Officers and Committee - Trust Annual Report 1984

President	*Mrs W.J. Carpenter-Turner, B.A., J.P.	27 St Swithun Street, Winchester
Vice President	Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter	
Vice President	Sir Hugh Casson, P.R.A., R.D.I., R.B.I.A.	
Vice President	The Hon. Sir Peter Ramsbotham, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.	
Chairman	*Mr M.T. Carden, A.A.Dip., A.R.I.B.A.	21 Edgar Road, Winchester
Vice Chairman	*Capt. A.L.L. Skinner, R.N.(Ret'd)	36 Bereweeke Road, Winchester
Vice Chairman	*D.J. Smith, Esq., FRICS	4 St James Crescent, Winchester
Hon. Treasurer	*D.H. Weait, Esq.	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Assist Hon. Treasurer	S. Coates, Esq.	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs A.G. Macpherson M.V.O.	The Old Rectory, Easton, Winchester
Hon. Secretary	*Mrs R.P. Graham	Highways End, Highway Road, Compton, Winchester
Committee Members	*R. Adam, Esq. RIBA	
	*Major K.M. Egleston, MBE, JP, MA(Oxon)	
	*C.J. Gillham, Esq., Ph.D	
	*Councillor J.L. Macdonald, MA (Oxon)	
	*A.G. Macpherson Esq., M.B.A., B.A.	
	*N.A. McPherson Esq., B.A., BArch, RIBA, MIA	
	N.A.D. Molyneux Esq., BA	
	*D.S. Middleditch Esq,	(co-opted 08/84)
	*G.M. Morris, Esq., R.I.B.A.	
	*Dr.G. Swift, OBE, MA(Oxon), BM, Bch, FRCGP	(co-opted 03/84)
	*H.C. Watson, Esq., FLI	
	*C.J. Webb, Esq.	

Guest Member	*A. G. Weekes, Esq. A.F. Rutter, Esq., A.A.Dip., R.I.B.A.	Conservation Planning Officer

---

Membership - Trust Annual Report 1984

Membership of the Trust has increased in the last year to just under the 600 mark. It is interesting that however they came to join us, new members almost invariably do so because they believe that the Trust's role as the City's environmental conscience is vital for the future of Winchester. It is disappointing to learn that so few knew of our existence until introduced by friends, or if they knew, had not previously realised that we were other than an antiquarian society. We are not great publicists and tend to shrink from trumpet blowing, so please continue the good work: bring in your friends and talk about your society's work whenever you can. There is plenty to talk about, as you will read later in the Report; the pressure is on to change the City, whether by sweeping develop¬ment or well-meant tinkering. We have no objection to change, but we want it to enhance, not devalue, the character of Winchester.

We are very sad to report the deaths during the past year of three eminent members of the Trust. Mrs. Doris Crompton, an honorary life member and ex-Mayor of Winchester, and Sir John McNee, both early members of the Trust Council were people of vision ahead of their time to whom Winchester owes much. We also miss a good friend in Ivor Webb, a past Council-member and an active participant in the Development control committee until his death in March.

Newsletters - Trust Annual Report 1984

Newsletters have increased in number and importance this year, largely due to the need for more frequent contact with members. Much of the burden of their production has fallen (as with so many things) upon our untiring Hon. Secretary; she would dearly like the assistance of a newsletter editor or secretary – an interesting job for someone who would like to be close to the centre of the Trust's activities, but requiring only occasional demands upon their time.

The Heritage Centre - Trust Annual Report 1984

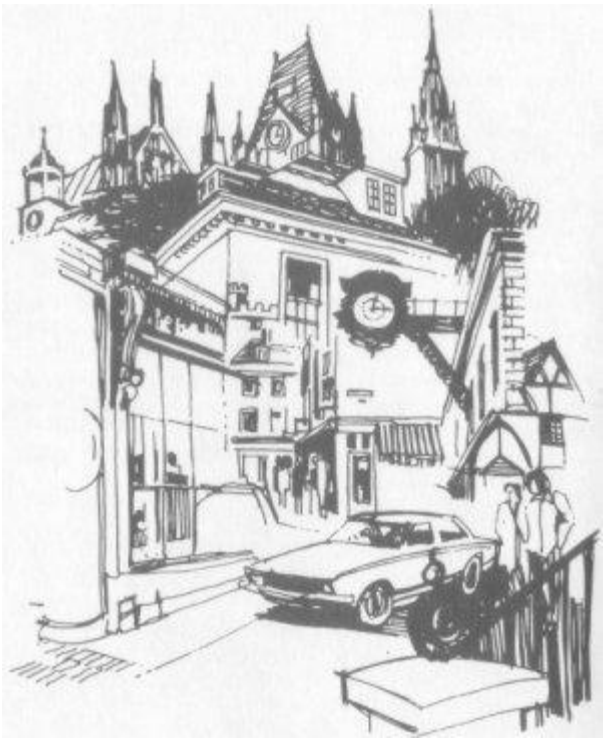
The Heritage Centre, our most ambitious venture, also needs help in many ways as a later article describes, but nowhere more than in the coordinating role of Management Committee chairman. The skills that need to be co-ordinated are impressively handled by highly qualified and dedicated members, including the Centre's manager, the Display Committee and many others. This is the most

