

COTAC Insight 2b: The Need to be Aware of the Built Heritage

Exploring ICOMOS Education and Training Guideline
(b): Understand the history and technology of
monuments, ensembles or sites in order to define
their identity, plan for their conservation, and
interpret the results of this research

Numerous organisations and publications exist which explore in detail a wide variety of architectural subjects, periods, styles and specialisms. They cover the full spectrum of prehistoric and historic developments.

Much additional written and illustrative material is becoming freely available via the internet. Combined with archival maps and photographic evidence a lot can be gained to aid understanding.

Relating that knowledge to an awareness of how regional and imported building materials perform through use offers an insight into how to address emerging issues.



Built 5000 years ago, the Stones of Stenness consist of a few upright stones, up to 6m in height, in a circle originally of 12 stones with a large internal hearth and a previously encircling ditch and bank. The size, thickness and shape of the stones resulted from the properties of the local Old Red Sandstone geological deposits.



The skill of stone carving became increasingly more sophisticated between the 6th and 9th C



The broken profile of 9m tall Dun Carloway Broch offers a clear cross-section of its exceptionally sophisticated drystone wall and passageway construction. Thought to date to ca200 BC (although broch-building ceased in Scotland around ca100 AD) excavations indicate Carloway was in use until about ca1000 AD.



One of the oldest architectural castles surviving in Scotland, Dirleton dates from the 1200's and bears a remarkable similarity to a castle near Amiens in northern France. 'Ghosted' evidence remains of the timber boards, attached to the original timber centring used to construct the vaults.



The mid 15th C Townhouse originally sat at the corner of Station and Worcester Streets in Bromsgrove. Due to be demolish in 1962, it was dismantled and reconstructed at Avoncroft, opening again in 1967.





This demonstration example of vernacular building construction at the Ulster Folk Museum illustrates how available local materials could be adapted and used internally

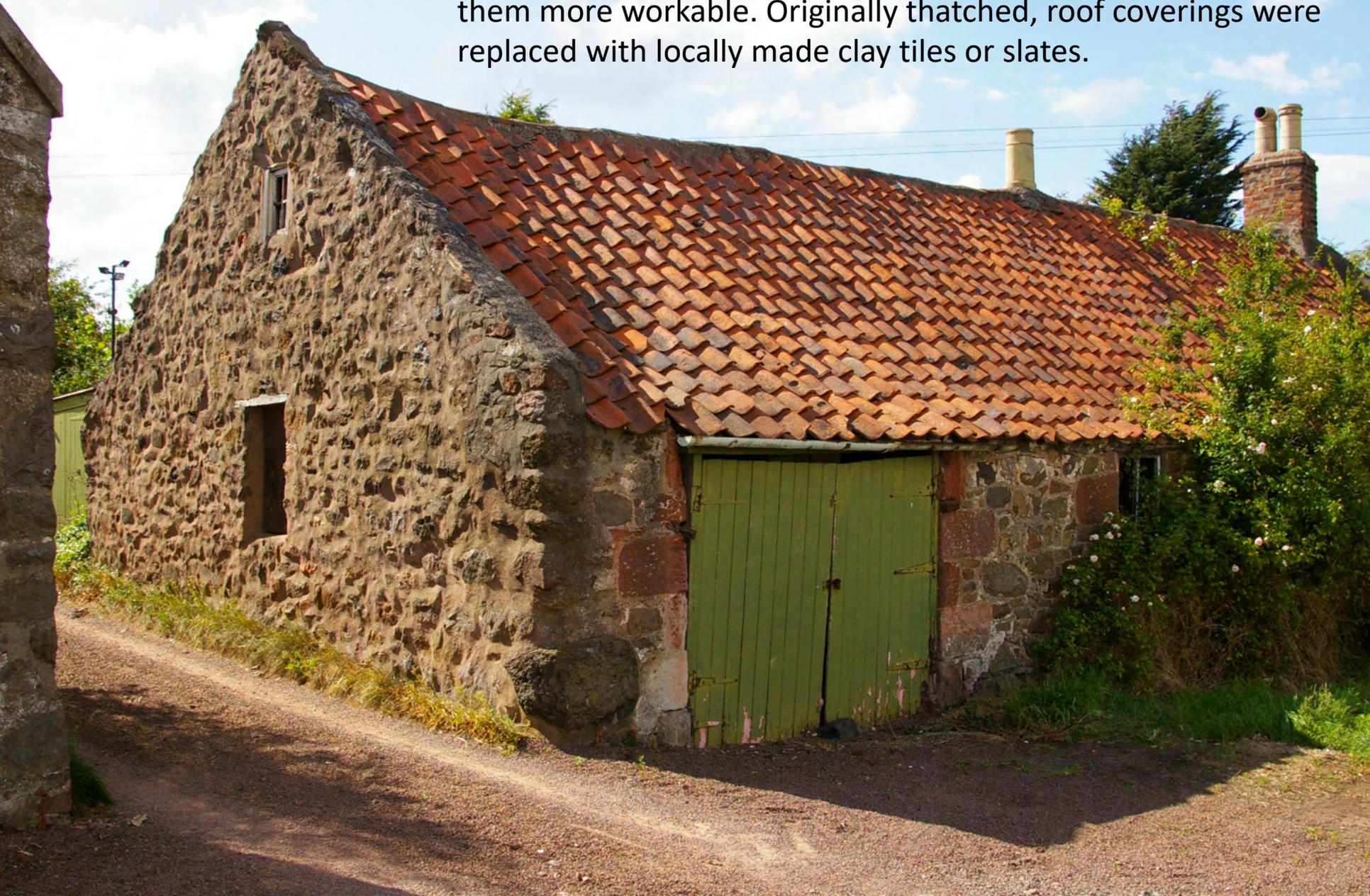
The late 14th C Medieval Hall House from Boarhunt is a cruck framed building at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. It illustrates how local thatching material could be used externally to shed rainwater away from the more fragile wall construction.

