post-graduate level and are offered through the schools of architecture or archaeology within universities.

I visited two such tertiary institutions, the University of York (MA in the Archaeology of Buildings) and Cambridge University (MSt Building History). Both courses are open to students from a range of relevant undergraduate backgrounds (such as archaeology, history and architecture), and teach aspects of architectural history and the research, assessment and recording of heritage buildings. The focus of both courses are to prepare students for the professional sector, and include modules on preparing desk-based assessments for planning applications, statements of significance and conservation plans. A range of analytical tools and skills are also taught, including archival research, CAD drawing, photogrammetry and 3D

recording methods. Both courses combine theory and practice, and provide students with practical experience. Programmes such as this not only prepare graduates for the workforce, but also provide a home for scientific and academic research projects at Masters or PhD level that contributes to the body of knowledge on England's built heritage.

### ***3.3.2. Professional development***

In addition to tertiary programmes, there are a wide range of professional development courses on the investigation and recording of heritage structures. Historic England is one of the primary providers of such courses, aimed at upskilling heritage professionals, local authorities, building owners and voluntary organisations on managing historic heritage. They offer training placements within Historic England offices, specialist work-based placements and professional development courses. The three courses that are relevant for the investigation and recording of buildings include 'Understanding Historic Buildings' (a four day practical course which teaches skills in understanding and recording buildings), 'Measured Survey Summer School' (a five day residential course that introduces students to a range of measured survey and photographic techniques, including photogrammetry and 3D scanning), and 'Architecture for Archaeologists' (a two day course for archaeologists aimed at introducing the basics of architectural history, identifying different types of buildings, and techniques for dating and analysis).

Several professional organisations such as CiFA and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) provide further training opportunities and conferences to support their members with opportunities for continual professional development, which is increasingly required for professional members and as part of the accreditation process.

Hands-on training courses are also offered by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) on a range of topics, mostly focussing on the analysis and conservation of buildings and building materials, with courses also provided on undertaking measured surveys of buildings and providing homeowners with basic skills on understanding the construction of their house.

### ***3.3.3. Specialist skills***

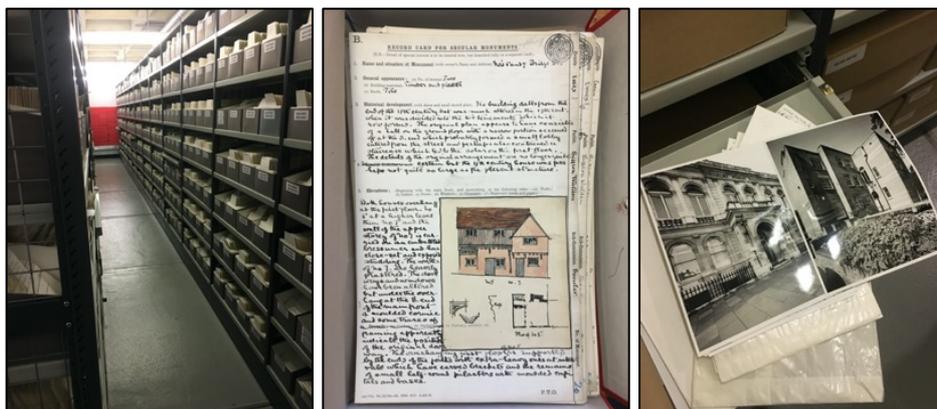
A range of professionals are involved in the documentation of heritage buildings in England. Whilst smaller recording projects might only be undertaken by one person, often from the fields of buildings archaeology or architecture, larger projects draw on a number of specialists. This might include scientists, who take samples of timbers to date different parts

of a building (dendrochronology), specialists in the areas of wallpaper and paint analysis, qualified craftspeople specialised in traditional construction techniques, architectural historians with knowledge of architectural styles and traditions, and building archaeologists who expand on this knowledge through an eye for the phasing (stratigraphy) of a building.

For example, the restoration project currently being undertaken at Oxburgh Hall has presented an opportunity to investigate and understand the building in more detail. Research is being undertaken on the analysis of wallpapers in the attic spaces, paint analysis, dendrochronology to provide more detailed insights into the phasing of different areas of the building, and volunteers are being trained to record the various incision markings on timbers (witches marks, carpenters marks) which have come to light during the project (Forrest, 2019).

### 3.3.4. Knowledge base

Heritage professionals have a large body of knowledge to draw on when investigating heritage places. This includes historic surveys and maps, detailed records of nationally significant buildings produced by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) from 1908, and photographs taken by volunteers of the National Monuments Record (NMR) from 1940. The records of the RCHME and NMR are now held by the Historic England Archive and are accessed by those investigating buildings (Figure 6).



**Figure 6. Left: shelving in the Historic England Archive. Middle & Right: Record sheets and photographs of nationally significant monuments and buildings produced by the RCMHE (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).**

In addition to these valuable building records, a number of advocacy groups (known as ‘amenity societies’) and charitable organisations exist within England that support the conservation and study of historic buildings and structures. This includes the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), the Vernacular Architecture Group (VAG), the

Victorian Society, and the Twentieth Century Society. Many of these groups undertake or support research projects, produce publications, facilitate training and workshops, hold conferences, and published bibliographies or databases on everything from building styles to materials. Historic England also has a broad research remit, and publishes volumes on various aspects of the built environment, from studies of individual buildings and towns, to specialist research on certain types of buildings or materials (Historic England, 2020a).

Despite this breadth of knowledge, several practitioners that I talked to have stated the need to produce comprehensive syntheses of the findings from the vast range of building recording projects, mostly conducted in the planning context, which largely exist as grey literature<sup>16</sup>. This would enable the findings of this research to be more readily discoverable and to be drawn together. This is reflective of a similar call within the New Zealand context (Section 2.2.3).

**Knowledge** to support the investigation and recording of heritage places can be fostered in the following ways:

- Tertiary programmes that prepare students for professional practice
- Professional development opportunities that provide basic and more specialised training in investigative and recording techniques
- Acknowledging the contribution of a range of professionals
- Supporting research on heritage buildings and publishing this

### ***3.4. Tools***

The single most important lesson learnt from my conversations with practitioners in the field of recording buildings is that the approach taken and tools applied need to be fit for purpose. This means that the purpose of the report, the values of the building, the level of information that needs to be extracted, and the research questions should drive the methods and tools that are used rather than the level of recording. There are many tools that can be used, ranging

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<sup>16</sup> **Grey literature** are materials and research produced by organisations outside of the traditional commercial or academic publishing and distribution channels. Common grey literature publication types include reports, working papers and white papers.

from recording forms, tried-and-true tools used for metric surveys, and a plethora of digital tools and applications.

### ***3.4.1. Recording forms***

In England there is also the issue of inconsistencies in the content of the reports that are produced, making comparisons between buildings difficult. In some instances the use of standard recording forms and report templates can help to standardise how buildings are document, what is recorded, and how the report is structured. The use of standard recording and report templates was also raised as one way in which the quality of building reports could be improved in New Zealand.