fascinating and important job of all, but no special qualifications are necessary other than some experience of management – and, of course, a sense of humour!

Chairmanship - Trust Annual Report 1984

Chairmanship of the Trust itself will change at the Annual General Meeting. Having taken on the job for three years, I will have completed five, as two excellent prospective successors were obliged to back down at fairly short notice due to business commitments. This time it is my commitments which have brought matters to a head and, besides, I believe my contribution has been made and I grow stale in office; the Trust needs fresh leadership. We are very fortunate indeed that David Weait has accepted the Council's nomination and agreed to take over the chair for one year, in addition to managing the Trust's finances. So, subject to your ratification at the AGM, David will head the Trust for a year while we seek a longer term replacement. I think this will be of great benefit because, amongst the shortcomings of my chairmanship, there has been a lack of administrative development to match the growth in size and scope of the Trust's activities. If anyone can put us on the right path, I am sure David will.

The last five years - Trust Annual Report 1984



The 'Character of Winchester' by Terry Riggs
for the new Trust leaflet

The last five years have been eventful for the future of Winchester and a rewarding time to have been chairman of the Trust. I cannot begin to cover the subject here, but there are a few significant things that I would like to put on record. The first is that our efforts, and the efforts of all those who have supported the Trust for the past 27 years, have at last prevailed: it is now respectable to see Winchester as an entity which is so special that it need not try and emulate Eastleigh or Basingstoke to survive commercially. There are a few diehards who would still like to remove houses to make more car parks, ring the centre with dual-carriageways and wreck the setting with motorway slip roads in the mistaken belief that such things are necessary for prosperity, but we need no longer fear their influence. the problem is now to guide the growing prosperity which is already bringing high rents, tall offices and yet more traffic into the centre. The second point I want to make is that it is no good trying to preserve a way of life that has gone: the economic conditions which lined every street with shops (even converting whole rows of houses) cannot be repeated at will. We must learn to live with things which are beyond our control, and to concentrate our efforts to channel the new pressures so that they help rather than spoil Winchester. Offices can preserve buildings rather than destroy them, sensitive use of planning control can produce fringe benefits such as pedestrian routes, market places and trees, and growing demand may provide the opportunity to find a better answer to traffic than the destructive solutions put into practice elsewhere. Imagination, hard-thinking and a sense of adventure are necessary. But, perhaps, above all, we have to resist the forces of expediency which not only make the wrong things happen but kill off initiative by premature dismissal.

Two Examples of expediency overcome are the superb new gates in the Great Hall, and our own success with St. John's Street. Two examples of expediency in action are the threat to the viaduct and the steady destruction of the carved gravestones in Westhill Cemetery. Two examples of expediency triumphant are the dreadful imitation paving stones in the precinct and the loss of the vigorous Italianate terrace in Eastgate Street. No doubt you can think of your own examples!

M.C.

The President's Walks - Trust Annual Report 1984

Although the first rain in weeks coincided with the start of the initial walk on May 10th, about 50 stalwarts met at Water Close and followed Mrs. Carpenter Turner on a tour which included three delightful private gardens in Colebrook Street and the dipping-place up a narrow alley.

Finding the next week's starting point, Black Bridge, proved difficult for some, as the Tourist Office had forgotten where it is! But perseverance paid off and nearly 100 people eventually made their way to it down College Walk and joined the President on a stroll to Wharf Mill and then along the Weirs. At Wolvesey they were treated to a surprise visit to the ruins. A similar sized crowd met at Prior's Gate for the third walk along St. Swithun Street, Symonds Street and Minster Lane, taking in a wealth of fascinating detail on the way.

Due to the high cost of advertising the walks in the press (over £29 this year) we are considering abandoning this method of publicity, relying instead on the monthly 'Events' list published by the Tourist Office and the 'What's On' columns in the Echo and Extra. Members will continue to receive advance information in the Newsletter.

