

## **RecorDIM TASK GROUP 3 – MEASURED AND DRAWN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF METRIC SURVEY TO HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This paper presents the work of RecorDIM Task Group 3. The aim of the task group is to produce a teaching resource which can be used by trainers and practitioners to understand the practical and theoretical application of Metric Survey to Historic Buildings. The work of the Metric Survey Team as a RecorDIM partner and Task Group chair is based on the adaptation and publication of the course documentation that has been produced for the team's annual Measured Survey Summer School. The output of Task Group 3 will be determined by an international editorial board, with representation of survey users and survey providers.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The work of the English Heritage Metric survey Team as a RecorDIM partner is based on the adaptation and publication of the course documentation that has been produced for the Teams outreach activities, mostly notably the annual Measured Survey Summer School.

The intensive three-day course, currently at Wrest Park, Bedfordshire, is directed at practitioners who are engaged in the procurement and production of measured drawings of historic buildings for analytical and conservation purposes. The effective teaching of metric survey techniques has required the production of lesson plans, reference material and a course design that maximises the teaching opportunity. The course has evolved over time to address the growing need for information on the management and application of metric survey to historic buildings. The majority of attendees already have conservation and analytical skills and attend the course to address a gap in their knowledge on the practical aspects of survey production. Through a number of international RecorDIM meetings aimed at 'bridging the gap' between survey users and suppliers, the need that the Metric Survey Team had identified through its own outreach was also recognized at a wider international level. There is a lack of advice that addresses the appropriate application of survey techniques in cultural heritage documentation.

CIPA, in its advice focuses on survey technology rather than providing guidance for end users. In recognition of this problem CIPA is supportive of the RecorDIM project.

To address this gap English Heritage agreed to chair a RecorDIM Task Group.

### **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Based upon the requirements of the delegates who attend the Measured Survey Summer School, and through liaison with international heritage professionals our initial response to 'bridging the gap' was to extend the scope of our teaching programme.

The aim of the programme is to provide heritage professionals with an understanding of:

- the variety and scope of metric survey techniques currently used in the survey of historic buildings;
- the suitable selection and application of appropriate survey techniques;
- the use of CAD as the data capture, modeling and

presentation environment;

- the issues to be addressed in preparing a brief prior to commissioning a survey from a survey contractor;
- the issues involved in the deployment of metric survey techniques in the field;
- the recent technical developments in the field of conservation.

We had intended to provide lesson plans that could be used by heritage documentation professionals to construct their own teaching programs. These lesson plans would be supported by published course documentation.

### **3. WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY 2004**

By 2004 to meet the corporate aims of English Heritage, to support its own outreach initiatives and as RecorDIM Task Group partner the Metric Survey Team had:

- produced Measured & Drawn ISBN 1873592 72 8 a publication on the application of Metric Survey to historic buildings;
- continued to develop low cost software tools;
- written and published the Metric Survey Specifications for English Heritage;
- developed and modified teaching plans and course content for Metric Survey;
- built up liaisons with national and international institutions and companies;
- hosted a Task Group 3 meeting at York, September 2004.

#### **3.1 Task Group 3**

In September of 2004 the RecorDIM Task Group 3 met at York, a meeting organized by the Metric Survey Team and hosted at the English Heritage York Office, Tanner Row. The aims of the meeting were to define the audience and the output of the task group.

The task group felt that there was no requirement for the production and dissemination of teaching plans. What was required was the material which individual trainers could use to produce their own teaching plans which would relate to local environments and conditions.

It was agreed that a series of technical handbooks would be produced that would cover the practical application of Metric Survey techniques to Historic Buildings. Where necessary the handbooks would cover the application of techniques in the field (e.g. drawing) or the procurement of the technique from

commercial survey companies (e.g. photogrammetry). It was also agreed with the GCI 'Guidelines and Principles Handbook for Heritage Documentation' editor (Rand Eppich, GCI) that the material produced would relate to the Cultural Documentation Guidelines and handbooks being produced by the Getty Conservation Institute for managers and directors.

#### **4. FUTURE DELIVERABLES**

Due to unachievable financial requirements (constrained by the 2007 target date set by RecordDIM) the work of the Task Group had to be reviewed in early 2005. Rather than individual members or small working groups producing separate parts of the handbook it was decided that English Heritage would produce the majority of the text, in association with other UK members of Task Group 3 and this would be disseminated to the wider Task Group who would act as an editorial board. Although this is not a perfect solution it is a workable one. Currently this work is underway, the handbooks will form technical papers that support Measured Drawn (2nd edition) and their content will be informed by the teams continuing contact through its outreach programme and the international relationships built up via RecordDIM. The completion of this initiative in 2007 will meet national and international guidance and standard setting goals.

It is recognised that the key to achieve the RecordDIM Task Group goals is to ensure that the aims and objectives of the group are woven into the corporate aims and objectives of English Heritage and the partner institutions. In this way we can ensure that limited resources are used efficiently and that English Heritage's support for RecordDIM will continue.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

The RecordDIM initiative is a catalyst for the production of effective teaching and guidance material on the application of metric survey to historic buildings. RecordDIM has brought together an international field of professionals involved in cultural documentation, who have resolved to pass on their knowledge to those who need it in the implementation of the

conservation cycle.

The RecordDIM initiative has proved to be a fruitful and effective channel for educators, conservators, surveyors and technicians to exchange and develop ideas. In preparing teaching aids and guidance the English Heritage Metric Survey Team has benefited from the unique opportunity provided by the RecordDIM initiative.

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#### **APPENDIX A – TASK GROUP 3 MEMBERS**

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