

Ancient Monuments and Standing Ruins

H+R have experience of working on scheduled and unscheduled monuments for a variety of clients. Survey, investigation and design of remedial works to ancient monuments and architectural ruins requires consideration of many factors. An interdisciplinary approach is essential for safeguarding original fabric. We can provide relevant specialist services as well as general procurement, contract administration and project management services. H+R staff are members of the IHBC or have RICS conservation accreditation.

+ Significance and values

A statement of significance or conservation management plan—which identifies why a monument or site is important and how it can be protected or enhanced during works—is often the first step in planning a project.

Complex projects can require managed input from various disciplines together with relevant research and analysis.

+ Analysis and recording

Understanding a monument or site lies at the heart of developing a practical programme of work. Analysis of architectural and archaeological evidence can inform different aspects of a project, whilst recording—whether by simple drawing or sophisticated metric survey—can provide a means of communicating proposals and forming a project archive.

+ Material analysis and testing

Processes of decay often require detailed investigation to understand the underlying causes and inform suitable remedial action. Site and laboratory tests can be undertaken to assist in diagnosing defects.



+ Condition surveys

Assessing the condition of ruined structures requires an understanding of original construction methods, materials, decay processes, performance criteria and patterns of failure. This informs the design of appropriate remedial works.

+ Environmental surveys and monitoring

Environmental surveys and monitoring provide valuable contextual information relating to a monument. This includes consideration of site topography, water courses, trees and vegetation, pollution, past uses, current and planned activities, and building services.



+ Specifications and schedules of work

Work programme development—whether for structural repair, consolidation or maintenance—requires a practical approach that retains original fabric whilst ensuring stability and durability against agreed performance criteria.

+ Maintenance

Maintaining a monument in a sound condition requires understanding of user requirements, priorities and resources. Assessing the service life of a particular material or monument as a whole is often not practicable, but with relevant knowledge and experience it is possible to develop a programme of planned preventive maintenance that will retain use and safeguard fabric.

+ Preventive conservation

Taking a long-term view of how a monument will react to changes over time allows measures to be taken to protect vulnerable fabric or slow rates of deterioration. Whilst the principles of preventive conservation are commonplace in the museum sector, they can also be usefully employed when carrying out remedial works to monuments or managing buildings and sites.



H+R are an independent team of building professionals and material scientists. We specialise in investigating problems relating to building performance, building materials and building occupancy. We focus on issues relating to timber and masonry. We are the market leaders in Building Pathology and have over 30 years experience in heritage conservation. Clients include The Royal Household, English Heritage, National Trust, Natural England, Crown Estate, architects, surveyors and property managers.

We can work with you to preserve original materials and methods of construction where these have architectural or historical significance.

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