There are mixed views on the usefulness of standardised recording forms. Oxford Archaeology uses these for large buildings and complexes where a number of people are involved during investigations. This ensures that nothing is overlooked and enables the report to be completed efficiently and in a consistent format. However, other heritage professionals state that recording forms can be too prescriptive and can narrow down what the recorder is looking for and can lead to important evidence being overlooked because “this is not on the template”. On the other hand, volunteer groups, including the Vernacular Architecture Groups and the CITiZAN project frequently use templates in conjunction with the guidance they produce given the varying degrees of experience of the investigators.

Historic England does not provide standard recording or reporting templates for these reasons, and the fact that no templates can cover the full range of heritage places and their associated complexities and required levels of recording (Lane & Roethe, 2019). The guidance and standards produced by CIfA for the investigation of standing buildings and structures is not prescriptive, and instead provides best practice standards for each stage of the investigative process from defining the scope, to preparing the written scheme of investigation, undertaking the fieldwork, and the subsequent compilation of the findings (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2019).

### ***3.4.2. Standard tools and methods***

Whilst digital recording methods and other modern tools have facilitated faster and more accurate information gathering, most of the heritage practitioners that I talked to still largely rely on a range of standard recording methods. These include: photography, written accounts, metric surveys and simple measured drawing techniques to produce floorplans and elevations.

These skills are taught in tertiary programmes and form the basis for many professional development workshops. The most invaluable aspect of these direct recording techniques is that they allow you to get face-to-face with the building, and enable you to look more closely at the subtle details that might give you clues to the building that are not evident from a cursory glance.

In addition to standard photographs, digital cameras and associated software packages have expanded the ways in which heritage places can be documented, often with relative ease and only limited training. Photogrammetry<sup>17</sup> has become almost standard practice in England, especially for producing elevation drawings or for overlaying the images produced with point cloud data produced from a laser scan of the building to create a ‘true to life’ three-dimensional digital image. If done systematically, photogrammetry can be accurate to within 2mm. The image of the elevation can then be traced over using architectural software packages such as CAD, Revit or Sketch-up to produce architectural drawings of elevations.

Several programmes and online platforms are available for the manipulation and sharing of images produced using photogrammetry and/or laser scanning, including [Agisoft Metashape](#), [Sketchfab](#) and [Aioli](#). This method was used by MOLA for the documentation of Knoll House. The images produced through photogrammetry were overlaid with the scan of the house to create a three dimensional model of the building (Drew, 2019). The CITiZAN project also produces digital models of some of the sites recorded by volunteers using photogrammetry, to allow members of the public to explore these places from the comfort of their homes.

### ***3.4.3. Digital tools***

Many of the people that I talked to concur that the use of more advanced digital recording techniques, such as laser scanning, have the potential to improve the accuracy, speed and quality of the record of the building that is produced. Laser scans are useful where it is vital to gather highly accurate measurements and details of a building, to capture spaces that are not easily recorded using metric methods (large interior spaces, complex roof framing), or where the building needs to be documented quickly (unsafe or threatened by natural disaster).

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<sup>17</sup> In essence, photogrammetry is a computer aided method for accurately stitching together digital photographs using target points that are physically placed on the elevation that is being photographed. Back in the office, the images are imported into a software programme which produces an image showing the entire elevation.

Regardless, all have stated the importance of ensuring that there is a clear understanding why a scan is necessary, and that the person commissioning the recording needs to clearly state what the data that is produced will be used for. Ideally the person undertaking the scanning will have experience with heritage places and will therefore have a basic understanding of what is required. If these foundations are not laid, a considerable amount of time, money and effort can be spent to produce something which is of little practical use. For example, a laser scan was produced for York Minster with the intent that the point cloud would be converted into an accurate CAD drawing of the exterior of the building to enable each stone to be selected and information inserted on the condition, material and date. However, this purpose was not communicated clearly, resulting in point cloud data that could not be easily converted to isolate each stone for annotations.

For smaller and less complex structures it may often be more cost effective to use standard recording techniques rather than digital scans, especially if most spaces can be easily accessed for measured surveys, and rectified photography or photogrammetry can be used to aid in the production of elevation drawings. Whilst these processes may be more labour intensive, involving more than one person over several days, the quality of the output, which in many cases is to produce drawings and images for reports (even if laser scanning is undertaken), is more informed as the investigators have gained a deeper understanding by being hands-on with the building.

#### ***3.4.4. Sampling and analysis***

The sampling of building materials and the analysis of this is well established in England, leading to demand and an associated competitive market that provides these services.

Dendrochronology, the scientific method of dating tree rings to determine the exact year in which a tree was felled, is frequently used to establish the date of timbers used in the construction of buildings. This method was used to establish the phasing of the Guildhall in Stratford, to reveal the building's constructed over more than just the two phases, as was originally thought (Giles, 2017). The analysis of paint is also frequently used to reveal past colour schemes and for dating purposes, as is currently being undertaken at Oxburgh Hall as part of the restoration project.

Wallpaper analysis is yet to make a significant contribution to building investigations in England, despite the invaluable information these can reveal about the possible function of rooms, aesthetic choices, and the phasing of decoration schemes (Andrews, 2017). Whilst there are some reference collections, such as the collection of wallpapers held by the Victoria and Albert Museum and the sample books of Cowtan & Sons (1824 to 1938), there is no known national repository of wallpapers collected from building investigation projects.

Some lessons on the **tools** that can be used for the investigation of heritage buildings:

- Standard recording forms can be useful in some instances
- All methods and tools should be fit-for-purpose and achieve the required outcome
- Standard tools and methods are often the best and most cost-effective
- Laser scanning is useful for recording complex or inaccessible buildings and spaces
- Sampling needs to be undertaken for the purpose of analysis

### ***3.5. Access***

The archiving, searchability and dissemination of the findings of building recording faces similar issues in England as in New Zealand. These include inconsistencies in the use of standardised terminology within reports and when entering details of these in databases, underfunded archives, lack of deposition of records, and systems that are not fit-for-purpose. However, interesting initiatives are being taken to provide meaningful access to information about investigations of the historic environment to the public.

#### ***3.5.1. National mandate to deposit records***

Whilst the deposition of records produced as a result of investigations on heritage places has been a feature of England's planning system for several decades, through the establishment of HERs (see below), the NPPF created a national mandate for making records of investigations publicly accessible (NPPF, Paragraph 199). Where and how the record is deposited and entered on databases is included in the brief, or written scheme of investigation for most planning permits. In almost all cases, the requirement is to lodge the report with the local authority.

However, this is only the mandated requirement, the systems set up in the private and public realm to achieve this are not controlled. Whilst many of the larger consultancies have a dedicated archivist that manages the appropriate deposition of the reports to the required archive, as is the case with Oxford Archaeology and MOLA, smaller companies and sole traders need to manage this themselves. Each local authority also differs as to the level of compliance they enforce. It is estimated that as little as 1% of all records produced on the historic environment are deposited with an archive, in either a physical or digital format (Green, 2019).

