



THE NATIONAL TRUST

For Places of Historic Interest and Natural Beauty

CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN



September 2007
Revised November 2009



The portico that ran round the inner courtyard was paved with mosaic

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This edition of the Chedworth Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan is the 2009 revised edition of the 2007 Conservation Management Plan. The format has been modified to incorporate the HLF requirement for a 10 year Management and Maintenance Plan for the site. This revision has been coordinated by David Thackray, Helen Sharp, Regional Grants Manager and Chedworth Programme Manager and Alix Gilmer, Building Project Manager.

The redrafting of the Conservation Management Plan in 2007 drew on the first edition written by Philip Bethell in 2001. The 2007 edition was co-ordinated by David Thackray, the Head of Archaeology for the National Trust, but could not have been done without the extensive knowledge and generous assistance of Professor Peter Salway. A small editorial group, comprising David Thackray, Professor Salway, Katherine Sharp, NT Curator (who also supplied the *Spirit of Place* statement), Jeremy Capadose, NT Curator, Guy Salkeld, NT Archaeologist and Helen Sharp, Regional Grants Manager, edited, assembled and produced this document. Philip Bethell and Guy Salkeld were responsible for the Gazetteer with help and support from David Thackray and Jeremy Capadose. Specialist advice has been received from other members of the Trust's staff, including Helen Moody, Conservator, Simon Ford, Regional Nature Conservation Adviser and Rob Jarman, Head of Environmental Practices. Magnus von Wistinghausen and Dr Katherine Hann, project consultants, have also contributed to and advised on the plan within the project framework. Members of the Trust's Archaeology Panel have actively advised on the project and the preparation of the plan, particularly Professor Dai Morgan Evans and Jason Wood, the Panel Chairman. Other members of the Chedworth Project Team and the Property staff have also contributed to and encouraged the work. Acknowledgement is also given to the contributors to a workshop on Significance held at Chedworth on 15th March 2007.

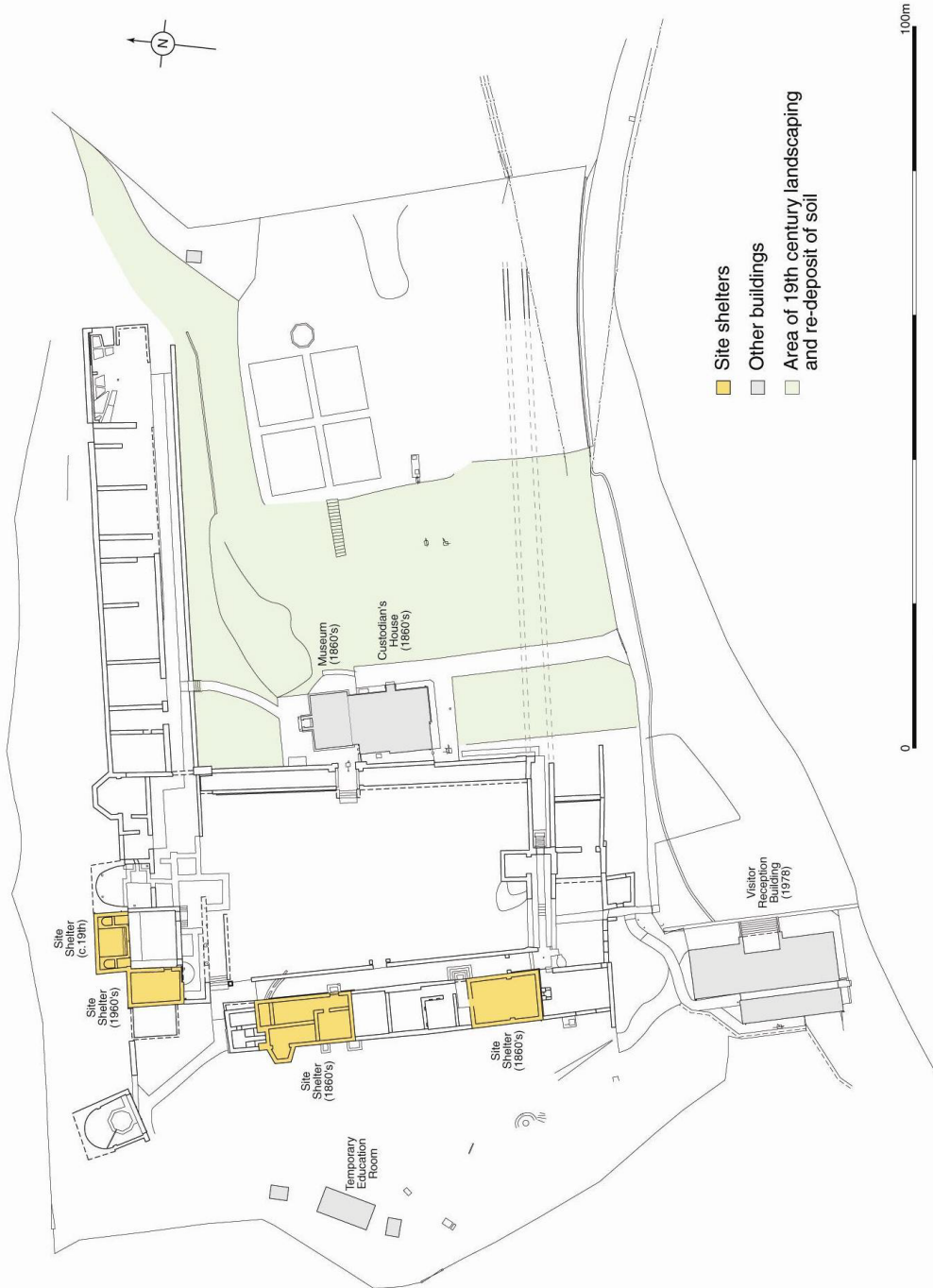


Figure 1 General plan of site

1 CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA 10 YEAR MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

1.1 Requirement for a Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan

- 1.1.1 The production of a Conservation Plan for Chedworth in 2001 stemmed from a clear statement of the significance of the site, contained in a report from a Technical Assistance visit funded by the Council of Europe in 1994. This document made clear the need to develop Chedworth on a number of fronts, in order to manage its conservation effectively, while also fulfilling the National Trust's charitable roles of providing access to, and suitable interpretation of, the properties in its care (Council of Europe/National Trust, 1994 see Appendix Six).
- 1.1.2 Perhaps most significantly, the Technical Assistance visit enabled the National Trust to have a clear understanding of the importance of the monument, and to accept the need for appropriate resourcing. The Conservation Plan was a continuation of that process. The Conservation Plan built on the Trust's experience and growing understanding of the importance and management needs of the site, and became a tool to assist Chedworth Roman Villa to achieve the level of protection and interpretation its undisputed importance deserves.
- 1.1.3 The Conservation Plan was deemed necessary primarily as a management tool for the National Trust, but also as a conduit for disseminating the significance of the site. The Conservation Plan was the subject of two public consultation meetings held at Lodge Park and was seen as a pre-requisite for gaining support from external bodies to help underwrite the development of the property.
- 1.1.4 The Conservation Plan was first revised in 2005, again following public consultation, and drew on information gathered during the four years since the original Plan was completed. In that time, the only building development project to have taken place was the refurbishment of the Visitor Reception Building in winter 2002/2003. Subsequently, the Conservation Plan has guided the planning at the site, which has progressed towards the creation of a new development plan, with a determination to implement a major development of the site within five years.
- 1.1.5 In order to progress this, a decision was made to submit an application for funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in 2007, and to further revise the existing Conservation Plan to the more detailed Conservation Management Plan format required by HLF. This proposal was for an integrated scheme that would have provided improved conservation for the outstanding Roman fabric and re- interpreted the site for a wider audience. This bid was unsuccessful.
- 1.1.6 Following further advice from the HLF the first round application for a revised project was submitted and approved in March 2009. The second round is being submitted in November 2009.

1.1.7 The project will protect the remains and transform the visitor experience. The capital improvements consist of:

- A new cover building protecting the West Range and the uncovering and consolidation of a mosaic corridor previously unseen by the public
- Measures to protect the remains on the North Range
- A new interpretation scheme that will immerse visitors in life in Roman Britain
- A new learning facility
- Removal of all temporary structures from the site
- Improved signage to the site

The visitor experience will be improved further by:

- Developing a fully resourced programme of activities including events, volunteering, formal education and further engagement opportunities that will attract and are relevant to a range of existing and new audiences.

Outside the HLF funded elements of the scheme is a refurbishment of the visitor reception building to incorporate a catering facility and the provision of new office accommodation in the ground floor of the Victorian Shooting Lodge.

1.1.8 The Conservation, Management and Maintenance Plan (2009) is part of a suite of plans that are being developed for a second round application in 2009. These consist of:

- Activity Plan (incorporating the outcomes and recommendations of previous work on audience development, learning, access and training)
- Design Scheme Report
- Interpretation Scheme Report
- Financial Appraisal
- Evaluation Plan

1.1.9 The Property Management Plan (2006) sets out the vision for Chedworth as a property where:

- *The highest standards of conservation practice are employed to carry the surviving elements of one of the most significant sites of its kind in Britain forward into the long term future.*
- *The excellence of conservation is married to providing the best possible access, in all its forms / media, to the significant elements for people of all abilities and levels of interest.*
- *It is recognised that the learning opportunities are of the widest achievable range and maintain a level of excellence comparable with the best.*

2 UNDERSTANDING CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA – BACKGROUND

2.1 THE SITE

- 2.1.1 Chedworth Roman Villa is a major site of the Roman period in Britain, one of the 4 or 5 largest rural domestic buildings known from the 4th-century high point of Romano-British culture. It lies in a particularly beautiful setting, which has changed little since Roman times. The surrounding landscape has a large number of other archaeological sites of the same period, including several smaller villas, and a substantial temple.



Aerial photograph of Chedworth Roman Villa (looking west)

- 2.1.2 The components of the villa and its landscape have been detailed, as management units and significant elements, in the *Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan Gazetteer* (November 2009).

In summary, current understanding of the main phases of activity on the site is:

Phase I

Early Iron Age: activity encountered in the lower courtyard area, including a child burial dated to the fourth century BC.

Phase II

Second century AD: hillside terraced to allow construction of the first phase of the Roman villa, position and approximate size of the principal residential building represented by the West Range as now visible on site, subsidiary buildings now represented by parts of the later North and South Wings.

Phase III

Late Roman (late third to early fifth centuries AD): conversion of the relatively modest villa into a grand establishment by architectural intervention pulling together, adapting, extending and embellishing the existing buildings, including the provision of high-quality mosaics. This

programme required substantial earthmoving to construct the ambulatory and create the Garden Court. In the course of the fourth century there were further extensive modifications, certainly including multiple alterations to the North Baths and the creation of a new dining suite at the end of the North Wing. An exceptional level of luxury is implied by the provision of a heated corridor in the South Wing.

Phase IV

Post Roman (first half of the fifth century): villa largely in ruins, but agricultural activity of this date found in the corridor of the South Wing indicates that parts remained usable, at least for non-domestic purposes. Reports of 'Saxon' spears discovered on site suggest some Migration period activity, however casual.

Phase V

Early Modern: robbing of stone-work to feed a lime-kiln of uncertain date (out of use by mid-Victorian period).

Phase VI

Victorian (1860s): discovery and excavation of the Roman villa; erection of Lodge and Museum; creation of Victorian garden.

Phase VII

National Trust: 1924 onwards - property presented to the Trust after locally-driven appeal and opened to the public. Low-key presentation of site: only substantial change being the 1970s construction of the Visitor Reception building ('Tithe Barn').

It was extensively excavated in 1864, and has a number of 19th-century structures providing protection to specific features. There is also a 19th-century house and museum. Chedworth Roman Villa has been a National Trust property since 1924. The site currently receives approximately 58,000 visitors per annum, approximately 16% of which are school parties. This visitor level is second only to the Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chichester, for Roman period rural domestic sites in Britain (as opposed to military or urban sites).

2.2 OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS

- 2.2.1 Chedworth Roman Villa is situated at NGR SP 0530 1345, in the parish of Chedworth, in Gloucestershire. The boundaries of National Trust ownership are shown on Figure 2. The extent of NT ownership comprises the exposed ruins of the Roman villa (1.1ha) and a contiguous area of woodland to the west (1.5ha). The NT also owns the access lane to the nearest public road (this lane is a designated public highway). On the north, east & south sides, the property is bounded by the Stowell Park Estate. To the west, a disused railway line is owned and managed as a nature reserve and geological SSSI by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Beyond this lies another private estate, Manor Farm, Chedworth.

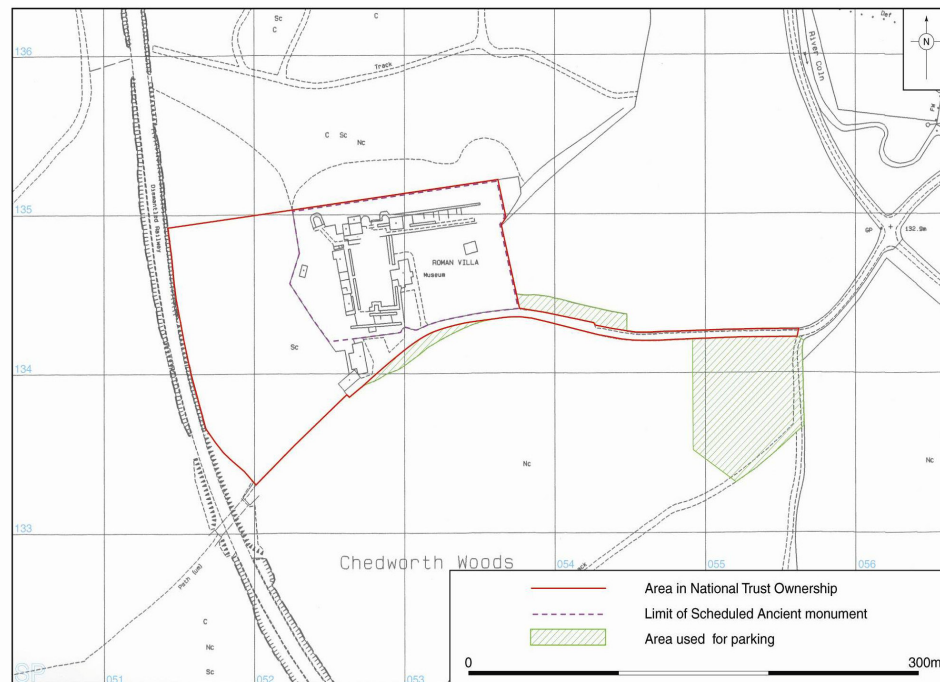


Figure 2 Plan showing area in National Trust ownership

- 2.2.2 The National Trust currently leases an area of open woodland (0.5ha.) adjacent to the access lane, and two small areas of verge contiguous with the lane (total 0.1ha.), as additional parking. These are leased from Stowell Park Estate.

2.3 STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

- 2.3.1 Chedworth Roman Villa is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (county number 57).
- 2.3.2 It lies within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 2.3.3 It lies within the Cotswold District Council local authority boundary.
- 2.3.4 The property is a Registered Museum (SW Museums Council No.RD 1974).
- 2.3.5 The extensive bat population of the existing buildings is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. All British bat species and their roosts are protected by domestic legislation (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981) and listed as European Protected Species in the Habitats Directive through which they receive protection under the Habitat Regulations 1994.
- 2.3.6 National Trust Inalienable ownership.

2.4 GEOLOGY, LANDFORM AND HYDROLOGY

- 2.4.1 The information in this section is drawn from Teasdale's Chedworth Roman Villa Landscape Survey (Teasdale 2006 see Appendix Nine). Teasdale in turn refers to two Engineering Surveys that have investigated the geology and hydrology of the site. These are the Site Investigation Report by Mann Williams Consulting Engineers (March 2006) and the Hydrogeological and Drainage Surveys by Hunting Technical Surveys (Feb 1999).

- 2.4.2 The underlying geology of the site comprises Greater Oolite Limestone above Inferior Oolite Limestone with Jurassic Whitby Mudstone Formation beneath. The latter is assumed to also underlie the drift deposits of the Coln Valley. Within the valley of the Roman Villa, the limestone bedrock is overlain by Drift deposits, which are likely to be gravely clays and dense clayey gravels with cobbles. The general dip of the strata is southward. Owing to this, the older Inferior Oolite is exposed locally to the site and to the north and west. The younger Greater Oolite is exposed at the surface to the south and east (Teasdale 2006 and Hunting Surveys 1999, 4-7).
- 2.4.3 Hunting Surveys' Report also states more specifically that the geology of the area is Middle Jurassic Oolite limestone (which is the upper strata of the Inferior Oolite) overlain by Fullers Earth blue clay (within the lower strata of the Greater Oolite) The Fullers Earth is impermeable and can cause perched water tables. Surface exposures are usually marked by a spring line, like the one that occurs at the villa site (Teasdale 2006 and Hunting Surveys 1999, 4-7).
- 2.4.4 In 1971, a borehole was drilled on the bank to the immediate west of the Roman Villa to obtain a water supply for the new reception building. During drilling a groundwater table was logged at 5.8m below the surface. This was proved to be a perched water table as the water quickly drained away (presumably down the borehole) into the underlying limestone. Further occurrences of groundwater were not logged and at a depth of 30.5m a clay horizon was reported. To provide the villa with an adequate water supply the borehole was plugged at 5.5m so that the perched water table could refill and then be tapped. Hunting Technical Services concluded that the same perched water table had historically supplied the spring at the Nymphaeum (Teasdale 2006 and Hunting Surveys 1999).
- 2.4.5 Further boreholes were drilled during the 2006 geotechnical survey. These were located in the track and car park area to the south of the site offices and villa ruins respectively. BH04 found clay and then clayey gravel to a depth of 1.85m; BH05 was very similar; BH06 encountered topsoil and then made ground (possibly around the edge of the Victorian spoil deposit) to a depth of about 1m and then clayey gravely limestone beneath.

2.5 LATER BUILDINGS

2.5.1 The Victorian Lodge and Museum Room

In the centre of the site stands a substantial Victorian house built as a Shooting Lodge in 1868, with a museum room attached. The building is distinctly Victorian in character, reflecting little of the local Cotswolds vernacular style. Stylistically it is closer to the Victorian Revival style dominant in English domestic architecture from the 1860s to 1914.

There are two (or possibly three) building phases apparent, although it is difficult to be conclusive about the sequence of construction. The original form of the Shooting Lodge may have been a simple rectangle only one room deep, with a room either side of the central entrance hall, the entrance being in the centre of the main east façade. Soon after its completion the museum room was added and, possibly at the same time, the lodge was extended at the back, adding a further room on both floors to the south-west corner. Further alterations and additions have occurred at the rear to create a small rear hall, cloak room and west porch.



The Shooting Lodge and Victorian Museum from the west

The Lodge is a two storey building, the lower storey being made of irregular courses of rusticated limestone, with dressed ashlar mullion windows and door surrounds. The stone window surrounds are inset with single-pane vertical wooden sashes. The upper storey and gables are half-timbered in regular narrow panels with some symmetrical diagonal bracing. The infill panels are of lime-rendered brickwork. The windows of the upper storey are wooden twin-arched double casements. The steeply pitched roof, with slightly projecting gables, is finished in traditional Cotswolds stone tiles. There are two limestone chimney stacks. The neo-gothic front door, in the centre of the east elevation, was originally within an open porch with the first floor room above jettied and gabled above the entrance. The open porch has since been enclosed by the introduction of framed and glazed panels on all sides and an ancillary exterior door. On the east and south elevations the upper storey is jettied by about a foot and the underside of the jetty expressed by a continuous decorative moulded timber cornice.

The interior has many original features including fitted cupboards, four-panelled doors and panelled window reveals with chamfered rails and styles, and decorative fire surrounds. The two main ground floor living rooms, either side of the entrance hall, have notable neo-gothic fire surrounds. The staircase has original decorative balusters and oak newel posts displaying an element of Arts & Crafts design. However, it is clear from the configuration of the banister and balusters on the first floor that the staircase has undergone some alteration, as can also be seen in inconsistencies in the geometric floor tiles in the entrance hall.

The museum room abuts the north elevation and appears to have been added a few years after the lodge was completed. It reflects the same basic style as the lodge but is diminutive to it (the roof ridge is approximately 1m below that of the lodge) and sits at right angles to the main façade. It is a simple single room open to the roof with high-level windows on the north, west and east elevations, with an open gabled porch entrance in the centre of the north elevation. The ashlar courses of limestone around the base, which mimic the lower storey of the lodge, extend to a height of approximately 1.8m and are tapered so that the

base is wider than the top. Internally, the base of the walls is expressed in exposed smooth ashlar stone with painted finish above (over the timber-framed section of wall). The underside of the roof structure is fully exposed, consisting of pine rafters, purlins and a single truss at mid-span between the east and west gables.

- 2.5.2 Two large, well-built, framed 1860s wooden sheds survive over the West Wing. One later 19th-century shed and a more recent 1960s shed cover part of the north bath-house. The 1860s sheds are early and important examples of site conservation and have served the purpose of protecting the underlying Roman fabric, particularly some of the mosaics of the West Range. Although there are conservation issues surrounding all the early cover buildings, the later covering sheds have not worked as effectively as the 1860s structures and there are now serious conservation problems affecting the Roman fabric that need to be resolved.
- 2.5.3 Two further temporary and ephemeral wooden sheds have been erected over the North Range to provide some visitor services. A canvas marquee covering the North Range *hypocaust* provides inadequate protection. This has been in place for more than a decade. To the west of the West Range a large, temporary wooden shed serves as an Education building, and further, smaller garden sheds have been erected to provide much needed storage.
- 2.5.4 Beyond the south-west corner of the Roman building is a modern (1978) visitor reception building, designed by the architect Christopher Bishop and built in stone in a Cotswold vernacular style reflecting the shape of the wooden Victorian shelters. This was extensively refurbished in the winter of 2002/2003, with a new glass entrance and ramped access. 19th- century stables to the west of this building were demolished and replaced with temporary site cabins in 1999 (see Figure 1 General Plan of site).



The Reception Building

2.6 THE SITE LANDSCAPING

- 2.6.1 The Roman landscaping that was required to construct the villa required terracing and soil was dug from the slopes and placed downhill to create a series of platforms (Teasdale 2006).
- 2.6.2 Following the discovery of the Villa, the considerable volume of spoil dug out to expose the ruins was placed to the east of the visible ruins to form a terrace. Subsequently the Shooting Lodge was built on this terrace and positioned more or less centrally on the site. The intention was to create a garden or pleasure ground in and around the ruins, enhanced by the building up of the Roman walls to approximately a metre in height and capping them with Roman roof tiles both decoratively and as protection for the underlying Roman masonry.
- 2.6.3 Teasdale's Landscape Survey describes the later landscaping in some detail (Teasdale 2006). Much of her account is drawn from the collection of photographs of the site compiled by Norman Irvine who grew up at the villa and was site caretaker between 1930 and 1977. Within the area of the Roman villa very little 'gardening' took place.
- 2.6.4 Most formal tree planting appears to have been concentrated around the borders of the site where a number of conifers, such as Norway spruce, were introduced amongst the native broadleaved trees. However, the large Western red cedars that exist around the edge of the site today appear to have been planted much later in the 1930s. Within the immediate environs of the Shooting Lodge four specimen trees were planted as part of the late 19th- century landscaping. These included two Weeping Ash trees and two Sweet Buckeye (a hybrid form of chestnut). Three of these original trees survive today and the fourth, a Weeping Ash immediately to the south of the house, was replaced in the mid 20th century (Teasdale 2006).
- 2.6.5 The layout of the villa and Shooting Lodge grounds was little altered between 1900 and the late 1950s. The fringes of the woodland bordering the site tended to ebb and flow as trees periodically encroached and were cleared back again. In the 1930s a long row of conifers was planted along the bank to the immediate north of the villa in an area of some archaeological sensitivity, and by 1962 had formed a substantial hedge of trees. These were removed again in the late 1990s (Teasdale 2006).
- 2.6.6 A number of distinct changes to the site were made in 1959 and during the 1960s. A new protective shelter was built over the hot dry rooms of the north bath suite. Around that time a number of narrow concrete strips were laid amongst the Roman ruins to indicate the alignments of buried sections of walls and foundations. Outside the Shooting Lodge, the oval drive was removed and replaced by a simple linear gravel drive in front of the house.
- 2.6.7 Further rather desultory landscaping has taken place subsequently, some in association with the building of the visitor reception building in 1976 and elsewhere to open up access to the woodland to the west of the villa, where a number of shanty-like sheds have been built for the staff and re-enactors using the site. Judith Teasdale has undertaken a detailed and very useful Landscape Survey, referred to above, which provides a detailed account of both the development of the immediate landscape environs of the site and a land-use history of the wider landscape setting of the villa.

- 2.6.8 The last fifty years have seen a lack of coherent landscape planning on the site. This is characterised by the ad hoc range of wall capping styles that has emerged without a clear design intention. It is also characterised by the lack of clear design approach to path surfaces; the use of tarmac is confused in many visitors' minds with the arcane presentation of phases of the villa's development, marked out in the concrete strips by Ian Richmond in the 1960s, and now not understood by the majority of visitors to the site.
- 2.6.9 A landscape plan addressing these and other related landscaping issues is included at Appendix Six.

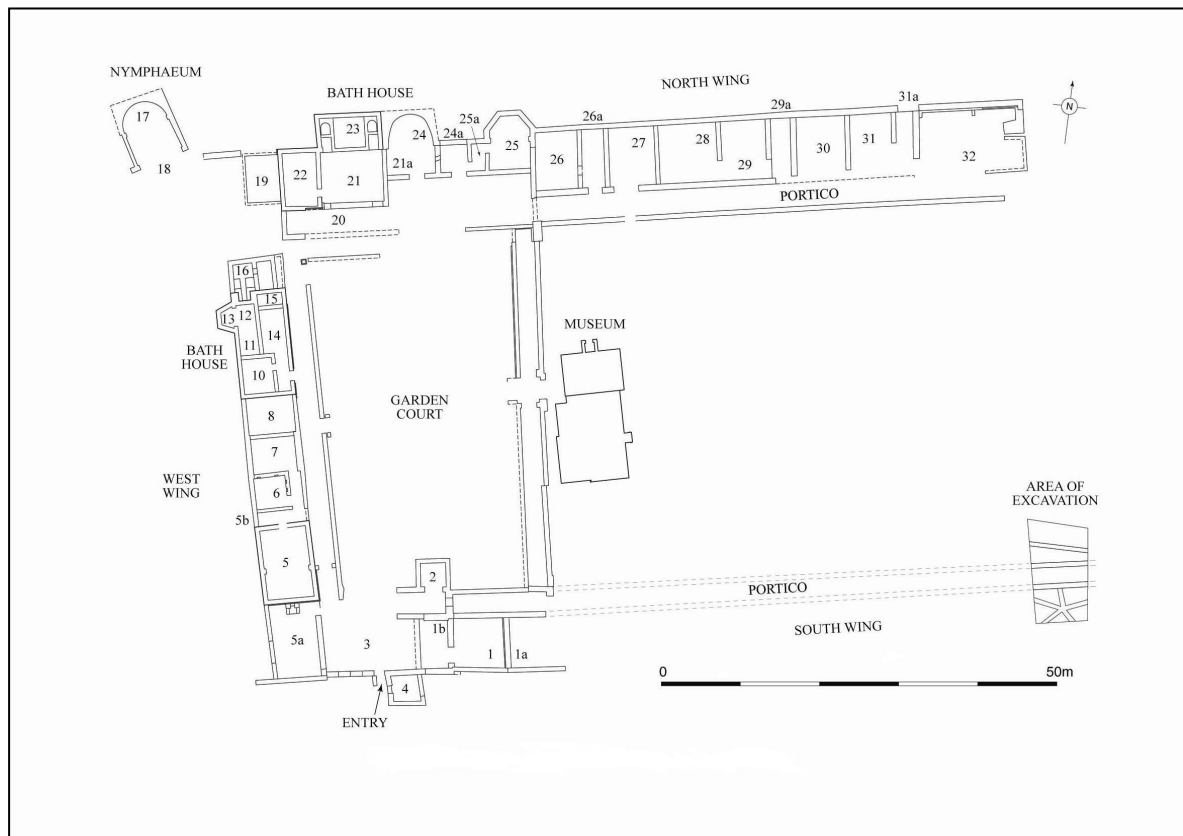


Figure 3 Plan of Villa showing room numbers

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

3.1 INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION

- 3.1.1 The site is situated in a side valley of the river Coln, Gloucestershire, at an altitude of 150m AOD. It is currently surrounded by woodland to the west, north and south, and has open views east towards the river Coln across agricultural land. A spring rises in the NW corner of the site. The villa was built on artificial terraces cut into, and in part built out from, the natural slopes of the valley sides. The terraces are at quite different levels, with a height difference of almost 10m between the West Wing and the eastern end of the South Wing. The underlying strata are part of the Cotswold Limestone beds and the building was constructed from limestone blocks bonded with lime mortar.
- 3.1.2 The exposed remains occupy an area approximately 110m x 90m. They consist of the lower parts of the walls of a stone-built structure largely dating from the 4th-century AD. There are over 30 separate rooms uncovered and they are arranged in lines linked by corridors (referred to as wings – see Figure 3). The three exposed wings form a rectangle, open to the east. A north-south passage encloses an open grassed area approximately 70m x 35m towards the west end of the site to the west of the Victorian Shooting Lodge. The walls have been cosmetically levelled, and are generally capped with stone or concrete tiles, in a variety of styles, in order to prevent water ingress to the wall cores. Most of the rest of the site is grassed over, including the interiors of the uncovered rooms.