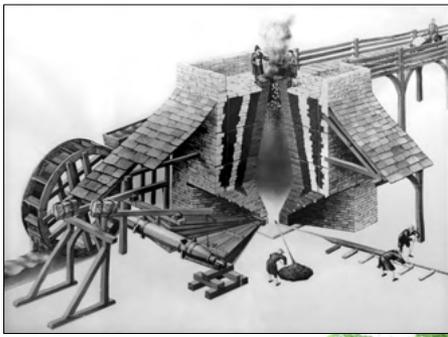


The Hebridean Blackhouse has a constructional pedigree that spans ca. 5,000 years and is perfectly adapted to cope with the western seaboard's harsh Atlantic climate. Many were still being occupied until the mid 20th C.



East Lothian: early 18th C farm buildings were roughly built, often using clearance stones removed from fields to make them more workable. Originally thatched, roof coverings were replaced with locally made clay tiles or slates.





Bonawe is the most complete water powered charcoal-fueled pig iron ironworks in Britain. Founded in 1753, it ceased firing in the 1870's, relying upon coppice work and charcoal from nearby forests for fuel



First patented in 1829, corrugated iron has a rich national and international history of creating numerous prefabricated buildings for many different purposes, being exported from the UK as 'Flat-pack' assemblies world-wide.



Grade II* Listed York
Railway station was
opened in 1877. It shows
how complex structural
steel elements could be
created by riveting
numerous pieces together.





The iconic Eilean Donan Castle is a modern recreation, dating from 1932. Being occupied by Spanish soldiers, its remaining mediaeval core was significantly 'adjusted' at the end of the English siege in 1719, when 343 barrels of stored gunpowder were used to blow up the fortification.

The 'House for an Art Lover' was constructed between 1989 and 1996. It was based on a 1901 prize winning design by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Margaret MacDonald, in a competition set by the German design magazine *Zeitschrift für Innendekoration*.



In pursuing the need to appreciate *'Guideline (b): Understand the history and technology of monuments, ensembles or sites in order to define their identity, plan for their conservation, and interpret the results of this research'*, amongst other sources, accessing the numerous *UNESCO World Heritage Review* in-depth articles can be revealing as to what might need to be considered and taken into account.

See: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/publications/>

In addition, a number of Guideline-specific URL links are offered on the COTAC Global website under the Menu tab *'Digital Bibliography'* at *'b. Understand the monument or site'*.

See: http://www.cotac.global/digital_bib/

Kennixton Farmhouse at St Fagans National Museum of History is a typical farmhouse from Gower in South Wales. The blood-red walls were thought to protect against evil spirits,



The World Heritage Review

Featuring in-depth articles on cultural and natural World Heritage sites. Published every three months in English, French and Spanish.

