Identity is usually thought of as a problem for other people. English identity which is often thought of as dominant within the UK and in earlier relations within the British Empire, is also contested and complex. Conceptions of time and identity are closely linked. The last 150 years has seen the growth of modern archaeological practice and during that period there has been a shift from being fearful of the past and confident of the future in the Victorian period to the reverse. The past is often now seen as grounding and reassuring with people searching for continuities between past and present. I will use the case of the English landscape to look at how continuities with the deep past are being pursued in the creation of field systems, settlements and cultural arrangements within the landscape. The implications of the uncertainties in English identities for issues of cultural heritage more generally will also be discussed.