The octagonal cistern in the water shrine, Nymphaeum

- 3.1.3 Exposed 4th-century features include: two largely complete bath-houses; a shrine containing an octagonal cistern, into which a spring still runs; several examples of intact *hypocaust* systems, both channelled and using pillars of stone or tiles; at least one substantial dining room; two kitchens; a latrine; *in situ* painted wall plaster and parts of 6 mosaic pavements. Approximately 2km of Roman walls survive, many below Victorian and later rebuilds and capping.

- 3.1.4 The limits of the archaeological site are known to be on land belonging to Stowell Park Estate, outside the current boundaries of National Trust ownership. Parallel sites have additional outer courtyards containing agricultural buildings, but these have not been identified at Chedworth. Geophysical survey (2001) has shown a double-ditched track, a large circular feature, and possible traces of pre-Roman settlement to the east (Villa Field), between National Trust land and the River Coln. Recent work has also indicated additional structures on the north side of the villa and the remains of a large lime-kiln.

3.2 MOSAICS

- 3.2.1 There are surviving fragments of 14 different mosaics in the West and North Wings (Figure 4). The North Wing mosaics are the least well preserved with only 6 small patches revealed in a recent survey carried out by Cotswold Archaeology (2000 see Appendix Seven). All the mosaics except those in Rooms 10, 22 and parts of Room 5, are *in situ* and unaltered. The mosaics appear to belong to the 4th-century although they range in construction date throughout that period. Room 10 is possibly of the early 4th-century, Room 28 is later 4th-century, but all the others can be identified as mid- 4th-century products of the Corinthian School of mosaicists based in Cirencester. All but Room 5 and Room 10 have geometric patterns. All the mosaics are constructed of a limited number of types of local stone and ceramic tile (red). The stone sources are Cotswold Limestone (white), Blue Lias Limestone (blue, grey), and Forest of Dean Sandstone (purple). Most of the mosaics use red, white and blue *tesserae*. In general the mosaics are of a high quality of workmanship. There is considerable evidence, in the form of loose *tesserae*, of several other mosaic floors that have been completely disturbed. The only area where undiscovered intact mosaics might still be found is in the unexcavated section of the South Wing.



Buried mosaic survey, March 2000



Figure 4 Extent of Roman mosaic survival

3.3 ARTEFACT COLLECTION

3.3.1 There is a substantial collection of artefacts from the site, the precise quantity of which has still not been measured. The collection includes:

- pottery sherds, coarse wares, native and imported fine wares
- animal bone fragments
- human bone (remains of two infants)

Building Materials:

- sections of lead piping, iron nails
- fragments of painted wall-plaster
- copper alloy and iron tools
- ceramic tile fragments, including box-flue
- limestone roof tiles
- architectural stone fragments
- window glass fragments

There is a small number of special items, including:

- Approximately 400 copper alloy coins
- bone dress pins
- glass beads
- vessel glass fragments
- jewellery including finger rings and brooches
- lead weights
- a small circular copper alloy brooch with seven heads
- a small pewter bowl found in 1998



A copper alloy spoon excavated at Chedworth



(Above left) Stone altar, found in the water shrine

(Above) limestone relief depicting a hunter-god with hound

(Left) Portable altar, with a crude relief of a deity



(Left) This bronze ring is part of a horse harness

(Below) Fragment of decorated Samian Ware bowl. This fine tableware was imported from Gaul

(Opposite above) Rare pewter libation cup, used in religious rituals. It was recovered in 1998 from the north wing

(Opposite below) Scales with lead weights, perhaps for weighting kitchen ingredients







(Top left) Bone hairpins. They tell us that women wore their long hair pinned up

(Above right) These bones of a young child are the only physical remains of someone who lived at Chedworth in Roman times

(Above left) Amphora handle. These large jars were used to transport bulk liquids such as olive oil and wine

(Left) Surviving fragments of painted plaster reveal that the villa was richly decorated inside

- 3.3.2 The scope and nature of the collection is typical of a high-status Roman period domestic site. Some items are known to be missing from the collection now, for example an inscribed, silver, swan-necked spoon reported in earlier publications about the site (Frere & Tomlin 1991 p.129). The inscription read CENSORINE GAVDEAS, *Censorine gaudeas*, 'Censorinus rejoice'.
- 3.3.3 Some of the items are displayed or stored in the Victorian Museum. However, since the last edition of the CMP a new Archaeological store has been established in 2008 in the former workshop range at Sherborne. All the objects that had hitherto been stored under canvas and elsewhere on site at Chedworth, with the exception of those in the museum, have been moved to Sherborne. Nancy Grace, Archaeological Collections Manager for Wessex Region NT has ensured that all objects are labelled and boxed to appropriate MLA standards. A full catalogue is being prepared. The store also contains facilities for researchers wishing to gain access to the collection.
- 3.3.4 Chedworth also has a considerable archive, including the important archive of photographs and notes compiled by Norman Irvine between 1930 and 1977. A comprehensive catalogue has been prepared by Bethell 2007.

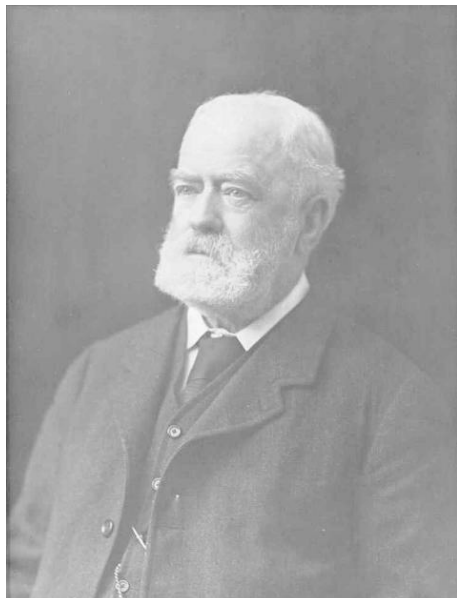
3.4 HISTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS AT CHEDWORTH

- 3.4.1 In this context, intervention is taken to include: archaeological excavation; geophysical survey; conservation repairs; new building works; landscaping; archiving; in short, any activity which relates to, or impacts on, the archaeological investigation and understanding of the site. There have been over 100 different known interventions at the site since the 1860's. These activities have produced the current body of knowledge about the site and have made Chedworth one of the best-known archaeological sites of its type.
- 3.4.2 Compiling a record of these activities has been a prerequisite step for the understanding of the site's history since its initial excavation, and for identifying gaps in existing knowledge. This has proved more complicated than expected, as many interventions have no record, e.g. wall repairs. Lists of known archaeological and conservation interventions are included as Appendices 2 & 3.

3.5 19TH-CENTURY DISCOVERY AND INTERPRETATION

3.5.1 Initial Discovery

The site was excavated in 1864, under the direction of the antiquary James Farrer, the uncle of the Earl of Eldon who then owned the land. There is clear evidence of earlier exploitation of the ruins, in the form of a large lime-kiln behind the North Wing. This is of uncertain date (probably 17th-century) and has not been excavated archaeologically. The 1864 discovery was reported in contemporary newspapers, and subsequent reports, as a novelty, so presumably the lime-kiln had not been in use within living memory. The recovery of some mosaic *tesserae* from the site during rabbit warrening indicated the existence of a Roman site. James Farrer set the estate labourers to the task of excavating. A single season of excavation took place, during which the bulk of the currently exposed remains were uncovered.



John Scott, 3rd Earl of Eldon. The Earl was nineteen at the time of the discovery and excavation of the villa.

3.5.2 Initial Interpretation

The site was interpreted as a large country mansion belonging to a Roman gentleman, assumed to be an immigrant landowner participating in the governance of the province. The trappings of luxury, in the form of mosaics, *hypocausts*, bath-houses etc. were recognised as exceptional.

The interpretation of the excavated building was highly coloured by contemporary notions of the link between the Roman Empire and 19th-century British Empire. The classical education of 19th-century gentlemen made them familiar with Latin authors, and they interpreted finds such as Chedworth in the light of that knowledge and of their own everyday experience. For example, the interpretation of Room 2 was based on the linking of the coins found there to the place in a grand country house of the 19th century in which money might be held and financial transactions carried out - i.e. the Estate Office. The excavators saw the Roman villa very much as an earlier version of their own country houses and assumed the Roman-period house also had a surrounding estate and similar function. Telling connections were also made between the hunting motifs evident in the sculpture and mosaic figures unearthed, and the subsequent use of the 19th -century lodge as a base for hunting/shooting parties.

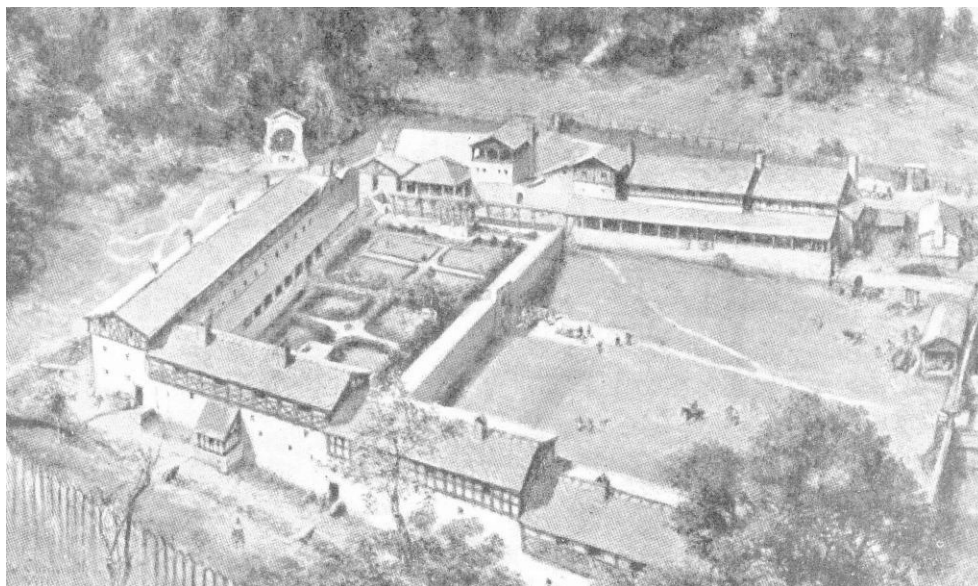
3.5.3 Value and Preservation

It is clear that Mr. Farrer and Lord Eldon prized the discovery of the villa on the latter's land very highly. The efforts made to conserve the site were exceptional by contemporary standards. It was common for sites to be dug, the finds removed, drawings made, and the ruins uncovered then abandoned. But Lord Eldon and his uncle instituted the series of measures that have resulted in the remarkable preservation of the villa today. The re-burial of exposed mosaics and other delicate archaeological elements was very important in their survival. The building of the shelters, the Victorian Museum, and the custodian's house were further evidence of their commitment to preserving and

displaying the monument. It is possible that the display of a link between a 1600- year-old version of their own situation, and the contemporary circumstances, was important to them as a symbol of continuity and legitimacy.

3.5.4 Later 19th-Century Interpretation

Chedworth was the subject of various learned papers throughout the later parts of the 19th century. These did not depart substantially from the original vision of the site as a large country mansion at the centre of an estate. There were some suggestions of specific activity at the site, such as the interpretation of the N Baths as a fulling mill, but there was no new excavation to uncover fresh evidence.

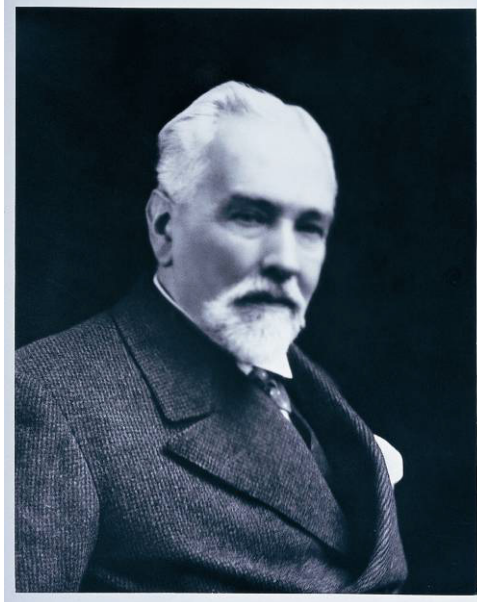


Early 20th-Century reconstruction of the villa

3.6 20TH-CENTURY INTERVENTIONS UP TO 1990 AND THEIR EFFECTS ON UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITE

3.6.1 The Work of W. St. Clair Baddeley

St. Clair Baddeley was a local archaeologist who played a vital part in the life of the villa. He carried out some excavations at the site in the 1920s, including the recovery of the first human burial from Chedworth, that of an infant laid in a stone-lined grave behind the South Wing (near Room 1). Baddeley also excavated the large Romano-British temple or mausoleum by the River Coln, 1km to the east. He understood the significance of the site, and was the first to link it to a wider contemporary landscape. Indeed, St. Clair Baddeley was the driving force behind the raising of subscription to purchase the villa from the Eldon estate, on behalf of The National Trust, so that its significance might be better maintained.



St. Clair Baddeley



Sir Ian Richmond

3.6.2 The 1950s, 1960s and Sir Ian Richmond

The first Oxford archaeologist to intervene at Chedworth was Eve Rutter, who excavated the latrine in the South Wing in 1954. She was followed by the first systematic examination of the villa since the 1864 excavation. This was undertaken by Prof. Ian Richmond (later Sir Ian), the doyen of Romano-British archaeologists at that time. Richmond spent two or three weeks at the villa every year from the beginning of his tenure of the Chair of the Archaeology of the Roman Empire at Oxford in 1957 till his untimely death in 1965. He undertook keyhole-excavation in all parts of the villa and was able to present a sequence of construction phases for the first time. Richmond gave the site a time-depth within the Roman period and showed that the site had evolved over centuries.

During this period it was recognised for the first time that the villa was part of a building tradition local to Britain and parts of Gaul. This tradition represented increasing romanization of the native culture but was thought to be the product of local craftsmen. The development of villa sites over time suggested that the final grand versions of these houses in the 4th century were the homes of native aristocrats, who had become enriched under the Pax Romana. This was in contrast to the 19th-century belief that wealthy Romans from Italy inhabited such luxury complexes.

Richmond's interpretation of the site has been the basis of understanding for over 30 years but he left few notes and site diaries and it is now difficult to reconstruct his reasoning from primary sources. He did, however, make Chedworth's position clear regarding its importance within the context of Romano-British archaeology. He also raised the profile of the site within the National Trust.

3.6.3 The 1970s and 1980s

At this period there was no long-term strategy of archaeological study. Such excavation as there was tended to be reactive. For example, excavations were undertaken in the area on which the new Reception Building was built in 1977/78 by R. Shoemith. There were also excavations in the Garden Portico, as alterations to the Custodian's House necessitated upgrading of the drainage.

In 1978 the National Trust employed an archaeologist, Dr Roger Goodburn, at the site for the first time as part of the regular staff. This appointment enabled fuller study of the collection and the fabric of the site.

Little was added to the interpretation of the villa as a result of work at the site during this period but for the first time records were made of every conservation intervention, and condition surveys of various elements of the site were begun.

The only major attempt at re-interpreting this villa's function was undertaken by Dr. Graham Webster in 1983 (Webster1983). He published a paper suggesting the site was a religious complex, consisting of the villa buildings as a pilgrims' hostel surrounded by several temples and shrines. The idea was interesting, in that it attempted a coherent interpretation of the villa and the sites in its immediate environs. This theory is still supported by some, but Chedworth has little in common archaeologically with other definitely identified Romano-British religious complexes, such as Lydney and Uley in Gloucestershire. The interpretation of Romano-British villas in general has been influenced since the same period by the theories of J.T.Smith (Smith 1997) postulating multiple occupancy rather than residence by a single proprietor, though this too, is highly contentious.

3.7 RESEARCH SINCE 1990

3.7.1 Council Of Europe Professional Exchange Programme Visit

In 1994, a professional exchange visit was organised by the Council of Europe at the request of the National Trust. The delegation of experts from five European countries contributed substantially to the development of an underlying philosophy of development and long-term planning. This has steered the direction in which the villa management has moved since.

These experts, from the fields of heritage management, archaeology, and conservation were the focus for a professional seminar. From this came a report, and a firm recognition that Chedworth was a site of international importance, fully deserving of investment in its conservation, interpretation and presentation. The report contains a statement of the key issues facing the conservation, management and interpretation of Chedworth, together with key conservation principles and recommendations to address these. Further reference will be made to these principles and objectives in Sections 8 & 9 below.

3.7.2 Recent Research

It was recognised that there were large gaps in understanding of the monument. The Council of Europe Report recommended that new surveys should be undertaken of the villa, its fabric and the state of its conservation. These should include a full record and archive of its history of research, survey and excavation. In addition, the report

recommended that a programme of new research should be established for the site. Detailed lists of both archaeological and conservation research, survey and other interventions are given in Appendices 2 & 3.

The archaeological interventions that have taken place since 1977 have altered our understanding of the site. This has not happened in isolation, but interpretations of the Chedworth villa have also changed as a result of all the work done elsewhere on Roman Britain, and developments in general archaeological theory and fashion. Very broadly, the paradigm has shifted away from the 19th-century vision of Roman villas being the dwellings of Roman immigrants arriving from Italy with the invading army, to one in which the typical villa can be seen as the home of a native individual or family, more or less influenced by the process of acculturation referred to as romanization. A better appreciation of the long time that Britain was under Roman influence helps to make this clearer, and it is significant that the huge villas of 4th-century Britain were built at least 250 years after the initial invasion. What is also clear is that these houses were built at sites where a continuum of occupation can be demonstrated from at least the pre-Roman Iron Age.



Excavations in progress, Garden Court, Easter 2000

New knowledge about Chedworth to be gleaned from the recent work can be summarised as follows (Bethell 2007a):

- The exceptional size, opulence and importance of the site have been very strongly reinforced.
- Detail of the external and internal decoration has been better understood, with demonstration of the variety and sophistication of the external decoration particularly made through the stonework cataloguing.
- The “quantum” nature of change in the 4th-century has been demonstrated, and the scale of the building works that created the later villa illustrated. Evidence relating to the construction of the North Wing was found.

- The limits of the villa complex to the east have been shown through geophysical survey. The lack of additional courtyards beyond the villa continues to pose questions, and makes Chedworth different from most other sites of similar date and size.
- Evidence of occupation before the Roman period, and from post-Roman times, through medieval to modern, has extended the time-frame of the site well beyond the 4th-century apogee.
- A better understanding of the way in which the spaces of the 4th-century villa were used has been gained. The interpretation of the garden court as a formal classical garden has been proved wrong, with evidence suggesting a simple grass surface, with a change of use later in the 4th century. The majority of the rooms has clearly been shown to be domestic apartments, with heated, and most likely tessellated, floors.
- Little direct evidence to throw light on the identity of the villa inhabitants has been found. Some finds analysis, such as the identification of game-animal bones, has shed light on specific activities.
- The extent of the intact archaeology has been revealed, implying that there is much more information still to be gained.

3.8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.8.1 Roman Villas

There are perhaps 1,000 known or probable villa sites in Britain, ranging from small plain houses with a few rooms to grand and complex sites with dozens of rooms, many mosaics, and multiple courtyards. These sites cover the whole date range of the Roman period, and characteristic of most of the larger sites is evidence of occupation and development over several centuries. A very small proportion of the villas falls definitely into the category of very large, with several courtyards. Chedworth Roman villa is one of these substantial sites, interpreted (generally) as properties of the wealthiest élite of Roman Britain. All of the known sites of this type, with the exception of Fishbourne Roman Palace, reached their peak of extent and luxury of decoration in the Late Roman Period, between the later 3rd and early 5th centuries.

The commonly-shared features of the largest villa sites include: up to 60 rooms; integral bath-houses (sometimes more than one); high-quality mosaics in many rooms; *hypocaust* systems not restricted to bath-houses; multiple courtyards with surrounding buildings; painted wall-plaster; architectural mouldings/embellishments; linear arrangement of rooms linked by corridors, forming rectangular blocks with integral latrines; domestic shrines; high-status objects amongst the small finds. This is in contrast to the vast majority of smaller villas, which contain less than ten rooms with only the occasional mosaic; tend to possess external bath-houses, and project a considerably lower impression of wealth overall.

The large villas represent a British version of a pattern known from Northern Gaul and Germany, where many examples of the villa with

elongated wings and multiple courtyards have been noted. The Mediterranean tradition of rich villas in the countryside, as described by classical authors such as Pliny the Younger, was the origin of these great houses of the NW provinces, but their form and those found in Britain are different from that encountered in Italy. The broad similarity of architectural form between the large British villas and their equivalents in other parts of this NW section of the Roman Empire tempts one to assume that they were used in exactly the same way.

For the continental villas there are some written sources relevant to understanding what sort of people owned them and the place their houses and estates played in their lives. However, function does not automatically follow form and, lacking similar contemporary historical sources from Roman Britain relating to villas, it is difficult to be certain how such houses were used here or how contemporaries viewed them. Archaeology can point out the differences as well as the similarities with continental models and it is apparent that Roman Britain had versions of its own. The precise degree of usefulness of analogy from other parts of the Empire in any particular aspect of interpretation is therefore a matter of opinion; how to present it to the public a challenge to be met.

The evidence at Chedworth itself follows the pattern seen at other British sites including, locally, North Leigh and arguably Woodchester in which an earlier, smaller villa was expanded and dramatically refurbished with all the trappings of great wealth, in the Late Roman period. Changes in the political, social and economic climate of the Empire included a re-distribution of wealth that resulted in an even greater concentration of capital in the hands of a relatively few rich families. The great multiple-courtyard villas such as Chedworth are a manifestation of that wealth and a reflection of societal changes in Britain.

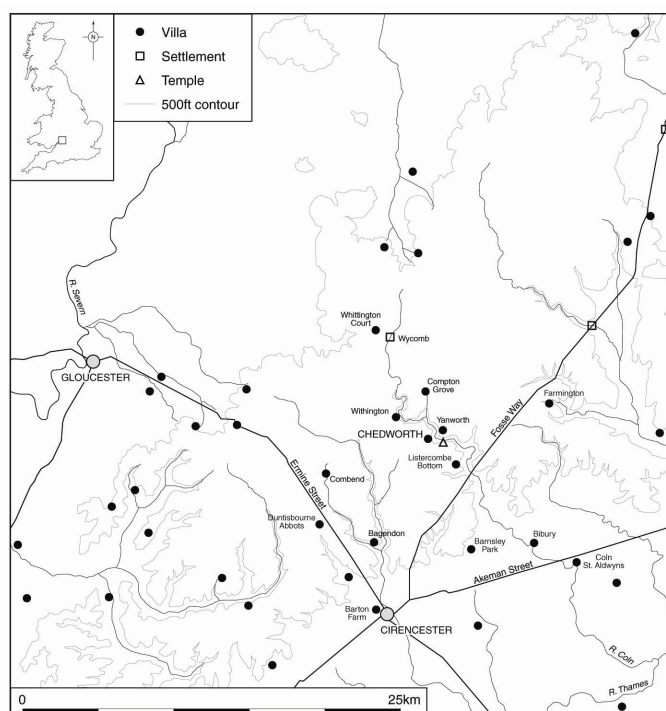


Figure 5 The surrounding countryside

3.8.2 The Surrounding Countryside

There is a number of Roman-period sites identified in the surrounding landscape. These include a substantial temple or mausoleum of uncertain date 1km to the east along the river, a possible villa of unknown date on the hillside opposite, and other substantial villas at Compton Grove, Withington, and Listercombe Bottom. Others exist a little further off, including a very large example that was located at Turkdean by Time Team and investigated by them in 1997-8 (*Britannia* Vol. **35**). In 1978 Goodburn noted 22 known villa sites within 8km of Chedworth.

Chedworth reached its zenith at the same time as nearby Cirencester (Roman *Corinium*, the second largest city of Roman Britain) became a provincial capital. The villa is also only 30km from Gloucester, another major urban centre, founded as a high-status city (*colonia*) around or shortly before the beginnings of Roman occupation at Chedworth. The site lies less than 5km from the Fosse Way, one of the main arterial routes for communication and transport within Roman Britain, and close to a probable lesser road into Cirencester (the White Way).

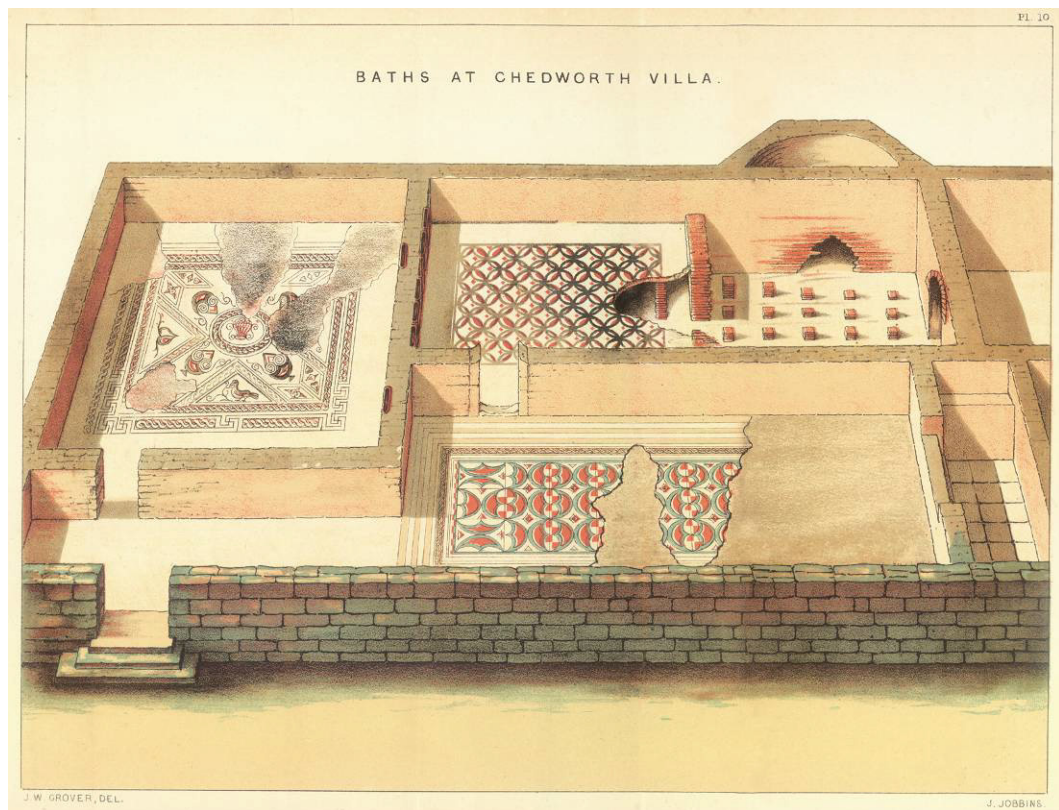
Chedworth Roman Villa lies in a very rich contemporary archaeological landscape, at the heart of one of the major administrative territories of the Roman province, that of the Dobunni. These territories were created out of the indigenous tribal areas, and there are substantial pre-Roman Iron Age remains in the district, for example the Dobunnic centre at Bagendon (8km). Indeed, there is evidence of pre-Roman, Iron Age occupation at Chedworth itself.