G.B.G.

Visit - Trust Annual Report 1984

On a fine Saturday morning in September a group of Trust members travelled to Romsey, where they were welcomed by Dr. Akermann, the Chairman of their hosts, the Romsey and District Society.

The well-planned tour began with an exciting (if not hair-raising!) visit to the Abbey, where the rickety wooden ladders and knee-high parapets caused a few hearts to miss a beat in the tower and galleries. The group was then taken to see King John's House and the adjoining Tudor cottage. King John's House was probably built between 1230 and 1240, and is of the first floor hall type, with the living and sleeping quarters on the upper floor and the kitchens and stores in the ground floor. It was used as a guest house and has interesting historical connections, some of which are visible in the form of graffiti scratched into the mediaeval plaster. Here can be seen what appears to be the results of a rather drunken evening when some knights used their swords to draw amongst other things the arms of Plokenet, the badge of the Knights Templar, and a rough portrait of a man, thought to be possibly Edward I, who visited Romsey in 1306. A look at some houses that had been renovated by the Romsey Building Preservation Trust, an offshoot of the Romsey Society, rounded off an extremely interesting, but all too brief, visit to Romsey.

S.C.

Lectures - Trust Annual Report 1984

The winter season of lectures had an exhilarating start when the beautifully illustrated talk on British Rail's historic buildings, given by Bernard Kaukas, Director Environment, British Railways Board, whisked his audience on a whirlwind tour of many of BR's more interesting properties. At the annual General Meeting the following week our President, Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner, talked about "Excellence in a Cathedral City", and her illustrations showed that the craftsmanship and materials used in the detailing of many old buildings were of a standard of excellence rarely achieved in modern buildings. In November John Maunder of the Hampshire Branch of The Victorian Society gave an illustrated talk on St. Agatha's Church in Landport, Portsmouth, and described how this brick church, with its beautiful and unusual interior, is being restored with the intention of transforming it

into a heritage centre. This was followed by a discussion about the problems arising when setting up such projects.

In the new year George Perkin, editor of "Concrete Quarterly", gave a stimulating illustrated talk on "Building with Respect", in which he discussed the problems of designing new buildings in traditional and rural settings, and showed many examples where the architect had achieved a harmonious and respectful relationship between the old and the new. The February speaker was among old friends when, as the newly-elected President of the Chamber of Commerce, he stepped in at very short notice to replace Mrs. Josephine lye. Peter Longhurst, the Trust's erstwhile Hon. Treasurer, gave an informative talk about running a business in Winchester, in which he discussed such problems as dealing with taxation and the difficulties caused by high rents and rates. The season ended with an entertaining evening in the company of Dennis Offer, a master craftsman and leadworker, who described the background of lead production and related anecdotes of some amusing events that had occurred during his career, and finishing with a fascinating selection of glass slides taken at the beginning of the century, shown with a special old projector.

As the Royal Hotel is undergoing renovation, the coming season's lectures will be held at the United Church Hall, Jewry Street. The way into the hall is from Staple Gardens, through an opening between Nos. 29 and 30. Subjects for future talks include "Windows on a Conservation Officer's World" by Andrew Rutter, "Royal Heraldry in Hampshire" by Elyston G. Phillips, "Bursledon Windmill" by John Reynolds and "Another Look at York" by Miss Jennifer Eagles.

S.C.

Inter - Society Meeting - Trust Annual Report 1984

On a Saturday last October, at the suggestion of the Chichester Society, three representatives of the Trust went to Chichester to meet a group of them and three similar groups from the Lewes, Portsmouth and Fareham Societies. The meeting was chaired by our hosts who had organised two very simple sessions: in the morning we discussed our experiences and problems with the planning authorities in our areas, and in the afternoon we swapped information about the running of our societies.

Everyone enjoyed the day and benefited from the opportunity to exchange ideas in an informal atmosphere. It was decided not to form a federation but to continue to meet once a year on a regular basis, with the opportunity for any society to request a special meeting if necessary. Any amenity society may join or leave and we shall all merely keep lists of 'corres¬ponding' societies who wish to be invited.

Since the Winchester Heritage Centre provides an ideal venue, the Trust will host the 1984 meeting there in October or November.

G.B.G.