### ***3.5.2. Local authorities manage records***

Most local authorities have a physical archive or system (database) for capturing the records produced as part of investigations on the historic environment within their county, many are the result of planning permits for work on listed buildings and places and non-designated heritage assets, including archaeological sites. These are called “Historic Environment Records” (HERs). Every local authority has their own systems for entering the information (metadata) about a place and dedicated archives for the storage of physical reports, with some also having the capacity to store materials, such as samples and artefacts, and digital data. Almost all local HERs can be accessed via [Heritage Gateway](#), an online database managed by Historic England.

Many of the practitioners, and especially archivists, that I have spoken to, have highlighted several issues with this way of managing information at the local authority level. There is no consistency between the processes and standards for entering records, they are often difficult to search, and many have a huge backlog of reports to enter, making these undiscoverable. In most cases the only way to find complete information about a heritage place is to contact the local authority directly or visit them in person (with often considerable costs and time). Several local authorities are no longer accepting physical reports and materials due to storage facilities having reached capacity, and the lack of dedicated staff and funding.

Some have stated that the ideal scenario would be a national system and associated archive for the deposition of both physical and digital records of investigations. Whilst Historic England accepted reports produced under the planning process in the 1990s, the vast number produced, and the cuts in government funding, has meant that they currently defer the

deposition of reports into local authorities. Given this situation, and the fact that each local authority, and the archaeologists and conservation officers within these, currently stipulate different requirements for the lodgement of records, the establishment of a national repository for all records is considered somewhat of a logistical nightmare.

### ***3.5.3. An online index of investigations***

To help manage and standardise the information that is provided to local authorities as a result of investigations on the historic environment, the [OASIS database](#) (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations), and the associated data entry form were developed. The use of OASIS forms has become almost standard practice for investigations under the planning process.

To standardise the information entered, a structured thesaurus of terms needs to be used. Reports can also be uploaded via OASIS for the relevant local authority to access. The aim of OASIS is to provide an index for the mass of information that is produced as a result of investigations, and to provide a signpost as to where this information can be found (such as which local authority or archive). All reports that are uploaded to OASIS are added to the grey literature library of the ADS (see below). As such, the OASIS database represents the merging of [ArchSite](#), where archaeological sites are signposted, and the [Archaeological Reports Digital Library](#), where the reports are lodged in the New Zealand context.

Whilst the purpose of OASIS is to provide a platform for both below and above ground investigations, many buildings archaeologists and heritage practitioners find the data entry form, which was initially developed for below ground sites, unsuitable for entering information about buildings and structures. The HERALD project was established in 2012 to update and improve OASIS on a number of levels, including its usability for information on building investigations (Gilham, 2014). The approach which is being taken is to develop three different data entry forms: OASIS Lite, for creating simple bibliographic records (such as those produced by community groups); OASIS standard, an improved version of the current form for creating records for planning permits (for submission to local authorities); and OASIS plus, for creating rich metadata for specialist projects (Green, 2019).

#### ***3.5.4. Digital records and grey literature***

The [Archaeological Data Service](#) (ADS) was established in 1996 to help manage the preservation of digital heritage data. The aim is to collect, preserve and make accessible the digital information that is created as a result of archaeological research, both above and below ground. A variety of digital data can be accepted, including text (reports), databases, images, digitised maps and plans and point clouds (from laser scans). To standardise the data that is being entered, the ADS requires the use of the [FISH thesauri](#) (Forum on Information Standards in Heritage) and the [MIDAS heritage standard](#), which supports standardised practice in recording cultural heritage. As discussed above, all grey literature reports uploaded via OASIS are added to the ADS. There are charges for depositing all other data. Where the deposition of records associated with investigations is included with a planning consent this charge is passed on to the client. The ADS can be searched free of charge by the public, with almost all records being publicly available.

Whilst it is generally agreed that the deposition of digital records with ADS, a nationally accredited digital archive, ensures the long-term preservation and access to this information, only a quarter of local authorities mandate the deposition of records produced under the planning process with the ADS, with even fewer consultants requesting this, most likely due to the flow on cost to their clients. As is the case with OASIS, very few reports of building investigations are deposited with the ADS (Green, 2019). Those that I have talked to have stated that this is due to the metadata required being more suitable for below ground excavations, and the fact that building reports, rather than those of archaeological excavations, often include interior images of buildings that are still standing, presenting a breach of privacy and security for the owner if these are available online.

#### ***3.5.5. Beyond data and archives***

Whereas the information held by local authorities on the historic environment, and accessed via Heritage Gateway, OASIS and the ADS, is theoretically available to the general public, in practice this is not the case as most are unaware of the existence of these information sources and the databases are not intuitive for searching. All of the people and institutions that I have talked to are aware of the need to communicate and provide more meaningful access of the results of investigations on the historic environment to the public, and a wide range of

avenues have been used. To move the access to information revealed about the historic environment out into the public realm, several forums have been explored.

Publications, either as stand-alone books or articles within journals, are one means. At Oxford Archaeology and MOLA, a small budget is provided in almost all briefs or written schemes of investigation to publish the findings in a relevant journal. In all instances a summary report is produced, with more significant findings leading to more extensive articles. At the very least these act as further signposts to the detailed records deposited with the local authorities. For some of the investigations undertaken by Historic England, publications are produced that are written with a public audience in mind.

Social media and websites are also used by some consultants to update the public about their work and to provide information on their findings, the advantage being that they are discoverable through Google searches. For example, at Oxford Archaeology a website was established for the [Corsham Project](#), which investigated the changing use of the tunnels within the former Bathstone quarries at Corsham in the 1840s, which were used as bunkers during the Second World War and as secret emergency shelters during the Cold War.

Interpretation, both static and digital, can also be used to inform the public and bring the information and places to life. As part of his investigation on six churches in the parish of Ryedale, Dav Smith uncovered significant evidence in the fabric of these churches to indicate how their restoration in the Victorian period involved a considered approach to recreate their former appearance. At Barton-le-Street church, this information has been summarised on information panels outside the church (Figure 7, left). Information panels detailing the findings from the restoration of the ceiling in the York Assembly Hall is also provided in the lobby (Figure 7, right). The creation of digital models of heritage places, produced using laser scans and other imaging techniques can also be made available to the public (discussed in Section 2.5). The [Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture](#), has taken this further, by producing visualisations of the life and functions of churches, such as at [Glastonbury Abbey](#), which are available both online and on touch screens within the church.

