

STBA & SPAB Conference 2023

Thursday 2nd November

A Nature-Positive Approach to Traditional Buildings

London

#spabstba23

Exhibitors



Image: Gearrannan Blackhouse Village © Rachel Stoplár



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Programme

The **SPAB-STBA Conference** aims to address the challenges and opportunities posed by the climate crisis for ancient buildings. The event will focus on adopting a nature-positive approach to traditional buildings to ensure their comfort, resilience, and suitability for the future. Our expert presenters are led by **Keynote Speaker, Morwenna Slade** - they will cover topics such as flood resilience, thatch, mud building, lime, biodiversity, and wetland plant cultivation. The conference will take place at the sustainable Mile End's **Ecology Pavilion** in London's East End, offering a picturesque view of the surrounding park's lake and reedbeds. SPAB is a recognised CPD provider, and attendees can request certificates of attendance.

9.00: Arrival

9.30: Welcome - Douglas Kent & Michael Netter

9.50: Richard Williams (Velux sponsor)

10.10: Questions

10.20: Mark Lynn - Sustainable Products and Their Role in a Balanced Built Environment

10.40: Peter Draper - STBA Case Study: Ton Pentre

10.50: Charles Bain-Smith - The Traditional Building and What has Carbon Got to Do with it?

11.10: Questions

11.25: Morning Break

11.40: Alan Chandler & Michela Pace - Heritage as an Integrated Experience of Resilience: Redeploying a 16th-century Palladian Villa to Transform Ecological and Social Territories

12.00: Stafford Holmes - The Historic and Current Significance of Lime-Stabilised Soil

12.20: James Ayres - Natural Materials – a niche choice or the future?

Programme

12.40: Questions

13.00: Lunch

14.00: Dusty Gedge - Delivering green roofs for biodiversity/climate crisis: is there a conflict with heritage buildings?

14.20: Bob Prewett - Mews House Deep Retrofit

14.30: Moses Jenkins - Update on HES Retrofit work: including Glazing, RdSAP and Bats

14.50: James Innerdale - Retrofit and flood resilience, 33a Chapel Street, Appleby-in-Westmorland: a case study monitoring the hygrothermal behaviour

15.10: Questions

15.25: Afternoon Break

15.40: Maisie McKenzie - Biodiversity Within the Built Environment

16.00: David Glew - The Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Potential (DEEP) Retrofit Project

16.20: Alex Gibbons - Vernacular Buildings, Materials and Lifestyles; A Nature Positive Approach

16.40: Questions

16.55: Comfort Break

17.00: Morwenna Slade - Keynote Talk

17.45 - 18.00: Final Questions / Close

Speakers

James Ayres **Co-Founder & Operations** **Director, Lime Green Products**

James Ayres has background in environmental management and is the production director at Lime Green. Since its formation in 2002 the company has been supplying breathable mortars, plasters and natural insulation across the country. James is currently working with the SPAB on a research project investigating the burning of local limestones for use in compatible repair mortars.

Talk: Natural Materials – a niche choice or the future?

Charles Bain-Smith **Senior Building Conservation** **Manager, RIBA SCA**

Charles is a Chartered Conservation Architect by profession and is an RIBA Accredited Specialist Conservation Architect. He started his career with English Heritage, he set up a consultancy team in a conservation contractors, was one of the founding partners and Conservation Director of specialist Cyma Architects before joining NT in 2015 working out of the Scotney Hub and subsequently joined the central buildings team in 2019.

He is a central source of advice on the conservation of buildings. His role is about supporting delivery of projects, developing strategies, setting policies/standards and facilitating change so that NT remains an exemplar in conservation of buildings and facilitating in projects. He also coordinates with the wider world of conservation, promoting NT in conservation circles.

Talk: The Traditional Building and What has Carbon Got to Do with it?
Traditional buildings may have a better carbon imprint than generally perceived and though standards of comfort change with time, they may well have valuable lessons to tell for how we address the future.

Alan Chandler **Director of Arts Lettres** **Techniques, Co-Director of the** **Sustainability Research Institute,** **University of East London**

Alan Chandler (AADip, RIBA, SCA, FHEA) is a Director of conservation-based practice Arts Lettres Techniques and Co-Chair of the RIBA Conservation Steering Group. His research and theory into the politics of built heritage is published by Routledge in 'The Production of Heritage'.

His professional career is as a Specialist Conservation Architect and Co-Chair of the RIBA Conservation Steering Group, with practice projects on National monuments such as the Grade 1 listed St Pancras Church and the Palacio Pereira in Santiago de Chile with Cecilia Puga. In parallel to the cultural role of heritage and the communal value of placemaking he works within the University of East London as a Reader in Architecture and the Sustainability Research Institute developing low/zero carbon construction materials linked to ethical supply chains. His collaborative team work on using sugarcane by-products was nominated for the £1M 2023 Earthshot Prize.