Plaques - Trust Annual Report 1984

A plaque, donated by Jaguar Cars and commemorating the pioneer motorist Major General Hugh Parker Montgomery and the Daimler car he bought in 1897, is now in place on Anglo City House in Southgate Street, the site of the garage where the car was kept. Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, GCB, OBE, MC, Chief of the Defence Staff, performed the unveiling ceremony in May, in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester.

It is hoped that a plaque replacing the existing one in St. Thomas Street to John Lingard, the historian, will be unveiled in September.

C.J.W.

The Winchester Heritage Centre - Trust Annual Report 1984

The Heritage Centre Emblem,
based on the north window of the Cathedral,
by Michael Morris

Activities during the Year

Anyone visiting the Heritage Centre for the first time since it opened in July 1983 would find it changed considerably for the better. Indeed it is positively civilised, thanks to the curtains (a much appreciated gift), the carpets (bought at a generously reduced price) and the garden, donated and laid out by Hilliers in time for a tree-planting ceremony at the end of November, when on a wet Friday afternoon the Centre's President, the historian Lord (Asa) Briggs of Lewes, valiantly wielded his spade in the rain for the benefit of the local press.

We are extremely lucky to have such a distinguished and enthusiastic President, and are very grateful to him for sparing time from his busy calendar. Our Vice-presidents

are the Rt. Rev. John Taylor, Bishop of Winchester; Mr. F.A.J. Emery-Wallis, Leader of Hampshire County Council; Mr. D. H. Cowan, Chief Executive of Winchester City Council; and Mr. Tim Brooke-Taylor.

During the past year the Centre has been the scene of a variety of activities, the first of which was an exhibition of C.E.S. Beloe's photographs of Edwardian Winchester, on loan from the City Museum. This nostalgic glance at the past was followed in February by a look at Winchester's future, when the landscaping proposals for the Popham to Bar End section of the M3 motorway brought a large number of visitors to the Centre. Then followed a series of smaller exhibitions: "Countryside Heritage" and the delightful "Historic Parks and Gardens", lent by the County Planning Department, showed the pressures on Hampshire's natural heritage, while "Living Streets", lent by a Manpower Services Commission group in Milton Keynes, encouraged an awareness of the changing face of the urban landscape.

The Festival of Architecture took place this year, and in May the Southern Region of the Royal Institute of British Architects (which has its office in the Heritage Centre) mounted an exhibition of work by local architects and arranged a series of well-attended lunch-time lectures about architecture.

The present "Winchester Events" exhibition opened at the beginning of June, and is well worth a visit before it closes at the end of September, for the historians of the display committee have collected a wide variety of fascinating material on subjects that include the 1666 plague, High Street shops, the 1897 Jubilee celebrations, the marriage of Mary Tudor, and excerpts about Winchester from letters written in 1819 by the poet John Keats.

Also currently on display in the upstairs room is work by pupils from the Nightingale Junior School, Eastleigh, their response to a walk round Winchester in May, when a representative from the Centre was their guide. This encouraging start for the educational role envisaged for the Centre followed in June by a party of forty French children, who were supplied with specially prepared check-sheets and maps for their tour of the City. At present the Centre is running a light-hearted holiday quiz for young people, with prizes of £10 tokens, exchangeable at selected shops in the City. As answer forms are only available at the Centre, it is hoped that the Centre will consequently become more well-known.

Future Plans

The plans for the Bar End to Bassett section of the M3 motorway will be exhibited from the beginning of October until mid-November. On view will be the drawings of Mott, Hay & Anderson, the consultant engineers, and the Revised Report, so anyone who missed the recent brief exhibition at the Guildhall will be able to study a more complete display at the Centre. Over the Christmas season there will be a photographic display of William Walker's work on saving the Cathedral, and a fascinating account of some of the houses in the Close; this is by Mr. John Crook, the author of "The Winchester Diver" and "A History of the Pilgrims School".

The Centre plans to continue expanding its educational programme with a course of daytime lectures to be given under the auspices of the Workers' Educational

Association by Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner, and a series of public lectures along the lines of the successful R.I.B.A. lectures is also being considered.

It is proposed that existing Trust literature (the King Alfred leaflet and the fold-out guide to part of the High Street) should be augmented, with particular regard to teachers' needs. A fully-illustrated, 12-page booklet on Jewry Street has already been published, and other titles under consideration are "Living in the City", "Sheltered Housing", "Rehabilitation", "The Brooks" and "The Close".

Fund-Raising

It had been hoped that we would be able to participate in the Manpower Services Commission scheme, but unfortunately a change in Government policy led to the calling-in of schemes for our type of project, and we could not wait. We are currently negotiating for grants with the Carnegie Trust and the R.I.B.A., and the fund-raising committee is endeavouring to raise money for the local appeal target and to cover running costs. Over the past year there has been a gradual whittling away of the £10,000 for which we were appealing in May 1983, and about £7,000 are still needed.