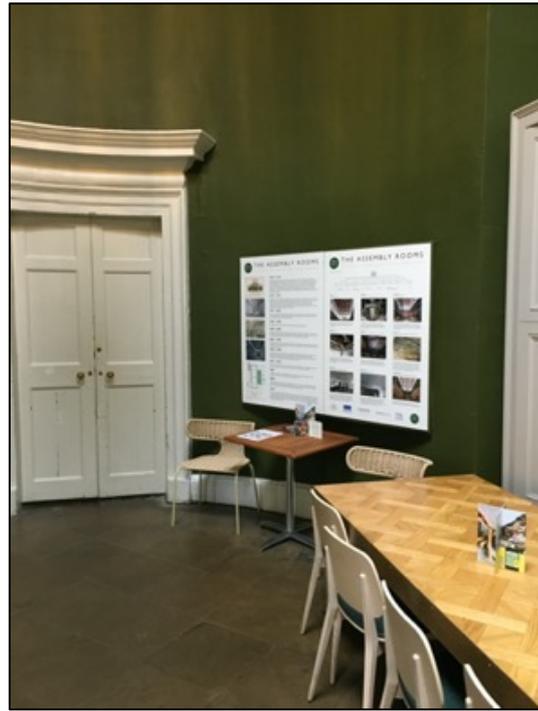


Figure 7. Left: Information panel outside the church of Barton-le-Street. Right: Panel detailing the restoration of the ceiling in the York Assembly Rooms (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).

**Access** to the information produced as a result of investigations of heritage places can be improved by:

- Strengthening mandatory systems for the deposition of records
- Establishing consistency in where and how records are deposited
- Standardising terminology within reports and on databases
- Developing intuitive online databases that signpost records
- Building a digital platform for the aggregation of grey literature and digital data
- Making information and data accessible for research purposes and the public

## 4. Conclusion

These insights from England, whilst characterised into the five issues that were identified in the New Zealand context, are all interrelated. The purpose for recording is informed by knowledge and access to information, which in turn requires tools and a framework in which the work is to be done. What I took away from my research trip is that we need to rethink how we address these five issues in the New Zealand context.

The Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship has been invaluable on a number of levels. It has enabled the start of what I hope will be an open conversation amongst New Zealand's heritage sector about the ways in which we document our heritage buildings and places. The pre-departure research was the first step. This provided a forum by which some of the issues that have been 'bubbling beneath the surface', particularly around the building recording that is being undertaken within the archaeological authority space and through resource consents, could be given a voice. I hope that by highlighting some of the key issues this can provide a starting point from which to undertake further research and to explore some of the recommendations I have put forward below.

There is an immense value in meeting practitioners working within your profession face-to-face. Not only does this enable the building of collegial relationships and the sharing of knowledge, it also allows you to find out exactly how something works and why, but also whether it actually works as it should in the first place. This is frequently not something that can be picked up from websites and other published sources.

During my trip it became evident that the English heritage sector involved with building recording is facing similar issues to those identified in New Zealand. This includes; a lack of adequate funding and support for national heritage agencies, guidelines and tools that work but are not suitable for all purposes, inconsistencies with reports, and issues with the archiving of the records that are produced. In addition, whilst digital tools and databases have greatly improved the level of information that can be recorded and made accessible, these in and of themselves are not the solution; they need to be developed and operated by knowledgeable practitioners to allow these to be fit for purpose.

There are however aspects of the situation in England from which ideas can be developed. This includes greater public engagement and involvement, both in the recording process but also in making information about built heritage more accessible to a wider range of people. On a conceptual level, the holistic concept of the historic environment, managed under one system, is a useful basis for considering how we may break down the barriers between what is considered ‘archaeological’, and managed largely by Heritage New Zealand under the archaeological authority process, and what is ‘historic heritage’, and managed by national agencies (Heritage New Zealand, DoC) and regional and local councils. The interpretation and recording of heritage places beyond their physical fabric, through revealing the stories that buildings can tell and the use of digital visualisations, is another interesting approach to explore. On a systems level, the national direction on historic heritage (through the NPPF), an approach to investigations based on conservation principles and tailored to each application to modify a heritage place, the development of a research framework, accreditation systems, and the existence of tertiary training programmes and development courses, provide a solid basis to improve and standardise recording.

I have already shared the learnings and experiences of my research with fellow heritage practitioners through professional forums, such as talks and conference presentations, as well as one-on-one conversations (see Appendix Three). I am going to continue sharing my learnings through these channels, and through other media such as presentations and publications to a wider audience. I am keen to be involved as either a driver or participant with some of the recommendations that I have put forward below. I am hoping that this report, and the recommendations below, insight further discussions amongst heritage practitioners in New Zealand and within the agencies and professional bodies that govern building recording.

The outcomes of the recommendations is to move the recording of New Zealand’s heritage places to a position where this is recognised, supported, made accessible, and undertaken by trained professionals.

## **5. Recommendations**

Rather than transplanting another country’s approach into the New Zealand context, the aim is to develop systems, process and tools that meet our specific requirements, both in terms of the framework in which historic heritage is managed and our unique heritage places. The

following nine recommendations are based on the key learnings I have taken away from the contexts of building recording in England; they represent a broad direction, or ‘road map’, that can be followed. They are specific to the two contexts that are the focus of my research:

- **Archaeological authorities:** recording pre-1900 buildings prior to their demolition under the archaeological authority context.
- **Conditions of resource consents:** documenting scheduled heritage buildings that are modified as part of a resource consent.

These nine recommendations are:

- (1) Increasing publication of investigations and engaging in outreach
- (2) Undertaking further research into issues and solutions (New Zealand and overseas)
- (3) Preparing a discussion paper based on the results of further research (2)
- (4) Improving the current guidance as per the further research (2) and discussion paper (3)
- (5) Developing a national direction for recording through a national policy statement
- (6) Encouraging a professional heritage sector through networking and regulation
- (7) Developing a research framework to focus investigations and recording
- (8) Improving information systems for archaeological sites and heritage places
- (9) Incorporating building recording into tertiary degrees and professional development

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, some of the recommendations may also be applicable for recording undertaken for heritage management (heritage assessments and conservation plans) and research. All of these recommendations are applicable to the recording of heritage places, beyond just buildings.

Under each recommendation I have stated which of the two contexts each relates to (in many cases this is both), and which of the five issues currently facing the documentation of heritage places this helps to address. Table 1 (Archaeological authorities) and Table 2 (Resource consenting) outline who should be involved in leading or supporting each recommendation in terms of the current players in the heritage sector, which include: national agencies (Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH), Heritage New Zealand), tertiary institutions, professional and advocacy groups (NZAA, ICOMOS NZ, Historic Places Aotearoa, heritage planners network) and consultants (archaeologists, heritage advisors, conservation architects).

Table 1. Responsibilities of different agencies and individuals to lead or support the recommendations in this report to improve building recording under archaeological authorities.

