INTRODUCTION
The Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae was built in the late 5th century B.C. Bassae is at 1130m and the area gets relatively high rainfall for Southern Greece, estimated at 1300mm per annum [1], and it suffers cold winters. It is also in a seismic zone. A shelter was erected in 1987 which has had a significant impact on how the temple is seen in the landscape (figure 1 and 2). The total number of visitors to Bassae is around 43,000 per annum [2], partly because of its remoteness, but also partly because the view of the temple is obscured by the canopy. The body responsible for the conservation works on the monument is the Committee for the Preservation of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae, which represents the three authorities concerned: the National Museum in Athens, the Central Architectural and Conservation Authority of Greece, and the Greek Ministry of Culture. Much of the conservation work on the temple is funded by the EU to promote economic regeneration of the area.

Two major earthquakes in the 1980s sparked concern about the Temple. A series of emergency measures was embarked upon which included the erection of the canopy of the temple. A study was published in 1995 [1] which looked in detail at the effectiveness of the canopy, and proposed further specific conservation measures. The main problems in the Temple are due to a local Maaschachtian Age limestone being used for the foundations and the major part of the superstructure, and to the presence of clays in the foundations and superstructure. The collapse of the roof in the 7th century was caused by expansion and contraction of the superstructure which in turn caused damage to the superstructure. A further contributory factor has been human action, including the removal of the frieze in the 18th century (now in the British Museum). Frost, rainwater and atmospheric changes in the temperature range showed more extremes outside than inside the canopy. The increase in relative humidity is however of concern.

ConSERVATION MEASURES
During the early 1990s the detached stones were collected and grouped outside (figure 3). Conservation interventions on the Temple started in 2001 but the twenty years estimated in 1995 [3] will not be enough: at the present rate of progress, the works will last at least another 20 years. The need to strengthen the foundations made the restoration of the temple a major project, involving the removal and repositioning of some 1500 stone blocks, each weighing approximately 1 tonne and the moving of 37 columns, each weighing approximately 13 tonnes [4]. The first phase, begun in 2001 on the north pteron, is now complete. The clay in the foundations has been stabilised using lime and cement and titanium clamps have been used to join the blocks, with suitable spacers [5]. Rocks in the stone blocks have been filled with a thin mortar made of volcanic soil, lime and water, and a more viscous mixture used to fill the voids [6]. A cement mortar is used to join fragments to the blocks. Local stone is used throughout. The aim of the conservation work continued. No further study should be resumed, comparing in particular the position of the stones sheltered from the prevailing bad weather conditions [8]. Many of these months, often by as much as 20%. The report proposed additional environmental monitoring should resume, with data loggers placed inside and outside the temple, and also inside the stone. This will show what is happening now, and allow a rational decision based on evidence to be taken for the long term future. Urgent consideration should be given to how best to protect the detached stones during the winter, probably by a further shelter.

THE SHELTER
The shelter was described at the time it was erected as a ‘temporary’ canopy to shield the temple from the prevailing bad weather conditions [9]. Many of the problems with shelters mentioned in the academic literature [9] can be reproduced here with the Committee’s permission. This poster quotes from a dissertation submitted for an M.A in Principles of Conservation at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL in 1995 with the permission of the author. The author is grateful to the Committee for the Preservation of the Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae for access to their archive and for the assistance of its President, Dr A. Mantis and of the members of its staff in her research, in particular Mr. I. Karagiorga-Stathacopoulou. The monument needs shelter from frost and rain in the parts of the monument where no conservation work has yet been done on the foundations. The workers also need protection inside the Temple while conservation work continues. The current membrane however needs replacement. Complete replacement of the temporary canopy is unlikely to be an option for financial reasons. One alternative possibility might be to retain the supporting struts of the canopy and replace the membrane with a new one which could be removed in the warmer months. An idea of how the site might look can be gained from photographs taken while the canopy was being erected (figure 4). This would be an improvement, visually. However, removing and replacing the membrane every few months would require a significant investment of resources. As a minimum, the opportunity should be taken when the canopy is being replaced to have a fabric which provides better ventilation and controllable vents. Extra heating should be introduced during cold snaps in winter, and the relative humidity reduced, particularly in autumn, and through improved ventilation and/or dehumidifiers.

Short-term recommendations
Environmental monitoring should resume, with data loggers placed inside and outside the temple, and also inside the stone. This will show what is happening now, and allow a rational decision based on evidence to be taken for the long term future. Urgent consideration should be given to how best to protect the detached stones during the winter, probably by a further shelter.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES
[2] Figures based on ticket sales, provided by the Committee to the author in March 2008.
[4] Ministry of Culture The Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae Project for Care and Use of the most significant monuments of the classical period. Athens, 1987
[6] Ministry of Culture The Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae Project for Care and Use of the most significant monuments of the classical period. Athens, 1987
[8] Ministry of Culture The Temple of Apollo Epikourios at Bassae Project for Care and Use of the most significant monuments of the classical period. Athens, 1987