



ENGLISH HERITAGE

ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH TRANSACTIONS
RESEARCH AND CASE STUDIES IN ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION



EARTH

The Conservation and Repair of
Downhill, Exeter: Working with Cob

Volume 3

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ENGLISH HERITAGE RESEARCH TRANSACTIONS

English Heritage, the principal organisation statutorily responsible for the conservation of the historic built environment in England, is charged as part of its chief duties to secure the welfare of historic buildings and ancient monuments, and to advance knowledge of their preservation. Its **Research Transactions** series is published in part to fulfil these responsibilities and to make available to a wide audience the fruits of its extensive research programme.

The series is edited by Jeanne Marie Teutonico, Senior Architectural Conservator with English Heritage's Building Conservation and Research Team, who was formerly on the staff of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome.

Volume 3 EARTH

The Conservation and Repair of Bowhill, Exeter: Working with Cob

This volume is devoted to a detailed case study of the repair and conservation of an important building of earth construction. Bowhill, a Devon mansion of c 1500, is largely constructed in cob, a particular earth building technique common in Devon but also widespread in the rest of the world. The project to conserve and repair Bowhill, carried out by English Heritage in the early 1990s, helped raise regional and national levels of awareness regarding earth building in general and showed that it is possible to repair cob construction successfully without resorting to alternative materials. The volume is generously illustrated so that the details of both cob construction and the repair techniques used can be easily understood.

The author, Ray Harrison, is an architect in private practice who advised on the earth repairs at Bowhill while on the staff of English Heritage. He is a founding member of the Devon Earth Building Association and of the ICOMOS/UK Earth Structures Committee.

The work reported will be of great interest to all those directly involved in architectural conservation, especially those with responsibility for the maintenance and protection of earth buildings of every type, age and location, and to those studying earthen construction techniques.

The *English Heritage Research Transactions* are published as an occasional series (up to four times a year). Previous volumes include **Volume 1: METALS** and **Volume 2: STONE**. Additional volumes planned for 1999 include: **Volume 4: WOOD** and **Volumes 5/6: THATCHING IN ENGLAND**.

Also available

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