3.8.3 Developments in Interpretation of Chedworth Roman Villa

The recent investigations have improved our understanding of the site, and enabled some refinements to be made to the archaeological interpretation. Evidence of activity at the site has been extended back into the pre-Roman Iron Age, and beyond the Roman period into the immediate Post-Roman. The Iron Age evidence consists of an infant skeleton (Carbon dated to about 360 BC), and a few potsherds; the Post-Roman material to some poorly-preserved ceramics. So although the evidence is limited, it does indicate some activity before and after the main period at the site. The bulk of the site's finds come from the 2nd- 4th centuries. Some sherds, and some stratigraphic evidence from the South Wing and Garden Court, give clear indication that there was activity at the site in the very late 4th to early 5th century. What is also clear is that the first major phase of Roman activity at the site was concentrated at the W end of the villa, and parallels with other sites such as North Leigh and Bignor have been made clearer. The Late Roman extensions were more in the nature of a quantum change, involving massive groundworks and an extensive building programme which - if not carried out under one owner or without changes of design - was at least completed within a relatively brief number of years rather than extending over centuries. This contrasts with the earlier notion of gradual evolution of the complex. Conversely, the evidence of continuity through time is also in contrast to the even earlier view of the house based solely on the 4th-century remains.

As to interpretation of function, it is also clear that Chedworth is one of the largest villa sites known. There is no further evidence to support Webster's religious complex theory, but it seems likely that the house was in the possession of a very important individual or family. The owner must consequently have had an important part to play in the surrounding countryside and perhaps also had larger responsibilities. Indeed, the villa's position in the immediate hinterland of Cirencester suggests the probability of a close link with that seat of provincial administration.

Ever since its acquisition by the National Trust, Chedworth has been recognised as one of the most important Roman sites in Britain open to the public. The long and continuing history of archaeological intervention and the breadth of techniques employed provide the solid foundation on which to develop its potential as a centre of excellence. This is not only true in the field of interpretation for the public at every level of Roman villas in particular and Late Roman Britain in general. It is also true in respect of the provision of research experience and training for a wide range of professionals.



The excavated bath-house as illustrated in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association in 1868

4 THE ECOLOGY OF CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

4.1 Chedworth Roman Villa is of significant value to wildlife. The most notable features are:

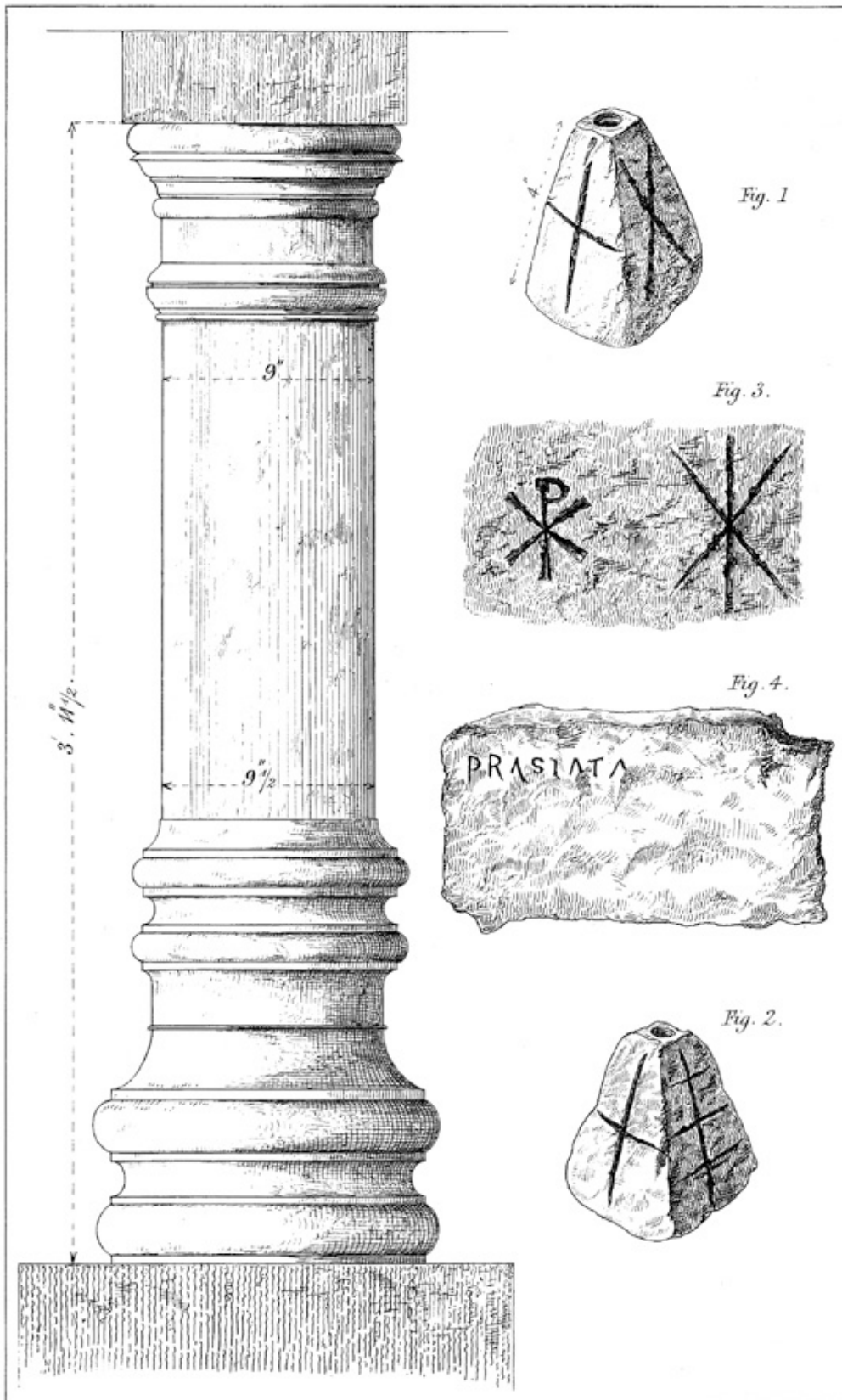
- The buildings which house a number of species of bats, including the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species of lesser horseshoe, barbastelle and pipistrelle, which breed and roost at Chedworth and forage over the wider landscape. Seven different species of bat have been recorded at Chedworth Roman Villa.
- A small area of ancient woodland, abutting a much more extensive site (part managed by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve).
- Herb rich calcareous banks and lawns with a rich orchid and limestone flora and fauna.
- A network of ancient walls supporting rich rock-crevice communities including many species, such as ferns, which would usually be found on rock outcrops.
- The naturalised, but nationally-scarce, Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*) is found in good numbers at Chedworth.
- The site has a rich bird-assemblage including the Red Data Book listed marsh tit and Amber-listed green woodpecker and swallow.
- High geological and geomorphological interest, with notable fossils of the middle Jurassic inferior oolite, as well as active tufa springs on the adjacent railway line and a spring which is enclosed within the nymphaeum which helped guide the positioning of the villa.



A Long-eared bat



A Pipistrelle bat





'Sacrifice at the water shrine'



'Villa inhabitants and guests enjoying a bath in the West bath-house.'

5 COMPARISON WITH 'PEER-GROUP' SITES

In order to inform current management and future development, a series of visits was carried out from 2000 by members of the Chedworth Project Team to learn from the experience of similar sites in Britain. This review took the form of a selection of, and comparison with, a range of other properties open to the public displaying comparable Roman period remains. Comparison was made with domestic sites as opposed to military, religious or public buildings. Of these, rural villa sites were chosen in preference to urban domestic sites, apart from two: Colliton Park Town House, Dorchester, for its recent re-presentation and the Roman Painted House at Dover, a well-known site by virtue of its 3rd-century wall paintings. The early Roman palace/villa at Fishbourne - though two centuries earlier than Chedworth at its fully developed and from an entirely different historical context within the Roman period - was also included because its size, visitor numbers and the extent of its interpretation are all comparable to Chedworth.

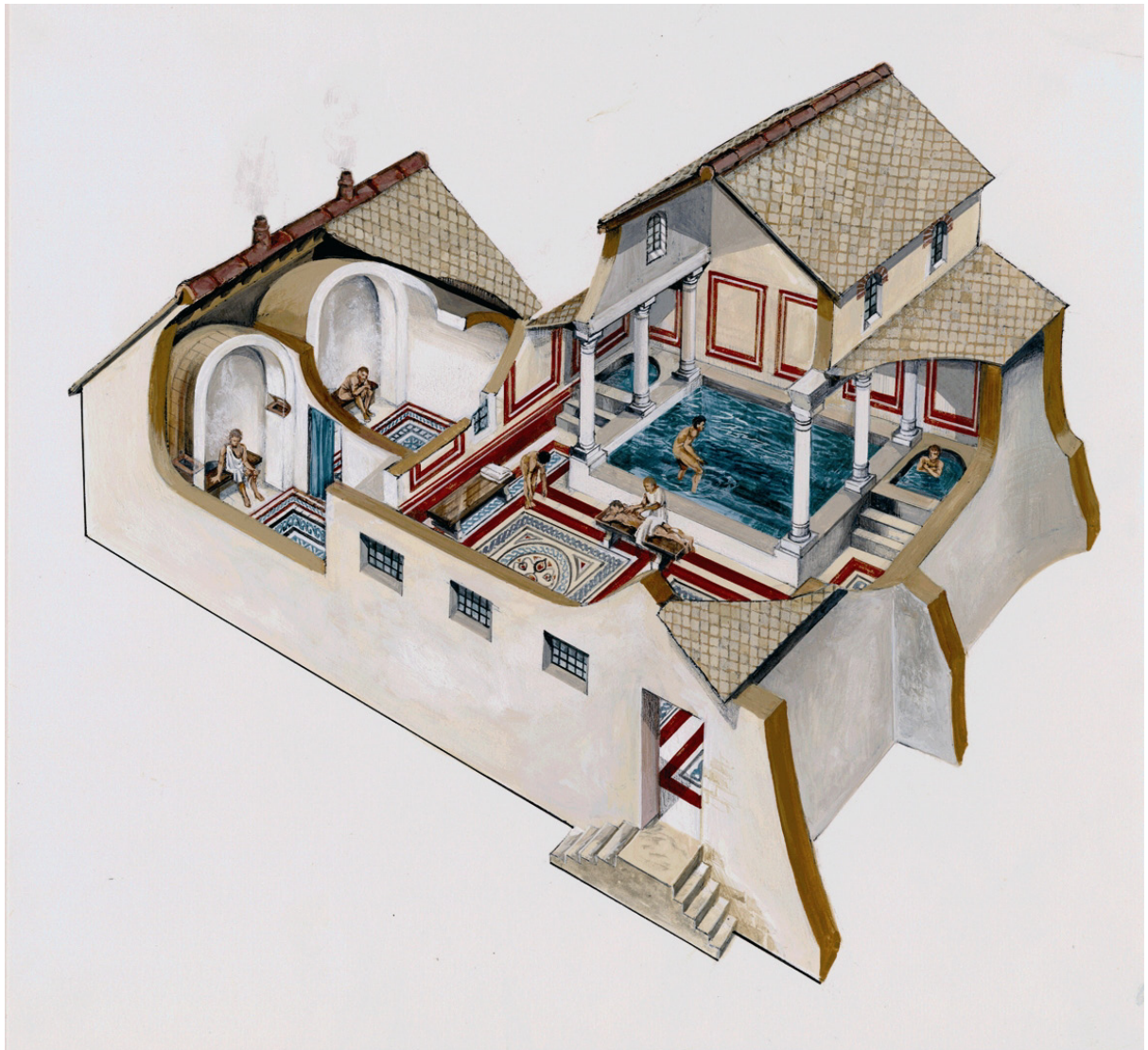
Selection and assessment was also based on the degree to which each site has been presented and interpreted for the benefit of the visiting public and school parties. Presentation of excavated remains may include the provision of cover buildings and a variety of facilities to ensure visitor comfort: interpretation media may also include audio, visual and interactive presentations, written interpretations and guided tours. Only a relatively small proportion of villa sites have substantial elements of their masonry visible above ground and, of these sites, even fewer are managed and open to public access. Several of the surveyed sites have recently undergone substantial redevelopment, and it has not been possible to update fully the information since they were visited.

The following 12 sites were visited:

- Bignor Roman Villa, Sussex
- Brading Roman Villa, Isle of Wight
- Colliton Park Town House, Dorchester, Dorset
- Crofton Park Roman Villa, Orpington, Kent
- Fishbourne Roman Palace, Sussex
- Great Witcombe Roman Villa, Gloucestershire
- Littlecote Park Roman Villa, Wiltshire
- Lullingstone Roman Villa, Kent
- Newport Roman Villa, Isle of Wight
- North Leigh Roman Villa, Oxfordshire
- Painted House, Dover, Kent
- Rockbourne Roman Villa, Hampshire

The following features were considered and discussed with staff from these sites: Visitor numbers; ease of access; facilities for school and other formal education parties; proportion of site exposed; number of mosaics; general visitor facilities; interpretation (audio-visual, audio tours, guidebooks, interpretation panels, etc.). The objective was to assess the overall visitor experience.

This experience was invaluable in informing Chedworth about good practice elsewhere and options for future development. Chedworth will continue to learn from experience at other sites.



A reconstruction of the laconicum ('Spartan' bath-house) in the north wing

6 ASSESSMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

6.1 BASIS OF THE ASSESSMENTS



Interior of West bath-house

- 6.1.1 The Conservation Plan process requires a definition of what it is that gives significance to the site and thus what requires protection before considering the issues which affect the place, or developing policies for its conservation or management. These are developed from the sections on understanding Chedworth Roman Villa above. The categories for considering significance are drawn from guidance produced for the National Trust by Alan Baxter and Associates for the Tyntesfield Conservation Plan (Alan Baxter and Associates 2005).
- 6.1.2 Some major types of significance, especially for scheduled ancient monuments, buildings, landscapes and ecology are set out in the Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG 15 & 16 for buildings and scheduled monuments and in PPG 8 for nature conservation designations. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are deemed to be of ***national significance***.
- 6.1.3 **The Criteria for Determining Significance - Buildings**

The government guidance notes on the management of listed buildings and conservation areas (Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 Planning and The Historic Environment 1994, paragraph 6) provide the following criteria for determining significance:

- *Architectural interest* - design, decoration, craftsmanship, building type, technique
- *Historic interest* - illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history
- *Historical associations* - with important people or events
- *Group value* - where buildings comprise an important architectural or historic unity, or constitute a fine example of planning

Although PPG15 will be replaced by a new Planning Policy Statement PPS15, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, in 2010, these criteria are retained in this document as providing an appropriate framework for the assessment of significance.

6.1.4 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

A further group of criteria is represented by the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for the scheduling of monuments:

- *Ability to characterise a period*
- *Rarity of survival*
- *Extent of documentation*
- *Association with other monuments in a group*
- *Fragility/vulnerability*
- *Diversity- the combination of high quality features*
- *Potential - when anticipate features but extent not yet known*

6.1.5 **Collections and Archives**

There is no system for the protection of objects of special interest. However, the following criteria are of use in helping to determine significance:

- *Rarity*
- *Quality of the design and skill of craftsmanship*
- *Historic interest of use or associations with important individuals or with the place*
- *Unity with other aspects of the property such as buildings or landscapes*
- *Documentation - the extent to which the provenance can be proved*
- *Condition*

6.1.6 **Landscape**

The following criteria are also helpful:

- *Group value - with buildings or other land*
- *Documentation*
- *Condition*

6.1.7 **Bio-Diversity**

- *Rarity and fragility*
- *Diversity of species*
- *Population size of species*
- *Biological potential*

6.1.8 For less tangible qualities, it is also useful to use values derived from the Conservation Plan approach developed by James Semple Kerr (Kerr 1996). These additional values include:

- *Representative value* - the ability to demonstrate social or cultural developments
- *Historical continuity* – in buildings and activities
- *Formal, visual and aesthetic qualities*
- *Evidence of social history themes*
- *Contemporary community values*
- *Power to communicate values and significance*

6.1.9 DEGREES OF SIGNIFICANCE

All the above criteria have been considered in assessing the significance of Chedworth Roman Villa and its various aspects. The following categories of significance which are relevant to Chedworth have been developed elsewhere for conservation planning (Alan Baxter and Associates 2005):

A – Highly Significant

Elements of the site which are of outstanding, undisputed national, and possibly international significance.

B – Significant

Of national importance

C – Some Significance

Of local importance

N Neutral

Does not add nor detract from the significance of the site

D – Detracts

Diminishes the significance of the property

6.2 SIGNIFICANCE AS A ROMAN PERIOD SITE

The Roman villa is one of the defining elements of the character of the Roman period in Britain. The larger villas - unfortified big houses in the countryside – represent a phenomenon that did not reappear in Britain for 1000 years until the emergence of the unfortified manor house in the Late Middle Ages. This has fundamental implications for the nature of society in Roman Britain.

6.2.1 Significance of Whole Site within the Context of Romano-British Archaeology (A – Highly Significant)

A literature survey undertaken by Philip Bethell for the first edition of the Conservation Plan (Bethell 2001) shows that there are 4 sites regarded as the best-known and most representative of this later type: Bignor (W. Sussex), Chedworth (Glos.), North Leigh (Oxon.), and Woodchester (Glos.). Of these, Woodchester is the largest, and contains the most mosaics (including the largest Roman pavement north of the Alps). It has been interpreted as the country palace of the Governor of one of the late Roman provinces, centred on Cirencester. The other three do not have such a specific interpretation, but are generally regarded as the houses of important members of the ruling elite, exhibiting the fullest expression of Roman culture in Late Roman Britain.

Chedworth exhibits most of the criteria of this category of very large villa, and can be confidently regarded as one of the half-dozen largest country houses in Roman Britain in the 4th century.

6.2.2 Specific Elements of Significance within this Group at Chedworth (A – Highly Significant)

The mosaics at Chedworth represent the second largest group of 4th-century mosaics known in Britain; second only to Woodchester whose pavements are very unlikely to be accessible to the public in the foreseeable future.

There are elements surviving *in situ* of 14 mosaic floors, all of which are of 4th-century date. The majority of these are identified as products of the Corinian School, a distinctive style made by a workshop(s) based in Roman Corinium. Only five of the mosaics are currently exposed; others are provisionally protected through reburial. All the mosaics remain *in situ*. They gain much significance from the fact that hardly any have been lifted and relaid, thus retaining both their aesthetic and their archaeological integrity. This is quite rare amongst displayed mosaics in Britain or abroad, and is much appreciated by general visitors and experts alike.

Other unique or very rare features include:

- The heated corridor in the South Wing (indicating exceptional luxury)
- The presence of lawn in the Main (or Garden) Court, rather than a formal layout
- The water shrine with its octagonal pool and running spring
- This last is particularly interesting, since the existence of Christian symbols on some of the shaped paving suggests the deliberate Christianising of a pagan shrine, neutralising its pagan spirits – possibly even converting it to Christian use as a baptistery. Even more interesting is the fact that the marked slabs were subsequently lifted and re-used as steps in the North Wing, strongly suggesting a reversion to pagan ownership. This may be a rare glimpse of the resistance against the new State religion among the traditionalist aristocracy across the Empire attested by historical sources.
- Two bath-houses
- Multiple dining suites (one with panoramic views)
- A latrine
- 3 different styles of *hypocaust*
- Painted wall plaster

No other villa in the ‘very large’ group has so far revealed the variety of features found at Chedworth.



Sub-structure of the South Wing corridor hypocaust

6.2.3 Other Elements of Archaeological Significance (A – Highly Significant)

Chedworth lies in a contemporary archaeological landscape of great richness, most of which has not been explored, and in which relatively little modern archaeological exploration has taken place. There are more than 20 known Roman-period sites within 8 km. of Chedworth. There is also a considerable potential for linking it to general archaeological studies of the Coln Valley and Upper Thames region where very substantial amounts of archaeological investigation have been undertaken in recent years (and continue to be undertaken in the context of gravel extraction and other forms of development).

Chedworth still has a great deal of archaeology to explore - there has been little investigation outside the inner domestic courtyards. This represents a major archaeological resource for the understanding of villas of this type.

6.2.4 Collection of Artefacts (A – Highly Significant)

Chedworth has an extensive collection of artefacts from the excavations of the past 140+ years. The collection is significant for the following reasons:

Chedworth has the largest collection of structural and decorative masonry from any known villa site in the UK. It is of great significance in the study of Roman architecture in Britain.

Chedworth has evidence to aid the understanding of most aspects of life in Late Roman Britain, including technology, diet, social structure, religion, trade, leisure activities, dress, cooking, and craft activities.

The variety of the collection represents a very important *accessible* archaeological resource. The collection has been rehoused in a safe curatorial store elsewhere on the Trust's Sherborne/Chedworth estate with appropriate access for researchers.

6.2.5 International Significance (A – Highly Significant)

The villa was host to a Council Of Europe-funded Technical Assistance visit in 1994 (Council of Europe 1994). The resulting report affirmed the quality of the site and its preservation in a wider European context. Chedworth has an international significance as a Roman-period site, open to the public. It is important as a major site of a historical pan-European culture, with direct and indirect links to cultural and architectural traditions in all parts of the Roman Empire, but particularly the nearest continental provinces.

A 2005 web-based survey of Roman sites in Europe suggests that Chedworth has a very high visitor figure, when compared to similar sites elsewhere (Garcia 2005).

6.3 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 19TH-CENTURY ELEMENTS (Overall A – Highly Significant)

6.3.1 Protective Shelters (B – Significant) and Wall-Cappings (C – Some significance)

The site underwent much cosmetic alteration after the 19th-century excavations and the visible fabric of the villa has been modified to a considerable degree by reconstructions of that period. The main effect of this was to bring the ruined walls to a consistent level, and provide them with protective capping. A survey of all standing walls, carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2005, has shown very clearly that little original Roman fabric survives in other than the lowest courses and core of the majority of walls on the site. A further survey of wall-cappings was undertaken in 2009 by Guy Salkeld and is included above Paragraph 2.6.8. This has demonstrated the variety of capping styles that has emerged throughout the 20th century, and the changes made to original cappings over much of the site. However, the 19th-century walls along the line of the Roman walls form a very strong impression in the minds of visitors and are a critical part of understanding the layout of the villa. The walls themselves have been continuously repaired; little of the original 19th- century capping remains; replacements have been made in a bewildering variety of styles.



In addition, four wooden shelter buildings were built to protect the best-surviving features of the villa. Two of these along the west range are from 1880s. **(B – Significant)** Of the other two shelter buildings over the north range Bath House, one is of later 19th -century and the other of mid- 20th-century date **(C- Some Significance)**. These features still have a major impact on the appearance of the site. Comparison of the shelters with those existing at other similar Roman-period sites shows that the shelters are not unique. They are not the earliest and, although generally well-built, have few particularly distinguishing architectural features and have been extensively modified over the course of the past century.

The wall-capping and site shelters have a significance in the history of archaeological site protection, but their significance lies primarily in the protection they have given the most vulnerable features of the site, rather than intrinsic elements of their design or construction. In fact, of equal interest is the careful reburial of the other mosaics that lay outside of these shelters to ensure their preservation.

The site shelters in their current form do not fulfil all of the conservation needs of their contents. They do not provide adequate access to the Roman remains they cover, either for conservation intervention or, for that matter, viewing and understanding.

6.3.2 Victorian Museum (A – Highly Significant)

The Victorian Museum is very unusual in being purpose-built as part of the original conservation measures to house the material collected from the early excavation. Indeed, it is one of the earliest purpose-built site museums. It has undergone alteration to the structure and displays over the years, with the addition of new cases and changes to the lighting and heating. The materials and cases used in the displays do not conform to current conservation standards.

The significance of the museum lies in its location on site and its continuous use as a museum since it was built. The current display does not have major significance, in the sense that it is not original to the 19th-century presentation, nor does it fulfil the modern conservation requirements of its contents **(C – Some Significance)**.

6.3.3 Shooting Lodge (B – Significant)

The Shooting Lodge, used as staff accommodation and offices in recent years, has had an indirect part to play in the conservation and interpretation of the archaeological site. It was an important part of the original post-excavation use of the villa site and had a great impact via its function as a residence for an on-site caretaker. The presence of the lodge maintained interest in the site, and the presence of the caretaker ensured security and continuous low-level conservation monitoring.

The 19th-century Shooting Lodge is significant for the role it has played in the history of the site, for its characteristic Victorian design and for the inclusion of the site museum within the building. It is not a Listed structure but lies within the curtilage of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

6.3.4 Landscaping (C – Some Significance)

Many, but not all, of the original 19th-century landscaping elements survive. Much more emphasis was placed in the past on the presentation of the site as a garden, and a number of mature trees at the property are 19th-century plantings. The major landscaping alteration to the site was the dumping of the spoil from the 19th-century excavation immediately to the east of the Roman Garden Court ambulatory, forming the terrace on which the Victorian Shooting Lodge sits.



19th-Century view of the Shooting Lodge

Of the 19th-century landscaping, only the survival of the specimen trees, the Weeping Ash and the two Sweet Buckeye trees in the vicinity of the Shooting Lodge, are of any real significance. Otherwise it has no particular importance in itself as an example of Victorian design. Apart from the specimen trees and the much modified low walls, no individual elements of it are special, and early photographs show that subsequent changes, including the growth to maturity and indeed senescence of some of the other exotic planting, have substantially affected much of its former charm as an open, Victorian, romantic garden. However, it has helped to shape the way in which the site has been enjoyed, and its general ambience. The spoil heap from the original excavation must contain a great deal of artefactual material from the villa since it was the practice of Victorian excavators to retain a much smaller range of finds than today.

6.4 OVERALL 19TH-CENTURY PRESENTATION (A – Highly Significant)

The significance of the 19th-century activity at the site must be considered as a whole. It was, after all, through the discovery and careful excavation of the site that we now know so much about Chedworth. The setting and ambience of the site, along with the presence of the Shooting Lodge and Victorian Museum, exert a profound influence on the present-day visitors' perception, enjoyment and understanding of the Roman villa. Many visitors enjoy the beauty and simplicity of the property's setting, while at the same time the 19th-century works also confuse their understanding of the Romano-British complex.



