Spring 2024 Newsletter

A Note from the Chair

After a busy year in 2021, when we presented a session at the CIfA conference and at the Festival of Archaeology, we seemed to have stalled: Esther Robinson Wild and Jeremy Lake presented papers at the RTPI South West Conference in October 2022 and members presented case studies in CIfA's Annual Review for 2021/2022, but 2023 was a quiet year. It has been an exceptionally busy time for all of us on every front it seems, but we are very keen to reignite the group and develop a programme for the next two years, reporting back for our 2024 AGM which we have programmed for 28 November.

We also wish to better engage with our membership, other groups within CIfA and with fellow professionals outside CIfA. Of particular relevance is

- defining buildings archaeology as a discipline
- considering the research potential of historic buildings, and we can better use and in turn inform national and local research frameworks
- considering the range of ways in which significance is defined, both in relationship to national planning guidance and broader definitions as exemplified by *Conservation Principles*

We thus intend to commence a series of on-line CIfA tea breaks, starting in May, that initially use case studies presented by BAG members on the theme of significance. We are also keen to assist in this year's Festival of Archaeology, between 13 and 28 July. Its theme is on 'Festival and Community', opening the potential for a wide variety of different events that can feature historic buildings in guided walks or on-line tours: buildings archaeology is already in the draft programme, with the Museum of Liverpool archaeology team guiding visitors through their excavation of courtyard housing known as 'little hell'. We shall present a programme in our next newsletter.

We also want views on how we can better communicate news and topics of interest to our members. We could continue with newsletters, but direct communication via the BAG's LinkedIn page and directly via e-mail might be a better way of drawing your attention to any upcoming conferences and issues – indeed this is something that all our members can contribute to.

To 'kick this off', so to speak, here are some thoughts from the Chair on how we as a committee considered that this amounted to more than the recording of buildings, encompassing HERs, the issues of place-making and values, and of public benefit.

CIfA Buildings Archaeology Group

The group aims to promote the analysis of the built environment and to raise awareness of approaches and methodologies to address the wider role of buildings archaeology with other professionals in built heritage sector by

- advising CIfA council on issues relating to standing buildings and being consulted during the drafting of new recording guidelines and heritage legislation
- producing regular newsletters (two per year)
- articles in the CIfA magazine 'The Archaeologist'
- training events (seminars, guidance and conference sessions)
- developing links with associated heritage professionals
- to provide a forum for addressing the wider role of buildings and archaeology within the built heritage sector

Membership is **free to CIfA members**, and £10 annually for non-members. **Email** groups@archaeologists.net

DO YOU HAVE NEWS OR AN INTERESTING PROJECT TO SHARE?

We would be grateful for any articles or news for our next newsletter, ideas for the 2024 Festival of Archaeology and topics for our proposed on-line sessions. For further information please contact: jeremy.lake44@gmail.com

What is Buildings Archaeology?

Jeremy Lake

It is now 30 years since the conference and excellent series of articles published in 1994 as *Buildings Archaeology Applications in Practice*, edited by Jason Wood. Our 2021 CIfA Conference session opened with: *What is Buildings Archaeology, and how can we expect others to value what we do?* We then stated: 'It is a sub-topic within the wider archaeological discipline, although buildings are an integral part of how landscapes and settlements have developed since the medieval period. We use the same principles of stratigraphy, the same techniques of survey and photography, the same methods of intrusive investigation, and yet Buildings Archaeology is often placed on the periphery of the archaeological profession. Our role is viewed as being to record, and not to discover. Thereby our findings are rarely reported in standard archaeological media.'

Definitions and Questions

- 'The application of archaeological principles of systematic recording, analysis and interpretation of standing buildings or "above ground archaeology"'. Kate Giles, from the entry on 'Buildings Archaeology', *Encyclopaedia of Global Archaeology* (2013).
- 'It took me a long time sketching before I could battle past wood and stone to begin considering the human beings who left material things as their only legacy….Architecture studied as an expression of personality and culture may provide us with the best means available for comprehending an authentic history' (Henry Glassie, *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia*, 1975, vii).
- Do we take a cue from another American folklorist Henry Deetz (*In Small Things Forgotten*, 1987) in placing himself on 'the humanistic branch of historical archaeology' – and by extension historic conservation
- 'there's far more to house building than mere construction' (Francis Pryor, *Home*, 2014, 253 et seq).
- As significant as the identification of specific types of constructional form and types of building can be, can such an approach (as Eric Mercer pointed out in his 1997 essay in *Vernacular Architecture* (**28**, 9-12) on 'The unfulfilled wider implications of vernacular architecture studies') be limited as an end in itself rather than a gateway to broader fields of enquiry.
- What about the importance of seeing what you record in a much broader context to get more meaning and questions from it? As Matt Johnson pointed out (*Ideas of Landscape*, 2007, 140) there is value to be had in relating the particular to the general – 'any celebration of particularity is meaningless without an understanding of the general processes against which that particularity is played out'.
- Why not broaden out more to consider the application of phenomenology and other ideas practised in prehistoric archaeology? How about using developments in folklore studies to take a humanistic approach to the study of buildings – taking account of diverse views, identity, memory, community etc?