Fund-raising activities included a concert by the Hampshire Youth Concert Band in the Great Hall, an auction (which could have done better with more support from members), and a second-hand bookstall at the Centre, for which contributions, hard- and paper-backed, will be welcomed.

Help Needed

We are very pleased with the help that has been given to the Centre. Assistance came in many guises: £500 from the TVS Charitable Trust, donations large and small in the form of money or reduced prices from local shops, donations and gifts from individual people, and above all, the gift of time and hard labour from those members involved in making the Centre a going concern. Unfortunately lack of space prevents our listing all those giving assistance, but we would like to emphasize that without them the Winchester Heritage Centre would not exist, and to thank all those who have been helping us.

However, we still need more help. The problems of managing the Centre are now in the capable hands of Dr. Swift, but a crucial requirement is to find enough volunteers to man the reception desk at the centre. A straightforward task requiring no special skills, it has the bonus of providing an opportunity of meeting the visitors or reading literature on sale – or catching up with letter-writing! We particularly need help during the run-up to Christmas, when cards and books are in demand.

Assistance is also needed with other aspects of the Centre, and the fund-raising, display and publicity committees would all be pleased to hear from you if you have any time to spare. If you can help, please contact Dr. George Swift at the Winchester Heritage Centre, 52-54 Upper Brook Street, Tel 51664, or at home, 12 Ashbarn Crescent, Badgers Farm, Tel. 53481.

Opening Hours

Following an analysis of the attendance of our visitors, the opening hours of the Centre will be changed from 3rd October to:

Monday & Tuesday:	Closed	
Wednesday:	12noon – 4 pm	(to encourage lunch-hour visitors)
Thursday, Friday, Saturday:	10.30 am – 12.30 pm	And 2 pm – 4 pm
Sunday:	2 pm – 4 pm	

F.C.

Winchester Preservation Trust Award - Trust Annual Report 1984

Ceramic plaque with interchangeable date
Designed by Richard Kindersley

The award scheme is for new buildings, for the careful rehabilitation of old buildings and for other projects which are sympathetic to the character and environ¬ment of Winchester. A certificate and the right to display a specially designed terracotta plaque will be awarded annually.

The winning schemes will be selected by a panel of four members of the Trust, nominated by the Council and chaired by an invited and distinguished member of the design professions.

Categories for entry are: new buildings, the rehabilitation of older buildings, shop fronts and signs, landscaping and general environmental improvements. For the first two years projects completed within the city boundaries during the previous five years will be eligible, and thereafter the schemes must be only two years old. Selected schemes must fulfill the following specific criteria:

Awards are made for schemes which make a lasting contribution to the City of Winchester and display a high standard of design and a positive demonstration of an understanding of the particular character and history of Winchester.

It is hoped that this regular critical look at new contributions to the ever changing environment of the city will increase awareness of good design by praise rather than criticism. This year's entries have been on display at the City Library and the results will be announced at the Trust's AGM in October.

R.A.

Garden Trails - Trust Annual Report 1984

The impressive quality of the buildings of Winchester and their fascinating history are so dominating that it is easy to forget the importance of their settings, the spaces between buildings, and the glimpses of field-and tree-clad hill which form the ever present background.

In previous centuries agriculture and the utility of wood and copse provided the surrounding scenery and these uses came close to the town centre, but now the outward expansion of the town is filling its valley and many of the green hillsides are built on. The same pressures lead to the replacement of town gardens with offices and car parks, and the landscape spaces, both large and small, are gradually becoming less.

The Trust, in association with the Hampshire Gardens Trust, is preparing a guide to the more noteworthy gardens and landscaped open spaces in and around the city to bring these spaces to people's attention, to create awareness of their importance, and to encourage their enhancement and care.

It is thought that the guide, which could be increased in scope later, might be organised to offer a series of walks of varying duration around the town. We hope that it will not only complement the other guides available to tourists but also improve local understanding and thus generate a greater concern for our open spaces.

H.C.W.

A Special Report? - Trust Annual Report 1984

Ever since the publication of its influential special report on the St. John's Street area, the Trust has considered what other parts of the city would benefit from a similar study. Ideas have come and gone because the criteria for a Trust report are very strict, the work is extremely demanding and we cannot afford to risk spending the time of expert volunteers when it will not be useful. But a real need may now have arisen with the apparent risk to many of Winchester's open spaces. Moreover, there seems little immediate hope of the City Council finding time to look at the subject in depth.