Recommendations (Archaeological Authorities)	Responsibilities			
	National Agency (Heritage NZ)	Tertiary Sector	Professional groups (NZAA, ICOMOS)	Consultants
(1) Publication and outreach	Lead	Lead	Lead	Lead
(2) Further Research	Lead	Lead	Support	Lead
(3) Discussion paper	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(4) Guidance	Lead	Support	Lead	Support
(6) Professional Sector	Support	Support	Lead	Lead
(7) Research Framework	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(8) Information Systems	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(9) Tertiary training & Professional Development	Lead	Lead	Lead	Support

Table 2. Responsibilities of different agencies and individuals to lead or support the recommendations in this report to improve building recording under resource consents for scheduled heritage places.

Recommendations (Resource consenting)	Responsibilities			
	National Agencies (MCH, Heritage NZ)	Tertiary Sector	Professional groups (ICOMOS NZ, Heritage Planners Network, Historic Places Aotearoa)	Consultants
(2) Further Research	Lead	Lead	Lead	Lead
(3) Discussion paper	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(4) Guidance	Lead	Support	Lead	Support
(5) National Direction	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(6) Professional Sector	Support	Support	Lead	Lead
(8) Information Systems	Lead	Support	Support	Support
(9) Tertiary training & Professional Development	Lead	Lead	Lead	Support

## ***Recommendation 1: Publication and outreach***

Context: Archaeological Authorities

Issues addressed: Purpose, Knowledge, Access

Archaeologists need to be better at communicating the findings of investigations beyond the reports that are mandated as the condition of archaeological authorities. By doing so, the public and clients gain an appreciation of the purpose for recording, the knowledge base on New Zealand's built heritage is increased, and the results of investigations are made more accessible.

At a minimum, archaeologists should summarise the findings from all fieldwork, including building recording, in brief reports through the 'Archaeology in New Zealand' journal. This cost could be included in fee estimates to clients. Beyond this, the results of significant investigations or the findings thereof, could be compiled in detailed journal articles, presentations, online media (websites, facebook posts, blogs) and, if appropriate, through onsite interpretation in the former location of the building. I would also encourage archaeologists to think about communicating beyond their profession and to consider the stories that buildings can tell, and the information that may be of interest to others, either the general public or allied professional groups.

## ***Recommendation 2: Further research***

Context: Archaeological Authorities, Resource consents

Issues addressed: Purpose, Framework, Knowledge, Tools, Access

Further research needs to be undertaken to gain clarity around the five main issues identified through my preliminary research in the New Zealand context. This can be achieved through surveys, focus groups and workshops. Ideally this should encompass a range of professionals involved in documenting heritage places for a variety of purposes (as outlined in Chapter 1.1), to break down the silos in which recording currently occurs. A range of institutions and organisations, such as Heritage New Zealand, the NZAA, ICOMOS New Zealand and local government heritage planners should be involved. We should look at what we are currently doing, what works, what doesn't work and why.

It would also be beneficial to gather insights from other countries, especially those with similar jurisdictions and built heritage, such as Australia, Canada, the United States and Scotland. From what I have learnt to date, all of these countries have developed systems, processes and tools that could be applied in New Zealand.

### ***Recommendation 3: Discussion paper***

Context: Archaeological Authorities, Resource consents

Issues addressed: Purpose, Framework, Knowledge, Tools, Access

Whilst the workshops will assist in starting a conversation about how building recording could be improved, a subsequent discussion paper which sets out the full range of issues identified and possible solutions is the logical next step. It is likely that this will expand on, or further clarify, the recommendations outline in this report. Heritage New Zealand, in its regulatory capacity for archaeological authorities, advisory role in the RMA space, and management functions under the listing process would be best placed to lead such a discussion paper.

Ideally one discussion paper should be prepared on how the issues facing the recording of heritage places in New Zealand (raised in this report and from further research) could be addressed, irrespective of the context this occurs in. Separate sections could deal with documentation under regulatory (archaeological authorities, resource consents, heritage assessments) and non-regulatory contexts (conservation plans and reports).

### ***Recommendation 4: Guidance***

Context: Archaeological Authorities, Resource consents

Issues addressed: Framework, Knowledge, Tools, Access

A clear message that has emerged out of my research in New Zealand is that the guidance on building recording needs to be updated. Improving guidance for both buildings archaeology and documentation as a part of resource consents will support regulatory functions (Framework), enable clarity around what and how to record (Knowledge), provide practical methods and tools (Tools), and increase the consistency of the reports that are produced (Access). The further research (Recommendation 2) and the discussion paper (Recommendation 3) would assist with clarifying the scope and content of this guidance, and

in what areas this should be prescriptive or flexible. It is possible that different guidance may be needed for each context (archaeological authorities versus resource consents).

For pre-1900 buildings (archaeological sites), the site recording handbook of the NZAA also requires updating. A dedicated section on field techniques and tools for documenting buildings and structures should be included. This can fill the gap in terms of the methods and tools to record buildings, and could include templates for field forms and reports.

### ***Recommendation 5: National direction***

Context: Resource consents

Issues addressed: Framework, Access

The development of a National Policy Statement (NPS) for Historic Heritage, which includes policies for documenting scheduled heritage places prior to and during modifications as part of resource consents, would provide a strong mandate for local and regional councils to follow (Framework). The NPS should also mandate the deposition of reports and associated records in a designated repository, either regional archives or a national archive or database (see Recommendation 8).

### ***Recommendation 6: Professional sector***

Context: Archaeological authorities, Resource consents

Issues addressed: Framework, Knowledge, Tools

To provide continuing momentum, support and advocacy, it would be good to establish a network of professionals involved in building recording, ideally drawing on a wide skill base (including archaeologists, conservation architects and heritage planners) and/or dedicated building recording groups within established organisations, such as the NZAA and ICOMOS New Zealand. A network of professionals would help to break down the current silos which exist in New Zealand of those involved in the documentation of built heritage. This network could also lead to the sharing of interdisciplinary skills (tools) and knowledge. Dedicated groups associated with professional bodies are likely to be more effective in terms of advocating for changes in the regulatory space and the teaching of building investigation and recording at the tertiary or professional development level.

There are several professional bodies in New Zealand that advocate for and support archaeologists (NZAA), heritage planners (Heritage Planners Network), and heritage practitioners in general (ICOMOS NZ). However, there are currently no agencies that regulate or set best practice standards for archaeologists or conservation architects working in New Zealand. A professional body for archaeologists, similar to the CiFA, which establishes a system for accreditation, professional development and develops standards and practice guidance, is something that has been called for repeatedly (O’Keefe, 2003, 2020). Such a body could establish accreditation for buildings archaeology, which could be made a requirement for S45 approval under the HNZPT Act. A similar body could be established for conservation architects, potentially as a function of the New Zealand Institute for Architects.

### ***Recommendation 7: Research framework***

Context: Archaeological authorities

Issues addressed: Purpose, Framework, Knowledge

One of the key findings from my research is the importance of research questions to guide what is investigated about each building, especially if the building is extensively modified or demolished. Whilst a research framework would be useful for both the resource consenting context, this is most urgently needed for buildings archaeology, where pre-1900 buildings are reduced to their information only (preservation by record). By addressing research questions during investigations, the purpose for recording is placed at the forefront of investigations (answering the “why record heritage buildings” question), the regulatory function is strengthened, and our knowledge base of New Zealand’s built heritage will be increased.