Does this and other considerations lead us to taking a slightly different view than the conservator or not? Can and should it enable us to think about what buildings contribute to the present character and distinctiveness of places, and how they can change in the future, that takes into account their relationship to spaces and features around them in a way that is more dynamic than that of 'preventing harm'? Can our understanding of time-depth in the present enable us to engage better in acknowledging both the need for transition and for taking advantage of opportunities to recover information for public benefit?

What are the broader benefits of historic buildings?

The historic building stock developed over centuries to serve a range of functions, for example as dwellings; to enable the housing, processing and management of farm products and animals; and as places of worship, industry and commerce. These functions have shaped the character of the present-day building stock and the spaces that have developed in intimate association within their 'curtilages', such as gardens and farmyards, and the benefits to society that flow from them.

In addition to articulating the value of the built environment within the Conservation Principles framework, a recent experimental project has also given consideration to the Natural Capital of the building stock in its landscape context and its contribution to the 'ecosystem services' that flow from it, including for example as habitats, for crafts and building skills and through the reuse of materials for climate change mitigation.[1] It explores and tests how the cultural heritage values of buildings and structures can be incorporated into an ecosystem services framework, through considering them as both an integral part of their associated historic spaces and of their wider landscape settings. The project applies a methodology that identifies the ecosystem service outcomes from buildings, expressed in terms of flows of benefits over time, and attributes monetary values that are compatible with the ecosystem services approach.

In Worcestershire, supported by Historic England, consideration of these issues – and the results of work on farmsteads in their landscapes in particular - led to guidance on the full range of rural building types, their related settings and wildlife habitats, and case studies which built upon the results of Farmstead Mapping to present a mapped analysis of types and dates of buildings in relationship to landscape character and type. [2] Its conclusions are relevant to the need for inter-disciplinary approaches to an issue such as ecosystem services

- 'Approaches to the study of many rural buildings remains persistently detached from settlement and landscape. This is perpetuated by poor cross sector collaboration, a lack of guidance within regional research frameworks and inconsistent and often very limited datasets associated with non-designated buildings.
- An enduring perception that 'heritage' is solely focused on the protection of the most valued (generally listed) buildings.
- Historic Environment data that is often overwhelming, abstract and difficult to break down.
- Building records are predominately associated with Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, or the results of development control, resulting in an incomplete picture. Although projects such as the Historic Buildings of Worcestershire Project, have done a great deal to enhance records for pre-20th century domestic buildings survey is time- consuming and largely relies on volunteers.' [3]

For further details see the following reports listed under the *Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service* unpublished report series on the Archaeology Data Service.

- Worcestershire County Council and Historic England 2016, *Your Place Matters: Community Planning for the Future of Rural Buildings in their Settings*
- 'Your Place Matters: A Guide to Understanding Buildings and their Setting in Rural Worcestershire'
- *Understanding Buildings in their Setting in Worcestershire; and Synthesis of Rural Buildings in their Setting: Project Report, Case Study and Research Questions.*

[1] John Powell, Jeremy Lake, Rob Berry, Peter Gaskell, Paul Courtney, Ken Smith 2019 *Heritage, natural capital and ecosystem services - Historic buildings and their associated boundaries*. Historic England Research Report – also at http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/8253/1/Heritagenaturalcapitalandecosystemservices_Historicbuildingsandboundaries%20%281%29.pdf

[2] Worcestershire County Council and Historic England 2016, *Your Place Matters: Community Planning for the Future of Rural Buildings in their Settings*; *Understanding Buildings in their Setting in Worcestershire; and Synthesis of Rural Buildings in their Setting: Project Report, Case Study and Research Questions.* http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20230/archive_and_archaeology_projects/1064/archaeology_planning_advice/2

[3] *Synthesis of Rural Buildings in their Setting: Project Report, Case Study and Research Questions*, p. 50

Adding a New Layer.

20th-century Heritage and the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

Emily Hathaway, Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service, and Jeremy Lake

Many 20th-century buildings, structures and places of local or greater significance are at risk of neglect or lack of management, insensitive change or demolition. Many locally interesting buildings are demolished without the attachment of any condition for building recording, which would have ensured at minimum, some preservation by record.