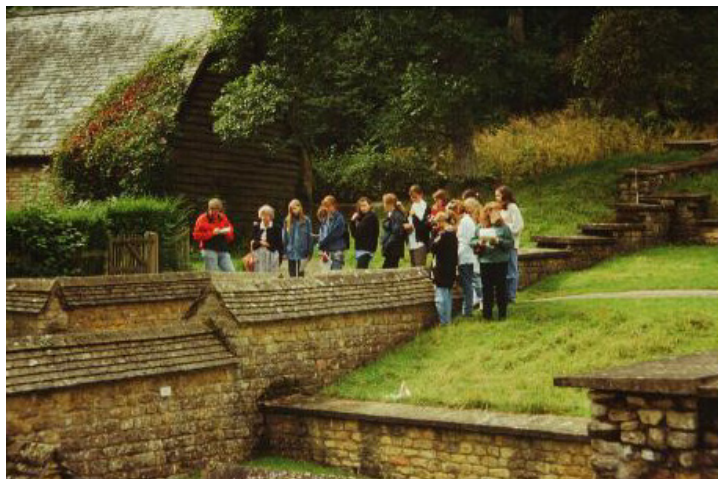
Early 20th-Century view of the villa

6.5 SIGNIFICANCE AS A ROMANO-BRITISH SITE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (A – Highly Significant)

In the Historical Context

Most, perhaps all, of the known examples of great villas in Late Roman Britain reached their final extent as the result of frequent changes and extensions in line with changing fashion and the tastes, ambition and fortunes of successive owners. A great deal of very recent historical enquiry into social, political and religious change in Late Antiquity has been carried out alongside current archaeological research on the use of domestic space in the Roman period. These research results can be applied to Chedworth and could transform the depth of visitors' understanding of the villa. The current 'story' at the property is life in the great house and estate, and this should remain at the centre of the interpretation. But there is also the opportunity at Chedworth to set it into the wider picture of the late Roman world. Rome and Roman Britain under the Late Republic and Early Empire – say from Julius Caesar to Hadrian or perhaps Marcus Aurelius – is reasonably well served by books, film and television (even if much of it is inaccurate), and by other sites open to the public and museums. But even those people who have had a classical education rarely strayed at school or university beyond Tacitus and the other 'Silver Latin' authors. The Late Empire is in so many ways a dramatically different but equally fascinating world, and raises all sorts of fresh questions that have echoes in modern ears, such as multi-culturalism, diversity and integration, the emergence of a model of imperialism that incorporated an inclusive common citizenship across the empire, the evolution of 'big government', the decay of local institutions, and the extraordinary turnaround that led to the imposition of a single religion - Christianity in this case - by the State. Indeed, it could be argued that the military coup that elevated Constantine the Great to the imperial throne at York in AD 306 had more consequences for world history up to the present day than almost anything else that has happened in Britain. Yet the Late Empire - the fourth and fifth centuries AD which most ancient historians nowadays would call 'Late Antiquity' but some medievalists (looking back from a different perspective) would call Byzantine - hardly appears at all in popular sources of information, and there is no comparable site in Britain open to the public presenting it to the visitor to any significant extent. Yet one would not interpret Hampton Court to the public in terms of the world of William the Conqueror.

The ‘End of Roman Britain’ is, if anything, even worse served. Yet why Roman Britain collapsed is a very obvious question that the curious visitor will ask and, though the historical and archaeological evidence is very much thinner for the fifth century than the fourth, this is an opportunity to introduce the concepts of academic discussion and the notion that there can be different interpretations of the same facts. And Chedworth’s recent archaeological evidence for continuing use after the end of Roman rule puts it right in the frame for this debate. These areas will need to be addressed in the Interpretation Plan.



School children enjoying a guided tour

6.6 CONSERVATION PRACTICE (A – Highly Significant)

Chedworth has been the focus of innovative conservation practices, particularly in the area of environmental monitoring. The site has the potential to further expand the NT’s range of expertise in conservation practice, and act as a showcase for that expertise. The site also presents opportunities for collaboration with other organisations/individuals to develop conservation skills. It has been a base for postgraduate fieldwork for conservation students from University College London Institute of Archaeology since 2003.

Chedworth is a significant site for the application and development of specialist conservation practice within the National Trust.



Cleaning the mosaics in the 1970s

6.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE'S NATURAL INTEREST

6.7.1 Surrounding Woodland (B Significant)

Chedworth Roman Villa is on the edge of the biggest block of semi-natural woodland on the east side of the River Severn in Gloucestershire. The wood has a well developed understorey and as a result it is easy for bats to forage under cover and with a plentiful food supply. One of the reasons that bats, like lesser horseshoes, are attracted to Chedworth is in part because of the southerly warm aspect and the shelter availability.

The ground flora is fairly sparse, partially due to extensive works carried out in recent years to provide areas for educational groups. Hazel, hawthorn and field maple provide the main understorey with ash, beech, oak, larch and cypress in the canopy. The ground flora includes male fern, dog's mercury, wood false brome, wood aven and hairy St John's wort. Two species of particular note are toothwort and yellow archangel, which are indicative of the sites ancient woodland origin.

Nuthatch, goldcrest, treecreeper, marsh tit, green woodpecker and spotted flycatcher have all been recorded making this an important site for birds. Dormouse has been recorded nearby but has not been found on Trust land.

The invertebrate interest is particularly associated with wood decay habitats, including a variety of fungus beetles and weevils. The moths are also likely to be of note but require further research.

The villa has a position on the fringe of a very significant area of semi-natural woodland, partly owned by Gloucester Wildlife Trust, but itself occupies only a very small area of that habitat.

6.7.2 Bats (A Highly Significant)

Chedworth provides summer roost sites for:

- Common Pipistrelle (UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species) (breeding in the Reception building)
- Brown Long Eared bat (breeding in the Shooting Lodge)
- Whiskered bat (in the Reception building)
- Natterer's bat (has been recorded in the Shooting Lodge).
- Lesser Horseshoe bat: Night roost above the Plunge Bath - on Annexe 11 of the EU Habitats Directive (Special Protection)
- In addition the property is visited by several other species during the summer, including Noctule and Leislars.

All British bat species and their roosts are protected by domestic legislation (Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981) and listed as European Protected Species in the Habitats Directive through which they receive protection under the Habitat Regulations 1994.

Chedworth is within one of the most important bat sites in the county and the existing buildings provide roosts for several species. In addition, the nearby abandoned railway tunnel (not NT) is known to have important bat roosts including lesser horseshoe, barbastelle and brown long-eared bats which will undoubtedly forage over the Roman Villa area.

6.7.3 Other Fauna (B Significant)

The villa is used by a wide variety of woodland fringe fauna, including insects, small mammals, reptiles, gastropods and birds. A number of these species are of note, while others are BAP target species and in the UK Red Data Book. The edible Roman snail *Helix pomatia* is present, and was introduced to Britain by the Romans. It is frequently noted and enjoyed by visitors.



An example of the 'Roman Snail' Helix Pomatia found at Chedworth

Common lizard and slowworm are found amongst the wall crevices and remains. Common frog, smooth newt and various invertebrates including dragonfly larvae are recorded from the water shrine/nymphaeum.

Butterflies are common in sunny areas and include common blue, speckled wood, small white, small copper, gatekeeper, meadow brown, small tortoiseshell and red admiral. White tailed bumblebee, common carder beetle, dark bush cricket and solitary bees have also been recorded.

Bats are the most notable fauna at Chedworth, but other species of bird and insect are also of significance in nature conservation terms, contributing to the "rural idyll" ambience of the site.

6.7.4 Flora (C Some significance)

The flora of the site is most notable on the limestone banks and lawns. Orchids such as common spotted and pyramidal orchid create spectacular displays, while toothwort is a rare and special feature of the woodland. Wood vetch, a locally distributed woodland edge species, is frequent at Chedworth. The lawns have remnants of herb rich grassland including bird's-foot trefoil, ladies bedstraw, ox-eye daisy, black knapweed, and common spotted orchid.

The walls have a rich crevice community including maidenhair spleenwort, musk mallow, yellow corydalis, herb robert, wall rue, rusty back fern, as well as old records of the uncommon naturalised yellow foxglove.

The flora is of local interest in nature conservation terms, with some more notable species on the limestone banks, walls, ancient woodland and lawns. Wild flowers also contribute to the visitors' enjoyment of the site.

6.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENTATION AND SETTING

6.8.1 Setting (A – Highly Significant)

The beautiful and unspoilt setting in which the Roman villa lies is not only a major element in the modern visitor's enjoyment of the site but also highly significant in understanding why it is located where it is. It seems probable that the existence of the spring was one of the principal features of the landscape that attracted Roman interest in the first place. It may already have been the focus of a pre-Roman water-cult which continued into the Roman period, while the constantly-running water supply was extremely convenient for the baths and domestic functions of the villa. The fact that the villa faces south-east is characteristic of these large villas in Britain - and also in Northern Gaul - where very many have an eastern or south-eastern outlook. But the position of the villa also fits the well-attested Roman appreciation of excellent views from their country houses, and Chedworth has the added advantage over most of its known big rivals in Britain of a striking location at the head of a combe from which the view widens out down to the river and beyond to the further landscape. This must already have been influential early in Chedworth's history, since the original construction of the West Wing entailed substantial earth-moving to construct the terrace on which it sits. The Late Roman creation of a monumental complex out of this quite modest earlier villa required even greater earth moving, with construction on difficult slopes. Reading the letters of Sidonius Apollinaris to friends in Late Roman Gaul one cannot help being struck by the similarities. He describes how his house in the Auvergne is situated part-way down a mountain where the slope divides 'like a forked branch' forming a combe wide enough to take a mansion with a splendid view down to a lake for the enjoyment of his guests (*Letters* II, ii). Sidonius' conceit that cut branches almost fall of their own volition neatly into a pile outside the bath furnace reminds one of the importance of neighbouring woodlands to supply the fuel that Roman heating systems consumed in large quantities.

6.8.2 Presentation (C – Some Significance)

The current style of presentation, drawing on the Victorian elements but in the context of more recent and modern features, is seen by many visitors and other interested parties as an integral part of Chedworth's attraction. It is seen by others as old-fashioned, confusing, and unworthy of the importance of the site. The 1960s interpretation with concrete strips etc is confusing and misleading.

The presence of fauna on the walls is seen as an attractive reminder of the Victorian ambience.

The style and content of presentation is very significant, as it dictates the way in which the property is perceived. This colours the perception of how the National Trust views the site, and the level of its care for the site.

6.9 SIGNIFICANCE AS A LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT RESOURCE (A – Highly Significant)

6.9.1 Significance as a visitor attraction

Chedworth Roman Villa has been visited and enjoyed by more than three million visitors since first opening to the public in 1924 when they had to queue at the Shooting Lodge window to gain entrance. Since 1965 visitor numbers have averaged 65,000 per annum already making Chedworth one of the most visited Roman sites in the country and one of the most popular attractions in Gloucestershire. The last decade has seen a gradual decline in visitor numbers down to just over 50,000 in 2008, thought to be a result of several factors largely related to wider patterns of tourism, lack of facilities at the site and failure of the visitor offer to meet modern expectations.

From annual visitor surveys, wide consultation and member research, we understand that people come because either they are visiting with children (including schools), they are curious about the Romans or because they enjoy the place and location. They tell us that to them the most important features are the stunning setting and the mosaics. The fact that everything remains in-situ and that this cannot be replicated in a museum is important – people talk about walking in the footsteps of the Romans and one school child said ‘I could hardly believe that I was standing where real Romans lived!’

Currently nearly half of Chedworth’s visitors are in groups containing children; a much higher figure than most sites. 45% of visitors are over 55 and 83% travel 50 miles or under to reach the site.

Barriers to visiting include the steep terrain, poor signage, outdated interpretation, limited access to many of the remains and lack of catering facilities.

The villa has a significant number of international audiences including visitors from Japan, Germany and the Netherlands and the Roman significance of the site means that special interest groups are regularly attracted.

6.9.2 Significance as a formal learning resource

Chedworth is a well-used and popular formal education resource. There are more formal education visits are a proportion of total visits than at any other National Trust site in the Wessex region. The largest education audience users are schools and, despite poor facilities, the Villa received a Sandford Award for Heritage Education from the Heritage Education Trust in 2005. The Villa was the first host (2004) for a joint NT/Workers Education Association project ‘Heritage Education for All’, giving access to heritage education at historic sites, for people with disabilities. A programme of public-participation in archaeology for schools has been running since 1998.

Schools: c.9, 500 visitors use the villa as a school resource each year. The majority of these visits come from local schools, within 80km of the property. The site has special significance as a primary resource for Key Stage 2 pupils for whom the Romans are on the curriculum. The overall school visit catchment area is national.

Universities: The Villa functions as an important resource for Universities teaching archaeology, conservation and heritage management. Since 2003, the property has hosted an annual fieldwork week for post-graduate conservation students from University College London Institute of Archaeology. In 2009 an academic Research and Publication Board was set up to advise Chedworth staff on research directions (See 10.12.3).

The aim of the development project is to increase formal education visits to 11,900. This is possible through improving facilities, learning spaces and resources for formal learning and making connections to other relevant curriculum subjects such as migration and the Victorians.



A 'living history' event at the villa

6.9.3 Significance for new audiences

Consultation that took place during 2008 and 2009 with a range of audiences has demonstrated significant potential to engage with particular new audience groups. Chedworth is in a better position than many heritage sites to reach new audiences as most people have some prior knowledge of and interest in the Romans as a result of media or school.

The consultation focussed on audiences from the local urban centres of Swindon, Gloucester and Cheltenham from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. It found that the largest barriers to engagement across the groups were a lack of awareness of the site, the National Trust and transport. Following the consultation new audiences were prioritised and the top three groups were: older people (facing particular issues of age and income), the culturally diverse community of economic migrants and families from disadvantaged urban areas. The proposals to enable us to reach these groups include targeted marketing, supported visits and activities such as mosaic making, community co-production projects so that people can feed into the

permanent presentation of Chedworth and training for NT staff in working with diverse groups.

6.10 SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL TRUST OWNERSHIP (A – Highly Significant)

6.10.1 Significance within the National Trust

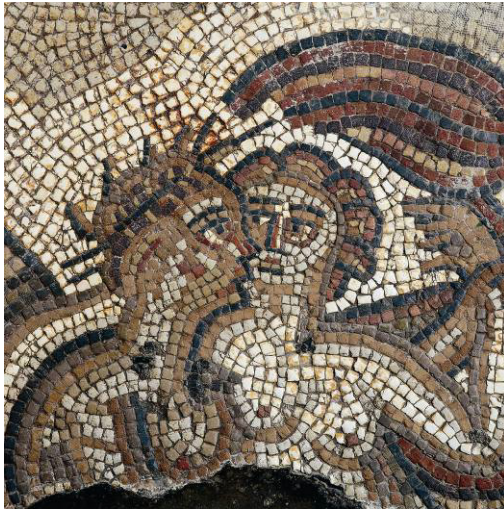
Chedworth was acquired for the National Trust in 1924 when the Stowell Park Estate came up for sale. W St Clair Baddeley, archaeologist, scholar and traveller, who had done some excavation at the villa and at the nearby temple site, led a campaign, through the offices of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. This raised £2,500 to purchase and acquire the site for the National Trust, an act of great generosity, expecting and requiring the Trust's long-term responsible curatorship to continue to preserve the site and enable public access for the future.

To date it has continued to uphold this responsibility and this is a very significant part of Chedworth's history of access and conservation. Ownership by the National Trust has enabled the site to be open to and enjoyed by the public and has continued to improve interpretation, presentation and conservation at the site.

Chedworth is unique as the only Roman period domestic site wholly owned and presented by the National Trust. It is valued for its mixture of Roman-period remains and the survival of the 19th-century elements of its presentation. It is recognised within the Trust as a site of international importance.

Chedworth is one of the 70 major properties open at a charge, which have more than 50,000 visitors per annum. It is an important site for membership recruitment within the region. In education terms, it is one of the most important educational sites in the Region and nationally. It is a major visitor attraction, recruitment point, and education resource. Ownership by the National Trust implies that as well as the conservation of the site, aesthetic aspects of the ambience and presentation will be given due weight in any planned changes to the site. The National Trust is able to draw upon a very wide circle of expertise both within and outside the organisation in order to inform its management of the property (see Public Benefit Plan for further information).

The presence of a resident National Trust staff member is the greatest single contribution to the day-to-day security of the site.



A selection of mosaic details from across the site



Possible reconstruction of the villa complex

7 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 STATEMENT OF OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE

Chedworth Roman Villa is of outstanding significance as a Late Roman villa of acknowledged international and national value. It is set in a landscape of considerable national significance, within the Cotswold AONB and in a setting of great aesthetic value. Its discovery, exploration and early conservation from the 1860s are of considerable national importance as significant events in the development of archaeological, conservation and museum practice. It has also been the subject of study by a number of eminent archaeologists throughout the 20th-century. These values are supported by its extensive and nationally important artefact collection. Its archive is extensive, but has significant gaps, particularly of the earlier phases of its discovery and excavation well into the 20th-century. The site is also of national importance for its ecology, particularly its rare bats.

7.2 ROMAN CHEDWORTH

The Roman villa is one of the defining elements of the Roman period in Britain. Chedworth Roman Villa is acknowledged to be one of the best known and representative of the very large country houses of the Late Roman period. Its importance is enhanced by its accessibility to the public. Its national importance is also acknowledged in its designation and protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Chedworth was discovered in 1864 and excavated by James Farrer, a keen antiquary and uncle of the landowner, the young Lord Eldon. Two ranges of rooms, on the north and south sides, were uncovered along with part of a third, southern, range. The quality of survival was extraordinary and, in addition to the high quality mosaics, a number of other highly significant features were uncovered. These included the water shrine or nymphaeum with its octagonal pool and running spring, two bathhouses and two dining suites, one with exceptional views down the valley to the east. The range of *hypocaust* styles provides further remarkable evidence for the high quality status of the villa, as do the traces of richly coloured wall plaster and numerous artefacts indicative of the way of life of the period.

The mosaics at Chedworth are the second largest Late Roman group known in Britain, second only to those from the villa at Woodchester, also in Gloucestershire, but which are not accessible to the public. Chedworth's mosaics, of which there are parts of 14 separate floors, are works of the Corinian School of mosaicists from the nearby Roman city of Corinium, modern Cirencester. Although only five are currently on display, others have been explored and reburied and could be opened up given suitable protective cover. The designs are exquisite and include many with fine coloured geometric motifs. The mosaic in the west wing dining room is the biggest at Chedworth and contains both geometric patterns and figurative pictures, including the well-known depictions of the Seasons.

Amongst the extensive collection of artefacts discovered during the excavations, the collection of architectural and sculptural stonework, structural and decorative, is the largest from any known villa site in the UK. Both the architectural fragments and the other collections enable much of the way of life in the villa to be understood and illustrated.

Through them we can learn much about technology, diet, social structure, religion, trade, leisure activities, dress, cooking and craft activities. Inevitably though, the majority of the objects are ubiquitous and indicative of every day life, as these were ones that would have been broken or lost. Unsurprisingly, as at other villa sites, very few high status objects have been found.

7.3 THE VICTORIANS AT CHEDWORTH

The Victorian period activities at Chedworth are highly significant, most importantly because of the antiquarian skills and enthusiasm for exploration and investigation that revealed so much of the villa in 1864. James Farrar and his nephew Lord Eldon's appreciation of the importance of their discovery was reported widely at the time and led to their extensive and careful work to protect and present the remains. A house, or Shooting Lodge was built on the site and they created a landscaped garden in and around the ruins with open lawns and some exotic tree planting. They built up many of the Roman walls to approximately a metre in height to enable the layout of the site to be appreciated, understood and enjoyed. They also decorated many of the wall cappings with Roman roof tiles, as protective cappings for the underlying masonry.

Initially, two well-built, framed wooden shelter buildings were erected over the dining room and bathhouse in the west range to protect them. Other parts of the site were reburied to prevent deterioration. Some twenty years later another wooden shelter building was erected over the north range bathhouse.

The Shooting Lodge, with its integral Museum, is now one of the most distinctive features and the focus within the precinct of the villa. It is an attractive half-timbered building, which still imbues the site with a strong sense of the age of Victorian discovery. It was built on a terrace, landscaped to a large degree from the spoil of the Victorian excavations, and right in the centre of the original axial approach to the villa itself. Many visitors appreciate the Victorian overlay on the site, and it is here at the Shooting Lodge where the two predominant phases of history of the villa, the Roman and Victorian, come together and here too that orientation of the visitor could best be undertaken.

7.4 CHEDWORTH AND THE NATIONAL TRUST

Chedworth was acquired for the National Trust in 1924 when the Stowell Park Estate came up for sale. W St Clair Baddeley, archaeologist, scholar and traveller, who had done some excavation at the villa and at the nearby temple site, led a campaign, through the offices of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. This raised £2,500 to purchase and acquire the property for the National Trust, an act of great generosity, expecting and requiring the Trust's long-term responsible curatorship to continue to preserve the site and enable public access and security in the future.

The National Trust's unique ability to undertake this responsibility of care in perpetuity is a very significant part of Chedworth's history of access and conservation. Ownership by the National Trust has enabled the site to be open to and enjoyed by the public and will continue to do so. Interpretation, presentation and conservation at the site have also continued to improve and are at the heart of the Trust's plans for the future.

Under the Trust's management, the Shooting Lodge has also retained its role as the home of the caretaker. One significant character, who lived here for many years, was Norman Irvine. Brought up on the site as a boy, he was caretaker from 1930 to 1977. He created a substantial written and photographic record and archive of the site. It captures the peace and tranquillity of both the garden setting of the villa and its landscape and the presence of a great monument with its requirement for archaeological research and conservation, a curious ambivalence that so characterises Chedworth.

The Victorian Museum, part of the Shooting Lodge, is a real manifestation of this atmosphere. It was one of the earliest purpose-built site museums in Britain and captures the fascination of the period to collect and display antiquarian objects. It is all the more important, perhaps, in that to the Victorians it demonstrated the long continuity of the use of the site and the solidity of their own contemporary society that still retained the use of the place as a private, but beneficent estate. The museum currently has some of its original display cases, much modified, and a now faded and dull feeling of Victorian museology that concentrated on objects and did little to interpret the site itself. This is something that is no longer attractive to many visitors and is urgently in need of refreshing. Yet it has the potential to serve as a new and exciting museum, a focus for interpretation on the villa's Roman opulence and Victorian discovery, whilst reflecting and respecting its original character.

Since its discovery in 1864, Chedworth has been interpreted and presented to the public. Presentation has always been well informed, but gentle and low key. Ongoing archaeological research, particularly the work of the great Roman scholar, Sir Ian Richmond in the late 1950s and 1960s, added greatly to our understanding of the site. Subsequent excavations since the 1970s have continued to enhance this understanding. Publication of recent archaeological research would add further to the villa's significance and would meet the Trust's professional responsibilities to disseminate academic data. Although archaeological research throughout the 20th-century has added considerably to our understanding of the villa, its potential for further archaeological research is both substantial and significant. New research agenda will need to be developed in the context of wider Late Roman research agenda and, if realised, will undoubtedly add considerably to the site's significance.

The growing understanding of the site and awareness of the needs of its many visitors, has undoubtedly led to improved presentation at Chedworth over the last quarter of the 20th-century. A new visitor centre was built in 1978 and has subsequently been modified to satisfy the need for ongoing improvements in the interpretation. Large numbers of

school children have learnt about Roman life at Chedworth and their enjoyment enhanced in recent years by their involvement and participation in the costumed interpretation that has become a significant feature of many visits. Here they can see and enjoy beautiful mosaics in their original rooms; a very different experience from seeing them lifted and shown out of context as works of art on the walls of a museum. The opportunities to tell more about Late Roman life and the end of Roman Britain are very significant if still largely unfulfilled. Indeed, the opportunities are probably unique, as no other villa site in Britain normally open to the public does this adequately and – to be realistic – there is little prospect of it being done at any of those sites in the foreseeable future. The opportunities that might be seized could include the development of specialist loan exhibitions that would provide exciting opportunities to extend and enhance the interpretation of the villa and provide greater enjoyment for the many visitors. Chedworth is amongst the most visited properties by school groups within the National Trust and in 2005 Chedworth received a Sandford Award for Heritage Education from the Heritage Education Trust.

The wider, international, significance of Chedworth has also been clearly recognised, not least by the Council of Europe's expert panel in its Technical Assistance visit in 1994. This visit emphasised the importance of the site both for its high quality Late Roman archaeology and for its public access. Delegates emphasised the need for new research and an enhanced conservation programme. They also raised the question of the need to improve the conservation of the existing site shelters to meet the higher standards required for such important remains at the end of the 20th century. The conservation needs of the site themselves offer important opportunities for learning and since 2003 the villa has been used for summer fieldwork for conservation students from University College London's Institute of Archaeology, a programme of mutual benefit to the villa and the Institute.

Chedworth is also significant for its ecology, particularly for the many protected species of bat that roost and forage over the villa and the surrounding semi-natural woodland that fringe the site. It is acknowledged to be one of the most important bat sites in Gloucestershire. The Victorian lawns and the villa walls have changed as the trees have matured and as repairs have modified the character of the walls. But, both lawns and walls still retain a relatively rich ground flora, as does the surrounding woodland.

The setting of Chedworth in its east-facing, enclosed combe looking down into the beautiful valley of the River Coln helps to evoke a strong feeling of the past. Although there are probably more trees now than there were in the Late Roman period, the intimacy of the landform and proximity to the river are largely unchanged. It is easy to understand why the site was chosen for the villa. It is also easy to appreciate why the area attracted a number of other important, associated structures: a temple to the east, now in the woods above the river but possibly originally visible from the villa; and its Nymphaeum. A village or smaller, perhaps secondary, villa was located on the opposing slope across the Coln, minor shrines or mausolea lay nearby, and further villas were present in the wider landscape. It was already a landscape of antiquity when the villa was built, and it still retains that important feeling of long continuity, of time depth.

The sense of antiquity, or ancientness, is not the only value ascribed to the site by its visitors. Many enjoy the beauty, mystery and tranquillity of the place, the opportunity to explore and discover the Roman ruins. It is for many a place of memory and reflection as well as activity and learning.

This change in the growth and maturity of the site since its Victorian layout is also significant. Together with our developing conservation skills and the different needs of our visitors, it has caused us to reconsider our responsibilities for a sustainable future for Chedworth that respect the antiquarian character of the late-19th and early 20th-century presentation of Chedworth whilst at the same time enabling the growing conservation requirements of the site and its 21st-century visitors. Future development must be in harmony with the place and its patina of Victorian use and enjoyment, but must be designed to meet our changing responsibilities. Most importantly it must enable us to preserve the Roman fabric and allow our visitors to continue experience the many values that make Chedworth such a special place.



Mosaic detail



'For a hundred years the villa has been maintained in a half-sleeping state'

8 CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA - SPIRIT OF PLACE (2007)

Introduction

The National Trust sets great store by the Spirit of Place – the intangible significance of a property that rarely finds its way into a guidebook. An increasing number of properties are including Spirit of Place documents with their Conservation Plans in an effort to identify and protect what is probably the most fragile asset they possess – the fundamental character that shades visitor experience at an emotional and subliminal level. Once this quality is defined it provides a basis on which decisions can be evaluated and encourages a sensitive approach when considering any work that is likely to affect the appearance of a property.

Spirit of Place

Chedworth Roman Villa lies today a ruin in the Coln Valley. It rests cradled in the hillside, elevated but sheltered, in countryside of acknowledged beauty and with views of the valley sweeping out below. The site demonstrates the villa's strongest physical connection with the past – there is still the sense of a well-chosen spot, selected, special and even sacred. An aura of privilege lingers over the ruins – their geometry, complexity and sophistication all combine to tell a story of wealth and elegance.

