

Traditional Building Skills: preserving the knowledge



This leaflet signposts you to information about how you can promote training in traditional building skills through your repair project.

Why skills matter

Historic buildings are special. A wealth of traditional skills went in to their construction. They use different materials and building techniques to modern buildings, so their repair draws on an array of **specialist** crafts techniques. It's vital that these skills are passed on so buildings can be repaired with the skill and attention they deserve, in ways which do not harm them. Timber, terracotta, clay dabbins and stone slate roofing are just some of the traditional materials characteristic of the North West.

Tradespeople say they find historic buildings highly **rewarding** to work on. Historic England promotes training in traditional building skills to help the next wave of heritage workers to learn about how they can get involved in these specialisms and get skilled-up.



Your grant, your project

Historic England North West is encouraging grant applicants to consider how they can **add value** to their repair project. Repair projects offer a wide range of opportunities to teach others, from simple walks and talks to contractors taking the opportunity to train up future staff. There are many ways to **showcase** your project, all of which could inspire future heritage workers:

- Information panels explaining repair techniques
- Hard hat tours

- School visits looking at the trade and the building's repair needs
- Partnerships with colleges
- Taster days / hands-on workshops

Your project could even help people to **get qualified**:

- Provide work-based placements
- Offer practical experience for heritage skills courses and certification
- For more on training and qualifications for craftspeople and contractors, see the [Traditional Building Skills](#) pages of our website



Find out more

Detailed information on incorporating traditional building skills training in to projects is available in these easy-to-use documents:

- Historic England's web page [Building Skills and Training in to Conservation Projects](#)
- The HLF's [Training Good Practice Guide](#) is full of ideas for how to involve people
- Cadw's [Making Skills Matter](#) is a guide to skills development and access opportunities for projects in Wales, but is relevant to the whole UK
- The [Traditional Building Skills Training Toolkit](#), produced by the [National Heritage Training Group \(NHTG\)](#) and Churches Conservation Trust, features case studies, step-by-step guides and sample event and training templates for larger projects

Get in touch

Historic England can advise on your ideas for integrating skills sharing in to your project. Just ask your main contact, email northwest@HistoricEngland.org.uk or phone 0161 242 1401.

We hope you agree that traditional skills are worth sharing!



If you require an alternative accessible version of this document (for instance in audio, Braille or large print) please contact our Customer Services Department:

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