This filling station at Hartlebury was noted as an example of a little-altered rural garage in Carscapes – *The Motor Car, Architecture and Landscape* in England, published in 2012 by Yale University Press (Kathryn Morris and John Minnis). Nevertheless, and rather than have a full record which could have informed consideration of how to reuse and conserve its essential architectural character, permission was granted for its demolition.

To address the issues surrounding the care of our recent heritage, Historic England commissioned Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service to develop a project to enhance understanding of 20th-century buildings and landscapes – specifically non-domestic buildings and public places – in the county, and to develop a strategy for its identification and assessment.

The project has enhanced the local evidence base by adding a new layer to the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record and by nominating candidates for inclusion on the Worcester City Historic Environment Record. It informed some additions to the National Heritage List for England, including Kidderminster's Retaining Wall with Sculptural Relief by William Mitchell, built between 1972 and 1973 and Hunnington's inter-war 'Blue Bird' Toffee Factory, of which the administration building, welfare building, boundary walls, railings and gates.

Perhaps the most important outcome of the project has been the publication of guidance on the identification and assessment of 20th century heritage [i], for professionals, interested individuals and communities. Identified gaps in knowledge and potential avenues for further research have also been set out in 20th-century *Non-Domestic Buildings and Public Places in Worcestershire: Future Work and Research Priorities*, which sets out a strategy for local research within a national context. Four project case studies – *Redditch New Town*, *Kidderminster*, *Village Halls and their derivatives* and *Worcestershire's County Farms and Small Holdings* – were undertaken to research aspects of Worcestershire's 20th-century heritage in more detail.

The guidance for the recording and assessment of 20th-century non-domestic buildings is available as

- *Guide to 20th-century Non-Domestic Buildings and Public Places in Worcestershire*, by Emily Hathaway and Jeremy Lake
- *20th-century Heritage in Worcestershire: Future Work and Research Priorities*, by Emily Hathaway and Jeremy Lake
- *20th-century Non-Domestic Buildings and Pubic Places: National Framework for Assessment*, by Emily Hathaway and Jeremy Lake

These and case studies are also available listed under the *Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service* unpublished report series on the Archaeology Data Service.

The National Framework for Assessment provides basic guidance to assist in the identification and recording, including in Historic Environment Records (HERs), of 20th-century buildings and public places that may have a local or greater level of heritage interest. It is presented in three parts

1. INTRODUCTION, an introduction to 20th-century buildings heritage and the planning background
2. ASSESSING 20th-CENTURY HERITAGE, which sets out how to identify and assess the significance of 20th-century heritage
3. KEY DATES AND TYPES OF HERITAGE, with summary guidance, including links to key sources, on key dates and types of buildings
    1. Agriculture and Subsistence
    2. Civil
    3. Commemorative (including Public Art)
    4. Commercial
    5. Communications
    6. Defence
    7. Education
    8. Health and Welfare
    9. Industrial and Maritime
    10. Public utilities (includes power stations and water supply and drainage)
    11. Recreation (including public parks and open spaces) and sport
    12. Religious, ritual and funerary
    13. Transport and travel

This building at the Enfield Cycle Company in Redditch, which manufactured stationary engines and lawnmowers as well as bicycles, was built after 1926 and reflects through its use of brick and its form the influence of 1920s-1930s Dutch and Scandinavian architects.

Chapel Barn, Pont Glas, Monmouthshire

Paul Sambrook and Jenny Hall

https://trysor.net

Trysor were commissioned to undertake a building record and watching brief on works on a small farm building at Pant Glas, Monmouthshire, during July 2020 to meet a condition attached to planning permission granted to convert the building for residential use. Pant Glas was associated with the Probert family in the 16th and 17th century, who are remembered as a leading recusant Catholic family in the county of Monmouth.

The building was known as “Chapel Barn” to the owner, a name of unknown origin. It probably arises from the presence of a possible 15th century mullioned window in its southern elevation and the Probert connection. Blocks of moulded and dressed sandstone blocks in the buildings otherwise unremarkable fabric also appeared to suggest antiquity.

Appearances can be deceptive, however. The building recording established that the building was unlikely to be a chapel and was too small to qualify as a barn, measuring just 6.5 metres by 3 metres internally. Mortar samples taken at the time showed it to be of likely late 18th/19th century date, with one sample suggesting a possible early 18th century date. The watching brief on service trenches outside the building proved puzzling. A large spread of rubble, including a thick layer of mortar, flagstones and more moulded and dressed stone was found to the north, south and east of the building. This may have originated from modifications said to have been carried out to the nearby house during the 18th century, as some pottery and glass of that period was found in the demolition layer. Outside the north elevation of Chapel Barn, foundation trenches dug revealed buried masonry, the remains of a cobbled floor and a curious stone box-like feature, thought to be a possible feeding trough. The rubble layer appeared to have been deposited over these walls.