The walls have all but gone but the sense of a rural domestic idyll remains. This is reinforced by the existence of visible 'rooms' around the site, in some cases with aspects of their colourful interior decoration virtually intact on the floors. Although Chedworth was a large villa, the scale of the exposed areas is intimate and the functions of the different rooms not so very different from those of a modern home. Thus Chedworth Roman Villa constitutes a powerful genetic link between people of the present day and people who lived 1,700 years ago.

The small Victorian house on the site, originally a hunting or Shooting Lodge for Lord Eldon and later a home for the custodian who cared for the site, rises out of the ruins like a symbol of regeneration. The 'E' for Eldon which was picked out in tiles on the floor of the museum echoes the ebullient spirit of earlier days when the site was discovered. Elsewhere, modern rules of archaeology are largely out of sight; the excavated walls are 'neatened' and the Victorian use of Roman roof tiles as capping stones survives in places. Still serving today as covers for the precious floors are sheds from the same period – an early example of public responsibility for their long-term care. The Victorian chapter is now accepted as an integral part of the villa's story: from it stems its entire modern history, from its first excavation, to the establishment of its little museum, and finally to its ownership by the National Trust and its access by millions of visitors. Chedworth is an extremely important piece of Romano-British history – it is also a rare relic of the pioneering days of Victorian archaeology and the attitudes and philosophies that went with it.

Thus the site exhibits two distinct personalities that are at once symbiotic and diverse. Much of the charm of the site lies in this eccentric and challenging partnership, in which some elements have fused together and some stand apart. The Victorian features are prominent reminders that the site is not 'as found', that the modern world has intruded - and, in later years, retreated. For a hundred years the villa has been maintained in a half-sleeping state, with some stones out of place and wild plants growing among the ruins. Its treatment has been light, its presentation unpretentious.

There is an air of informality, intimacy and easy-accessibility. This is reinforced by the openness of the site and by the fact that the slight presence of barriers enables visitors to explore at will. The absence of any elaborate 20th- or 21st-century attempt to embellish or alter the ruins themselves simplifies what could be a more complicated experience and serves to emphasise the fact that the Victorian remains are now themselves part of the villa's archaeology.

In summary, Chedworth Roman Villa remains in some ways what it was from its inception – a site for display, enjoyment and curiosity. For many years it lay hidden in the earth and still retains a sense of being enfolded by nature and of being an integral part of the landscape from which it sprang. From the nineteenth century it acquired a didactic purpose and has retained it ever since, but never without jeopardising the easy-going nature of a visit to the site. In the National Trust's care intervention has been minimal, leaving the Victorian phase the last to brush the site with its distinctive character.



Several of the columns that once supported the portico have survived

9 ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The National Trust has managed Chedworth Roman Villa since 1924. The management of the Villa has evolved gradually, all the time respecting and acknowledging the subtle and complex character of the site, derived from the Victorian landscaping, conservation and presentation of the very important Roman villa. However, our understanding of the importance has grown with new research and the site's conservation requirements have grown concomitantly. At the same time the original Victorian infrastructure has deteriorated to the extent that it is increasingly less able to provide the appropriate conditions for the levels of conservation that are recognised as necessary today. Nor do they provide the ideal framework for the presentation and interpretation of such a complex, fascinating and beautiful place for many of today's visitors.

In order to understand and address these issues, the Trust has undertaken a broad range of studies, into the fabric of the villa and the needs of its visitors. The Conservation Management Plan is part of this process and examines what is particularly significant about the site, identifies the issues that affect its significance and provide policies and conservation objectives that will help the Trust to respond to these concerns. The Trust is committed to improving the care and conservation of the site at the same time as renewing and refreshing its presentation and interpretation to the public, for which a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is vital. Proposals to develop the site are essential in the achievement of these aims.

9.2 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

9.2.1 National Policy

Chedworth's importance as a National Monument is reflected in its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The statutory policy framework with respect to the archaeology is set out in various Planning Policy documents, in particular:

PPG 15: Planning and the Historic Environment 1994

PPG16: Archaeology and Planning - Government guidance on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and archaeological areas and remains. 1990

PPGs 15 and 16 are currently being replaced by a new PPS 15 Planning for the Historic Environment. This is out for consultation at the time of writing (September 2009) and it is likely to replace the existing PPGs in early 2010.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation August 2005

9.2.2 Local Policy

This is supported at Local level by the conservation and planning policies of the Local Authority, Cotswold District Council.

The Cotswold District Local Plan 2001-2011 (Adopted April 2006), Section 2. The Cotswold Environment has relevant conservation policies relating to the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

(Policy 7), Biodiversity, Geology and Geomorphology (Policy 9), and Sites of Archaeological Interest (Policy 12).

Policy 7: Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1. *In the consideration of proposals for development of land within or affecting the Cotswolds AONB ... the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape will be given priority over other considerations.*
2. *In the consideration of proposals within the AONB, regard will be had to the economic and social well-being of the area and its communities.*
3. *Major development will not be permitted in the AONB unless:*
 - a) *it is in the public interest including in terms of any national considerations and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, on the local economy; and*
 - b) *the lack of alternative sites outside the AONB and of means of meeting the need in some other way justifies an exception being made.*

Policy 9: Biodiversity, Geology and Geomorphology

Local sites:

5. *Development that would have an adverse effect on a Local Nature Reserve, a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation or a Regionally Important Geological /Geomorphological Site, will not be permitted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal which outweigh the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation value of the site.*
6. *Where development is permitted, the authority will consider the use of conditions and / or planning obligations to provide appropriate mitigation and compensatory measures.*

Species protection

- 7 *The Council will not permit development that harms, either directly or indirectly, a site supporting any legally protected species or its habitat unless safeguarding measures can be provided through conditions or planning obligations to secure its protection.*
- 8 *Where development is permitted, the Council will require the retention and management of any significant species, habitats and features, or geological sites, whether or not specifically designated as of nature conservation interest. Opportunities should be taken, where possible, to enhance, or create, habitats and populations of species identified as priorities in National, Regional and Local Biodiversity Action Plans especially where wildlife corridors can be created.*

Policy 12: Sites of Archaeological Interest

1. *Development will not be permitted where it would involve significant alteration or cause damage to, nationally important archaeological remains (whether scheduled or not), or which would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains.*
2. *Development that affects other remains of archaeological interest will only be permitted where the importance of the development is sufficient to outweigh the local value of the remains.*
3. *In archaeologically sensitive areas, applicants may be required to commission an archaeological assessment (and / or a field evaluation*

as appropriate) to establish the archaeological implications of the proposed development before the Council determines the application. The results of that assessment / evaluation shall be submitted with the application, together with an indication of how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological remains will be mitigated.

4. Where proposed development would harm significant archaeological remains, applicants should seek to minimise this impact by design solutions allowing the preservation in situ of the archaeological remains. The recording of archaeological remains harmed by development will be secured by planning conditions or legal agreements, and will comprise archaeological excavation or other programmes of investigation as appropriate, followed by the preparation and publication of a report.

5. Opportunities will be sought for the management and presentation of archaeological sites for educational, recreational and tourism purposes.

9.3 NATIONAL TRUST LEGAL DUTIES AND RELEVANT POLICIES

9.3.1 Statutory Obligations

The National Trust's own statutory obligations are set out in the National Trust Act of 1907:

- *The promotion of the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands, tenements (including buildings) of beauty and historic interest.*

This is augmented by the National Trust Act of 1937, which enshrined the promotion of:

- *The preservation of buildings of national interest or architectural beauty or artistic interest and places of natural interest or beauty and the protection and augmentation of the amenities of such buildings and places and their surroundings;*
- *The access to and enjoyment of such buildings, places and chattels by the public.*

9.3.2 Internal Trust guidance

These legal duties are supplemented by the Trust's own guidance. Relevant internal guidance includes:

- Historic Buildings: the conservation of their fixtures, fittings, decoration and contents (1996);
- Curatorship (2000);
- Archaeology and The National Trust (2003);
- Nature and the National Trust (2005)

9.3.3 National Trust Conservation Principles (2008)

Principle 1: Significance

We will ensure that all decisions are informed by an appropriate level of understanding of the significance and 'Spirit of Place' of each of our properties, and why we and others value them.

Principle 2: Integration

We will take an integrated approach to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, reconciling the full spectrum of interests involved.

Principle 3: Change

We will anticipate and work with change that affects our conservation interests, embracing, accommodating or adapting where appropriate, and mitigating, preventing or opposing where there is a potential adverse impact.

Principle 4: Access and Engagement

We will conserve natural and cultural heritage to enable sustainable access for the benefit of society, gaining the support of the widest range of people by promoting understanding, enjoyment and participation in our work.

Principle 5: Skills and Partnership

We will develop our skills and experience in partnership with others to promote and improve the conservation of natural and cultural heritage now and for the future.

Principle 6: Accountability

We will be transparent and accountable by recording our decisions and sharing knowledge to enable the best conservation decisions to be taken both today and by future generations.

9.4 GENERAL ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**9.4.1 Relationships with Neighbouring Landowners**

All public roads to the property run through the Stowell Park Estate owned by the Vestey family. This estate owns the land on three sides of the villa. A large proportion of the contemporary landscape of the 4th-century villa lies within Vestey land, including the rest of the villa itself. Additional parking is leased from the estate. The other two neighbouring landowners, Manor Farm Chedworth, and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, own access routes by foot.

The management of Chedworth is dependent to a great extent on the goodwill of its neighbours, particularly regarding the future development of the site and the development of a wider understanding of the archaeology of the surrounding landscape.

9.4.2 Issues Relating to Access and Visitor Impact

The physical impact of visitors on the historic fabric manifests itself in the following ways:

- Limited damage to stonework
- Fairly frequent damage to modern protective wall-cappings
- Limited wear on grassed areas
- pressure on buried mosaics, e.g. under tarmac in corridors
- pressure on mosaic by door in west bath-house

Visitors have a major impact on traffic levels in the surrounding area. On very busy days there is inadequate parking, with cars parked on the Stowell Park Estate. The Estate management also report quantities of litter arising from visitors who picnic in the surrounding countryside. The roads are inadequate for additional traffic at peak times, and coaches can only approach from the direction of Fossebridge.

9.4.3 Decline in Visitor Numbers

Chedworth Roman Villa has been visited and enjoyed by more than three million visitors since first opening to the public in 1924 when they had to queue at the Shooting Lodge window to gain entrance. Since 1965 visitor numbers have averaged 65,000 per annum already making Chedworth one of the most visited Roman sites in the country and one of the most popular attractions in Gloucestershire. The last decade has seen a gradual decline in visitor numbers down to just over 50,000 in 2008, thought to be a result of several factors largely related to wider patterns of tourism, lack of facilities at the site and failure of the visitor offer to meet modern expectations.

In order to address and reverse the failing visitor experience and subsequent fall in visitor numbers, the Activity Plan has been produced and incorporates all prior work on audience development, learning, training and access.

A range of visitor surveys has been carried out over recent years including standard questionnaires, and face-to-face interviews. Most recently (2005), interviews have taken place as part of data gathering for an Audience Development Plan. The surveys suggested that 57% of visitors spend 1.2 hours at the site, 29% spend 2-3 hours and 10% over 3 hours at the site. Comments from visitors endorse the policy of providing a variety of ways to access information on the villa, i.e. introductory audio-visual show, audio tour, guidebooks, simple site labels. One of the most frequent comments is the enjoyment of the property's ambience, its quiet beauty in its rural setting. The most common negative comments relate to the lack of visitor facilities such as a tearoom. The majority of visitors travel within a 50 mile radius to visit the villa (see Audience Development Plan).

9.4.4 Water Supply and Drainage

Visitors have a major impact on the property water supply and the foul drainage system. Potable water is supplied from a borehole and sewage is treated by a septic tank which serves both the lodge and the reception building. The water supply is limited and has to be carefully managed by staff. Attempts to locate a new borehole to augment the current supply have been unsuccessful. The septic tank is a domestic system and inadequate for current needs.

The Trust has recognised the need to manage the available water supply and to upgrade the foul drainage system. In the autumn of 2009 a new foul drainage system will be installed and effluent will discharge to a sewage treatment plant and soakaways located under the car park. This approach was agreed with EH and Gloucestershire County Council to avoid major physical intervention on the SAM. The system will incorporate a 50,000 litre rainwater harvesting tank which will collect water from the reception, education and west range cover buildings, and supply water to the WC cisterns in the reception building.

9.4.5 Energy Supply

There are incoming electricity supplies to the lodge and the reception building, and power services to the conservation shelters are via a daisy-chain arrangement between buildings. The installation of new ducting as part of the foul drainage and cover building projects will allow below ground connections between the reception, lodge and west range cover building. Some upgrading of the supply may be needed subject to

maximum demand calculations. Future consideration will be given to the development of a system of renewable energy generation on the site.

9.4.6 **Disaster Planning**

A Disaster Plan for the site will be developed by 2010 which will address the risks highlighted below.

Natural factors

- Fire - Disaster Planning;
- Impact of adverse weather conditions including flooding and rising water table;

Human factors

- Theft – potential for theft of mosaics or portions of mosaics; and of museum collections and architectural stonework on site and in the Museum;
- Vandalism –Security planning

9.5 **ARCHIVE AND RESEARCH ISSUES**

9.5.1 **Recording during Development**

Chedworth has been the subject of a number of significant excavations since its discovery and excavation in 1867. These are listed in Appendix One together with details of their publication and archive deposition.

- 9.5.2 The Trust recognises that Chedworth has a history of uncompleted archaeological investigations which is not consistent with the Trust's reputation or its responsibilities towards an archaeological site of the villa's importance. Firm action is now being taken to remedy this, including bringing together the extensive record of work at the villa since its initial discovery, and a report on the present state of play in the understanding of the site which indicates where publication is required. It is fully intended that the archive will be completed and made accessible, and that any future work on site will include proper provision for archaeological recording and the publication of reports promptly at an appropriate level.

9.5.3 **Documentary Research**

The National Trust archive files for Chedworth have been examined. These date from the acquisition of the property in 1924 to the present. The files contain correspondence in which presentation and conservation issues are discussed. The files include architectural and building surveys relating to the condition and treatment of the buildings. They also include some interim reports on archaeological research with references to other surveys. Further information on archaeological work has been found as notes in the various guide book editions and within the correspondence. The correspondence provides an insight into the attitudes and personalities of those involved in caring for Chedworth over the last 85 years. Further research is required to discover files relating to the management of Chedworth Roman villa from 1864-1923 when it was owned by Lord Eldon and his descendents. Another line of enquiry is planned to try to locate the papers of James Farrer, the original excavator. The various visits to the site by antiquarian societies and individuals during the 19th century are also being examined for further information on the early management of the site.

9.5.4 Oral History Research

To supplement the material contained within the archive, a structured programme of research drawing upon people's recollections of the site is also being implemented. Former employees, and visitors, will be asked to share their knowledge, and experience, of the site. A partnership with the University of Gloucestershire is being developed, so that students can gather these memories in a structured way, and add them to the archive for use in future interpretation of the villa.

9.5.5 Identified Gaps in Current Knowledge

Knowledge gaps identified in 2001:

- Archive of all previous site notes and records not completed, especially Richmond, Goodburn
- Full extent of archaeological remains unknown
- Full catalogue of museum collection not completed
- Condition survey of exposed mosaics not yet completed
- Drawing/photographic survey of wall fabric not undertaken

Steps taken since 2001:

- A comprehensive and fully catalogued archive of excavations has been created and is accessible
- Negotiations are underway for the return of Goodburn and Shoemith archives
- Archaeological remains better understood through excavation
- A publication programme is now in place
- Survey of upstanding masonry completed (Cotswold Archaeology 2005)
- More condition survey work undertaken (Ahmon 2005), (Oldenbourg 2009)
- Work progresses on the cataloguing of the archaeological artefacts in the museum and from recent excavations
- An academic Research and Publication Board has been established (2009)
- Rate of deterioration of exposed fabric is now being documented
- A Landscape Plan has been written (Teasdale 2005) and a Landscape Vision has been drafted (Capadose 2008)

9.6 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

9.6.1 Climatic Influences, Hydrogeology, Biological Agents

The most pervasive decay mechanism operating is the mechanical effects of weathering on the exposed stonework. Freeze/thaw cycles are particularly notable, as the site is very sheltered in winter, and acts as a frost pocket. The mechanical effects of rainfall are largely confined to bringing more soil downslope towards the villa remains from the surrounding valley slopes.

The underlying water regime has positive and negative effects. While the soil is free draining, the presence of the spring introduces a constant

source of water into the whole built structure and the buried archaeology. Capillary salt movement is prevalent, with efflorescence affecting mosaics, plaster and ceramic tile surfaces. However, the remains in general do not undergo very large cycles of wetting and drying.

Teasdale in the Landscape Survey (Teasdale 2006) describes the geological results of the two major hydrogeological surveys (See above Section 3.3). She states that 'It is tempting to infer that the villa site in general may be located above an impervious clay layer. However, it is equally possible that the upper layers of the underlying strata, including any clay layer, could have been disturbed when the Romans created terraces for the villa'.

'In their 1999 report, Hunting Technical Surveys suggest that the existing French drain outside the south-west corner of the villa may have gone some way towards intercepting water held in the adjacent bank, which would otherwise reach the villa ruin, but that its length is much too short to serve the overall need.' (Teasdale 2006 and Hunting Surveys 1999).

Teasdale concludes that: 'All these points may offer clues to the cause of the problems of capillary and frost damage which is occurring in some parts of the ruins. Water appears to seep through the Oolitic limestone but becomes trapped above lenses or layers of impermeable clay. It then emerges as springs and/or rising damp through structures on the site' (Teasdale 2006).

Bioturbation is the other major decay mechanism in action. Macro effects are noticeable from rabbit and mole activity: for example, in July 2000, a rabbit tunnel undermined part of the floor in the West bathhouse, and required £2000+ worth of conservation repairs. There are also other smaller rodents and slowworms living on the site. Bats contribute to decay by depositing urine and faeces on some surfaces. There is also evidence of birds inside some of the protective shelters. The soil at Chedworth is quite active in terms of invertebrates. Some attritive bacterial/fungal activity has been recorded, particularly in the north bathhouse *hypocaust*.

The soil chemistry is alkaline, and has decaying effects on certain elements of the archaeological record. Pollen and other plant remains do not survive well, but the mineral fraction of bone is very well preserved. In general, pottery and copper alloy objects are preserved in good condition, and iron objects also survive reasonably well.

The potential effects of climatic changes on the site are difficult to assess. As examples, warmer winters would reduce the threat from frost, whereas higher rainfall would not be beneficial, as it would increase soil erosion onto the site. Increased ground water would alter the rate of capillary movement through the fabric of the villa, and could worsen the salt efflorescence problems. Changes to the acidic content of rainfall could have a deleterious effect on the exposed limestone fabric. The main climate change risk is extremes of hot:cold, wet:dry – which is the most likely situation – so that ground moisture and air relative humidity swing between extremes and cause stress to both underground and above ground structures. Wind damage might also be a risk to buildings and also to trees, with structural damage and uprooting impacts.

Increases in rabbit, mole and small rodent populations could increase the level of damage caused by these fauna. Climate changes could affect levels of algal, fungal and other microbial activity. Changes in rainfall acidity could alter the pH balance of the soil, and the level of soluble salts in solution.

The effects of the external environment on the monument can only be mitigated through protective measures such as wall-cappings, drainage, construction of shelters, pest control, etc. These measures will all have an impact on the appearance of the site, and will cost money to implement and maintain.

9.6.2 **Land-Use and Nature Conservation Issues on Site and in the Surrounding Area**

On three sides of the property (north, south and west) the land is covered with semi-natural woodland. This is part of the forestry operations of the Stowell Park and Manor Farm Chedworth estates, apart from the small area of woodland immediately to the west of the site, owned by the NT. All of the upslope areas around the villa are wooded. The trees serve to mitigate the amount of surface water running down the slopes onto the site, so have an important function in limiting soil erosion. The woods also act as a habitat for deer and rabbits and other woodland creatures. The small fringe area between the woodland edge and the site is a very rich habitat for moths and butterflies, the main source of food for the bat population. These habitats will need to be closely monitored throughout any development programme, or in terms of any future changes to the tree and landscape management around the site. Any such changes should look to improving and enhancing habitats around the site.

Any development project to improve the conservation of the fabric and the interpretation of the Villa may impact on the habitats and ecology of the site. This is of particular concern with bats using the Victorian Shelter buildings for roosts. Specialist advice will need to be sought, and provision made in any new or modified design to continue to accommodate bats within the structures.

Within the area of the Villa itself, there are areas of sensitivity and interest for their biodiversity. In particular, the presence of wild flowers and associated species of fauna growing on the walls and on the grass around the site add greatly to the quality and diversity of the property. These areas too will need monitoring and their value must be accommodated in any conservation and landscaping works.

The open field to the east, which runs down to the river Coln is kept to grass, and used solely for grazing sheep. It has not been ploughed for the last 10+ years. The effluent from the Villa's septic tank unfortunately drains into this field and is a risk to visitors and livestock. This field is the most vulnerable to land-use change, particularly ploughing, as it contains elements of the villa remains.



Conservation of the Triclinium mosaic

9.7 CURRENT STATE OF CONSERVATION

9.7.1 Current Active Conservation Factors

The factors operating with most effect on the conservation state of the villa can be summarised as follows:

9.7.2 The Environment within the Site Shelters

There has been exhaustive monitoring of the shelters over the last two decades to assess their environmental performance. (Ahmon, 2005). The design of the enclosures and shelters varies in their properties of insulation, ventilation, and artificial heating. All the shelters have had varying treatments and additions over the years, increasing the range of variability between them.



Microbiological growth in the North bath-house

9.7.3 Current Conservation State and the role of the shelter buildings

The shelters vary in their nature, from enclosed, heated, and insulated, as in the *triclinium*, to the simple rain cover of the marquee over room 26. There are a number of problems associated with the current shelters, presented here in summary:

- Soil moisture
- Limited control over internal environment, particularly relative humidity (RH)
- High RH leads to microbiological growth and salt efflorescence
- Limited access, both for cleaning/maintenance and for visitors
- Frost damage to stonework where shelters are not enclosed/heated
- Existing shelters permit animal access (bats, rabbits)

The performance of the different shelter buildings has been monitored since the 1990s, alongside other condition surveys. This has enabled the National Trust to draw conclusions about the performance of these structures. (Stewart, Julien & Staniforth, 2004; Stewart, 2008; Tringham and Stewart 2008; Bethel, 2008). In summary, the shelter building over the *triclinium* is able to provide the best level of protection, in particular when the control of the overhead infra-red bar heaters was changed to provide conservation heating (heating to create constant relative humidity rather than constant temperature). This prevented frost damage and provided relative humidity levels which limited microbial growth, whilst reducing rate of evaporation through the mosaics and movement of crystallisation of soluble salts. However, electricity usage was monitored during the conservation heating trials and it was extremely high because of the poor insulation of the existing building.

The Victorian cover buildings could, theoretically be upgraded to improve their thermal performance without huge difficulty by improving insulation levels and lining the buildings internally. However, the buildings have two functions to perform, the protection of the mosaics primarily, but also providing access to allow them to be seen. This is where the original shelters fail. In order to provide full access at a level from which the mosaics can be viewed the degree of structural adaptation that would be required would be so intrusive as to make the shelters unrecognisable.

The Trust has looked at ways of converting the existing shelter buildings, but they are unsuitable for a number of reasons:

- Poor environmental performance
- Footprint of Victorian shelters is only partial, and does not cover areas of important buried mosaics. Their levels and height do not allow extension to be made easily and particularly difficult would be the covering and access of the ambulatory (west corridor)
- Access to many part of the interior is limited, and the current structures do not allow walkways to be suspended to provide access to all areas.
- There is extremely limited scope for improved interpretation.

9.7.4 Soluble Salts

Jess Ahmon has carried out a survey of soluble salts in the building fabric (Ahmon, 2005). At Chedworth, soluble salts are mobilised by capillary moisture from the ground and undoubtedly also by surficial condensation, which occurs on all archaeological surfaces. Stabilisation of RH through control and of fluctuating moisture levels through

controlling drainage is required as damage is caused by repeated cycles of crystallisation and hydration.

9.7.5 Microbiological Growth

Microbiological growth has been studied within the enclosed shelter buildings, and lichen and algal growth forming thick mats at the wall bases, and sticky, glutinous black biofilms have been examined (Wakefield, 2000; Oldenbourg 2009). Although the effects are largely aesthetic, in some cases damage to porous and friable surfaces, such as ceramic tiles, wall painting and mortars, has occurred and there has been damage to painted plaster in the plunge baths.

9.7.6 Issues of Access for Conservation within the Shelters

Large areas of the mosaic substrate have extensive voiding, for example in Room 5, and stone slabs bridging the *hypocaust* channels are suspected of being fractured. Therefore, these cannot bear concentrated loading. As there is no perimeter or overhead access, walking on the mosaic is unavoidable, for example for routine cleaning. Access to overhead services (heating, lighting) is particularly difficult. Further structural survey is required. GB Geotechnics undertook a non-destructive survey of the Triclinium floor and *hypocaust* in 1994 using impulse radar (GB Geotechnics 1994).

At present the windows need to be opened in order to view the mosaic to advantage, but this introduces fluctuations in the interior relative humidity, as well as wind-borne particulate matter, which increases soiling of the mosaic.

9.7.7 Fauna –Problems Of Faunal Destruction

- Bats occasionally hunt in the rafters of the Cold Plunge Bath (Room 23) and cover the stone pavement with their urine and droppings, high in nitrites. This is in addition to soiling of the pavements by wind-borne matter.
- Birds enter the interior of the cover buildings and deposit faecal material.
- Insect activity is damaging to weakened, very porous materials such as wall plaster, through burrowing and surface abrasion.
- Rodent activity is manifest around the site in archaeologically sensitive areas, and has been known to occur indoors under the mosaics as well.
- Moles use the site every year, and have to be exterminated.
- All faecal material deposited by these creatures encourages microbiological growth.

9.7.8 Site Hydrology / Moisture

Site hydrology and moisture affects all *in situ* archaeological remains including exposed mosaics, walls, plaster and ceramics. The relationship of the mosaics to the ground and moisture from the ground is complex. Water may originate from the natural springs around the site, from dispersed rainwater, or from faulty drainage systems connected to roof gutters. Soil moisture is the single most important factor operating on the conservation state of the remains.

9.8 CURRENT CONDITION OF KEY AREAS OF THE VILLA FABRIC

9.8.1 University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology Annual Fieldwork and Monitoring

UCL Conservation students under the direction of Dean Sully (Lecturer in Conservation) have undertaken an annual programme of conservation fieldwork and environmental monitoring since 2003. The results of this work are available as unpublished notes and reports (See Appendix Two). This invaluable work has provided an excellent base record, enabling condition survey of the upstanding masonry to take place and has been helped by the completion of the Chedworth Fabric Survey report carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in 2005, (Cotswold Archaeology 2005, see Appendix Eight).

9.8.2 Buried Mosaics

The majority of buried mosaics have been investigated; some 25 m² of pavements were examined in the survey of spring 2000 (Buried Mosaic Survey, Cotswold Archaeology 2000, see Appendix Seven). A report was prepared on the condition of the buried mosaics (Stewart, 1997; Stewart, 2000). As with exposed mosaics, *tesserae* are generally sound. Although the designs of the pavements are largely intact, virtually all jointing and bedding mortar is extremely friable, resulting in a lack of adhesion of *tesserae*. In addition, localised buckling of the *tesselatum*, probably caused by frost, has left these areas highly vulnerable to disassociation from adjacent areas of design. There are local areas where the design of the mosaic has been completely lost, through detachment of *tesserae*. The buried mosaics are generally in a poorer conservation state than the housed ones, and are vulnerable to active decay mechanisms in the soil.