An archaeological discussion paper was prepared on this topic for Heritage New Zealand in 2007, when it was recognised that a research framework was required to give direction to the increasing number of archaeological investigations being conducted under the archaeological authority process (Greig, 2007). This framework requires updating as it is, amongst other things, heavily focussed on below ground and pre-contact sites. The development of research questions for built heritage would require compiling a synopsis of known information, drawn from published sources and the vast number of buildings archaeology reports, to identify the gaps in our knowledge and topics of research interest.

## ***Recommendation 8: Improving information systems***

Context: Archaeological authorities, resource consents

Issues addressed: Purpose, Framework, Knowledge, Access

The current information systems for signposting archaeological sites (ArchSite) and storing and making accessible the reports (Digital Archaeological Reports Library) requires updating, and there is presently no database or archive for the deposition of reports produced as a condition of resource consents. Improving these systems will not only strengthen the regulatory mandate for the deposition of reports, it will also make this information more widely accessible for research purposes. Wider access to the findings of building recording will also strengthen the purpose for recording.

For archaeological sites, the opportunity should be explored to improve the information that can be gathered for structures and buildings within the data entry fields on ArchSite using a standard set of terms. Options should also be explored around how the details within the buildings archaeology reports could be made more searchable to allow for the easy discovery and comparability of findings between different sites and buildings. This is no easy task, and one which will need further and more detailed consideration.

The idea of a national database (digital reports) and archive (paper reports) for all information on New Zealand's below and above ground heritage could be entertained, or at least, a database that aggregates this information (such as Heritage Gateway in England). This could draw from the following: ArchSite, the Heritage New Zealand List, and heritage items scheduled by regional and local authorities (if online). This could also become the platform for uploading building reports produced as a condition of a resource consent as well as conservation plans. <sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> noting however that some reports may need to be restricted for security and privacy reasons.

## ***Recommendation 9: Tertiary programmes and professional development***

Context: Archaeological authorities, resource consenting

Issues addressed: Purpose, Framework, Knowledge, Tools

A 'looming skills shortages' has been identified for heritage professionals and specialist trades in New Zealand (ICOMOS New Zealand, 2018). This is accentuated by the growing demand for seismic strengthening, property development and an increased global and national awareness of the importance for the management and conservation of historic heritage. Archaeological consultants and heritage practitioners, especially conservation architects and architectural historians, are in high demand.

Tertiary institutions, especially those teaching archaeology and architecture, should consider including courses on how to understand, investigate and document heritage places as part of their curriculum. Whilst there is some teaching of building recording skills provided through the schools of architecture and heritage studies at the University of Auckland and Victoria University in Wellington, the two archaeology courses (University of Auckland and University of Otago) currently do not teach buildings archaeology.

There is a huge potential to upskill a wide range of qualified professionals currently working in the fields of archaeology, architecture, engineering, history and even construction to understand, respect and record heritage places. Professional development courses on aspects of building recording, such as identification, measured surveying, photography and digital recording techniques, would be hugely beneficial.

I have commenced discussions with Victoria University around the possibility of developing and providing such a course (or courses). Dr Kate Giles and Dr Gill Chitty (University of York) have also offered to bring a short course on building recording to New Zealand, similar to tailored courses they have provided in India and Tanzania. I will continue to explore this option through the University of York.

## Appendices

### *Appendix One: Pre-departure Interviews*

Prior to leaving on my research trip in May 2019 I conducted semi-structured interviews with New Zealand based heritage professionals. Interviewees were selected based on their interest and involvement with building recording in New Zealand. Whilst countless others could have been interviewed, time constraints did not permit this. Those interviewed included:

*Chris Cochran (conservation architect, Wellington)* – Chris is one of the pioneering conservation architects in New Zealand having been involved on numerous heritage conservation projects. Chris has also published extensively on New Zealand's built heritage.

*Dr Dawn Cropper (archaeologist, New Zealand Heritage Properties Ltd)* – Dawn is an archaeologist who has recorded numerous heritage buildings. I worked closely with Dawn during my time as a consultant archaeologist to provide guidelines and update processes for recording buildings.

*Dr Gretel Boswijk (senior lecturer, Faculty of Environmental Science/University of Auckland)* – Gretel specialises in dendrochronology and has analysed and dated the timbers from several heritage buildings, predominantly from the Auckland region.

*Dr Andrea Farminer (heritage advisor, Dunedin City Council)* – Andrea is a qualified archaeologist in addition to having completed postgraduate studies in architectural materials conservation and the conservation of buildings. In her previous role as archaeologist with Origin Consultants, Andrea was involved in the preparation of Conservation Plans and the recording of pre-1900 buildings.

*Patrick Harsveldt (archaeologist & conservation architect, WSP OPUS)* – Patrick is a qualified architect and archaeologist and is involved in the investigation and recording of both above and below ground heritage. His Masters Dissertation investigated the architecture of New Zealand's backcountry huts (Harsveldt, 2010).

*Kathryn Hurren (archaeologist, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga)* – Kathryn is the Wellington region’s archaeologist with Heritage New Zealand. Kathryn provides advice on archaeological authority applications and reviews all reports for the Wellington region.

*Dr Nigel Isaacs (senior lecturer, School of Architecture/Victoria University of Wellington)* – As a trained building scientist Nigel has gained an interested and extensive experience researching heritage buildings, specifically the materials and methods these are constructed from. Nigel’s PhD research focussed on tracing the building technology of the New Zealand house from 1792 to 1982 (Isaacs, 2015).

*Kevin Jones (archaeologists, Wellington)* – Kevin has recorded several buildings in different regions throughout New Zealand.

*Martin Jones (senior heritage advisor, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga)* – Martin trained in buildings archaeology at the University of York in 1993. After returning to New Zealand in 1998 he has been recording heritage buildings. Martin has been the driving force and primary author of the guidelines produced by Heritage New Zealand on the investigation and recording of buildings and structures (2014, 2018).

*Robin Miller (Director, Origin Consultants)* – Robin is a qualified building surveyor with over 30 years’ experience with heritage buildings in both the UK and New Zealand. He is co-director of Origin Consultants, a heritage consultancy based in Otago.

*Jeremy Moyle (archaeologist, Origins)* – Jeremy has a keen interest in the recording of heritage buildings. He has completed a Masters in Folklore from the Memorial University, Newfoundland. He has recorded several buildings during his work as an archaeological consultant.