Inside the building, the floor was cleared of vegetation to reveal a largely intact cobbled floor. This was removed as the floor level was to be reduced by almost 600mm. Several alternate stone and clay bands were taken up to reveal what appeared to be a partial flagstone floor through the centre of the western end of the building. These flagstones were removed to reach the required depth revealing the almost intact flue of a long-forgotten kiln. The kiln base presumably survives beneath the eastern half of the floor, which was not dug to the same depth. A single sherd of possible 17th century blue-glazed pottery and a clay pipe stem was found in the fill of the flue. At its western end the flue widened, and it is presumed that a vertical flue was connected at that point. To the east, the mouth of the still-buried kiln was possibly visible in the form of a heavy iron plate seen in the side of the trench. Burnt material from this area was sampled and we await the results of analysis of that material. Some on-site flotation was undertaken of two samples of this material, but no cereal grains were noted, therefore it is not currently clear what type of kiln is present.

The entire kiln and flue structure will be preserved beneath the new floor and the mullioned window reglazed and reset in the south elevation. “Chapel Barn” may become “Kiln Cottage” with time, but it provides a salient lesson in the importance of archaeological investigation and the capacity for archaeology to completely redefine our understanding of a building.

A Northamptonshire Ox-House

Amir Bassir, The Environment Partnership

https://www.tep.uk.com

While walking in fields near the River Nene, half hidden by trees and scrub, I came across an unusual small building which piqued my interest; later, as part of a university module, I had the opportunity to survey and research what turned out to be a very rare survival of an unusual building type, an 18th century ox-house.

The fields in which it sits were historically notable as exceptional pasturing ground, flooded annually by the river. In the 18th century they were part of the estate of the Duke of Powys. Nearby is the site of a former manor house, and the fields adjacent to the village of Upper Heyford include numerous medieval building platforms and earthworks. Heyford Mill, just across the river from the ox-house is recorded in the Domesday Survey. The county's two main cattle drove roads, Welsh Road and Banbury Lane, pass in close proximity to the village, and along these routes thousands of cattle were led from Wales to the markets of Northampton and London. Whilst cattle rearing and summer pasturing was common in the county it was rare that they should be over-wintered, and stall-feeding was not common. The ox-house likely owes its existence to the exceptional quality of this site and housed draught oxen rather than cattle.

The building has a U-shaped or horse-shoe plan and measures 16m width by 20m in length. The thick sandstone walls include regularly spaced window openings, formerly with shutters, and deeply splayed to accommodate oxen horns. There is a small internal yard space, and the inside edge of the roof is supported on posts. It is fortunate that the archives include an accurate plan of the building produced in 1758 as part of a Catalogue of Sale of the Duke's estate following his death. This drawing shows that the building has survived essentially unchanged, though unfortunately the original roof has been lost to fire.

Despite its age and rarity the building is unlisted. It is likely that there are many other historically important buildings which have yet to be granted statutory protection; the identification of these buildings and the impetus to preserve them should stem from the local communities and local interest groups via such initiatives as Historic England's Enrich the List.

The results of the above work have been published in the *Northamptonshire Past and Present Journal*, 2018, No. 71.

Discovering a new Vernacular Revival building by Paley and Austin

Nigel Neil, formerly of Neil Archaeological Services

Over the years I have done surveys on some wonderful buildings, usually just before the builders moved in to change them forever. From the humblest barn or pigsty to the Norman Keep and Henry IV's gatehouse at Lancaster Castle, I've been lucky enough to poke my nose into parts of buildings that have been inaccessible for years. But it isn't often that I've had the opportunity to get insight into an architect's sources of inspiration. A recent project on a Grade II Listed ex-school did just that. The building was at Whittington, about 12 miles (20 km) north-east of Lancaster, Lancashire, and had LBC for conversion into two dwellings. It was built (along with the attached School House, which wasn't part of the development) in 1875, to replace the village's separate boys' and girls' schools, with a large charitable donation from Henry Aylmer Greene (1827-77), an unmarried younger son of the local gentry family. Since the 1940s it had struggled to maintain a large enough roll, and finally closed in 1973, since when it had been the offices for a well-respected family firm of builders.

