



# The Edge Debate 135 – Heritage & Net Zero: A wicked problem?

17 October 2022

Esther Robinson Wild BA PgDip MA MCIfA FSA  
Historic Environment Consultant - Robinson Wild Consulting  
[esther@robinsonwildconsulting.co.uk](mailto:esther@robinsonwildconsulting.co.uk)

 @ERobinsonWild

## Significance defined

“The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.”

Annex 2: Glossary, National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

## Cowbridge School, Wales

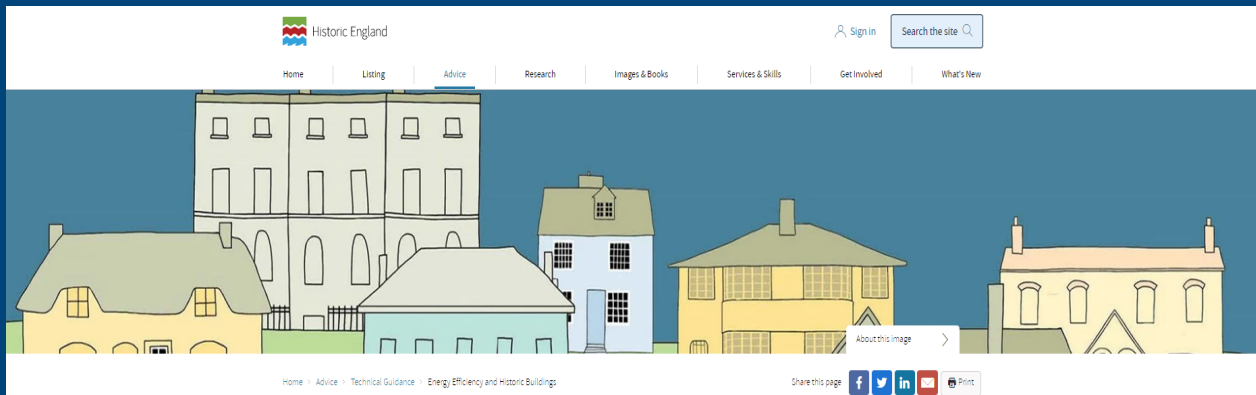
Cowbridge School in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales is currently unlisted. It was built in 1896 by *Robert Williams*.



In a small town in south Wales stands this historic former school building that lies derelict and under threat from demolition.

*Christopher Costelloe, Director of the Victorian Society, said: 'Cowbridge School is a beautifully crafted building, solid, handsome and capable of being reused. Its thoughtless demolition would be a huge blow to the town. Many other Victorian school buildings are in a similar position - these buildings can and should be reused.'*

[Photos here.](#)



- Looking After Historic Buildings
- Looking After Parks, Gardens and Landscapes
- Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings**
  - Building Regulations and Energy Efficiency
  - Insulating Roofs in Historic Buildings
  - Insulating Walls in Historic Buildings
  - Improving Thermal Performance of Windows and Doors in Historic Buildings
  - Modifying Historic Windows as Part of Retrofitting Energy-Saving Measures
  - Insulating Floors in Historic Buildings
  - Overheating in Historic Buildings
  - Energy Performance Certificates
  - Low and Zero Carbon Technologies

## Energy Efficiency and Historic Buildings

Our free to download publications include a suite of technical advice and guidance on retrofitting historic buildings to improve their energy efficiency.

Successful retrofit takes into account the construction of the building and ensures the aesthetic character is maintained. Certain retrofit strategies, specifically those for modern construction, are not appropriate for historic and traditional buildings.

The drivers to improve energy efficiency are usually to:

- Reduce carbon emissions and fuel bills,
- Improve comfort levels
- Comply with statutory requirements such as Part L of the Building Regulations or the Private Rented Sector Regulations

This suite of guidance includes:



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

[BLOG](#) | [SHOP](#) | [DONATE](#)

Search the site



[Home](#) | [Visit a Place](#) | [Learn](#) | [Advice and Support](#) | [Grants and Funding](#) | **[Archives and Research](#)** | [About Us](#) | [Membership](#)

[Archives and collections](#) | [Online exhibitions](#) | [Our research](#) | **[Publications](#)**

[Home](#) > [Archives and Research](#) > [Publications](#) > [Publication](#)

ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH

## Technical Paper 03

Energy Modelling Analysis of a Traditionally Built Scottish Tenement Flat

Four different energy modelling methodologies were tested in relation to a traditionally built tenement flat.

<b>Audiences:</b>	Planners and Owners, Conservation and Heritage Enthusiasts
<b>Date Published:</b>	01 October 2008
<b>Publisher:</b>	Historic Scotland
<b>Publication Types:</b>	Technical Paper, Technical, Advice & Guidance
<b>Format(s):</b>	<a href="#">Download PDF</a> <a href="#">Technical Paper_03</a> (416.10 KB)
<b>Language:</b>	English

Share





# HERITAGE DECLARES

## Climate & Ecological Emergency

The world faces a climate and ecological emergency. The scientific evidence is clear: we are on course for a catastrophic rise in global temperatures, and are destroying natural species, populations and ecosystems at a rate not seen since the great prehistoric extinction events. The 2018 report by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) gives us until 2030 to avert the worst effects of this man-made environmental disaster.

The conservation of cultural heritage is inextricably linked to activities with a high environmental impact, such as construction and development, building operations, land management, and tourism. At the same time, engagement with the legacy of the past can inspire and deepen our responses to the current crisis.

The roots of heritage conservation, with its call for inter-generational solidarity and responsible stewardship of the inherited world, are deeply interwoven with those of the environmental movement. Heritage – be it tangible or intangible, built or below ground – is all around us. It has a prominent place in the public imagination, and a corresponding power to shape public opinion.

The environmental crisis represents the greatest challenge facing humanity in our time, and threatens the very existence of irreplaceable cultural heritage. While any adequate response to that challenge must meet the tests of social need, economic justice and human well-being, it will also require a genuine shift in existing cultural values and practices. As individuals and organisations involved in the heritage sector, we are determined to make that shift, and to address the present emergency with all the resources at our disposal. Read more about the Heritage Declares movement on our [About Us](#) page.



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk)

## Greener Historic Buildings

Guidance for those considering making alterations or additions to historic buildings, including both statutorily Listed buildings and un-Listed traditional buildings.







[www.ahfund.org.uk](http://www.ahfund.org.uk)

## Transforming Heritage

We help communities across the UK find enterprising new ways to revitalise the old buildings they love. We provide advice, grants and loans, and our support acts as a catalyst for putting sustainable heritage at the heart of vibrant local economies.

[Find out more](#)



# Welcome





Credit - Hazel Smith

## Former Grapes Hotel

Whithorn, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

**All Roads Lead to Whithorn Trust**

*Affordable green homes in the heart of the town centre*