Talk (with Michela Pace): Heritage as an Integrated Experience of Resilience: Redeploying a 16th-century Palladian Villa to Transform Ecological and Social Territories
"The past is not dead, it is living in us, and will be alive in the future which we are now helping to make". William Morris
Redeploying the 16th century Villa Angaran San Giuseppe to transform the ecological and economic territories of the Veneto.

Speakers

Peter Draper

**BA (Hons), PG Dip (Distinction)
Building Surveying, Retrofit Co-ordinator (Level 5), DEA
Project Associate of Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance**

Peter is a Building Surveyor, DEA, Retrofit Co-ordinator and Assessor. He has represented both STBA and Rounded Developments Enterprises on the PAS2035 steering group and is currently helping BSI author the new BS40104 Retrofit Assessment standard. Peter is Project Associate for STBA and Co-ordinator for RDE.
Talk: STBA Case Study: Ton Pentre
The recently published Case Study on the BEIS funded Whole House Retrofit Project has provided a series of interesting avenues for sustainable retrofit to follow

Dusty Gedge

Founder of Gentian Ltd, President of the European Federation of Green Roof Associations (EFB).

Dusty has a particular interest in biodiversity and urban nature, but also has a focus on climate resilience and the promotion of greener cities through multi-functional green infrastructure. A

recognised designer, technical and policy advisor on green roofs he has worked across the world and has designed and is aware of innovative approaches of combining solar and green roofs. A published author, he has been instrumental in writing strategic reports on green roofs and green infrastructure, the most recent of which is the new London green roof report. He co-founded Gentian Ltd to take his green roof and biodiversity mapping analysis to next level.

Talk: Delivering green roofs for biodiversity/climate crisis: is there a conflict with heritage buildings?

Alex Gibbons

Founder of Stick in the Mud Conservation, Surveyor, SPAB Fellow

Alex Gibbons originally trained as a Surveyor, before undertaking a course in vernacular building crafts, and has subsequently worked on earth and thatched buildings throughout the UK and Normandy. After undertaking the SPAB Fellowship in 2014, he moved to the Solway to establish his firm, 'Stick in Mud Conservation' specialising in the repair of clay dabbin buildings,

as well as undertaking vernacular thatching work throughout the north of England and Scotland. He is a craft mentor to the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment and the SPAB Fellowship, and delivers training, education and lectures to the national heritage organisations. He has recently commenced a PhD with the University of the Highlands and Islands on the intangible cultural heritage of thatching traditions in the Highlands and Islands, and their connections with neighbouring regions.

**Talk: Vernacular Buildings, Materials and Lifestyles; A Nature Positive Approach
Including earth, thatch, and coppice crafts.**

Speakers

Professor David Glew
Head of Energy Efficiency and Policy & Sustainable Buildings, Director of the Leeds Sustainability Institute, Associate Editor Buildings & Cities Journal
Professor Glew is the Director of the Leeds Sustainability Institute (LSI) at Leeds Beckett University and Head of Energy Efficiency and Policy.

The LSI undertake research under three themes of Sustainable Behaviour, Sustainable Buildings and Sustainable Urban Environments. The LSI's work in developing the coheating test over the past few decades was revolutionary for the ability to provide the actual measured performance of buildings, which was fundamental to the performance gap becoming an accepted phenomenon in the construction industry. David and his team continue to undertake Building Performance Evaluation (BPE) field trials, in-use monitoring and post-occupancy evaluations as well as investigating behaviour change and how homeowners and industry can make more sustainable decisions.

Professor Glew has extensive experience working with policymakers and local and national government to translate complex research findings into actionable policy decisions. Professor Glew is a member on the OFGEM technical advisory panel for innovation in ECO3&4, he is Associate Editor at the Journal Buildings & Cities and was previously seconded to BEIS to provide expert guidance to policymakers. David was a speaker at the Cheltenham Science Festival in 2022 and has appeared on National TV and Radio to disseminate his research.

Talk: The Demonstration of Energy Efficiency Potential (DEEP) retrofit project

David will provide an overview of the highlights from the DEEP specifically around the success of 41 different retrofits undertaken in solid-walled homes comparing measured and modelled savings, the importance of the whole house approach, and how to improve risk assessments and energy saving predictions

Stafford Holmes
Building Limes Specialist & Architect

Stafford is an architect specialising in the research, preparation, and use of traditional building materials for the conservation of historic buildings and sustainable construction. Former partner of Rodney Melville and Partners; a committee member of SPAB; former chairman of the Building Limes Forum; author of Building with Lime with Michael Wingate and Building with Lime-Stabilized Soil with Bee Rowan.