Pointers to this risk include the degradation of Nun's Walk, more recent events along the river, and the steady change in the character of Westhill Cemetery. This is not the place to argue what should or should not be done in such areas; what worries the Trust is that things happen piecemeal, and without expert evaluation of the merits of a place. It is the old problem of the simple and practical needs of the moment taking precedence over recognition of the subtle pattern of elements which make for character and beauty. Someone should think ahead and provide a reference for future decisions.

M.C.

Winchester Area Plan - Trust Annual Report 1984

Following the Trust's comments on the 1983 Draft Area Plan (which were summarised in the last Annual Report) Trust representatives were invited to a meet¬ing with the planners before Christmas to discuss alternative strategies for dealing with Winchester's traffic. Members may recall that the Trust proposed that there were two alternatives to the destructive and ultimately ineffective road improvement strategy favoured by the planners: (i) to restrain the traffic to an acceptable level (by restricting car parking and making it more expensive) which would also restrain economic activity; (ii) to replace the inefficient and damaging motorcar-based transportation system with one that would ensure and improve the access and mobility of people, with beneficial environmental and economic results (extended pedestrianisation and park-and-ride).

The Trust representatives were disappointed to learn that no proper study of the radical alternative was being contemplated, and pressed for another meeting to try and sort out some formula for progress. Since Christmas, however, the Trust has heard nothing of the Planning Department's thinking except what it has garnered from such sources as Council minutes. the hints are that there will be a move towards a restraint option, with such schemes as the North Walls widening and the Peninsular Barracks link likely to be dropped. It is to be hoped that eschewing the highway improvement option is not just a wait-and-see policy but something more positive. The Trust has repeatedly observed that there is plenty of time to sort out Winchester's problems since they are not yet of a great order, but any procrastination in facing up to those problems may be the thief of that margin. There must be no suggestion that road schemes are merely being kept in abeyance while we see if by doing nothing the problems we fear actually materialise. Doing nothing, with the threat of old methods return¬ing, merely prolongs blight.

C.J.G.

Chesil Street Car Park and Badgers Farm Superstore - Trust Annual Report 1984

Without a clear insight into current thinking on the Plan it is difficult to assess the significance of certain decisions taken during the last year. The appearance, however, is one of the strategically important actions being taken haphazardly. The Trust has argued that those actions may eventually be seen to be right, but feels that they are premature unless clearly placed in the context of an overall strategy.

The Chesil Street scheme is a move in the direction of siting car parking out of the centre, though without a proper study of a park-and-ride strategy one cannot tell whether it is the right sort of site. There has also been no clear statement that this scheme is to replace the central car park provision. Unless such a connection is made, and soon, the new car park will come to be seen as just an addition to the general parking stock. The Chesil scheme represents a considerable environmental (and financial) cost for which we ought to expect a considerable environmental reward. It is interesting to note that car parking places are now working out at about £7000 each. It is also an interesting commentary on City Council priorities that they begrudge the cost of 15 parking places for a good quality study of Winchester's most important planning matters.

The superstore decision might also have been better left until it could be put in a proper Plan context. The Trust has not resisted the idea of an edge-of-town superstore since it sees the advantage of peripheral 'daily needs' shopping in taking the pressure off the centre of the traffic normally associated with such shopping. Without a positive policy to restrain car traffic in the centre, however, any traffic gains there will be fairly rapidly lost to the trend towards inefficient access and mobility. Traffic abhors a vacuum!

It is also disappointing that no attempt has been made to link a superstore scheme to a public transport system. A superstore which can be one of the park sites of a park-and-ride system, umbilically linked to the City Centre by a fast, frequent bus service, would make the store facilities available to the car-less and, more importantly, the City Centre would share in the attractiveness of the store to car drivers without the concomitant traffic problems.

C.J.G.