All the pavements excavated during the survey were subsequently reburied with a higher degree of protective cover, where feasible, to provide greater thermal insulation and inhibit burrowing by animals. They are regularly monitored to ensure that vegetation does not become established on the areas of buried mosaic. Elsewhere, beyond the areas sampled, the mosaics are under asphalt footpaths. Here it is believed that thermal insulation is insufficient. Holes appearing in the footpaths have also put the mosaics at risk to physical damage. The activity of invertebrates cannot be prevented in a burial regime. There is evidence of their movement through joints between *tesserae* which have no cohesive jointing mortar.

9.8.3 Exposed Mosaics

All of the mosaics have been recorded to some degree. The exposed mosaics have been photographed using photogrammetric techniques, and their conservation state recorded by a specialist conservator. Further condition-survey work on exposed mosaics has been carried out since 2003, as part of the fieldwork programme of UCL students.

The mosaics are one of the prime attractions of the villa, and the conservation of them is a key element in maintaining the standing and significance of the site. The housed mosaics are vulnerable to deterioration from several sources, via salt efflorescence, frost heave, animal burrowing/soiling, and so on.

The integrity of the mosaics as *in situ* 4th-century artworks is vulnerable to conservation intervention. Major intervention, such as lifting and re-laying, would compromise this integrity. The lifting of mosaics, as was

done in the past, would not happen now as it has resulted in loss of colour and quality.

Improvements in the environmental conditions provided by the cover buildings are essential for the long-term, sustainable curatorship of all exposed mosaics.

9.8.4 Masonry and Ceramic Building Materials

Cotswold oolitic limestone constitutes the primary building material of the site, including both Roman and subsequent Victorian interventions. This is generally a very robust material. However, ongoing decay is manifest in some stones as surfacial spalling or fracturing. In the latter case, this usually follows bedding planes of the stone. Both phenomena appear to be linked to frost activity. In Room 26 there is active and progressive spalling of the stone *pilae*. This is also probably due to frost, as freezing temperatures occur within the marquee in the winter. Soluble salts appear to exert little damage, but microbiological biofilms have been identified as causing stone decay in the *hypocaust* of Room 23 (Ahmon, 2005).

The upstanding masonry is protected primarily through the addition of stone or concrete tile cappings, and pointing with lime mortar. The purpose of this is to prevent rainwater ingress to the wall cores. These cappings are themselves the subject of cycles of decay and failure, mainly through frost damage. Plant growth and insect activity are active as decay agents in the pointing mortars across the site.

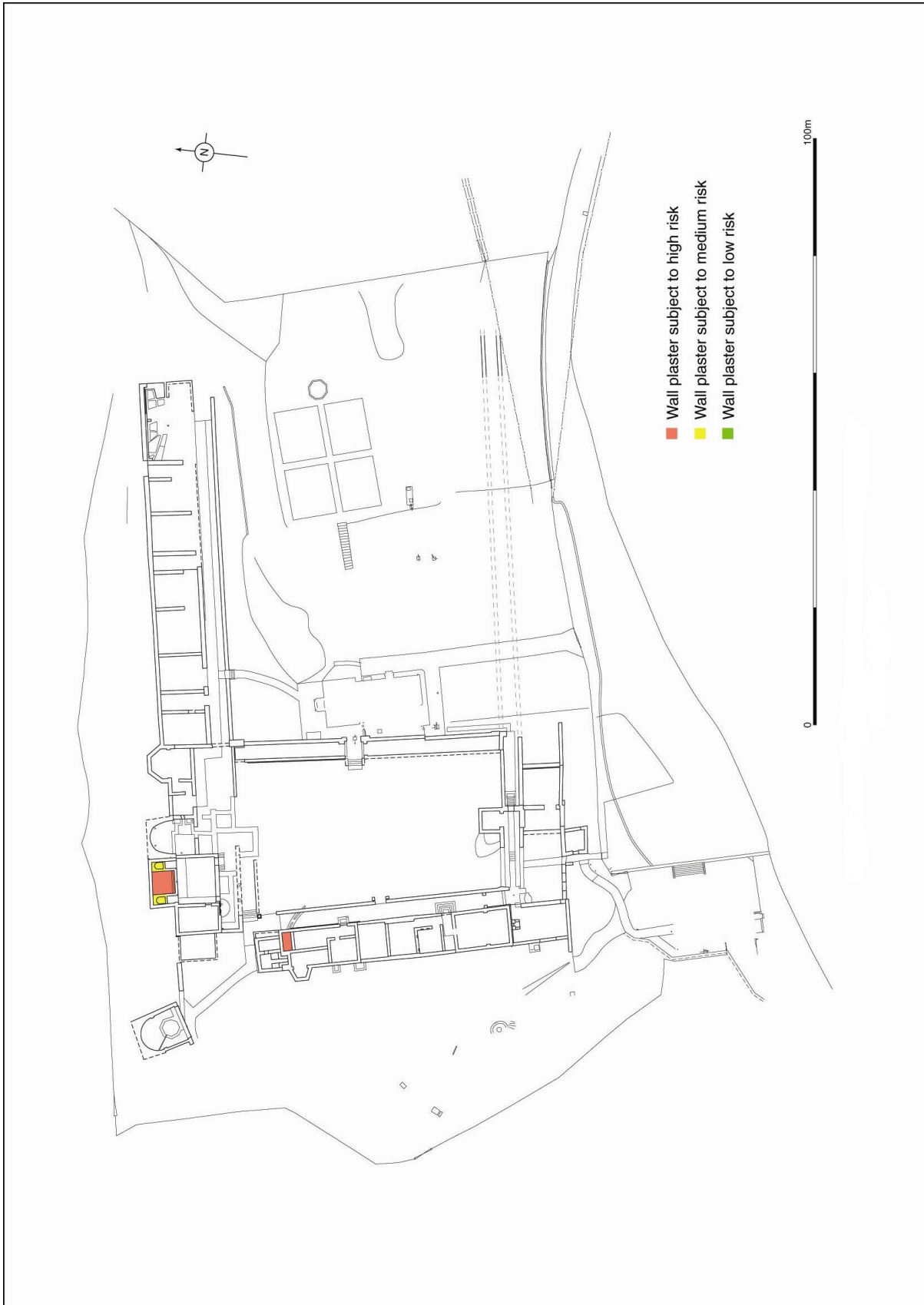
Ceramic flues are exposed *in situ* in the *Triclinium* and Western Bath suite. These evidence some loss of surface, which appears to be associated with soluble salts.



The hypocaust photographed in the early 20th century by Henry Taunt









Detailed recording of masonry in the West Wing

9.8.5 Wall Plaster

Substantial amounts of Roman wall plaster survive in the Cold Bath of Room 15 (Western Bath Suite) and the Cold Plunge Bath (Room 23) (Allardyce, 1990, Oldenbourg, 2009). This takes the form of *opus signinum*, or lime mortar with an aggregate of pulverised tile. Traces of wall painting (*faux marbre*) are visible in the former bath, beneath a surficial deposit of calcium carbonate. These materials manifest the most significant and progressive decay within the Roman structures, with loss of surface and cohesion of the plaster. This is undoubtedly due to the high levels of calcium sulphates that have been identified in the Cold Bath, and colonisation of the surface by lichen, fed by capillary moisture from the ground and condensation on the surface. The microbiological growth and salt crystallisation cycles are influenced by the introduction of soluble salts through water penetration through ground moisture and water runoff, as the baths are below ground level. Surface temperature and relative humidity monitoring suggests seasonal fluctuations as does the width of the band of salt damage. Plaster on the western bath suite is also damaged by frost action as the shelter is open sided. The treatment of the Cold Plunge Bath microbiological growth by irradiation and surface cleaning, enabling consolidation of surface flaking paint caused by efflorescence, has been undertaken. Although the sources of moisture will not themselves be controlled until a changed environment within the cover buildings can be achieved, emergency cleaning and consolidation will put the painting in the best physical condition to withstand the effects of change. It will also enable the preservation of material that will otherwise be lost and enable future maintenance treatment. Experience of cleaning microbiological growth coating early plaster elsewhere, such as at Lacock Abbey, suggests that cleaning and consolidation is effective in slowing down the rate of deterioration and irreversible loss of original material even where the underlying cause of deterioration is still active at a gradual rather than a catastrophic level.

9.8.6 General Fabric

The exposed stonework of the villa has now been fully surveyed (2005), so the full extent of modern (mainly 19th-century) rebuilding is known. It is clear that a high proportion of the wall faces have been rebuilt since excavation in the 1860s. They are protected by wall-cappings in various styles, and modern pointing mortars, but remain vulnerable to the weather and visitor damage. The conservation state of the wall cores is unknown. Deterioration in the exposed masonry of the villa would have a bad effect on the appearance of the site, and could pose a danger to the public.

There is a confusing range of capping treatments to the rebuilt walls across the site. This hinders interpretation of the site and needs to be resolved. Changes to the existing protection would affect the appearance of the site, but lack of intervention will jeopardise surviving Roman-period elements.

9.9 CONDITION OF THE BUILDINGS

QQ Surveys are undertaken of all the buildings on the site. The last QQ surveys were undertaken by Andrew Townsend Architects in 2005. These identified the following works.

9.9.1 Reception Building

The structural condition of the building is good, although there are some defects caused by poor design and detailing at the time of construction. Roof-lights were installed too close to the upstand of the valley gutter allowing moss and debris to collect behind the glazing; and the use of a weak mortar for stonework has led to some deterioration of mortar joints.

9.9.2 Lodge

The structural condition of the building is generally good, although there is evidence of ongoing decay to timberwork and panels at first floor level. The main roof slopes were recovered in 1986 but there are delaminated/defective/missing slates, valley gutters have been badly formed and the flashing to the chimney stack appears to be defective.

9.9.3 Museum

The museum is in reasonable structural condition but there is evidence of ongoing decay to timberwork and panels. The stone slate roof covering is in poor condition and is in urgent need of renewal.

9.9.4 West Range Cover Buildings

The Triclinium cover building is in generally good condition following recent renewal of the slate roof covering and provision of new insulation to walls and roof. The Bathhouse cover building is in generally reasonable condition, there are some repairs required to the timber frame and cladding and there are a number of slipped/damaged/spalled slates.

9.9.5 North Range Cover Buildings

The North Range cover buildings are in generally good condition.

9.9.6 Temporary visitor facilities

There are a number of temporary buildings on the site, a shed to the west which serves as an education building, a marquee over the

hypocaust of Rooms 26 and 26a, a tent which provides a small catering facility in Room 27 and an education/artefact handling shed in Room 29. The offices for site staff are located in two port cabins to the south-west of the reception building, and there are two sheds adjacent to the offices which provide additional storage.

9.10 ARTEFACT COLLECTION

The artefacts are kept in varying environments, with consequent varying conservation states. The museum objects, including some stored in cupboards beneath the display cases, have partial environmental control, but there is evidence of deterioration in some of the metal objects, particularly iron and lead artefacts. Hitherto, many of the objects were stored outside, particularly the important architectural stonework collection, and were vulnerable to frost damage and other weathering agents. However a purpose-designed collections store at Sherborne was commissioned in 2008, with appropriate environmental climate control and research space.

Victorian Museum – conservation issues

The museum is enclosed, with public access through a door, which is normally kept shut. There are windows on the east, north and west sides. The building contains electric heaters working on humidistatic control. When the museum is open, there are general diurnal fluctuations, which can be as much as 6° C per day. In the museum case with metalwork, relative humidity is stabilised at 60%. However, this is in excess of that recommended for archaeological ironwork.

Artefact Collection

The presence of selected artefacts on display at the site is important in the interpretation and understanding of the property and as a core part of its function as an Accredited Museum, having received Accreditation status in 2008. The new standard of Accreditation has greater emphasis on visitor access, learning, forward planning and emergency planning and has involved the production and/or updating of key supporting documents relating to Chedworth and the artefacts collection, including an Acquisition and Disposal Policy; Documentation Plan; Emergency Plan and Conservation Audit. Museum Accreditation will demonstrate that the National Trust has achieved certain benchmark standards of care and collections management and enhance the reputation of the organisation.

9.11 CONSERVATION MONITORING

The appointment of a Conservation Assistant in 2005 funded on a fixed-term basis allowed for the first time a regular programme of conservation monitoring at the property. More recently, in 2006, a House and Monument Steward has been appointed with responsibility for conservation management at the Villa. Conservation monitoring is being better planned, but requires consistent funding/staffing.

9.12 ISSUES RELATING TO LANDSCAPE AND SETTING

9.12.1 The Victorian and early 20th-century plantings are now becoming mature and in places senescent. There are clear Health and Safety issues in relation to old, and potentially dangerous, mature trees.

Although the early planting of exotic trees, both conifers and broad-leaved, are still seen as part of the Victorian character of Chedworth, they no longer reflect the open garden character of the late nineteenth

and early twentieth centuries at Chedworth. There is considerably more shade and the thickening of the tree growth and the spreading of self-set trees such as Ash has affected numbers of views. Indeed, many of the original trees have already been removed.

- 9.12.2 A Draft Garden and Landscape Vision for Chedworth was prepared by Jeremy Capadose, then Curator, in 2008. (Capadose, 2008) However, this now needs to be developed further in the context of the 10 Year Management and Maintenance Plan to include the need for regular tree inspection, tree surgery or removal of dangerous trees. It should also look at the need to reduce shade and open up views both across the site and to the wider landscape. (See Appendix Six)
- 9.12.3 Wall Cappings. A survey of existing wall cappings was undertaken by Guy Salkeld in August 2009. (Appendix Five). This demonstrated the considerable range of capping styles that has emerged over the last century. The survey included an analysis of historic photographs which showed how capping styles have changed across the site. It seems that the styles of cappings used in the Victorian landscaping included the use of a low-pitched ridge with Roman fish-tail stone tiles and the use of single-pitched Cotswold stone slabs. The former style does not survive on the site today, but has been replaced by a sharper pitched ridge using Roman tiles along the West Corridor wall. Elsewhere, a real variety has evolved as a response to periodic maintenance and repair. The West Corridor wall cappings will be replaced completely as the wall will be incorporated in the new, west range, cover building.
- 9.12.4 The lack of a coherent landscape plan or design style for the site is also reflected in the range of styles used in paths and other surface treatments. In particular, the use of concrete strips, particularly in the North Range, to mark out earlier layouts of the villa revealed by excavation by Sir Ian Richmond, is now felt to be completely confusing to the majority of visitors.
- 9.12.5 In order to achieve a design style across the site, which reflects and is true to the original Victorian design concept, it has been decided to develop a long-term programme to replace concrete tiles with the shallow, single-pitch stone slab cappings, and to remove the concrete strips and achieve a coherent design solution for the treatment of paths and other surfaces.
- 9.12.6 It is likely we will want to realise an open and less cluttered setting for the villa, with the remnants of poor quality gardening removed from the space below and to the east of the Shooting Lodge. Substantially overgrown yew and other hedges around the site will need to be maintained to allow wider views than hitherto, and the woodland fringes will need to be managed, again to reduce shading and absorb water run-off down the slopes towards the villa. The original specimen tree planting around the Shooting Lodge is worthy of protection as a survival of the Victorian garden, however, these trees themselves are subject to decay and their condition is being monitored.
- 9.12.7 A more open character will conform more closely to the original Victorian garden and enhance our ability to tell the story of Victorian discovery and enjoyment of the place.

9.13 EDUCATION AND LEARNING ISSUES

9.13.1 Changes to National Curriculum and School Funding

The study of the Roman period in Britain became an essential requirement at several Key Stages (KS), especially KS2 after the introduction of the National Curriculum in 1991. There have been subsequent revisions of the curriculum, which have loosened the requirements, but Roman Britain remains a popular option at KS2, and with secondary pupils. Future changes to the NC could remove any requirement to study the history of the period represented by Chedworth, or alternatively bind schools more closely to the need to study it. This could have a significant bearing on the potential school audience at the property.

Currently 9000+ per annum school visits are received at Chedworth and 66% of these are Key Stage 2 pupils. The major cost of school visits is now transport, and this has had an effect on visits in recent years. The level of funding available to schools for external visits is also critical, and has declined in recent years at many state schools.

The education facilities have been identified as very poor or inadequate. There are also severe limitations in the provision of office space, storage and education facilities. It will not be possible to expand the education programme without investment in a new classroom/lecture room. It will also be difficult to retain staff if the accommodation is not improved (see Interpretation and Learning Plan).



Visitors enjoying their first taste of archaeology

9.13.2 Academic Interest

Chedworth has received, and continues to receive, a great deal of academic interest within the fields of Romano-British studies, conservation and heritage management (see Bibliography). It is used as a training resource for field archaeology, monument conservation, and archaeological resource management. Further links with universities and other research organisations need to be fostered (see Interpretation and Learning Plan and Training Plan).

A high academic profile is of benefit to the property, as it enables access to expert advice and interpretation. New discoveries and/or

theories about the villa, its history, use and construction, could enhance interpretation and provide publicity for the property.

9.13.3 Research and Publication Board

An academic Research and Publication Board was convened and met in July 2009. It is anticipated that the Board will meet twice yearly. The group is chaired by Professor Peter Salway, and its members include:

Melanie Barge, English Heritage

Mike Dawson, Roman scholar working on preservation of Roman Mosaics

Dr Simon Esmonde-Cleary, Birmingham University

Professor Mike Fulford, Reading University

Neil Holbrook, Chief Executive Cotswold Archaeology

Professor Dai Morgan-Evans, National Trust Archaeology Panel

Jan Wills, Gloucestershire County Archaeologist

John Williams, National Trust Archaeology Panel

Professor Jason Wood, Chairman National Trust Archaeology Panel

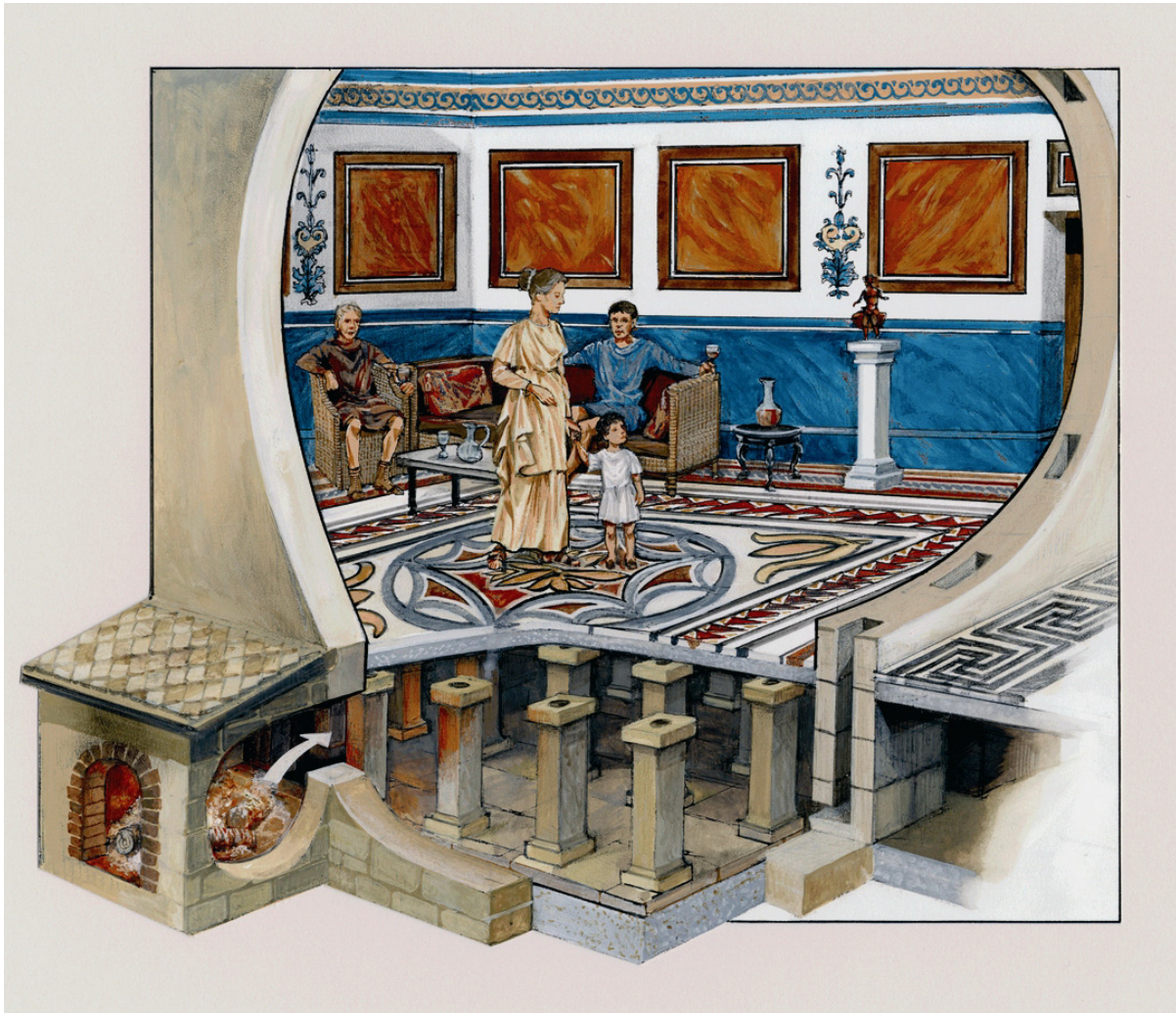
9.13.4 Terms of Reference of Research and Publication Board

1. To advise the National Trust on matters relating to the archaeological and historical understanding and curatorship of Chedworth Roman Villa.
2. To advise on the bringing together and curating of the archive of archaeological research on the site, including written, pictorial, artefactual and oral primary material, and in particular the Richmond and Goodburn archives.
3. To set and review a Research agenda for the site in the context of other relevant national, regional and period research agendas.
4. To monitor and oversee the current publication programme.
5. To prioritise any future archaeological research on the villa in the contexts of (a) 10 year Maintenance and Management Plan and (b) developing opportunities for new research, including:
 - Wider landscape surveys
 - Non-intrusive survey,
 - Historic fabric survey and analysis
 - Re-excavation of historic archaeological interventions
 - Requirements for new excavations
 - Archive research
6. To advise on academic partnerships, e.g. CASE studentships and other collaborative research.
7. To advise on grant aid and other sources of funding and resources to achieve the above.
8. To maintain an overview of interpretation and presentation of the villa.

10 HOW THE VILLA IS MANAGED TODAY – CURRENT SITUATION.

- 10.1 Chedworth Roman Villa is part of a portfolio of properties within the Wessex Region of the National Trust that additionally consists of Gloucestershire Countryside, Lodge Park and Westbury Court Gardens that are managed by the General Manager. The role of General Manager was introduced in 2009 to give more autonomy at a local level and to expand the previous role of Property Manager to include responsibility for project management, acquisitions within the area and advocacy/partnership work. Responsibility for visitor operations lies with the Visitor Services Manager (VSM) who covers Chedworth and Lodge Park. The role is responsible for events, day-to-day visitor operations, education, interpretation, and access and marketing. The VSM's current team includes the Assistant VSM, the visitor reception team, two part-time learning officers and learning volunteers.
- 10.2 Day-to-day maintenance of the heritage is the responsibility of the House & Monument Steward. The role includes monitoring the remains, conservation cleaning, small scale remedial action, removal of plant growth and environmental monitoring. All of this is undertaken on a regular basis. The H&M Steward holds a property conservation budget in order to carry the work out. Much of this work is supported by the Conservator, Curator and Archaeologist who cover the site and can advise on the special nature of the Roman and Victorian heritage. Resourcing for larger project work that is identified is funded through the National Trust regional project bid process on an annual basis. Where specialist skills are required such as replacing wall cappings or conserving Roman wall plaster, expert contractors are employed and funded through project bids.
- 10.3 Short-term and long-term cyclical repair work is undertaken as required and is the responsibility of the Building Surveyor covering the site. Such work is funded through regional allocations. Regular Quinquennial surveys of the modern structures inform the work.
- 10.4 The landscape and outside areas are managed by the wardening team who cover the portfolio. One warden spends a day a week at the site; this largely involves mowing the courtyards and strimming the banks. When more input is required, for example in preparation for an event, more warden time is diverted. The warden also monitors biodiversity supported by the regional Nature Conservation Advisor. Specialist contractors are employed as required for one-off projects such as tree work and funded through project bids (see above).
- 10.5 Regular Historic Property meetings are held monthly and attended by the Conservator, H&M Steward, Curator, Archaeologist, General Manager and a representative from the Wardening team to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site.
- 10.6 Conservation Performance Indicators (CPI) are the tool used by the National Trust to record and quantify the current condition of different features of the heritage (i.e. visible walls, mosaics, spirit of place etc) and set objectives and targets for improvement. Each feature is assessed against its significance, the consequences of not taking action and the urgency of work required are measured on a scale of 1 to 10. A calculation is then undertaken with a percentage that represents where

we are at the moment in our delivery of the objectives. The CPI tool enables us to measure how we are doing set out where we want to be. The process includes all relevant National Trust staff.



A reconstruction of the living room in the north wing. The room was heated by a hypocaust that circulated warm air under the floor

11 POLICIES

11.1 STATEMENT OF INTENT

The National Trust acknowledges the significance of Chedworth Roman Villa, and recognises the various issues and threats operating to affect that significance. The National Trust aims to ensure that Chedworth remains one of the most important Roman-period sites in the country, and that all aspects of its significance are considered. It is intended that the site should become an exemplar in the areas of conservation, presentation, and interpretation. Only by developing the site in all its aspects will the most significant elements be preserved, namely the surviving Roman-period fabric and objects. Around this core objective the use of imagination and innovation in the solutions to maintaining the villa's significance will be expected.

11.2 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The National Trust has developed a set of six overarching Conservation Principle that were ratified by the Board of Trustees in October 2008. (Paragraph 10.3.3) These principles will form the basis of the National Trust's management plans at Chedworth.

There are five further conservation principles which underpin the conservation policies specific to Chedworth:

- The historic fabric should be preserved *in situ* as fully as possible.
- Intervention into the historic fabric should be as limited as possible.
- As far as possible, any intervention deemed necessary should be reversible.
- Conservation input should be pro-active and preventive, rather than re-active.
- All conservation activity should be recorded in an appropriate manner.

11.3 POLICIES

11.3.1 General Policies

Policy 1

The National Trust will ensure that the special character and significance of Chedworth Roman Villa should be put at the heart of all its conservation, development and public benefit works.

Policy 2

The Conservation Management Plan should form the basis of the Trust's future management and planning, with regular review at no more than five year intervals.

Policy 3

The National Trust shall ensure that the management of the property is undertaken by appropriately trained and qualified staff.

Policy 4 Scheduled Monument Consent

The National Trust should agree with English Heritage a formal list of all types of work to the fabric of the Villa and its grounds which require Scheduled Monument Consent. Statutory compliance with this will include all development related work, excavations and repairs to fabric, but may not include day-today conservation and maintenance.

11.3.2 **Understanding**

Policy 5

A Research agenda for Chedworth should be developed. This should be linked to wider Late Roman Research agendas, but should also include the research and recording of the developing history of the site and landscape, including the context for and the results of the Victorian and later discoveries. All previously unpublished research should be prepared for publication in an appropriate form.

Policy 6

Opportunities for partnerships to involve the public, universities and other academic organisations should be developed to promote further studies to enhance the understanding of Chedworth Roman Villa and its wider landscape context and to promote the Trust's work at Chedworth.

Policy 7

A formal site archive for Chedworth should be developed, systematically bringing together all records of archaeological, scientific, technological and conservation interventions and other research, together with a record of all development work relating to the fabric of the Villa. This archive should be curated to appropriate museum standards. Copies of the archive should be deposited at the National Monuments Record, and should be accessible to the public.

Policy 8

The ecological value of Chedworth should be fully understood and its conservation and management should be fully integrated into the property's management.