Talk: Historic and Current Significance of Lime-Stabilised Soil.

A material that is fire resistant, provides good insulation, mixed appropriately is suitable for both structure and finishes, often locally available and low cost. Illustrations of its use since the 14th Century and examples of its wide range of applications from foundations to finishes. Training course manuals for the design, preparation, testing and application of LSS mixes for flood relief buildings in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.

Speakers

James Innerdale Architect and Historic Buildings Consultant, SPAB Lethaby Scholar

James is an accredited Architect specialising in the repair, conservation and adaptation of historic buildings across Yorkshire and Cumbria. He was awarded the SPAB Scholarship in 1996 and worked as the Society's Northern Officer before returning to architectural practice. James has worked on wide range of both domestic buildings and places of worship. He continues to deliver the SPAB's Maintenance based training for both places of worship and as part of grants programmes such as Heritage Action Zones and Townscape Heritage Initiatives as well as being part of the SPAB's Technical Advice Line team. James has also independently delivered a range of energy efficiency and flood resilience training for Cumbria Action for Sustainability and as part of LA and other training programmes in the northwest.

Talk: Retrofit and flood resilience, 33a Chapel Street, Appleby-in-Westmorland - a case study monitoring the hygrothermal behaviour.

Dr Moses Jenkins Sector Skill Manager, Historic Environment Scotland

Dr Moses Jenkins is Sector Skills Manager at Historic Environment Scotland where he has worked for 18 years. Much of his work has been looking at retrofit of traditional buildings and he has written extensively on this and also on traditional brickwork.

Talk: Update on HES Retrofit work: including Glazing, RdSAP and Bats

The talk will cover recent HES work around retrofit and related activities, this will include work on RdSAP, site based research using advanced glazing in sash and case windows and in line with the nature theme of the conference, retrofitting around bats.

Douglas Kent Technical and Research Director, and Company Secretary, The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Douglas Kent is a Chartered Building Surveyor with an MSc in the Conservation of Buildings and the SPAB Technical and Research Director. He oversees the Society's

technical activities, including technical advice, publications and events, and its research to support these. Douglas has worked previously in the public and private sectors, advising on historic buildings for a range of organisations, such as the Ministry of Defence and English Heritage. He is a member of the Technical Panels of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Property Care Association, the Committee of the Traditional Paint Forum, English Heritage's Stone Roofing Working Group and the Bells Committee of the Archbishops' Council. Douglas writes widely on technical matters and has contributed to various radio and television programmes. He owns a grade I-listed medieval house in Essex and is part-way through a major project of updating, alterations and repair. The conservation of his 17th-century parquetry (decorative external render) was joint-winner of the prestigious 2013 Museums + Heritage Award for Restoration or Conservation.

Speakers

Mark Lynn

Vice-Chair of the Alliance for Sustainable Building Products and Managing Director of sustainable insulation firm Eden Renewable Innovations Ltd

Mark Lynn is an expert in nature-based construction products and building insulation. An ardent believer in health and sustainability, Mark takes a particular interest in building physics and the chemistry of building materials.

Talk: Sustainable products, their role in a balanced built environment.

The laws and forces of nature govern every facet of our lives. This presentation examines the futility of fighting nature, how this is demonstrated in the products and systems we use and why it should govern our choices for a nature and climate positive approach to the built environment.

Michael Netter, STBA Director

Michael Netter is the Director at the Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance (STBA), the Professional Services Officer at the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), and Hon Secretary and

Trustee at the Council on Training in Architectural Conservation (COTAC). Michael holds an MSc in Historic Building Conservation from Kingston University and a BSc in Construction Engineering and Management from Purdue University.

Michael worked in Project Management at Skanska in the United States on small and large-scale commercial construction projects in the higher education, telecommunications, laboratory, and rail sectors, before transition into the heritage sector in the UK in 2013. His MSc dissertation explored 'BIM Applications to Heritage Assets' culminating in a research-internship at Ramboll UK.

Michael is passionate about sustainability and conserving the built environment as well as embracing technological and organisational innovations. He believes the widespread, sympathetic repair and improvement of the built environment will yield positive results for people and the environment, and that innovative technologies will play a crucial role in this transformation.

He has also worked on several home retrofit/renovation projects, takes part in the Climate Heritage Network (CHN), and has produced a podcast for the IHBC that raises awareness and understanding of how conservation philosophy and practice contributes towards meeting the challenge of climate change.