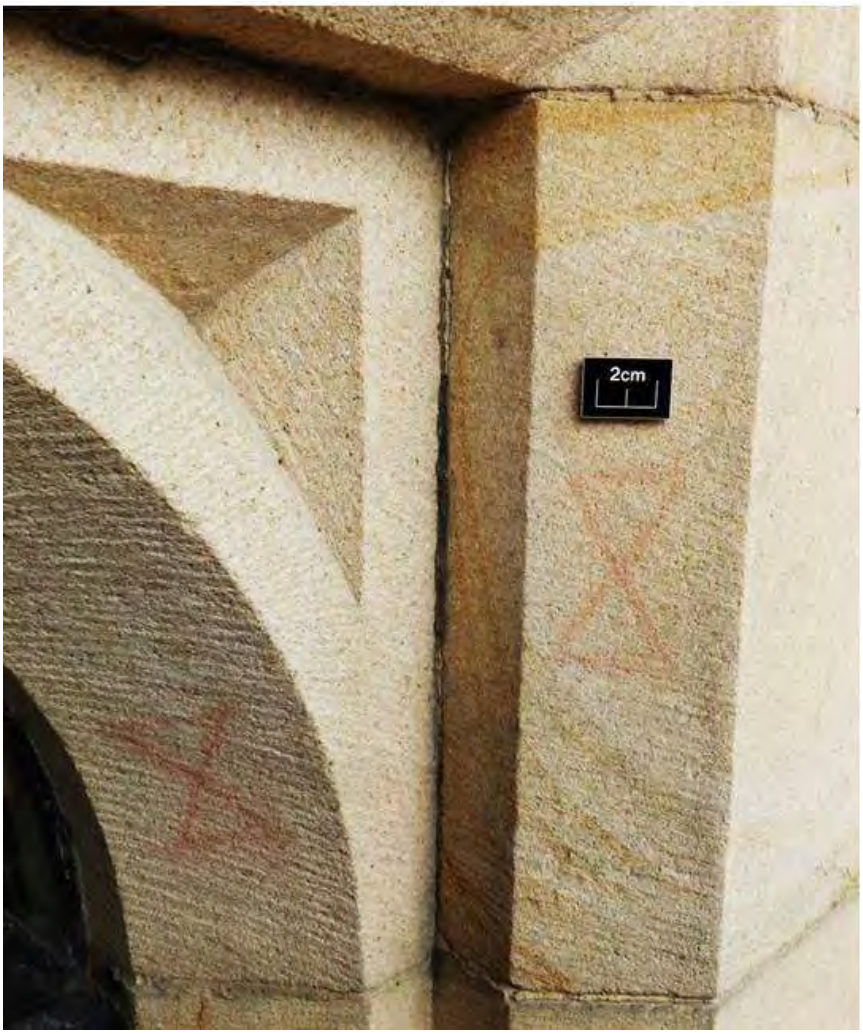
The building had long been suspected – but not proven – to be by Lancaster architects Edward Graham Paley (1823-95) and Hubert Austin (1841-1915), a partnership which lasted from 1868 to '86, one of several incarnations in the Sharpe, Paley and Austin practice 1836-1942 (Price 1998; Brandwood *et al* 2012). Austin has been called 'the only local church architect of real genius. [He] had a masterful command of balance and composition allied to an exquisite eye for detail' (Pollard and Pevsner 2006, 91). Besides churches and country houses, the partnership designed many schools, including parts of Lancaster Royal Grammar, Rossall, Sedbergh, Giggleswick, and at least eight village schools. Previous authorities have noted in Austin's work the influence of his mentor Sir George Gilbert Scott. The influence may also be seen at Whittington of George Fredrick Bodley - another of Scott's pupils and a collaborator with William Morris - who is famed for his reinterpretations of English and Northern European late-medieval design.

The school is full of both late Victorian technical innovation (e.g. cavity walls, top-opening fall-back casement windows) and striking decorative features from the Vernacular Revival. The latter pay *homage* on the one hand to medieval craftsmanship (e.g. the arch-braced collar trusses, and the highly unusual painted masons' marks), and on the other to local architectural details and styles of the late seventeenth century (e.g. the decorated door lintels, mullioned and transomed windows, and door furniture).

The roof trusses had been hidden from view since suspended ceilings and an ugly flat-roofed extension were built in 1971. I was able to safely access some parts of the roof during the initial survey, via a trapdoor, but the majesty of the roofs of the two wings was only revealed once the inserted ceilings had been removed. My enthusiastic and knowledgeable client invited me to return twice during the conversion works. The clearest parallels for the roof are a group of fourteenth-century examples in the West Country, most notably that formerly on the Guesten Hall of Worcester Cathedral (1326; Charles 1971 https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1348531). That roof has large open quatrefoils rather than Whittington's trefoils, but the design of the collar-braces is strikingly similar. Paley and Austin would undoubtedly have been familiar with this dramatic building from the outcry when it was taken down in 1862, the roof being re-erected at Holy Trinity, Shrub Hill, Worcester. That church was demolished in 1969, when the roof was again dismantled, and taken to the newly founded Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, Bromsgrove, where it was eventually (1987) re-constructed as part of the conference and wedding suite called New Guesten Hall. https://www.explorethepast.co.uk/2018/06/the-charles-archive-the-guesten-hall-roof-college-green-shrub-hill-avoncroft/ I remember seeing the Worcester roof, looking forlorn, when I visited Avoncroft with a daytrip of volunteers from the Crickley Hill excavation in 1974.