11.3.3 **Archaeological Excavation and Recording at Chedworth**

Policy 9

Research Investigation

- Future excavation will only take place in the context of a peer reviewed research agenda and subject to Scheduled Monument Consent.
- Future excavation will only take place when significant improvement to the understanding of the site can be demonstrated.
- Any proposal for future research excavation must demonstrate that it has the proper resources to enable the project to be completed, including post-excavation analysis and publication.
- Any requirements for future excavation must be accompanied by an appropriate brief.
- Any third party requests for archaeological research at Chedworth, including excavation and any other fieldwork must:

fulfil the requirements of the research agenda; be accompanied by an agreed research design; be adequately resourced and subject to the standard National Trust licence for third party research.

- All investigation will be carried out to comply with the IFA Code of Conduct and Standards.

Policy 10

Excavations as part of any development work;

- Any proposed works, which will impact on the site, or any of the structures on the site, should be subject to a Heritage Impact Assessment and will require Scheduled Monument Consent.
- Any requirements for archaeological excavation as part of any proposed works must be subject to appropriate assessment and mitigation as deemed necessary by the Trust's Archaeological Adviser in consultation with the County Council's Archaeological Curator.
- Any works required must have appropriate funding in place to achieve a completed project, including post-excavation analysis and the preparation of a full report.

Policy 11 Re-burial of any part of the site

Any newly exposed archaeological features requiring re-burial will be buried using the most appropriate techniques for promoting the long-term preservation of those buried remains. Re-burial regimes will be renewed if better techniques become available, or new research deems existing techniques to be wrong.

11.3.4 **Care and Conservation**

Policy 12

All works of conservation and repair at Chedworth should be carried out to the highest appropriate standards and in line with the best principles of conservation and The National Trust's own policies.

Policy 13

Any new development to improve the conservation of the fabric must respect and be in harmony with the general aesthetics of the site. Any new construction will have minimal impact on the extant fabric of the Roman period structure(s).

Policy 14

Access and other visitor needs must respect and be in harmony with the conservation of the monument.

11.3.5 **Conservation of the Roman Period Remains**

Policy 15

The surviving original elements of the Roman period buildings should be preserved as fully as possible by a full range of appropriate conservation measures, including selective re-burial if necessary.

Policy 16

Intervention for the purposes of the conservation of the Roman period fabric should be as minimal as possible.

Policy 17

The material identified as original to the Roman period structures shall have the highest priority in the allocation of conservation resources. The intact mosaics represent the rarest and most significant survival from the 4th-century house and should be given the highest priority in the allocation of conservation resources, including monitoring and cleaning.

Policy 18

The most vulnerable elements of the exposed Roman period fabric shall be protected by enclosed covering structures. The surviving Roman period features are the most significant elements of the site. The greatest physical threat to them is from environmental factors.

11.3.6 **Conservation of the 19th-Century Elements****Policy 19 Overall 19th-Century presentation**

There shall be a presumption in favour of the retention of the 19th-century buildings and landscaping as far as it survives, except where there are serious conflicts with the conservation needs of the Roman-period elements, and the need for access by visitors.

Policy 20 19th-Century protective shelters

The Trust will ensure that a full analytical record is made of any of the Victorian buildings, including the Shooting Lodge, before any substantial alterations.

11.3.7 **Collections****Policy 21**

The Trust should pursue the highest standards of collection care consistent with its Accredited Museum status.

Policy 22 Victorian Museum

The museum will be maintained to retain significant elements of its Victorian atmosphere, purpose and format.

Policy 23 Collections management

The NT will provide storage for the Chedworth artefact collections in an environment appropriate to the individual conservation needs of the objects and the requirements for Museum Accreditation. These may be at Chedworth or at an appropriate store.

Policy 24

A full inventory of all artefacts will be made and maintained.

Policy 25

The conservation state of all excavated artefacts will be regularly monitored by appropriately trained conservation staff/advisers. Any remedial conservation will be carried out as soon as possible after identification of problems.

Policy 26 Objects on Display

Any objects to be displayed on site at Chedworth will be displayed in appropriate environmental conditions, whether in the Museum, on site or beneath cover buildings. This will include the very important high quality collection of architectural or sculptural stonework.

Policy 27 Museum Accreditation – Acquisitions and Disposals Policy

The National Trust will seek to fulfil the requirements for Museum Accreditation for Chedworth Roman Villa. This will include an Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. Apart from new material recovered from excavations at the site, the National Trust will seek to acquire artefacts and documents relating to the site and its history. This will include artefacts and records of any archaeological intervention.

11.3.8 Nature Conservation

Policy 28

- The National Trust will comply with all its statutory requirements to sustain, protect and enhance the ecological interest of the property.
- Bats. Where new building, or alterations to existing buildings, is likely to affect bat breeding roosts or hunting roosts, those developments must include a mitigation strategy to ensure the preservation or replacement of the bats' habitat.
- Clearance of banks/woodland fringe will not be undertaken without assessment of the impact on the insect fauna which provides the bats' food source.

11.3.9 Monitoring and Repair

Policy 29

A regular cycle of monitoring and maintenance of the conservation state of the monument will take place, including a programme of Quinquennial Inspections, according to a schedule agreed after all appropriate internal and external advisers have been consulted.

11.3.10 Landscape

Policy 30 Victorian Garden ambience

The garden around the Victorian Lodge and the ruins will be managed to reflect the ambience and open character of the lawns and flower borders of the late Victorian period landscape design, with appropriate formal tree planting as necessary to reflect Victorian antecedents.

Policy 31

Any new tree planting within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument must be evaluated archaeologically.

Policy 32 Woodland area

The woodland area under NT ownership will be managed as semi-natural woodland. Any extension of its use as part of the visitor facilities will involve increased levels of management, primarily for Health & Safety purposes.

Policy 33

The National Trust will prepare a comprehensive landscape plan for its property having due regard for the wider landscape, and will seek to work with neighbours (Stowell Park, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Manor Farm) to ensure the effective management of wildlife and other landscape concerns in the surrounding countryside.

11.3.11 **Environmental Policies****Policy 34**

The National Trust will provide an adequate water supply and appropriate sewage treatment and disposal systems to meet the requirements of the property and its visitors and to fulfil the Trust's Environmental requirements.

Policy 35

The National Trust will ensure that all activities carried out at the site are done with regard to the local and wider environment. The National Trust will also aim to reduce energy consumption within the existing buildings.

Policy 36

Any new building on the site must meet an appropriate environmental brief from the Trust, including the use of appropriate materials, and minimisation of future energy use.

Policy 37

In line with national policy, all efforts will be made at Chedworth to reduce the proportion of visitors travelling by car to the property.

11.3.12 **Engagement****Policy 38**

The National Trust will seek every opportunity to share, promote and offer opportunities for public participation in its conservation work at Chedworth with its visitors and others.

Policy 39 Neighbouring landowners and community

The National Trust will pro-actively seek to develop positive relationships based on co-operation with all relevant external bodies, including Stowell Park Estate, English Heritage and other statutory agencies, Cotswold DC, Gloucestershire CC, and the Cotswolds Conservation Board.

Policy 40

The National Trust will seek to work with its neighbours to achieve:

- Better awareness of National Trust aims and plans
- Better understanding of the archaeology of the surrounding landscape
- Working together where common purposes are identified
- Mitigation of any impact the activities of the Villa have on neighbours

The National Trust will ensure that any development of the site will be done with the widest possible consultation amongst neighbours and other relevant parties.

11.3.13 **Developing Access, Interpretation and Learning at Chedworth**

Policy 41

The National Trust will provide the widest possible access to the site commensurate with its conservation requirements.

Policy 42

A greater range and diversity of visitors and users will be encouraged to visit, building on the consultation undertaken with new audience groups that concluded there was good potential to attract a range of new users. Activities, events, interpretation and education facilities will be tailored to meet the needs of these groups.

Policy 43

Provision shall be made for access to all sections of the community, with regard to appropriate legislation (DDA) and current National Trust policies.

Policy 44

The National Trust will seek innovative solutions to the problems of visitor access and other barriers to visiting, including consideration of alternative transport modes.

Policy 45

The National Trust will continue to develop Chedworth Roman Villa as a learning resource in the widest sense. The range and quality of educational provision at Chedworth should continue to enable visitors, learning groups and others to understand and enjoy the breadth of interest that may be stimulated by the site.

Policy 46

The provision of interpretation materials on the site will be sensitive to the conservation requirements of the monument, and to the preservation of the ambience of the property. This will be done by the creation and maintenance of an effective Interpretation Plan.

11.3.14 **Management Issues**

Policy 47

Achievement of high levels of public access and support and of excellent standards of care and conservation at Chedworth will be met through effective management and the involvement of trained and committed staff and volunteers

Policy 48 Statutory compliance

All statutory and legal requirements for protection of the site, Health and Safety of individuals, and requirements of disability legislation must be met, by means which as far as possible ensure minimum impact on the site's significance and are consistent with the policies of the Conservation Management Plan and the Trust's own policies.

Policy 49 Health & Safety policy

The Health and Safety needs of visitors, staff and contractors will take precedence over aesthetic considerations where presentation and access issues are considered. Access to all or part of the property will be restricted if there is any danger to any user of the property.

Policy 50 Fire and Security

The Fire and Security strategies for the site need to ascertain and address the fire and security risks to the public, staff, the site and its buildings.



Reconstruction of post-Roman activity in the South Wing

12 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Conservation and Management Objectives here are derived from the Issues discussed in section 10, and from the Policies, which have been developed in Section 12. The table at the end of this section demonstrates the links between the Issues, Policies and subsequent Conservation Objectives. It is intended that these policies will inform the Property Management Plan, and the National Trust's Conservation Performance Indicator process.

The Gazetteer contains more specific management actions for each of its components. A table showing the relationship of these to the Conservation Objectives is included at Appendix Five.

CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OBJECTIVES	ISSUES	POLICIES	COMMENTS
SITE INFRASTRUCTURE			
12.1.1 To develop and improve site access to reduce impact on the historic fabric and the local environment.	10.4.2	Policy 14 Policy 37 Policy 44 Policy 48	<i>This is one of the core reasons for the Chedworth Improvement project.</i>
12.1.2 To provide improved water supply for all site uses.	10.4.3	Policy 34	
12.1.3 To develop improved drainage and sewage disposal to remove overflow flooding of foul water from the septic tank in the lower courtyard.	10.4.3	Policy 34	<i>This will be addressed in 2009/2010 when a new sewerage system is installed beneath the road and the present inadequate system is decommissioned.</i>
12.1.4 To develop opportunities for renewable energy and other energy efficiency measures on site, and the distribution of power supply to the site with minimum archaeological impact.	10.4.4	Policy 35	<i>The Chedworth Improvement project proposes the use of Air-Source Heat Pumps to provide a power supply.</i>
12.1.5 Security. To develop a Disaster Plan for the site by 2010 which will address the risks highlighted below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natural factors</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fire - Disaster Planning; ○ Impact of adverse weather conditions including flooding and rising water table; 		Policy 50	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Human factors</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theft – potential for theft of mosaics or portions of mosaics; and of museum collections and architectural stonework on site and in the Museum; ○ Vandalism –Security planning 			
ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH			
<p>12.2.1 To complete the compilation of a comprehensive site archive of all previous site interventions to appropriate curatorial standards; in future to continue to add new records of all interventions; to identify a permanent, secure repository for the archive and to deposit copies in the National Monuments Record.</p>	10.5.1	Policy 7 Policy 20	<p><i>This is currently being addressed. In future new additions to the site archive will be accessioned onto the record and stored in the archive store at Sherborne.</i></p>
<p>12.2.2 To develop a programme for the proper publication of all previously unpublished archaeological interventions.</p>	10.5.2	Policy 5	<p><i>Publication programme for the excavations between and site recording between 1997 and 2003 has been commissioned from Philip Bethell.</i></p>
<p>12.2.3 To actively seek to acquire artefacts and documents relating to the history of the site, including artefacts and records of previous excavations, particularly the work carried out by Richmond, Goodburn and Shoemith (See Appendix One). This should form part of the Museum’s Acquisition and Disposal policy.</p>	10.5.2	Policy 27	
<p>12.2.4 To develop links with universities and other organisations to promote the development of a research strategy for Chedworth and its wider landscape context.</p>	10.12.2	Policy 6 Policy 39	<p><i>Chedworth Research and Publication Board convened in July 2009.</i></p>
ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES			
<p>12.3.1 To develop a detailed understanding of the micro-climate at Chedworth, including temperature and rainfall, to understand climatic changes</p>	10.6.1	Policy 12	

affecting the site and their implications for the conservation of the fabric, through a detailed programme of meteorological recording.			
CONSERVATION OF THE ROMAN VILLA			
12.4.1 To continue to monitor climate within the cover buildings to improve and enhance the condition of the mosaics and other parts of the fabric.	10.7.2	Policy 12	<i>This work is in hand.</i>
12.4.2 To develop a programme of Quinquennial surveys for the whole site as part of a comprehensive programme of condition monitoring.	10.4.2 10.6.1 10.8.1 10.8.2	Policy 29	<i>The last QQ inspection survey was undertaken in 2005. The next will be scheduled after the completion of the developments as part of Chedworth Improvement project and following repairs to the Shooting Lodge after 2012.</i>
12.4.3 To extend the extent of the Roman structure enclosed by protective shelters, or other appropriate site protection, particularly in the West range and the western part of the North Range, including an alternative for the marquee covering the stone pilae in Room 26, to achieve the best conservation conditions that can be achieved, in compliance with SMC and any other statutory consents.	10.7.2	Policy 1 Policy 12 Policy 13 Policy 15 Policy 18 Policy 36 Policy 48	<i>This is a further core part of the Chedworth Improvement project, which will see a new cover building over the whole of the West range and corridor. Further arrangements are being made for the conservation of the pilae in Room 26 and the removal of the temporary shelter.</i>
12.4.4 Provide access to internal services, lighting and temperature control, with no impact on the mosaics.	10.7.5	Policy 12	<i>Forms part of design for proposed new cover buildings over the West range.</i>
12.4.5 To uncover further mosaics, particularly those in the West Range corridor and rooms 5b, 6, 7 & 8, in order to improve their conservation and display under extended, climatically controlled, protective shelter.	10.8.2	Policy 1 Policy 12 Policy 13 Policy 15 Policy 16	<i>Proposals for undertaking this work form part of the specification for the Chedworth Improvement project, including</i>

		Policy 17	<i>the erection of a new cover building over the West Range. There are plans for excavations to commence in 2010</i>
12.4.6 To develop enhanced means of conservation and monitoring of buried mosaics not under cover.	10.8.2	Policy 11	
12.4.7 To control rabbits, moles and other burrowing animals to reduce damage to the site.	10.6.1	Policy 12 Policy 28	
12.4.8 To design a coherent, single style for wall cappings, which respects the Victorian aesthetic intentions, provides effective protection for the walls themselves and removes the current confusion for the visitor caused by multiple treatments.	10.8.6	Policy 46 Policy 47 Policy 48	<i>This forms part of the revised landscape plan for the site. (2009)</i>
12.4.9 To design a coherent style for paths/walkways, which respects the Victorian aesthetic intentions, protects the paths and walkways and removes the current confusion for the visitor caused by multiple treatments, including the 1960s concrete strips.	10.8.6	Policy 46 Policy 47 Policy 48	<i>This forms part of the revised landscape plan for the site. (2009)</i>
12.4.10 To enable the visitor to understand the rooms, corridors and open spaces within the villa through appropriate management and information.	10.8.6	Policy 46 Policy 47 Policy 48	<i>This forms part of the new Interpretation plan for the site as part of the Chedworth Improvement project.</i>
12.4.11 to develop a programme of ongoing monitoring, maintenance and repair	10.8	Policy 29	<i>Part of the Conservation Management and Maintenance Plan for the site.</i>
CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR THE COLLECTIONS			
12.5.1 To complete the catalogue of all artefacts from the site in store and on display in the museum and elsewhere.	10.5.3	Policy 21 Policy 24	
12.5.2 To develop a single, properly curated museum store to appropriate Museum standards at Sherborne, to resolve the current diversity of and poor conditions for storage of the collections,	10.9	Policy 23 Policy 25 Policy 27	<i>Completed in 2008 with the opening of the Sherborne store.</i>

including the important collection of architectural stonework.			
12.5.3 To develop a modern, informative and exciting use for the Museum that respects its character as a Victorian site museum.	10.9	Policy 22	<i>Development and redisplay of items in the Museum so it becomes a centre for Victorian discovery as part of the new interpretation scheme.</i>
12.5.4 To take Chedworth forward as an Accredited Museum, taking into account all the MLA conservation and planning requirements.	10.9	Policy 26 Policy 27	<i>Accreditation achieved in 2008</i>
12.5.5 To provide properly for ongoing conservation monitoring for the site through the identification and provision of an appropriate level of resources.	10.10	Policy 12 Policy 25 Policy 29	
LANDSCAPE OBJECTIVES			
12.6.1 To develop an ongoing landscape plan and strategy for the clearance of trees and shrubs that adversely affect the character, aesthetics and views into and out of the site, to achieve an open garden landscape more in keeping with the original Victorian garden, and to comply with any Health & Safety requirements.	10.11	Policy 19 Policy 29 Policy 30 Policy 32	<i>This forms part of the revised landscape plan for the site. (2009).</i>
12.6.2 To remove all derelict traces of 20 th -century gardening and create an open, grazed or mown meadow in the lower courtyard to protect the site, open up views and reduce the confusion of elements which detract from visitor appreciation.	10.11	Policy 33	<i>This forms part of the revised landscape plan for the site. (2009)</i>
12.6.3 To design and construct a scheme of fencing for the site that is in keeping with the aesthetics of the site.	10.11	Policy 33	<i>This forms part of the revised landscape plan for the site (2009).</i>
12.6.4 To rationalise the numbers of styles of wall-capping and replace pitched and concrete cappings with single-pitched Cotswold stone slab cappings	10.12.3	Policy 33	<i>See Landscape Plan 2009 at Appendix Six</i>
12.6.5 To rationalise path design and other surface treatments and to remove the 1960s concrete strips that mark out the layout of earlier phases of the villa, and replace this, now confusing interpretation medium with appropriate interpretation through the Guide book and other media.	10.12.4	Policy 44	

NATURE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES			
12.7.1 To develop and enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the site and its surrounding area, including ensuring that any new and improved structures continue to provide appropriate facilities for bat roosts and hibernaculae, without adverse impact on the fabric of the villa.	10.6.2	Policy 8 Policy 28 Policy 32 Policy 33	<i>The careful management and enhancement of protected species forms part of the Chedworth Improvement project.</i>
12.7.2 To monitor flora and fauna and undertake action to safeguard wildlife, including agreement to mowing and trimming regimes which allow wild flowers to seed.	10.6.2	Policy 8 Policy 28	
ENGAGEMENT			
12.8.1 To develop opportunities to share the conservation work at Chedworth with the widest possible audience, (including new audiences) through improved interpretation and access, enabling public participation whenever possible.		Policy 40 Policy 41 Policy 42 Policy 43 Policy 45 Policy 46 Policy 47 Policy 48 Policy 49	<i>This is a fundamental part of the Chedworth improvement project.</i>

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APPENDIX ONE LIST OF EXCAVATIONS

The following appendices relate to detailed Excel spreadsheets prepared by Philip Bethell. The spreadsheets contain more detail about the nature of the interventions recorded.

ROOM/AREA	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Leader/contractor	Notes
Whole site	Original Excavation, Capitol and Falcomb, Temple?	1864	J. Farrer	Original excavation under James Farrer - no original records remain
W of site	Building of approach road	1867		
25	Stoke-hole SE corner Room 25.	1925	W. St Clair Baddeley	Found evidence of stokehole on W side of wall between 25 & 26
4	Excavation outside Room 4, discovery of baby burial in cist grave east of Latrine.	1935	W. St Clair Baddeley	
4	Latrine and east thereof.	1954	E. Rutter	
S Wing portico, 1, 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 8; S Wing portico, W Wing portico	Keyhole excavations, consolidation and capping of walls	1957	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports "coin find in old "8""; N Irvine made notes on the "Conservation" in Room 4
21	Investigation of blocked doorway Room 21.	1957	I. A. Richmond	

3, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22	Limited excavations, substantial dismantling and rebuilding	1958	I. A. Richmond	Major rebuilding in W bath-house, including arch from furnace;
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31	Dismantling of walls, building of new walls around 22, erection of shed: some small excavations	1959	I. A. Richmond	Included repairs to floor in 22; stone removed from N Wing wall re-used for shed walls
3, 5a, 14	Investigation of Latrine passage, Room 4 kerbing, S.W. corner of South wing, S. of Room 3, Room 5a Stoke-hole; some consolidation of walls.	1960	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports "brooch found" in area S of 3 (between Rm 3 and hedge?); Oven marked out.
3, 4, 21, 24, 24a, 30, 31a	Investigation of wooden steps in S wing, E wall of corridor (E of Room 5); Various rebuilding, capping and minor investigation works.	1961	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports "3 phases proved" in examination of "E wall of S of W corridor".
17, 18, 19	Limited excavation: Nymphaeum (in and around), precinct wall, kerbing lawn.	1962	I. A. Richmond	
20, 21a, 24, 24a, 25, 25a	Investigation of N bath-house and adjacent rooms, establishing phasing; and laying out of kerbing to show earlier rooms	1963	I. A. Richmond	
29, 29a, 30, 31, 31a, E of 32, N Portico, trench N of 30-31	Excavation and clearing of rooms	1964	I. A. Richmond	Proof of 30 as a kitchen, through finding of oven and rubbish pit; burning in 31 interpreted as wooden floor
6, 7, 8	Excavation in rooms 6 & 7 to prove floor levels. Levelling and capping of walls in 6, 7, and 8	1965	I. A. Richmond	

Bank above W Wing	Bore-hole	1971	J. Wallis Titt & Co.	Sinking of borehole for water supply on bank above W Wing; shed with water tank installed; water piping?
1A	NE corner of South wing, trenches to establish wall line and angles prior to repair of walls.	1973	Norman Irvine and J. Mooney	
1B	Room 1B, sondage to establish floor level and define corner of room.	1975	Norman Irvine and J. Mooney	
Area outside SW corner of villa	Excavation: SW corner, car park, service trenches in garden.	1977	R. Shoesmith	Only short interim report completed;
Area outside SW corner of villa	Building of reception building, redirection of services underground	1978	Christopher Bishop	Full plan of building not implemented due to costs; electricity, water and foul drain run underground (mainly under road)
Garden Portico	Old kitchen floor and garden portico, entrance gateway	1979	R. Goodburn	Following demolition of lean-to wash-house
Garden Portico	Excavation of Garden Portico.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT; Some notes by Norman Irvine
5B	Mosaic exposed in 5b; and in N Wing Courtyard Colonnade.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
6	Limited excavation, exposure of mosaic.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
West Wing	Excavation of mosaic in West Wing Portico.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
South Wing	Excavation of drainage channel	1982	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT

Lower garden	Soakaway Pit.	1982	K. Usher	Excavation of soakaway pit
5	Excavation of mosaic and <i>hypocaust</i> in dining room.	1983	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
5	External French drain installed (west).	1984	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Quarry	Excavation of “quarry”, to W/SW of room 5a & 5, work began.	1984	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Garden Portico	Excavation and consolidation of Garden Portico walls	1986	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
17, 19	Repairs and consolidation of boundary wall to Nymphaeum, and West wall of Stoke-hole.	1988	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
25A	Mosaic revealed in Room 25A.	1990	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
North wing Portico	Excavation in North corridor revealing mosaic.	1990	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
26	Excavation of floor Room 26.	1991	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Soakaway pit	Excavation and recording	1997	R. Cleary	Cleaning of sections of septic tank after emptying of clogs chippings
8	Re-excavation Room 8, and re-burial.	1997	R. Cleary	
South wing	Excavation.	1997	R. Cleary	Superseded Goodburn's excavation of 1983 (Int 67)
West wing portico	Excavation of mosaic outside bath-house.	1997	J.L. Goode	

5	External French drain replaced.	1998	N. T. Building.	
32	Excavation.	1998	R. Cleary	Exposure to Victorian limits
East of 32	Excavation of trench East of 32.	1998	R. Cleary	
All over site	Buried Mosaic Survey	2000	Cotswold Archaeological Trust	Included reburial of W Wing room mosaics
Garden Court	Exploratory excavation	2000	Sheffield University/NT	
N Bath-house	Removal of turf to reveal op sig floor	2000	Bethell	Reburial
South Wing	Continuation of excavation intervention 108/archaeology day schools.	2000	PHB/MSG	
Room 21	Removal of topsoil to investigate underlying archaeology	2000	PHB/MSG	Is this the same as I 120?
SW Vegetable plot – lower courtyard	Investigation of interior of concrete-edged (early 20th C?) vegetable plot. Part of Arch. Day Schools.	2001	PHB/MSG	
Garden Court	Continuation of investigation of Garden Court begun in 119. Trench on W side of courtyard.	2001	Sheffield University	
Woods to W of villa	Sample trench across route of trackway W of site gate	2001	MSG	
Woods to W of villa	Sample pit	2002	MSG	

Woods to W of villa	Sample pit	2002	MSG	
North Wing	Excavation of trench behind room 31a, running to N boundary	2003	PHB/MSG	
Entrance Drive	Evaluation test pits for new services.	2007	Cotswold Archaeology	
Lodge	Evaluation test pits for sewerage pipeline route south of lodge.	2009	Cotswold Archaeology	
West wing	Watching brief during opening of villa walls to assess load bearing capacity	2009	G. Salkeld	
West and South wings	8 evaluation test pits for services to new build in west wing.	2009	Cotswold Archaeology	

APPENDIX TWO LIST OF CONSERVATION INTERVENTIONS

ROOM/AREA	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Leader/contractor	Notes
All over villa	Restoration of villa ruins for presentation	1865	J Farrer/Lord Eldon?	Major groundworks, levelling, re-building, capping and pointing of walls using original masonry; construction of protective sheds in W Wing and N bath-house - no records
Garden court portico	Re-building of garden cross-passage Portico.	1949		
S Wing portico, 1, 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 8; S Wing portico, W Wing portico	Keyhole excavations, consolidation and capping of walls	1957	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports <i>coin find in old '8'</i> ; N Irvine made notes on the "Conservation" in Room 4
21	Investigation of blocked doorway Room 21.	1957	I. A. Richmond	
3, 12, 13, 16, 21, 22	Limited excavations, substantial dismantling and rebuilding	1958	I. A. Richmond	Major rebuilding in W bath-house, including arch from furnace;
19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30, 31	Dismantling of walls, building of new walls around 22, erection of shed: some small excavations	1959	I. A. Richmond	Included repairs to floor in 22; stone removed from N Wing wall re-used for shed walls
W Bath-house	Sand and planks laid in 14 as walkways	1960	I. A. Richmond	
3, 5a, 14	Investigation of Latrine passage, Room 4 kerbing, S.W. corner of South wing, S. of Room 3, Room 5a Stoke-hole; some consolidation of walls.	1960	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports "brooch found" in area S of 3 (between Rm 3 and hedge?); Oven marked out.
3, 4, 21, 24, 24a, 30, 31a	Investigation of wooden steps in S wing, E wall of corridor (E of Room 5); Varous rebuilding, capping and minor investigation works.	1961	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports "3 phases proved" in examination of "E wall of S of W corridor".
17, 18, 19	Limited excavation: Nymphaeum (in and around), precinct wall, kerbing lawn.	1962	I. A. Richmond	

20, 21a, 24, 24a, 25, 25a	Investigation of N bath-house and adjacent rooms, establishing phasing; and laying out of kerbing to show earlier rooms	1963	I. A. Richmond	
29, 29a, 30, 31, 31a, E of 32, N Portico, trench N of 30-31	Excavation and clearing of rooms	1964	I. A. Richmond	Proof of 30 as a kitchen, through finding of oven and rubbish pit; burning in 31 interpreted as wooden floor
6, 7, 8	Excavation in rooms 6 & 7 to prove floor levels. Levelling and capping of walls in 6, 7, and 8	1965	I. A. Richmond	
17, 18	Repairs to tank in Nymphaeum.	1965	I. A. Richmond	Irvine reports: "Rapid set cement used"
N Wing portico; rooms in N Wing from 25-32	Rebuilding of S wall of portico; capping of walls; stepla at E end of corridor?	1967	N. Irvine	Work carried out by F. Baxter and Sly's mason
W Bath-house & 5	Installation of electric overhead heating	1967	Norman Irvine	Overhead electric bar heaters were installed in the two larger 19th-C sheds
Museum	Provision of electric heating	1967		Night-storage heaters
S Wing (near entrance); W Wing; N Wing	Rebuild fallen wall; re-set Roman tiles used as cappings; replace lime mortar in capping with cement mortar	1971	N. Irvine	Sly and Sons carried out work
NE corner of S wing; Corners of N of E Corridor; Rm. 25	Repairs to walls, repair/replace odd broken tiles.	1973	N. Irvine	Sly and Sons carried out work
1A	NE corner of South wing, trenches to establish wall line and angles prior to repair of walls.	1973	Norman Irvine and J. Mooney	
23	Renewal of slate roof	1974	N. Irvine	Sly and Sons carried out work
Nymphaeum Rm 17	Pointing, replacing tiles to NW curve and E pilaster	1974	N. Irvine	Sly and Sons carried out work
10	Mosaic lifted and relaid	1978	Christopher Smith (Art Pavements).	
10	<i>Hypocaust</i> recording and consolidation after floor lifting Room 10.	1978	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT

22	Mosaic lifted and relaid	1978	Christopher Smith (Art Pavements).	
5	Excavation of mosaic and <i>hypocaust</i> in dining room.	1983	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
5	Mosaic (North end) lifted.	1983	Christopher Smith (Art Pavements).	
5	New Mortar bedding for lifted mosaic (North end).	1984	David Perry (Perry Lithgow Partnership).	
Garden Portico	Excavation and consolidation of Garden Portico walls	1986	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Museum	Dehumidification installed in showcase.	1986	Bob Hayes (Colebrooke).	
5	Trial relay bedding mortars	1987	Perry Lithgow Partnership.	
17, 19	Repairs and consolidation of boundary wall to Nymphaeum, and West wall of Stoke-hole.	1988	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
5	Mortar bedding layers.	1989	Bruce Induni	
23	Consolidation of plaster in baths.	1990	Fiona Allardyce.	
Museum	Artefact conservation.	1990	Conservation and Technical Conservation Services (UCL).	
26	Repair of stone <i>hypocaust</i> pilae	1991	R. Goodburn	Pilae repaired with steel rods
Walls 25, 26.	Renewal of wall cappings and repointing; underpinning of walls Rm. 26?	1991	J. Byrne.	
17	Conservation of Nymphaeum.	1993	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Rm 5	Re-laying of triclinium mosaic	1993	Cliveden Conservation	
16	Stonework conservation room 16, and recording of the masonry	1994	J. Byrne - mason/BUFAU - recording	
Various	Renewal of wall cappings and repointing.	1995	J. Byrne.	

