Editorial

Editorial policy of concentrating on one theme for each issue of *Historic Environment* is reflected here by the inclusion of articles associated with historical archaeology and industrial archaeology.

Mining themes are represented by Mark Whitmore's detailed examination of the Duke of Cornwell mine at Fryerstown (Victoria) and two shorter articles on coal mining and the processing of coal into briquettes. Transport is represented by a short article reprinted here in facsimile concerning the construction of concrete roads in Australia and published in England in 1923.

Historical archaeology and more specifically, industrial archaeology, has recently attracted much attention in Australia. The work at Sydney University and other institutions, inclusion of a historical archaeology section in ANZAAS conferences, and a national conference on industrial archaeology, held in Brisbane in May 1982, all point to a growing interest in this field. Ian Donnachie in a paper 'Industrial Archaeology in Australia' comments on the rise of interest in historical archaeology locally:

Inevitably, and until recently, the attention of historical archaeologists in Australia focussed on early colonial settlement and domestic sites. But within the last decade there has been a growing interest in industrial archaeology. This is partly a reflection of greater interest in nineteenth century economic and social history in Australia, and partly of heightened popular enthusiasm for the historical environment, pioneer relics and museums.

Whether such museums (especially the outdoor variety) really do justice to the principles of historical archaeology is debatable, although as Donnachie points out, the few museums that do strive for some accuracy or historical authenticity are helping to create a raised public awareness and
appreciation of our heritage and may do more for the conservation of industrial relics and historic sites than any legislative measures.

In response to requests for articles of a technical nature, we have included as the first of an occasional series, Lawrence Reddaway's examination of fire regulations and the use of 'intangibles' in relation to fire safety in historic buildings. This issue and the question of fire regulations in relation to the reuse of larger buildings (especially the upper floors of commercial premises) is topical. Building surveyors are being increasingly confronted with such situations and amendment or relaxation of regulations, perhaps by the use of 'intangibles' as espoused in this article, may provide new impetus for the economic reuse of our older building stock.