The front and rear door lintels show a different influence altogether on Paley's and Austin's work – local vernacular buildings. The front lintel pays homage to an ogee style found on 1680s-90s buildings in neighbouring Whittington and – significantly – also within *c.* 250 metres of Paley's and Austin's offices. Fortunately, though many of these are now lost, they were catalogued by Emmeline Garnett (1994; 2007). The rear door lintel – with two flowing curves which almost meet, with inset eight-petal rosettes - has close comparisons in Whittington (1738), and at Bentham, Settle, and elsewhere (1634-94). The architects used identical rosettes at the Royal Albert Asylum, Lancaster (1866-68), which are illustrated in one of their sketchbooks in the Lancashire Archives (DDX 2743, MS 8906, f10).

The best was saved till last. During exterior stone-cleaning, numerous red-ochre painted ‘butterfly’ or ‘hourglass’ became visible on the front and north elevations. Leading masons’ marks authority Dr Jennifer Alexander (Associate Professor, History of Art, University of Warwick) agrees that the marks are rare survivals, from a brief resurgence of bold displays of craftsmanship during the Vernacular Revival and Arts and Crafts movements. Since marks are not present on every ashlar stone, others may have been dressed either by an individual / lodge who /which did not use a mark, whose marks were less durable, or who used marks on the hidden faces (as was more common at this time). The author would be very interested to know of any other examples of painted marks like these.



The bell was cast by John Warner and Sons, probably at their Stockton on Tees foundry. The firm cast the bell for Bolton Town Hall (1872), and for the original (never installed) version of Big Ben (1856).

Most windows have one (sometimes two) ‘fall back casements’, with a single central brass or bronze stay at the top, rather than the more common hopper or quadrant stays at the sides; the stays are held in niches cut into the joints between the two upper stones.

Sources

Brandwood, G. K., Austin, T., Hughes, J., Price, J., and Watson, M., 2012 *The architecture of Sharpe, Paley and Austin*, Swindon: English Heritage

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Updates - Built heritage in the news

SOME PLANNING ISSUES

The House of Commons Library has published and updated research briefings summarising Permitted Development Rights (PDRs) which enable development without the need for planning applications. Whilst accepting that adaptive reuse is essential in sustaining the continued existence of many historic buildings (farm buildings and commercial space including empty space above shops), there are concerns that without resting upon a sound understanding of their historic character, context and significance they could be both environmentally damaging and of lesser commercial value in the longer term. The Peak District Farmsteads Project considered this issue in relationship to both areas within and outside the National Park. 'While government has not relaxed Permitted Development Rights (PDRs), which would permit virtually unrestricted conversion of barns to alternative uses in Section 1 (5) land (National Landscapes including National Parks), including conversion to dwellings, there remains the threat that this decision could be rescinded. Government has, in any case, stated its expectation that National Park authorities should have a

positive approach to dealing with the re-use of traditional buildings. This necessarily increases pressure on National Park authorities to approve conversions, demolitions and replacements. The resource, which is a key land- scape characteristic, heritage asset and economic contributor through tourism, remains significantly under threat. Meanwhile, in contiguous areas of similar character and content (High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands outside the National Park boundary), the threat to that resource has increased significantly. It is particularly important, in this context, to note that farm buildings of marginal quality for designation were considered to be sufficiently protected through 'curtilage listing' of the house or more rarely another principal item: it was then considered that any raising of the threshold to include more 19th century buildings would add thousands of buildings to the statutory list. Interpretation of recent case law now suggests that if farm buildings have uses independent of the farmhouse they should not be treated as listed, even if they have been in the same ownership prior to the date of listing. If sustained, this has significant implications for the protection of many thousands of farm buildings, especially in view of the fact that only a small proportion are listed (see 1: Introduction) and that historic farm buildings are acknowledged as under-represented on the statutory lists.'

Marks & Spencer is bringing a High Court case action against the government, Westminster City Council and SAVE Britain's Heritage over the decision to block the proposed redevelopment of its flagship Oxford Street store. In a hearing this week, M&S argued that the government misapplied planning rules, and that there were no grounds for a "strong presumption" favouring refurbishment over demolition. SAVE argued that retrofitting the building would maintain its historic architecture while releasing less carbon. See BBC coverage here. SAVE is also campaigning for a former Debenhams store in Bristol to be saved from demolition.

PROJECTS

We wish in future editions to report on the results of projects that have provided new insights into buildings archaeology. Here as a taster is an extract from an excellent new on-line book by Janine Buckley, *Country House Stables of Nottinghamshire*, which examines the architectural history of country house stables - it arises from an HLF-funded project.