*Amanda Mulligan (senior policy advisor, Ministry for Culture and Heritage)* – Amanda has previously worked both in the Australian heritage sector (Heritage Victoria) before returning to New Zealand, where she has worked at Heritage New Zealand and the

Wellington City Council before taking up her current position at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

*Dr Peter Petchey (archaeologist, Southern Archaeology Ltd)* – Peter has recorded several pre-1900 buildings, primarily within the Otago region; he also co-authored an article calling for further developments in the field of buildings archaeology in New Zealand (Petchey & Brosnahan, 2016).

*Chessa Stevens (conservation architect, WSP OPUS)* – Chessa is a qualified architect who completed the Masters in Conservation Studies at the University of York. She is currently working as a conservation architect in Wellington.

*Katherine Watson (archaeologist, Underground Overground Archaeology/Christchurch)* – Katherine was the managing director of the archaeological consultancy which undertook the recording of a significant number of pre-1900 buildings in and around Christchurch following the 2010/11 earthquakes. She is currently completing a PhD on nineteenth century domestic architecture in Christchurch.

## ***Appendix Two: Itinerary***

During the course of my fellowship trip, I was hosted by six institutions, organisations and individuals. The following itinerary summarises each of these visits, identifying the people I met and key visits and experiences which informed my research.

**8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

### **University of York, Department of Archaeology**

*Primary Contact:* Dr. Kate Giles, Director of the MA in Archaeology of Buildings

#### *Other Contacts:*

Dr Gill Chitty, Director of Studies, MA in Conservation Studies

Dr Dav Smith, Associate Lecturer in Buildings Archaeology & Director of Maybank  
Buildings Conservation

Dr Matt Jenkins, Associate Lecturer in Buildings Archaeology

Esther Robinson-Wild, former MA Archaeology of Buildings students

David Fraser, Chief Executive of the York Civic Trust.

Dr Katie Green, Communications and Access Manager, Archaeological Data Service (ADS)

John David, master stonemason, York Minster

Stuart Harrison, minster archaeologist, York Minster

Dr Louise Hampson, research and impact officer, The Centre for the Study of Christianity &  
Culture

Patrick Gibbs, Head of Technology, The Centre for the Study of Christianity & Culture

#### *Primary purpose of visit:*

To meet with Dr Kate Giles and her team at the University of York, one of the longest running (est. 1996) and most respected buildings archaeology and buildings history courses in the United Kingdom.

#### *Key experiences:*

- Discussions with Kate, Dav, Matt and Esther on the development of the field of buildings archaeology in England and the structure and purpose of the MA course.

- Attendance at Planning Club (collaboration with the University of York and the York Civic Trust) where students from the Buildings Archaeology and Heritage Conservation courses provide advice on planning applications.
- Tour of York heritage conservation projects with Dav Smith & Matt Jenkins (University of York). Visit to the Assembly Rooms (constructed 1730/32), where roof repairs were recently undertaken; the roof space was 3D laser scanned to record the original ventilation system that was modified. Sir Thomas Herbert's house (constructed 1545) which is currently undergoing investigations to understand the phasing of the building and to record this prior to modifications to modernise this building.
- Visit with Archaeology Data Services (Katie Green) to discuss the approaches and systems in place in the UK in terms of heritage databases, information systems and archives (physical and digital).
- Discussion with David Fraser (Chief Executive of the York Civic Trust) around the role of the Trust in advocating for the protection and enhancement of York's architectural and cultural heritage.
- Visiting five churches in Ryedale together with Kate, Dav, Matt and Esther to explore how investigation and recording of each was pivotal in understanding their history, phasing and conservation. Churches visited: St Peter and St Paul's (Pickering), All Saints church (Appleton-le-Street), Church of All Saints (Slingsby), All Saints (Hovingham) and St Michael (Barton-le-Street).
- Visit to York Minster and stone masons' yard with John David (master stonemason) and Stuart Harrison (minster archaeologist). John and David talked about the ongoing programme of recording and restoring the minster, especially the stonework.
- Presentations at the University of York: Several presentations by academics from the University of York involved in projects encompassing the recording of buildings. Dav Smith "Recording and presenting the 18<sup>th</sup> Century hospital block at Elizabeth Castle, St Aubins, Channel Islands" and Dr Kate Giles "The Guildhall buildings of Shakespeare's Stratford". I also presented my paper on "Buildings Archaeology at the Edge of the Empire: The investigation and recording of heritage buildings in Aotearoa/New Zealand".
- Visit to the Centre for the Study of Christianity and Culture based at the University of York. Discussions with Dr Louise Hampson and Patrick Gibbs. The Centre was

established in 1999 to assist researchers and the public to engage with and understand Christian heritage in the form of art, literature and historic buildings. A part of this role is to produce 3D visualisations of important historic churches as a research and interpretation tool.



**Left & Centre: York Minster and the workshop of the stonemason showing annotated elevations of the minster. Right: Inside the York Assembly Rooms (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**University of Cambridge, Department of Architecture**

*Primary Contact:* Dr. Adam Menuge, Course Director MSt Building History

*Other Contacts:*

Christian Brady, Conservation and Design Officer, Cambridge City Council

Jeremy Musson, freelance historic buildings consultant, Cambridge/London

Oliver Caroe, Surveyor of the Fabric, St. Paul's cathedral, London

Caroline Sones, clerk to the Surveyor of St Paul's cathedral, Caroe Architects, London

Anna Forrest, curator at Oxburgh Hall, National Trust

*Primary purpose of visit:*

Dr Adam Menuge has extensive experience working within the built heritage sector in England. Adam was an architectural investigator with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Historic England and he is the current president of the Vernacular Architecture Group. Historic England established the MSt Architectural History course in 2011, of which Adam has been the course director from the beginning. Both the attendance at the course, the visits to several institutions, properties and projects and the

ongoing conversations with Adam highlighted the myriad of purposes and approaches to building recording.

*Key experiences:*

- Attendance at MSt Architectural History block course on Religious buildings (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May): the course consisted of both lectures on ecclesiastical architecture as well as a field trip to Stanton and Bury-St-Edmunds. I also presented my paper on “Buildings Archaeology at the Edge of the Empire: The investigation and recording of heritage buildings in Aotearoa/New Zealand”.
- Discussion with conservation officers at Cambridge City Council around the conservation and heritage management work undertaken at the local authority level, with a particular focus on the role of building investigation and recording in heritage assessments and planning consent conditions.
- Visit to St Paul’s cathedral, London, with Jeremy Musson, Oliver Caroe and Caroline Sones to discuss the investigative approach taken to understanding St Paul’s cathedral, specifically the northern transept, for the purposes of developing a management plan.
- Visit to Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk, a moated house constructed in the mid- to late 15<sup>th</sup> Century with Adam Menuge and Anna Forrest to discuss the crucial role that the survey and investigation of the building (undertaken by Adam in 2001-5) has played in the conservation and interpretation of this National Trust property.



Right & centre: Northern transept of St. Paul’s cathedral and the plans and documents in the cathedral’s Surveyor of Fabric’s office. Left: The interior courtyard of Oxburgh Hall during restoration work (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).

