



Final Report – Repair & Maintenance of Pre 1919 Buildings Course 2016

– Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund 2015/16

Project Background

The Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme is delivering 15 projects over 5-years between 2013-18. The Scheme is primarily funded under the Heritage Lottery Fund's National Landscape Partnerships Programme, alongside other local funding.

The Dynamic Hills Training project aims to promote awareness of the need for heritage skills and to provide a level of training in a range of skills relevant to this area, so that the distinctive and valuable heritage of the area can be conserved and enhanced.

The **Level 3 Award in Understanding the Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 Buildings** (accredited by Cskills) is designed to develop the knowledge of learners, enabling them to work in the industry in their chosen craft. It has been specifically developed for delivery in a training environment and the unit end test relates to the learning outcomes.

The course has not previously been available within the Shropshire Hills AONB area as no accredited trainer is available locally. The support from the SHAONB Conservation Fund, alongside funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has enabled us to:

- Appoint a local trainer (Colin Richards) to shadow a two-day course delivered elsewhere by the National Heritage Training Group (NHTG), be approved as a trainer, develop the materials based on the NHTG course for further training locally as part of the Landscape Partnership Scheme;
- Run a subsidised NHTG endorsed 2-3 day course in 'understanding the repair and maintenance of pre-1919 buildings' for participants living and/or working in the Shropshire Hills AONB;
- Extend the two-day theory based course to a six-day course adding practical hands-on training sessions, therefore giving participants a deeper understanding and ability to apply skills in real life;
- Work with NHTG to ensure that future courses can be endorsed and provided within the SHAONB area and be accredited by Cskills, therefore providing legacy for the area.

Achievement of project outputs and special conditions

The course was delivered over 6 days to enable the original two days of classroom based theory learning to be extended and combined with walkabouts to view local examples of a wide range of pre 1919 buildings, and practical hands on sessions at local live sites. The main venue for delivery of theory sessions was the Eco Building at the Community College at Bishops Castle. Site visits included Snailbech mine workings, town houses in Bishop's Castle, a squatter's cottage at Burley near Craven Arms and a Georgian Town House in Broad Street Ludlow.

The course has been delivered over three 2-day sessions as follows:

- 13th/14th May 2016
- 15th/16th July 2016
- 12th/13th August 2016

The main course tutor was Colin Richards MBE, Colin is a joint founder of The Institute of Historic Building Conservation and has worked extensively within the heritage building industry as a professional consultant, site manager, conservation officer and traditional skills trainer. He is a competent demonstrator/teacher in a range of traditional building crafts and has many years' experience delivering accredited university lecture and workshop based courses to both students and experienced building professionals. Colin attended and shadowed delivery of the Level 3 course in Manchester in May 2015 prior to developing course materials and resources to deliver the course to participants in the SHAONB. Colin delivered the main sections of the course, arranged and led the visits to local heritage buildings and the practical sessions on live sites.

John Munro has his own training centre- Traditional Building Skills and is a tutor on Timber Framing, Heritage Wood Occupations, Heritage Stone Masonry, and Understanding Repair and Maintenance courses. He acts as an Assessor on Wood Occupations, Stone Masonry, and Dry Stone Walling courses. He is a qualified Assessor for CSkills (the awarding Body) and supported Colin with delivery of theory sessions. John's key role was to support delivery of classroom based theory sessions, overseeing registration of learners and delivery/invigilation of the exam. John delivers and assesses courses for NHTG and the awarding body CSkills and through our development work with NHTG we have been able to engage him with a view to further development and legacy work for courses with CITB accreditation.

The course was well promoted locally via the Landscape Partnership Scheme (email, newsletter, fliers, Facebook, community newsletters etc) and also via the SHAONB Community Officer (email, Friends etc.)

There were 10 learners on the course (9 male and 1 female) all of whom either work or live in the SHAONB area. They are either local builders working on heritage buildings or homeowners of pre 1919 buildings. There are currently additional learners on a waiting list who were unable to attend this first course due to prior commitments on the delivery dates.

Having completed this development work, to enable us to deliver an endorsed and accredited course with the NHTG/CSkills and to provide local trainers, we intend to run the course again locally in 2017.

Jon Bielstein, LPS Education Officer, attended the SHAONB special presentation on 6th October 2016.