Newstead. The huge second floor granary at Rufford attested to a diet principally of hard feed with some hay. The hunters' stable at Newstead housed only five horses and the rest of the space was for carriage or riding horses who would not have needed such a high-energy diet. However, it is likely that Newstead had a separate grain store, possibly retained in the Kennels Fort. Regarding the former use of the space, the survival of the architectural drawings for both sites compensates in some measure for the loss of internal fittings without record.

Stereotypies and 'Equine Graffiti'

Research and archaeological investigation of these country house stables has revealed more about how they functioned and how they were experienced. Stables functioned as buildings of confinement and despite some being designed to aid good physical health, they also had the potential to adversely affect horses' mental wellbeing. The combination of confinement and a diet of high-energy grain caused horses to perform stereotypic behaviours, repetitive movements that relieved the stress of confinement and simulated natural grazing patterns. Historic stables are revealing evidence of these behaviours scratched into their fabric. These 'masonry message boards' onto which these players etched their feelings can fill the gaps in documentary evidence. In stables this 'equine graffiti' attests to how horses experienced these spaces. Until now such marks have only been recorded on timber stall partitions as at Rufford Abbey, but investigation at Park Hall stables revealed the first recorded example of historic equine graffiti to a masonry wall. Salvaging this evidence through detailed recording of internal spaces is necessary to reveal a more nuanced understanding of how horses experienced historic stables.

Scrape mark evidence of stereotyped behaviours on stall partition from Rufford Abbey

Courtesy © Janine Buckley

NEWS AND GUIDANCE

Historic England has a series of upcoming webinars, including case studies of historic buildings, listed under its Technical Tuesdays web page.

Historic England has also just put out a Call for Proposals for: Supporting the delivery of Heritage Carbon Literacy Training to the sector.

The consultation for a new **Historic England Advice Note (HEAN)** on *Climate Change and Historic Building Adaptation* has now closed, and publication is expected soon.

The former Ancient Monuments Society – now **Historic Buildings & Places** – continues to provide an invaluable round-up of current casework. Some are on-line, but if you are a member its triannual Heritage Now provides a full list of current cases and issues.

The **Vernacular Architecture Group** is holding its annual conference this year in Northern Ireland (11-15 June). Amongst its excellent range of on-line databases and other resources is a new Vernacular Building Glossary which identifies terms used for vernacular buildings, in particular the components of timber-framed structures. They can be identified by name or from drawings. It is based on the Practical Handbook *Recording Timber-Framed Buildings: an Illustrated Glossary* by Nat Alcock, Maurice Barley, Philip Dixon and Bob Meeson, published by the Council for British Archaeology.

The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain is running some excellent on-line talks. For details follow the *What's On* link on their website**.**

The Victorian Society and **The Georgian Group** continues with their exciting programme of regional events and on-line talks, and both have links to useful bibliographies and resources.

The Twentieth Century Society has a similarly exciting programme, with links to some excellent YouTube lectures.

The Association for Industrial Archaeology has published lectures on its YouTube channel and has a variety of on-line resources.

The Construction History Society (CHS) has published two editions of its peer-reviewed journal *Construction History* and one of its intermittent popular magazines *The Construction Historian.* As the CHS is an international learned society, with nearly half its members resident outside the UK, the content of both is wide-ranging, geographically and topically. The Construction Historian magazine seeks short, popular, illustrated articles about Buildings Archaeology projects, specifically those that pose more questions than answers. If you've found something you can't identify or understand, send it in and we will circulate your enquiry to an international membership of c. 400 construction professionals, academics and curators. Our remit is broad, encompassing everything to do with buildings and construction, from drains to roof coverings, superstructures to decorative fabric, lives of individual builders and company histories, materials and contract practices. Send your thoughts, in the first instance, to Mike Heaton - *membership@constructionhistory.co.uk*

The CHS has also launched the **On-Line Construction History Bibliography**. This is a searchable 'wiki' source that is being compiled, slowly, by CHS members. Anyone can search the database, but only members of the CHS and affiliated organisations can add or edit entries. It therefore reflects the interests of active members: so, in addition to the contents of the CHS journal since 1984 (almost complete), it contains references to a lot of material by European academics and engineers, but amongst that you will find much about, for instance, how Gothic cathedrals were built (not just what they look like), or the economics of the 17th century brick industry. Eventually, it will hold references to several thousand books and articles about construction history, a subject that includes Buildings Archaeology.

