

ENGLISH HERITAGE ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI HERITAGE CO-PROFESSIONALS

Between 22nd and 26th November a team of three experts from English Heritage participated in a joint international training initiative (titled *GCI-WMF Iraq Cultural Heritage Conservation Initiative: Methodology for Rapid Assessment of Archeological and Historic Architecture*) to enable skills development in the compilation of heritage documentation in Iraq.

The partners in the project represent leading authorities in heritage conservation and include the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) and the World Monument Fund (WMF). The project was funded by UNESCO, the US National Endowment for Humanities, and the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and with donations from Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc (ESRI). The State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) is the principal partner for the project in Iraq. The project was convened with the assistance of the Department of Antiquities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan.

The partner institutions have donated technical assistance in the form of equipment (tablet computers, Global Positioning System units, survey total stations, digital cameras and laser distance meters) and training for Iraqi specialists faced with national inventory and local site-specific emergency recording issues.

The English Heritage component of the month-long project (coordinated in Amman by Mario Santana Quintero (WMF Consultant) and David Myers (GCI), focused on training in the use of metric survey techniques for a group of nine surveyors. The response to a request for help from Gaetano Palumbo at WMF was led by Bill Blake and Jon Bedford (Metric Survey), supported by Imogen Grundon (HBARD). The English Heritage team worked for four days to equip SBAH professionals with an entry-level skill set for metric survey, including real-time mapping in AutoCAD with EH's TheoLt (www.theolt.com) and photo-rectification with PhoToPlan by kubit. The goal of the English Heritage training element was to develop skills in metric survey techniques and to ensure the equipment donated was put to best use. By making use of the benefits of new surveying equipment and digital photography, Iraqi surveyors will be able to accelerate their recording programme and be able to react quickly to conservation engineering needs.

The training was carried out on two sites in Jordan, at ACOR and the Amman Citadel. Work at the latter site was coordinated with the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, owner of the site, and with Ignacio Arce, the conservation architect for the recent restoration of the Umayyad complex sponsored by the Spanish government.

Bill Blake



Jon Bedford gives some training to some members of SBAH

سوف لن نسيه التاريخ ما قدموه لنا وما تعلموه
مقبلاً للحفاظ على ارضنا الحضارية العربية
وما هي الاجزاء من الذاة الانسانية زنا مل ان ما تعلمنا
وتعلمنا منكم ان نخدم به بلدنا والانسانيه
مع جميعه التي هجون. وبيد رايايند
IRACQ

In thanks to English Heritage the SBAH trainees stated:

'The day will not be forgotten when you came and spoke to us, nor what you presented to us – those of us who are guardians over our deep cultural heritage – and what are the parts of the human heritage. And we hope that with what you taught us and enabled us to know that, with that, we will be able to serve our country and mankind.'