8	Re-excavation Room 8, and re-burial.	1997	R. Cleary	
West wing portico	Excavation of mosaic outside bath-house.	1997	J.L. Goode	
External Walls.	Renewal of wall cappings.	1998	J. Byrne.	
All over villa	Microbiological survey	2000	Robert Gordon University (Rachel Wakefield)	Included testing of techniques for measuring microbial density using UV light and fluorescence
All over site	Buried Mosaic Survey	2000	Cotswold Archaeological Trust	Included reburial of W Wing room mosaics
N Bath-house	Removal of turf to reveal op sig floor	2000	Bethell	Reburial
West bath house	Repairs to mosaic caused by rabbit burrowing	2000	Cliveden Conservation	
Triclinium	Repair/replacement of roof to triclinium shed	2001	Ward & Co.	
Museum	Installation of blinds	2002	Sun-X Systems	Two sets of blinds installed, to enable complete blackout
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2003	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2004	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2005	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
Latrine, other parts of villa	Re-capping and consolidation of latrine walls; minor repairs to steps and elsewhere	2005	Cliveden Conservation	
Various	Minor wall repairs and re-pointing	2005	Jane Birdsall	
32	Repairs, re-pointing, re-turfing	2005	Jane Birdsall	
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2006	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
24 and corridor near Room 2	Wall repair and rebuilding	2006	Cliveden Conservation	
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2007	UCL Institute of Archaeology	

Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2008	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
Whole site	Condition survey; mosaic cleaning; conservation cleaning and repairs	2009	UCL Institute of Archaeology	
15 and 23	Conservation of historic plasters	2009	Christoph Oldenbourg	

APPENDIX THREE LIST OF SURVEYS

ROOM/AREA	DESCRIPTION	DATE	Leader/contractor	Notes
Whole site	Survey of wall cappings	1964	B .J. Ashwell	Ashwell part of ASTAM Building Design Partnership, Gloucester. Worked on specifying and managing repairs for some years
Whole site	Photographic survey	1970	RCHM	Photo survey for RCHM volume on the I-A and Roman Cotswolds
All over villa	Quinquennial Survey.	1993	A. Townsend.	
5	Radar Survey of mosaic Room 5.	1994	G.B. Geotechnics.	
All over villa	Geophysical Survey.	1995	R. Tabor/BUFAU	
All over villa	Topographical Survey	1996	On Centre Survey.	
Quarry	Cleaning and surveying.	1997	R. Cleary	
All over villa	Geophysical Survey.	1998	Geophysical Surveys Bradford	Magnetometry and resistivity
All over villa	Hydrological Survey	1999	M. Davis – Hunting Technical Services.	
All over villa	Geophysical Survey.	1999	Geophysical Surveys Bradford	Addition of Ground Penetrating Radar to survey
Whole site	Historic Fabric Survey	2005	Cotswold Archaeology	
All over villa	Geotechnical surveys	2006	?	
Walls	Capping Survey	2009	G. Salkeld	
West Wing	Levels Survey	2009	Anthony Brookes Surveys	To confirm levels in advance of development of West Wing

APPENDIX FOUR LIST OF GOODBURN EXCAVATIONS

ROOM/AREA	DESCRIPTION	DATE (Start)	Leader/contractor	Notes
10	<i>Hypocaust</i> recording and consolidation after floor lifting Room 10.	1978	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Garden Portico	Old kitchen floor and garden portico, entrance gateway	1979	R. Goodburn	Following demolition of lean-to wash-house
Garden Portico	Excavation of Garden Portico.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT; Some notes by Norman Irvine
5B	Mosaic exposed in 5b; and in N Wing Courtyard Colonnade.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
6	Limited excavation, exposure of mosaic.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
West Wing	Excavation of mosaic in West Wing Portico.	1980	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
South Wing	Excavation of drainage channel	1982	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Lower garden	Soakaway trenches, discovery of South wing.	1983	R. Goodburn	First exposure of lower S Wing, 1m E-W trench; superseded by Int. 121
5	Mosaic condition report.	1983	R. Goodburn	
5	Excavation of mosaic and <i>hypocaust</i> in dining room.	1983	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
5	External French drain installed (west).	1984	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Quarry	Excavation of "quarry", to W/SW of room 5a & 5, work began.	1984	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
Garden Portico	Excavation and consolidation of Garden Portico walls	1986	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT

17, 19	Boundary wall to Nymphaeum, and West wall of Stoke-hole.	1988	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
25A	Mosaic revealed in Room 25A.	1990	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
North wing Portico	Excavation in North corridor revealing mosaic.	1990	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
25, 26	Wall drawing of Rooms 25 and 26.	1991	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
26	Excavation of swilling drain Room 26.	1991	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT
26	Repair of stone <i>hypocaust</i> pilae	1991	R. Goodburn	Pilae repaired with steel rods
17	Conservation of Nymphaeum.	1993	R. Goodburn	Goodburn has not deposited records with the NT

Chedworth Roman Villa

Capping Survey

Guy Salkeld, 2009

This survey has been undertaken to assess the history of wall cappings at Chedworth Roman Villa in order to inform the development of a consistent treatment in the future.

A number of distinct campaigns of restoration and maintenance contribute to the diverse and confusing appearance of the site, most notably the various maintenance interventions up to the Second World War, and Richmond's period of influence from the late 1950s to the mid 1960s. The Victorian use of pitched and flat cappings has generated a tension between conservation and presentation which has produced a confusing range of treatments and much discussion over the use of cement. Perhaps the most effective cappings are those developed by Roger Goodburn in the east corridor and described below.

The analysis has been constructed from historic photographs, a site visit in July 2009, and material held in the National Trust archive at Wansdyke and the Irvine archive at Sherborne. Much of the evidence has been extracted from references and annotations in memo and letter form and no attempt has been made to produce a formal bibliography.

Figure 1 shows an estimate of the Victorian use of pitched and flat cappings. Figure 2 shows the range of treatments visible in July 2009 - the treatment numbers given below relate to the key.

Norman Irvine (c. 1989) notes that the Victorians capped the walls in two styles: the first re-using Roman roof tiles with ridge tiles in a ridged construction, the second using flat slabs of Cotswold limestone. Also used were dark blue Staffordshire stone tiles (Staffordshire blues) or a reddish-blue clay tile from Shropshire kilns; being spares left over from other Estate building jobs. The flat slabs were simply bedded on two side courses and a centre row to cover the joint. The general scheme of ridges and slabs remained until the 1950s, although minor ridge changes were made through maintenance (figure 3). Very little of the original treatments survive now although the Roman tiled ridges are reflected in the west wing corridor (treatment 5) and the slabs reflected by treatment 7. Roger Goodburn's rebuild of the east corridor walls (treatment 11) was based on surviving Victorian capping slabs in room 25 (John Byrne, pers. comm.). A survey in December 1945 noted that the pitched rooflets needed resetting and repair in many places and the remaining flat-topped walls had received some protection from their cappings although they had lost most of their mortar. Many of the slabs had cracked and spalled and needed replacement.

An inspection by Charles Clouting in 1946 noted that the walls coped with roofing slabs were in much better condition than those merely slabbed over. Clouting also noted with dismay that some recent work had re-bedded the coped walls in cement mortar, and that cement ridges should be cast in short lengths and bedded in lime mortar if stone ridges were too expensive. Clouting provided conservation advice from the end of the war until the early 1950s and consistently recommended the use of lime mortar. It would also appear that Clouting experimented with mortar mixes (with varying degrees of success and failure) with the result that the National Trust management lost confidence in his advice. However, Clouting noted that the particular micro-climatic conditions at Chedworth made the use of traditional methods difficult.

A Historic Buildings Committee minute of 1 June 1949 ran as follows: 'The Committee decided (i) that those walls not yet repaired should be treated with a form of double coping of flag stones, the lower layer overlapping the actual walls; (ii) that those walls which had been repaired with Roman tiles under Victorian coping should retain the Roman tiles, the Victorian coping being replaced with new stone in a similar fashion to that existing; (iii) that damp courses should be provided; (iv) that no cement should be used, either upon the Roman walls or upon the modern coping; and (v) that a proper quarry-cut stone, preferably Minchinhampton stone, should be used for the new coping.' An internal memo of July 1949 complained that '...the minute a back is turned they stuff it all with cement'.

Stone ridges from Farmington Quarry were used on the northern section of the west wing corridor in 1951 (treatment 5) but the entire wall was rebuilt with cement, despite the orders of the Historic Buildings Committee, and forms a solid mass. More of the Farmington ridges were used on the southern section in 1961 (bedded in cement) but frost-lift in 1962-3 and later caused splitting and the ridges were reset in 1969 and 1971. The northern ridges were unaffected.

An internal memo (November 1956) noted that the oolite slabs specified by the Historic Buildings Committee just after the war had proved hopeless, suggesting that '...the remaining walls be replaced with Cotswold Stone tiles and ridged with cement – not pretty, but these walls never can be made to look so if they are to be protected'.

In 1957 Professor Ian Richmond was put in charge of repairs at the villa. Sly & Sons (Northleach, Gloucester) were appointed as masons. Although Richmond initially recommended that lime mortar should always be used, he began almost immediately to use cement and concrete in his repairs and presentation. The National Trust management quickly became unhappy with Richmond's output but seem unable to have taken any action. An internal memo of 1964 expressed exasperation with Richmond, who was considered to be out of control and very influential over Irvine regarding the 'hideous' use of concrete and tarmac. Another internal memo recommends that 'Richmond's concrete will have to be removed after Richmond has finished.' However, a meeting on 14 April recorded that roof capping with sanded concrete tiles was thought a success.

Richmond used concrete slabs cast on site (treatment 3) in 1960/1. Sly and Son used pitched sanded concrete tiles bedded in cement (treatment 4) between 1960 and 1967 with a further campaign of cement repair and wall consolidation in 1971.

An inspection by Waller, Son & Ashwell (Chartered Architects) was undertaken in June 1964 with a view to giving advice on the treatment of wall tops and methods for representing ancient walls, particularly work carried out by Richmond. The report reviewed past methods although Irvine appears to disagree with most of the comments (some of which do not appear to stand scrutiny of earlier records). The report notes that the apsidal end of room 24 was capped with turf 'in the Swedish manner) ie soft-capped and that this looked very effective and appeared to be protecting the walls, although Irvine noted that there had been 3 re-builds in 2 years. The report notes that whatever material is used, the pitched treatment gives a finished appearance to walls that were originally much higher. The report suggests that there is a conflict between aesthetics and protection because the pitched caps do not look right but give protection whilst the 'unfinished' wall looks better but gives little protection. A Historic Buildings Committee minute date-stamped 10 Jun 1964 noted 'that the Committee (a) reiterated their instruction that no concrete was to be used at Chedworth in any place where it was visible, and (b) instructed Mr. Kenworthy-Browne (i) to pursue his enquiries into the additional price of stone; (ii) to impress on Irvine that he was the servant of the Trust and not of Professor Richmond, and must give priority to the Trust's orders.'

In 1968, an internal memo noted '...that the artificial roof tile method is perhaps the only one we should consider in the absence of any more Roman roof tiles, since the V-top method appears to be the only one which preserves the walls by keeping the water out.'. Although this appears to be a concession based on deference to the Roman aspect of the site, comparison of figures 1, 2 and 3 shows the degree to which the treatment of the north wing had departed from the Victorian design by 1968.

During Roger Goodburn's office, from 1978 until the early 1990s, walls were rebuilt, pointed or capped in lime mortar, with an increasing use of hydraulic lime, although the mason at the time experimented with mixes as Clouting had done before (John Byrne, pers. comm.). Goodburn continued Richmond's practice of showing repairs to Roman fabric in pink coloured mortar. However, Goodburn also used cement sparingly such as the pointing of the Tetbury stone from Viezes Quarry (treatment 11). This treatment has worked well with little need for maintenance and follows the Victorian slab style, but with the advantage of hydraulic lime.

A short section of walling around room 4 was capped with a form of 'crazy paving' of flat rough limestone flags (treatment 1) bedded in hard hydraulic lime in 2006 (under Phil Bethel).

In summary, there is a long history of debate regarding the cappings. Although definitive treatments have been prescribed more than once, there has been a general failure to implement them in practice. The microclimate of the villa has always exacerbated attempts to use traditional techniques without recourse to extensive maintenance regimes. It is also apparent that well-meaning workmen

have consistently ignored instructions regarding the use of cement and concrete, often under the influence of external authority such as Richmond.

Figure 3 shows the villa largely as the Victorians created it. The pitched cappings formed no more than 30% of the whole (and this proportion has diminished as new areas have been revealed) and it is highly likely that they resulted from an ingenious re-use of the available Roman roof tiles rather than a desire to use pitched capping *per se*. Only a fraction of the Roman tiles now remain (placed beyond reclamation due to the use of cement) rendering the pitched treatment superfluous from an aesthetic point of view, and opening the way for a slabbed treatment far more in keeping with the romantic Victorian idea of a ruined villa.

To achieve this vision will require an acceptance of the limitations of whatever capping treatment is chosen, an appropriate realistic assessment of future maintenance requirements (with a commitment to delivering them), and a compromise employing more durable materials where necessary. Ultimately, the lessons of Chedworth demonstrate that whatever decision is made should be applied rigorously and consistently, setting a precedent for future generations.

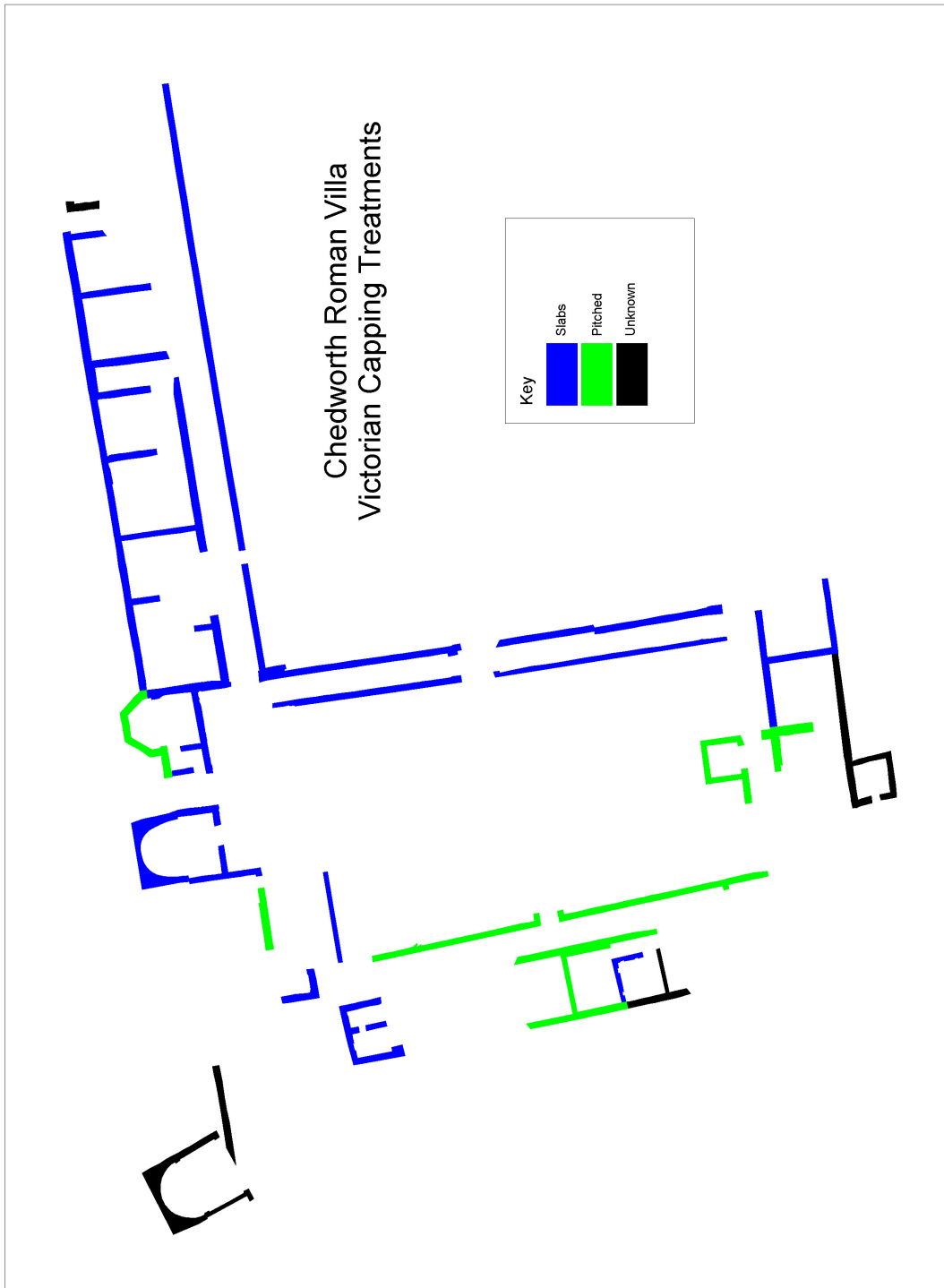


Figure 1

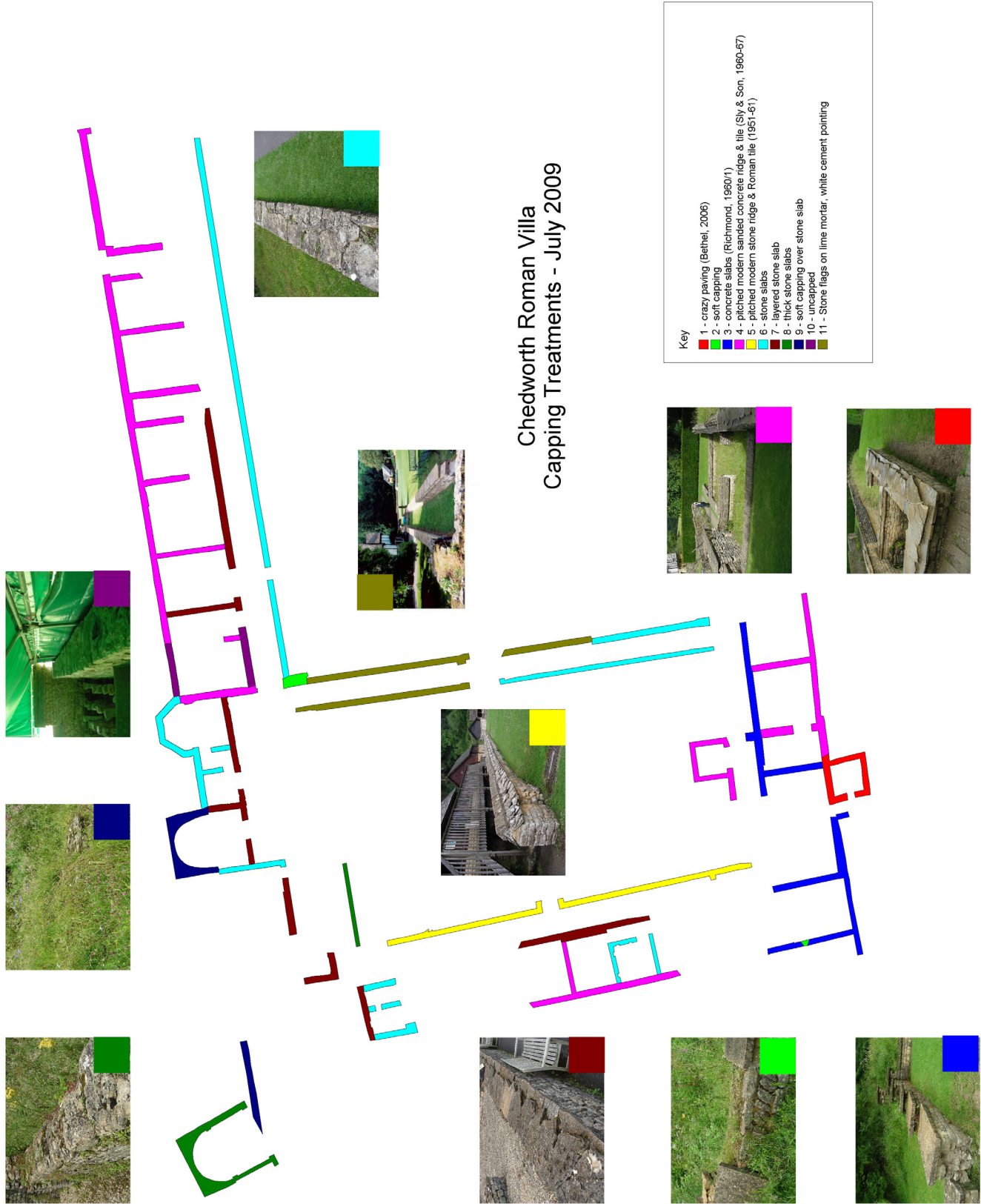


Figure 2

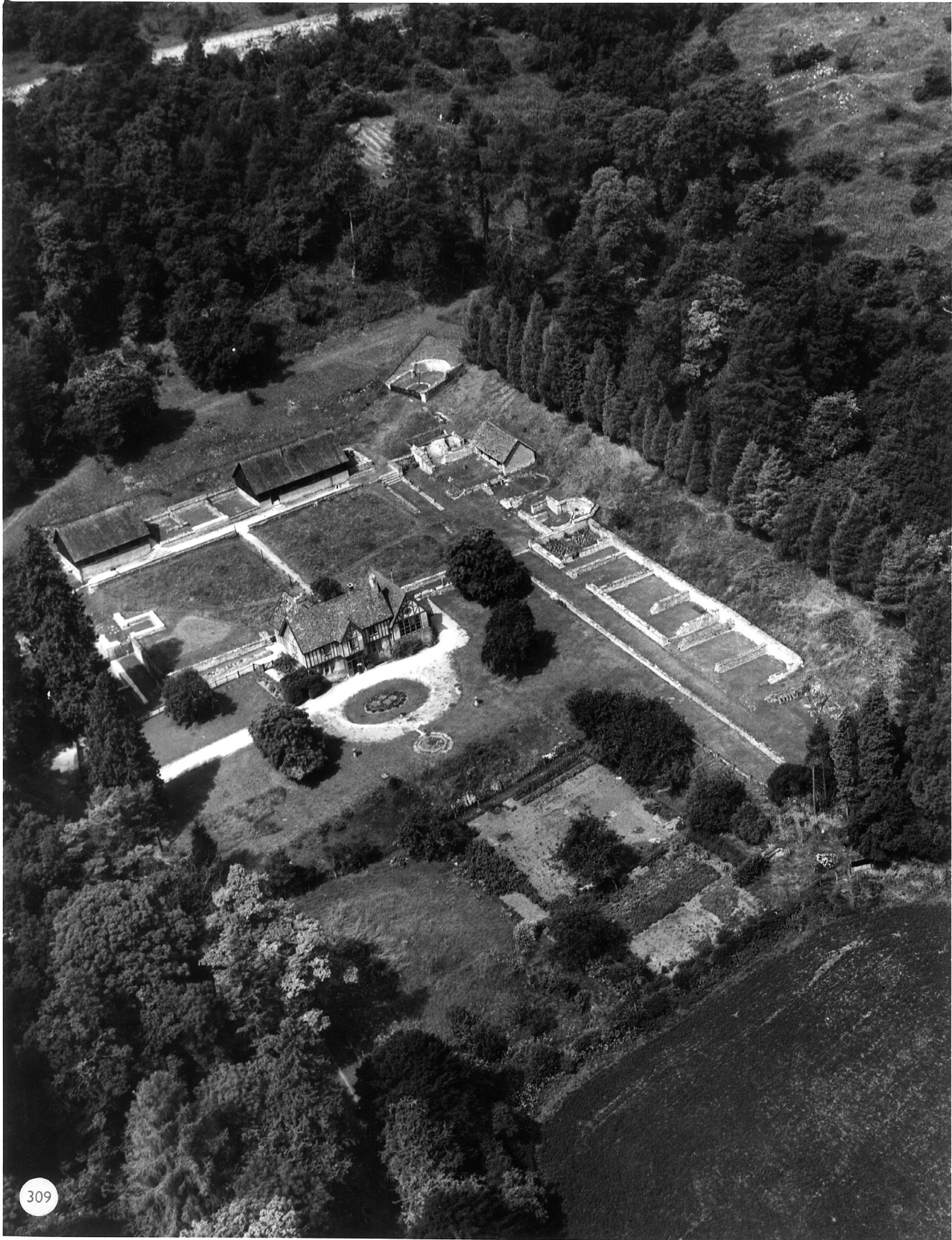


Figure 3 – Summer 1949