Maisie McKenzie Biodiversity Manager, Wienerberger Ltd

Maisie McKenzie ACIEEM works within the Sustainability team at Wienerberger as their Biodiversity Manager. As an ecologist she oversees their biodiversity strategy "Let's Build with Nature in Mind" which encompasses everything from quarry restoration to product design.

Talk: Biodiversity within the Built Environment.

How to increase biodiversity within the built environment by incorporating space for species within your building and holistic design considerations to encourage their uptake.

Speakers

Dr Michela Pace
Arch., P.h.D., Research Fellow,
Adjunct professor

Michela has a PhD in Urban Planning from the IUAV University of Venice, and is currently a lecturer and researcher. Her research focuses on the role of heritage within urban regeneration and land conservation projects, especially when housing and issues of spatial justice are concerned.

With Alan Chandler, she recently published *The Production of Heritage: The Politicization of Architectural Conservation* (Routledge 2019).

**Talk (with Alan Chandler):
Heritage as an Integrated
Experience of Resilience:
Redeploying a 16th-
century Palladian Villa to
Transform Ecological and Social
Territories**

**“The past is not dead, it is living
in us, and will be alive in the
future which we are now helping
to make”. William Morris**
**Redeploying the 16th century Villa
Angaran San Giuseppe to
transform the ecological and
economic territories of the
Veneto.**

Bob Prewett
**Architect & Director, Prewett
Bizley Architects**

Bob has been working in the field of deep retrofit to existing buildings for almost 20 years and sits on the expert panels for STBa and AECB. His experience covers a variety of scales and building types and many projects are in Conservation areas or are Listed buildings. He coined the term ‘Retrofit Coordinator’ in 2010 having taken part in the Retrofit for the Future Programme sponsored by DECC. This ‘coordinator’ role now underpins the delivery of better retrofit under the British Standard (PAS 2035) that he has also advised BSi on.

The 80% house retrofit has been listed as Finalist in the Architecture Today Awards – ‘Buildings that stand the test of time’, 2023. And the Mews House Deep Retrofit project won and RIBA award last year and made it to the final shortlist of 7 homes for the House of the Year award featured on Channel 4.

Talk: Mews House Deep Retrofit

Morwenna Slade
**Head of Historic Building Climate
Change Adaptation, Historic
England**

Morwenna Slade is Head of Historic Building Climate Change Adaptation at Historic England, the Government’s statutory adviser on the historic environment in England. She is a Conservation Accredited Chartered Building Surveyor and her MSc in Historic Building Conservation followed an honours degree in Archaeology. She is based in the technical conservation team and leads a multidisciplinary team focused on the maintenance, repair and adaptation of historic buildings. She has extensive experience gained through working as an independent consultant, as well as for The Churches Conservation Trust and National Trust.

Speakers

Richard Williams **Architectural Development** **Manager**

A passion within architecture allowed Richard to gain a significant insight in the design, specification and project planning of various projects in the Cotswolds, whilst working with in three different architects' practices as and Architects' Technician.

He joined The VELUX Company Ltd over 29 Years ago and is currently working as an Architectural Development Manager with a broad reach of customers from all corners of the UK & Ireland. Richard is now based in Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE UK.

Talk: Keeping in Character – Investing in the future of existing dwellings

CONFERENCE STAFF BIOS

Cypren Edmunds **Communications and Events Co-** **ordinator, STBA**

As a qualified carpenter he has a keen interest in sustainable building, is a founding member and Chair of Strawbale Building UK and a Director for William Morris House, Merton. As Chairperson for the High Path Community Association, Merton, he is a strong advocate of social housing.

Mary Henn **Technical Officer, The SPAB**

Mary Henn joined the SPAB as Technical Officer in February 2018. A Chartered Building Surveyor she began her career in London with Drivers Jonas. She won the SPAB scholarship in 1994 and this unique experience reinforced the importance of vernacular crafts and materials in creating and maintaining sustainable buildings.

She has worked for the National Trust, Natural Building Technologies and with Oxley Conservation on projects ranging from advising on natural building products, energy efficiency in traditional buildings to large repair and adaption projects.

Catherine Rose **Training Officer, The SPAB**

Catherine Rose joined the SPAB as Training Officer in April 2022. She previously worked at the National Trust's London Head Office for a number of years, before returning to full time education, and was awarded her PhD at QMUL in 2019 for a thesis on the History of Childhood in Mamluk Society. She has volunteered as an oral historian for the NHS at 70 and Our Covid Stories projects and has begun recording oral history interviews for the SPAB's archive.



Location:

**The Ecology Pavilion,
125 Grove Road, Mile End,
London, E3 5RP**



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