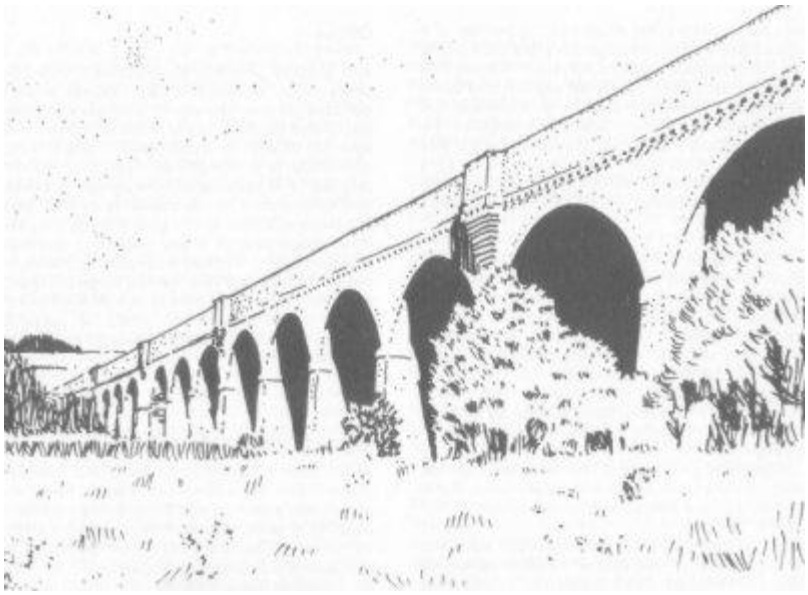
M3 – Shawford Viaduct - Trust Annual Report 1984

The consultants' scheme, which met a large measure of acceptance in the Winchester area last year, has now been firmly adopted by the Department of Transport. Trust representatives, in meetings with the consultants, have been largely concerned with landscaping details. They agreed with the consultants' preference for a steep-sided chalk cutting instead of a wider grass-sloped notch through Twyford Down, and they liked the restoration of the bottom of Plague Pits Valley down to the canal. The Trust argued that apart from the removal of metalling and the healing of the chalk scars the landscaping should not disguise the original Winchester by-pass, the grassed-over track of which should be retained for historical reasons. This has

not been accepted, although there is some willingness to reconsider if the Trust view were seen to be widely shared.

The Trust had hoped to go to the coming M3 Inquiry more as commentators with fairly minor suggestions for improvement than as objectors. Indeed, after all the bitterness of 1976 it was something of a relief to take a compliant attitude on this subject. It was not to last. The furore of that year was concerned with preserving the precious landscape of the Itchen Valley. The present scheme dams the valley in almost as brutal a way as the original scheme and no amount of tree-planting will prevent the imprisoning effect of this long, high uniform wall. It was previously acceptable because the higher viaduct in front preserves the impression of extension down the valley even if the trees beyond actually block the line of sight.

This viaduct, important in its own right and essential to the acceptability of the M3, is threatened by an indifferent, even flippant and antipathetic City Council and regarded by the Department of Transport as of no importance. Winchester has another fight on its hands.



Shawford Viaduct - Didcot Newbury and Southampton Railway c.1890

C.J.G.

Offices - Trust Annual Report 1984

The subject of office development has been in the news recently with the City Council showing some concern at the growth in this sort of activity, and coincidentaly the Trust is in the process of preparing a view on offices in Winchester. It is a difficult subject and there is a danger of regarding the office as a bugbear. It is necessary to recognise the essential part that offices play in the economy of Winchester. They are more efficient at bringing money into Winchester than shops and in many ways are environmentally less damaging. We see a danger, however, in spreading ghettoes of

offices, leaving large parts of Winchester empty and desolate outside office hours. We also see a need to limit the scale of particular office developments, as block in-filling threatens the domestic appearance of the City.

C.J.G.

Development Control - Trust Annual Report 1984

It has been an eventful year for the Trust's Development Control Committee, with a large number of significant planning applications being made, encom¬passing a wide range of development proposals for Winchester. The Committee's primary task is to judge the quality of design with particular reference to the surrounding buildings. But the question of whether differ from the official line is that we prefer to judge each case on its own merits rather than condemn a good scheme on policy ground alone. So the Trust continues to pursue its own line on development control matters, sometimes supporting the Planning Authority, sometimes opposing it. Similarly, we do not like to oppose change for the sake of it, and will always attempt to make constructive criticisms of particular schemes, welcoming sensitive modern architecture if the situation is appropriate.

The largest group of applications has been those involving new office developments, often linked to demolition of existing buildings, within or near the centre of the city. The Trust has been closely involved in monitoring the progress of these various proposals and has sent detailed observations and criticisms back to the Planning Authority in virtually every case. There are occasions when we have considered office development acceptable because no other use is viable for the site, but we have been disappointed by the quality of design on most occasions, and have given reasoned arguments for re-design or improve¬ment. As discussed elsewhere in the Report, we strongly object to the proliferation of offices where this needlessly adds to growing areas of unrelieved office use. For this reason we applaud the Council's recent refusal of the large Staple Gardens development, but suspect that the proposals will return in a modified form. Our objection in such cases is to the initial brief, so no amount of modification will be the intended use is acceptable in context is unavoid¬ably a major consideration also. Where we tend to acceptable. A new approach involving mixed develop¬ment is necessary in order to suit our small-scale, multi-faceted city. And such schemes should include more planting of indigenous trees to replace the steady loss of existing trees from old age and the use of former gardens for development and car parking.