The Lime Finishes Group headed by Dr Timothy Meek runs monthly online zoom discussions looking specifically at lime finishes and understanding their significance as part of the historic development of a building - an area often misunderstood or overlooked. Talks are varied and include outlooks from all areas of the buildings sector. Anyone is welcome to drop in, for more information on how to get involved please find Dr Timothy Meek on LinkedIn, or email tim_meek@icloud.com

OUR COMMITTEE

Acting Chair
Jeremy Lake

Secretary
John Mabbitt

Newsletter co-ordinator
Alison Dickens

Ordinary Members
Lorna Gorning
Amir Bassir
Cathy Coutts
Franki Webb
Amelia Allen
Helen Wallbridge

Advisors
Catherine Bell, CBA

Our meetings and the 2024 AGM

Thursday 16 May 11-3pm
Wednesday 3 July 2-4pm
Wednesday 2 October 2-4pm
Thursday 28 November 10-12am

Jeremy Lake – after a long and varied career with English Heritage and Historic England - is a historic buildings and landscapes consultant, with a wide variety of projects including recent conservation plans for Jersey Heritage and for the island's Archaeological Research Framework, on Virginia Woolf's Sussex home and John Constable in Dedham Vale. He is a Visiting Professor with the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucestershire and amongst other voluntary roles serves on the National Trust's Historic Environment Group.
Alison Dickens is Director of Granta Heritage, a small independent company specialising in buildings, churches and research. Until mid 2019 Alison was a senior Project Manager at CAU (University of Cambridge) where she ran very large projects from urban redevelopment to a 10,000-house new town.

Lorna Goring started her career in the Development Management Team at Wrexham Council, moving into the role of Conservation Officer from 2010 to 2018 before moving to Wardell Armstrong to work as a heritage consultant within their heritage and archaeology team. She now works as a heritage consultant with Walsingham Planning.

John Mabbitt's passion for historic buildings developed from his involvement with his father's woodcarving shop, working in the cathedrals and churches of East Anglia. He has a doctorate in historic archaeology from the University of Newcastle and has worked on a wide variety of historic buildings. He is now a historic environment consultant with Wood.

Amir Bassir is a Principal Historic Environment Consultant at The Environment Partnership Ltd, undertaking consultation and project management as well as providing built heritage advice and historic building surveys. He has worked on a wide range of historic buildings of different periods with particularly memorable examples including the Teesside Iron and Steelworks, Tredegar House, the Rugby Radio Station complex, Greyfriars Bus Station, and a survey of historic bridges throughout Northamptonshire – an all-time favourite being a highly-detailed assessment of Canons Ashby House.

Franki Webb is a Principal Historic Environment Consultant at The Environment Partnership, Franki has undertaken projects across a wide spectrum of heritage work, her main focus being on sustainable development and the effects of climate change on the historic environment. She works within all aspects of Historic Environment including built heritage and archaeology. She also has an avid interest in projects which focus on habitat creation and biodiversity. At Lichfields, she established an archaeological service before leaving for TEP. During her time at Atkins, Franki worked on a number of flood defence schemes and natural habitat creation schemes with the Environment Agency. Prior to working in heritage, Franki was a journalist in Tokyo and then London. She also runs the online website https://archaeoblog.com

Helen Wallbridge has spent much of her career in maritime and community archaeology, but leading the local listing project for the New Forest National Park reignited her interest in historic buildings. Helen now works freelance, undertaking a wide variety of heritage work, including consultancy.

Cathy Coutts started in archaeology by volunteering on excavations on Hadrian's Wall in the 1970s, and after studying Prehistory and Archaeology at Sheffield University completed a PhD on Middle Saxon imported pottery completed while working as the Archaeology team Field Officer at The British School at Rome for five years, roaming around various parts of Italy running archaeological projects. Cathy has since had a varied career based in Warwickshire, working initially with churches, but increasingly with historic farm buildings, timber-framed buildings and cob buildings. More unusual buildings recorded have included the former Warwick gasworks, a secret nuclear weapons bunker (subsequently used for storage of film by the British Film Institute) and Stanton Ironworks. Her job title has recently changed to Principal Historic Buildings Officer.

Catherine Bell is a caseworker for the Council for British Archaeology, assessing Listed Building Consent applications across England and Wales. She is passionate about the role of old buildings to a local sense of place and the importance of recognising their embodied carbon as part of sustainability in the built environment. She has a particular interest in the phased development of buildings and how the significance of listed and unlisted buildings can be celebrated and incorporated within adaptive reuse schemes with creativity and imagination.

Amelia Allen is an early-career buildings archaeologist working with a small archaeological company operating in south-west England, undertaking consultancy work and historic building surveys. She is passionate about the sustainable reuse of older buildings and the application of traditional materials and methods. From this, she has a particular and growing interest for historic lime finishes and understanding historic methods for protecting masonry and surfaces across the country, understanding how finishes can be used as part of modern sustainable conservation works to buildings. Projects so far have given her some varied experiences, and she is particularly keen on understanding the smaller features which appear to provide insight into vernacular trends and patterns.