**16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Historic England, Swindon National Office**

*Primary Contact:* Rebecca Lane, Senior Architectural Investigator

*Other Contacts:*

Johanna Roethe, Architectural Investigator

Alyson Rogers, Archive Services Team Leader

Cynthia Howell, Archives Resources Officer

*Primary purpose of visit:*

Rebecca Lane is a graduate of the MA in the Archaeology of Buildings (University of York), senior architectural investigator and co-author of the updated Historic England Guidance on “Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice” (May 2016).

Rebecca has both in-depth and broad knowledge around the recording of buildings in the UK for a range of purposes.

*Key experiences:*

- Conversations with Rebecca and Johanna around the development of building recording in England and Historic England’s role as advisor, advocator and regulator.
- Visit to the Archive at English Heritage with Alison and Cynthia to discuss holdings and the acquisition process. Viewed examples of building survey reports produced by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME).
- Tour of the former Brunel railway works with Rebecca and Johanna to look at projects which involved the investigation, conservation and repurposing of these historic buildings and spaces for offices, commercial enterprises and residential purposes.



Swindon’s repurposed former Brunel Railway works (Eva Forster-Garbutt, 2019).

**17<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Oxford Archaeology, Oxford**

*Primary Contact:* Jane Phimester, Senior Project Manager (Historic Buildings)

*Other Contacts:*

Julian Munby, Head of Buildings Archaeology

Deirdre Forde, Project Officer, Historic Buildings

Nicola Scott, Archivist

*Primary Purpose of visit:*

Oxford Archaeology is one of the larger archaeological consultancy firms within England with a specialised Buildings Archaeology Unit. Jane Phimester has undertaken extensive recording of industrial and military sites, many of which date to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Key experiences:*

- Conversations with Jane, Julian and Deirdre around the approaches, methods and tools applied to the recording of heritage buildings at Oxford Archaeology. Deirdre discussed her work on the buildings archaeology of Lincoln and Oxford prison (Forde, 2019), one of only a few surviving separate system prisons in the world. Jane discussed her heritage survey work on First World War Wireless stations in England commissioned by Historic England. Jane identified those surviving stations worthy of listing (Phimester, 2014). Jane also discussed the assessment she undertook with Oxford Archaeology of the Former RAF Upper Heyford flying field for the purposes of establishing the conservation area; which was significant as it scheduled 1980s (Cocroft, 2017).
- Conversation with Nicola Scott about her role as archivist for Oxford Archaeology. Nicola was also very knowledgeable around archiving practices in general and the function of the various archaeological and heritage data management systems used in the UK.

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Meeting with members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CiFA) Buildings Archaeology Group, London**

*Primary Contact:* Esther Robinson-Wilde, Treasurer

*Other Contacts:*

Lara Band, CITiZAN Discovery Programme Officer, MOLA

Charlotte Adcock, Heritage consultant, Mott MacDonald

Nigel Neil, Historic Environment Consultant, Neil Archaeological Services

Megan Lloyd-Regan, Historic Environment Consultant, The public Sector Environmental Consultancy

*Primary Purpose of Visit:*

The CiFA is one of the leading professional bodies representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. The role of the Buildings Archaeology Group is to promote the archaeological analysis, research and interpretation of standing structures as part of the overarching role of CiFA. I was interested in gaining insights from the perspectives of a professional body in how they promoted the field of buildings archaeology amongst their members and the guidance and standards that were produced as part of this function.

*Key Experiences:*

- Conversations with Esther Robinson-Wilde both prior to and during my visit around the status of buildings archaeology in the UK and the challenges and opportunities of the profession.
- Conversations with CiFA Buildings Archaeology Group members during an informal gathering prior to the AGM. Interesting insights were gained as to the challenges facing the profession in general, and the role that the group has within the professional archaeology sector.
- Presentation at the AGM: I was invited to share my presentation at the AGM (“Buildings Archaeology at the Edge of the Empire: The investigation and recording of heritage buildings in Aotearoa/New Zealand”). Interesting discussions followed leading on from the presentation around the parallels and differences between New Zealand’s built heritage and that of England, and the similar challenges faced by the profession in each country.

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

**Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), London**

*Primary Contact:* Brigit Geist, Senior Historic Buildings Archaeologist

*Other Contacts:*

Karen Thomas, Head of Archives

Luke Tremlett, Senior Historic Buildings Archaeologist

Catherine Drew, Lead Surveyor, Geomatician

Alicia Vickers, Built Heritage Consultant

Sam Abelman, Lead Built Heritage Consultant

Lara Band, CITiZAN Discovery Programme Officer, East Kent Coast

*Primary Purpose of visit:*

MOLA is a leading and well-established archaeological consultancy based in London, providing both traditional archaeological and built heritage services. MOLA is recognised for providing specialist technical guidance, especially for archaeological excavations.

*Key Experiences:*

- Discussion with Karen Thomas (Archivist) around the archiving of physical and digital records produced as part of MOLA's fieldwork.
- Discussions with Alicia and Sam (Planners) around the range of building surveys and recording conducted during the planning process.
- Conversation with Catherine Drew on the approaches taken by MOLA to survey and record buildings using a variety of methods, including metric and drone surveys, 3D laser scanning and photogrammetry.
- Presentation to MOLA staff: I was invited to share my presentation at a lunchtime learning session for staff.

## ***Appendix Three: Sharing of Learnings***

### **Newsletters/Journals**

Prior to departing on my research trip, I informed my colleagues of the fellowship, to start a conversation, in the following newsletters/journals:

- Archaeology in New Zealand, Volume 61, Number 4 (December 2018)
- Archaeologist's Newsletter, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, December 2018

### **Conference Presentations**

*New Zealand Archaeological Association Conference* (29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019). I presented two papers:

- “Insights from the Empire: Approaches to Buildings Archaeology in England” where I shared the high-level findings of my research trip.
- “Tom & Jessie: A New Zealand Story”; a paper co-presented with my former colleague Dr Dawn Cropper on the insights that buildings and in-ground archaeology can shed on the lives of everyday New Zealanders, presented through the investigations of an early European Settler's house and property in Oamaru.

*New Zealand Historical Association Conference* (29<sup>th</sup> November 2019). I presented the talk on “Tom & Jessie: A New Zealand Story” to provide historians with another ‘lens’ (an archaeological one) into the history of New Zealand.

### **Professional Talks**

- 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019: Presentation on the issues and opportunities for buildings archaeology in New Zealand for the Wellington Archaeologists Group (WAG) and Heritage New Zealand staff
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019: Lunchtime talk to members of my business unit at the Wellington City Council on buildings archaeology and my pending research trip.
- 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019: Presentation on the findings of my research trip at the “Happy Learning Hour” talks organized by the Central East regional office of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Presentation of the findings of my research trip to Wellington-based members of ICOMOS New Zealand, WAG and Historic Places Aotearoa (Wellington Branch).

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