Similarly, we have objected to the brief rather than the architecture in a number of other cases. Apart from the strategic planning issues we consider that the Chesil Street car park scheme suffered more from the instructions, which governed its size and height, than from the design, which displayed some skill in attempting the hopeless task of merging into the hill. Likewise, the housing scheme for Edgar Road, which has much to commend it architecturally, is excessive¬ly over-developed for the area. The Trust wonders if applications in a certain category should not be made in two stages: first a written brief and, only when this is approved, the designer's

solution. The opportunity for local opinion at the first stage, and the work saved for those who must at present design again to meet objections, would surely benefit all concerned.

With regard to the central conservation area, it is clear that the Trust should stand firmly behind the City Council in its desire to control the quality of design of signs and shopfronts. The problem here is that each application may not in itself be very substantial or significant, but taken as a group, it is surprising how many changes take place in the course of a year within the city centre. The apparent lack of visual standards of many traders and their thoughtless commercialism makes this task an increasingly difficult one, and erosion of the visual quality of central Winchester is a constant threat. Such matters need constant vigilance which can only be handled by the small groups that comprise the Development Control Committee, but larger issues, where time permits presentation of the scheme by the architect, are often judged by a wider group of Trust Council members. This procedure has increased during the year as more developers seek the opinion of the Trust. Members who would like to be informed of presentations (which generally occur at short notice) should make their interest known to the Hon. Secretary. Others who are interested in joining the viewing panels run by the Committee may contact its chairman direct (see back cover), as the small but dedicated band is in need of recruits to cover holidays and other commitments.

N.A.M.

Where are the Gally Hill Brickworks? - Trust Annual Report 1984

Episode Two During the continuing search to discover the origins of the delicate yellow bricks found in many early 19th century Winchester buildings, a Gaily Hill Road has been found at Church Crookham, near the Basingstoke Canal. Do any of our members know whether there was a brickworks there?

C.J.W.

Committees - Trust Annual Report 1984

Executive Committee
Chairman: Michael Carden (Win. 63005)
Deals with policy and other major matters delegated by the Trust Council.

Development Control Committee
Chairman: Nicholas McPherson (Win. 63370)
Coordinates development control policy. Committee Panels monitor planning applications.

Landscape Committee
Convenor: Mrs Penny Neyroud (Win. 712161) Monitors planning applications, conducts surveys and advises on tree-planting and landscaping.
Hon. Landscape Consultant: Hugh Watson (Win. 52015)

Programme Committee Chairman: Nick Roe
Visits Organiser: Christopher Webb (Win. 52015) Organises lectures and some other events.

Archives and Records Committee Chairman: Derek Dine (Office - Win. 60644) Collects, copies and stores archive material; arranges exhibitions and displays.

Town Planning Committee Chairman: Christopher Gillham (Win. 67338) Monitors large scale plans — structure, area, town and examines road proposals.

Membership Committee Chairman: Mrs Gill Graham (Win. 713072) Responsible for recruiting new members and production of newsletter.

Heritage Centre Committees

Management Committee Trust Council Representative and Honary Manager of Heritage Centre:Chairman: Dr. George Swift (Win. 53481).

Building Committee Chairman: Jeffery Smith (Win. 64552).

Display Committee Chairman: Mrs Rosemary Smith (Office - Win. 66242).

Fund-raising Committee Chairman: Capt. Antony Skinner (Win. 54210).

Registered with
Civic Trust

Corporate Member of :
The Victorian Society
Hampshire Gardens Trust
Visit Winchester Group
Winchester Twinning Association
Winchester M3 Joint Action Group
Roads Alert Group
Viaduct Group

Represented on:
Mayor's Carnival Committee
Floral Winchester Steering Committee

Bankers and Hon. Financial Advisers:
Barclays Bank Ltd., Jewry Street, Winchester

Hon. Legal Advisers:
Messrs. Warner & Richardson, 29a Jewry Street, Winchester

* Members who are interested in taking part in these or any other Trust activity are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary, the appropriate committee chairman or any member of the Council.